

Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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Exemplary Individuals, Organizations Recognized at Annual Awards Dinner



The City of Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission recently hosted its 56th Annual Awards Dinner to recognize distinguished community members, organizations, and city staff. The Torrance Rotary Club of Del Amo was presented the Distinguished Organization Award for its efforts in preserving the Youth Track is Back meet at West High School and donating \$2,500 to the Friends of the Athletes BOCE tournament at Wilson Park. Photo courtesy of the Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission. For more photos see Awards Dinner on page 10.

Kurt Weideman Appointed to Council

By Dylan Little

In three rounds of voting, the Torrance City Council decided on Kurt Weideman to fill the seat left vacant after Susan Rhilinger's resignation on June 30. The July 23 meeting also saw the Council award David and Toni Sargent the Jared Sidney Torrance Award for their long history of community service.

Weideman has a long history in Torrance. In addition to raising a family in the city, he has served in numerous organizations, including serving as president of the Torrance Historical Society and holding a two-year membership in the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation. He was also appointed to the Planning Commission, serving on it for seven years. In both his professional and community service careers, Weideman said he is honored to have earned a reputation for honesty and he hoped to continue that tradition throughout his term on the Council. "What I was proud of most is my reputation for integrity," said Weideman.

In his statement, Weideman said he sought the Council seat in order to give back to the community. He said he has a strong character that will contribute to Torrance's future. "I feel it's vital to give back and contribute to the city that has given so much to [my] family," said Weideman. "Along with my desire to contribute I offer my integrity, my enthusiasm and my commitment."

Weideman will serve until the June 2014 election, where the fourth lowest voter getter will then take over the remainder of Rhilinger's term. While he was unanimously elected in the third round of voting, he wasn't the only potential Council member. Former Torrance School Board member Heidi Ashcraft was nominated in all three rounds, Planning Commissioner Geoffrey Rizzo was nominated in the first and second rounds, and Water Commissioner Alex See was nominated in

the first round.

Before hearing statements from the hopeful appointees, Mayor Frank Scott described the process the Council would use to select the new member. The winning candidate needed four votes to be appointed. If no candidate had garnered four votes, it would've led to a special Council meeting on July 30 and possibly a special election with a price tag of \$250,000. He then thanked those who put themselves up for consideration and urged anyone not selected during this meeting to

consider running for office in the general election taking place in June 2014.

"I'm very honored that all of you put your names in," said Scott. "That takes a lot of courage to put your name out there and possibly get rejected. That's hard. The fact that the city of Torrance has so many qualified people--anyone of which could take this job and do a great job, show Torrance is a great place because of volunteers like you."

After hearing all the statements from the
See City Council, page 3

Weekend Forecast

Friday

AM Clouds/
PM Sun
73°/65°



Saturday

AM Clouds/
PM Sun
72°/63°



Sunday

AM Clouds/
PM Sun
69°/61°



School Board Approves Hire of Six Administrators

By Dylan Little

After years of cutbacks and budget reductions, the Torrance School Board approved its first new hires in over five years. During the Board's July 22 meeting, the members announced the hire of six new administrators as well as salary and benefits improvements for Torrance Unified School District staff.

The new hires were approved during the Board's closed session and announced at the beginning of the public meeting. Board President Michael Wermers joked that no one would believe that the District is actually hiring. "Believe it or not, we're actually hiring people," said Wermers.

Of the six administrators, only one is new to the District--Senior Director of Secondary Schools Nisha Dugal. Dugal previously worked for the Los Angeles Unified School District, serving as Principal of John Muir Middle School since 2011. Dugal wasn't the only director added. Ben Egan is the new Director of State and Federal Projects. He is leaving his role as

Principal of West High School that he has held since 2007. Replacing Egan is Pamela Metz, who was Assistant Principal at West High School since 2004. She was deemed "instrumental" in earning the District three California Distinguished School awards (two at West High and one at South High School). The Board hired another new principal, Justine Lang--former Assistant Principal at Richardson since 2011. She will now be Principal at Arnold Elementary. Lang has assisted in both Richardson's anti-bullying efforts as well as its pilot of the new Smarter Balanced standards assessment. Lisa Nunes, formerly a Physical Education and Leadership teacher, will be Assistant Principal at Magruder Middle School, and former West High Science teacher Kathrine Schenkelberg will be Assistant Principal at Richardson.

Wermers spoke for the Board in saying that the new additions to the District are very welcome. "This is very exciting for all of us to move people around and

See School Board, page 3

Walmart Neighborhood Market Arrives In Torrance

Photos by Charlene Nishimura

The Walmart Neighborhood Market, located in the Torrance Promenade at 19340 Hawthorne Blvd., hosted a grand opening and ribbon-cutting event on July 17. "The addition of a Walmart Neighborhood Market is a welcomed opportunity for our community and adding another new business along the Hawthorne corridor is an excellent sign of an

improving economy creating job opportunities and shopping choices for our residents," said Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto. Donna Duperron, President/CEO of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, added "We welcome them to Torrance and look forward to their partnership." The new store will be open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week, offering a variety of groceries and pharmacy services.



The Bishop Montgomery High School Drum Line kicked off the Walmart event festivities.



Three young members of Cub Scout Pack 388 pose after presenting the colors and leading the flag salute at the opening event.



Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Sherry Kramer said, "I'm looking forward to having Walmart Neighborhood Market in our community – they're a true believer in community giving in Torrance."



Councilman Bill Sutherland (left) and Mayor Frank Scotto (right) congratulate Torrance Store Manager Steve Matthews. The new store will employ up to 65 full and part-time associates.



The grand opening celebration included presentations of up to \$8,000 in grants from Walmart and the Walmart Foundation to local community groups including Towers Elementary, Victor Elementary, St. James Catholic School, West Torrance Homeowners Association and Community's Child.

Grand Reopening Gives Center Up-To-Date Facility to Provide Services

By Cristian Vasquez

Nothing but smiles could be seen during the South Bay Children's Health Center Guidance Clinic's Grand Reopening. The ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted community leaders such as Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto, Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi and Steve Napolitano from Supervisor Don Knabe's office during the

Supervisor Don Knabe, 4th District; \$70,000 from The Ahmanson Foundation; \$70,000 from The Rose Hills Foundation; and \$60,000 from The Weingart Foundation. Along with personal financial donations from the SBCHC Board of Directors, the facility is up to code and can continue helping its current families and possibly expand its services. The SBCHC



warm and sunny summer day and marked the beginning of a new era for the SBCHC.

"It was a medical building that we bought and we had not done any remodeling aside from occasionally doing some painting or carpeting," SBCHC Executive Director Tina Harris said. "It is something that we have wanted to do for many years and the need became more apparent in the last couple of years because we needed more room to serve our community. With the remodel we added two therapeutic rooms, but the number one thing was to make it ADA [American with Disabilities Act] compliant with ADA bathrooms, ramps, wider hallways, bigger doorways and the door handles."

The building was purchased in 1977 thanks to a \$100,000 grant from County of Los Angeles

Guidance Clinic has been providing outpatient mental health services for families throughout the community. These services include diagnostic assessment services, individual and family therapy, parenting support, psychiatric services and psychological testing services to children and families. The families are lower income and often uninsured or underinsured and would not be able to otherwise afford these health services. The SBCHC works with families and children as young as three and as old as 21, but will refer people 21 and over to separate facilities if additional treatment is needed.

"We deal with young adults and kids who are having emotional difficulties, behavioral difficulties, problems at school, or things like

See Grand Reopening, page 10

Calendar

THURSDAY, JULY 25

- South Bay Ostomy Support Group meeting, 7:30 p.m., Torrance Memorial Medical Center off Lomita Blvd. West Tower, 2nd floor in #7B.

- LEGO Architecture Studio Event for teens and adults, 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble Del Amo, 21500 Hawthorne Blvd. For more information call (310) 370-5552.

FRIDAY, JULY 26

- Shakespeare by the Sea's admission-free Shakespeare- King John, 8-10 p.m., Wilson Park Gazebo. For more information call (310) 217-7596.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

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

- Summer Series 2013- Guantanamo and the Constitution, 2-4 p.m. Torrance Art Museum, 3320 Civic Center Drive. Free copies of the constitution will be provided. No RSVP is required.

- Summertime Recipe Exchange, 2 p.m., WALTERIA Library, 3815 W 242nd St. For more information call (310) 375-8418.

SUNDAY, JULY 28

- Palos Verdes Symphonic Band Outdoor Concert, 6 p.m., South Coast Botanic Garden meadow, 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard. For more information call (310) 792-8286.

MONDAY, JULY 29

- Free Fun Summer Singing Concert, 7:30 p.m., Toyota Automotive Museum

Auditorium, 19600 Van Ness Avenue, For more information call (310) 372-1380.

TUESDAY, JULY 30

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

- Artful Days: Goya-From Joy to Sorrow, 12:10-1 p.m., George Nakano Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 818-2326.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

- YMCA Low Cost Vet Clinic, 9:30-11am. Torrance-South Bay YMCA, 2900 W. Sepulveda Blvd. For more information call (310) 325-5885.

- Torrance Theatre Co. presents Willy Wonka, 7:30-10 p.m., James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

Tuesday, August 6

- Seniors Don't Be Scammed, 10 a.m.-Noon, Katy Geissert Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd. For more information call the Torrance Police Department Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-5735.

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, Teen, and Adult. Submissions are due by July 31. <http://www.torranceca.gov/Library/videocontest/>

School Board

from front page

get new bodies and everything else," said Wermers. "It's kind of thrilling."

The Board also approved salary and benefit increases for District employees. The District has been under a salary freeze since the economic downturn in 2007. However, the State's renewed investment in education now provides the District with the resources to end furloughs and cuts and make some improvements to employee compensation. The salary increases entail about a five percent raise along with additional spending for health coverage. Board member Don Lee described the raise as reasonable and mentioned that other improvements to teaching conditions in Torrance were on the way--most notably class size reductions.

"It's nice to get a reasonable raise [for the teachers] and a little more for health insurance and some other stuff that's coming down the

line--smaller classrooms," said Lee. "Thanks for hanging with us through that process. I know it wasn't easy."

Likewise, Board member Mark Steffen wanted to thank the District employees who "suffered through the indignity of the whole thing." He was pleased to be able to do something other than cut from the budget, which has been nearly the only action the Board has been able to take for the last five years. "It's really nice after five years of cutting and decimating we can start rebuilding," said Steffen. "I want to thank everyone for hanging in there with the District and being good partners when the District was having rough times."

Wermers also thanked the employees as well as congratulating both them and the Board for helping keep the District fiscally solvent.

See School Board, page 10

City Council

from front page

applicants, Scotto said that the decision the Council faced was more difficult than the typical appointment processes. "I wish we could nominate all of you and rotate you all for this seat," said Scotto. "This is much more difficult than in years past."


During the meeting, the Council also awarded David and Toni Sargent with the Jared Sidney Torrance Award. Both have a long history of volunteerism, with David starting with the YMCA's Indian Guides Program in the mid-seventies and Toni touting a 30-year relationship with Torrance's PTA. From there David went on to be elected to the Torrance School Board, became a founding member of the Torrance Education Foundation, and served on the Traffic Commission, among a wide breadth of other contributions to the community. Likewise, Toni served the Los Angeles area in a variety of ways, including setting up a fund to prevent suicides, being appointed by County Supervisor Deane Dana to the Los Angeles County Task Force to

Promote Self-Esteem and Personal and Social Responsibility, and currently chairing the Library Commission.


Scotto admitted that even the lengthy recap of the couple's volunteer history wasn't complete, but still shows how important the Sargents have been to the community. "We had to edit that--it was 15 pages long," said Scotto. "If anyone had done just a fraction of what [we've listed], they would be a hero of the community and [the Sargents] have done so much more."

The Sargents received the Mayor's Coin and will be listed in City Hall as recipients of the award. Toni Sargent was stunned by the honor and said that volunteering has improved her life as well. "I'm awed. I don't know what to say," she said. "Working in the organizations has helped me in so many ways. I've made so many friends."

Similarly, David Sargent was honored to be recognized. "I'm humbled and truly honored to be given this great honor," he said. •



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EVERY LANE IS A BIKE LANE

Metro Briefs


Metro Offers Free Bike Safety Workshops
All cyclists can benefit from a working knowledge of the rules of the road – which is why Metro is offering free traffic safety classes throughout Los Angeles County. These workshops are open to anyone who wants to learn or fine tune skills for riding in traffic. Class dates, locations and sign-up information is available at metro.net/bikes.

Crenshaw/LAX Rail Line Construction on Track
The 8.5-mile Metro Crenshaw/LAX light rail line took a big step forward with the award of a \$1.27 billion contract to Walsh/Shea Corridor Constructors for final design and construction of the project. The line will run between the Metro Expo Line and the Metro Green Line with eight new stations, including stations at Leimert Park and Hindry Avenue, and is scheduled to open in late 2019.

Free Service for Passengers in Wheelchairs
Metro offers a free service to help bus riders in wheelchairs board more easily and ride more safely. As part of ongoing efforts to serve riders with disabilities, Metro will help find and mark the best spot on each wheelchair for securement and in some cases attach a free safety strap. To find out more about this free service and make your appointment for a wheelchair strap marking, call 213.922.8800.

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Ramp Closures Coming Soon to the Sepulveda Pass
Continued construction on the I-405 requires two freeway ramp closures in August. Beginning in August, northbound off-ramps to Sunset Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard are scheduled to close for several months. Find complete details and recommended detours at metro.net/405.



Metro

If you'd like to know more, visit metro.net.

Politically Speaking

One Man's Opinion

By Gerry Chong

It was a warm summer day and I was half-napping and half-reflecting on a couple of news stories that I thought could provide an exciting and revolutionary opportunity. You may remember that the NSA has been bragging about the fact that its spying capacity is so great that it can store one billion stolen phone conversations each day. Moreover, it can spy limitlessly on foreign governments directly or indirectly. For example,

"According to the July 12 Associated Press release, a multi-million dollar profit center has emerged from government spying."

we could spy on China directly or spy on Brazil's contacts with China. Either way, we can spy on China. Bravo for us! That's American knowhow for you. Is this a great country or what?

Now here's the opportunity. According to the July 12 Associated Press release, a multi-million dollar profit center has emerged from government spying. AT&T charges Uncle Sam a \$325 activation fee and a \$10 maintenance fee for each wire/phone tap. The always expensive alternative, Verizon charges the government \$775 for the first month's snooping and \$500 per month for each subsequent month's invasion of privacy. Facebook says its services to the NSA are free, while Microsoft, Google, and Yahoo won't disclose its fee structure.

AT&T employs 100 people to hand over private data, while Verizon says its 70 employees work 24/7 to field the quarter-million government requests it gets each year. For this, AT&T receives \$6 million per year while Verizon receives \$3-\$5 million per year. Sprint has been receiving eight million government requests for snooping each year and has therefore upgraded its equipment to assist the government's invasion

into our lives. Imagine that! Our government and communications companies have entered profit-driven agreements to expedite privacy invasions.

So here's my suggestion: Why don't the conspirators up the ante? Raise the wire taps and conversation invasions to the limit of the government's capacity--one billion calls per day--and charge accordingly. The communication companies' profits would explode, so they would not have to charge the rest of us for

using their systems. Voila! A win-win situation! The government will have access to everything about everyone, in exchange for which we will have free phone service.

You see, there is a precedent for this. Obama has given free phones and free minutes to the needy, so what I suggest is only an extension of his free phone service program. Clearly it is constitutional or the President would not have initiated it.

For those who are concerned about privacy, the Russians have led the way. They've gone retro and are using typewriters to defend against the insecurity of the Internet. Presumably, carrier pigeons will convey their written messages. Perhaps too, Native Americans can get into the private communications business with smoke signals for short range discourse. That would bring a whole new meaning to communications "in the cloud..."

Ahhh, well, maybe the afternoon sun has gotten to me. I'd better get into the shade and make some phone calls the government can tap. The NSA and AT&T folks need something to do. •

Another Man's Opinion

Bill Seeks to Ensure Funding for Domestic Violence Shelters

By Cristian Vasquez

When convicted of a crime, it is common that the guilty party pay a fine in which the total sum is split into different parts and used for a variety of reasons. Assemblyman Chris Holden's AB 139, which passed the Senate vote, seeks to ensure that money paid by the guilty party will go to a worthy cause--to fund domestic violence shelters. The bill would require that the penalties paid by abusers be strengthened to ensure that more funding is made available for such shelters. Having people who are guilty of violence against their domestic partners (i.e., wife or husband, girlfriend or boyfriend) pay a sum of money that will fund a local domestic violence shelter is an idea that is long overdue.

Unlike many fines that go to different departments and end up being split into several different portions for a variety of reasons, AB 139 allows more funds to go directly to local domestic violence shelters. The bill would require that anyone convicted of domestic violence must pay a \$500 fee after being granted probation. The \$500 is a fee--not a fine--and ensures that the money is used to directly help the victims of the crime. Unfortunately, the victims of domestic violence have a tendency to return to their abusers. Whether out of fear or due to a lack of resources, these victims are many times left with limited options and preyed upon by their abusers. By having a law to ensure that money is directly routed to these

shelters by such criminals, there would now be a more readily available network for these victims.

The bill was born after a 2012 State audit revealed that the distribution of payments used to support domestic violence shelters in various counties leave a significant portion of said payments uncollected. The bill will ensure this is no longer the case, hence ensuring that the funds get to their destination. It is already a challenge to convince victims of domestic violence to seek the support and resources available to get away from their abuser. The challenge is significantly magnified when the funds that are supposed to fund these resources fail to make it to their destination because of the wording of old laws.

While AB 139 still has to go back to the Assembly floor in August for language changes, having the Assembly and the Senate moving in the same direction on this topic is encouraging and long overdue. The victims of domestic violence, in their majority women and children, should not be made to wait or go without resources. Not all victims have family close to them to seek refuge from an abusive partner. Furthermore when children are involved, it becomes more difficult to find shelter. Ensuring that these shelters are funded and available to victims will help the latter take control of their lives and transition out of that violent relationship in a faster and more effective manner. •



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Sports

Lakers Rebuilding to Rebuild

By Adam Serrao

It is now a time of uncertainty for the Los Angeles Lakers. For the past two years, fans across Los Angeles have been witnessing their professional basketball club that wears the purple and gold fall downhill. After getting swept out of the playoffs in Phil Jackson's last year, the Lakers proceeded to lose Andrew Bynum in a trade that brought in Dwight Howard. The move looked good at the time, but after another unsuccessful season and Howard's recent departure to Houston, the once proud franchise of 16 NBA championships now finds itself poised to start Pau Gasol at the center position. This is a player Lakers' management had been fervently trying to trade. Joining Gasol are the old and not fleet-of-foot Steve Nash and a presently handicapped Kobe Bryant. The future for this team looks bleak indeed. Though the Lakers' front office won't say it, the team is positioning itself for the 2014 season. With every contract but Nash's coming off of the books, that will be the year of free agency when the Lakers attempt to regain their royal status amongst the league's very best teams.

In the wake of losing Howard, the Lakers actually haven't done a bad job at all in the free agent market. Just days after Howard signed with Houston, L.A. signed Chris Kaman. Although not one of the most athletic big men in the league, Kaman will bring interior defense and rebounding and fits into coach Mike D'Antoni's offensive system as a big man who can shoot from the perimeter. Another player the Lakers pulled for the veteran's minimum was Nick Young. Formerly of the Wizards, Clippers and 76ers, Young brings athleticism and youth to a ballclub that formerly had none. With the same size and body type as Kobe Bryant, Young has the ability to light up the box score on certain nights, though he has never proven to be completely reliable. The Lakers also brought Jordan Farmar back into the mix and are flirting with the idea of re-signing Lamar Odom to bring some familiarity back to the bench. Though it is sad to see Metta World Peace go, the Lakers saved about \$14 million in luxury tax costs, further clearing the books and saving money for what stands to be one of the biggest off-seasons in recent history for the Lakers come 2014.

Though these moves can be graded on a scale of decent to good, there is no doubting the fact that they have been made simply to pass time. To think the Lakers will contend this year for a title, let alone a top five seed in the Western Division, barring a miracle, would be

next to preposterous. Among elite teams like the Oklahoma City Thunder, San Antonio Spurs, Los Angeles Clippers, Golden State Warriors and now Howard's Houston Rockets, the Lakers this season may be hard-pressed to make it into the playoffs at all. Should they fail to gain at least an eight seed, it would be just the sixth time in their 65-year history that the team has missed the playoffs. Unless Kobe recovers in an extraordinary amount of time and is ready for the preseason, Nash stays healthy and regains the form from his Phoenix Suns days, Gasol dominates inside and the team actually finds an identity for itself, the Lakers should be anticipating a subpar season, to say the least. So where's the silver lining?

The silver lining, for the Lakers, arises from the fact that the draft class of 2014 figures to be the deepest and most talented group in at least the last 10 years. Andrew Wiggins highlights the draft class, but unless the Lakers drastically fail next season and enter into the lottery, they won't be seeing him on their radar. Instead, they will have a group from the 2003 draft class to pursue. LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony are both obviously on the Lakers' radar, though James is a long shot to come to Los Angeles. Should they fail in their attempt to land either of those two free agents, there is still a crop that includes Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and possibly Paul George, John Wall, DeMarcus Cousins and Derrick Favors, depending on what their current teams do with their contracts.

While it is nice to imagine a team with Kobe, LeBron and Carmelo all wearing the purple and gold, the chances of it actually happening are slim to none. Carmelo might be the biggest hope for the Lakers in 2014, but if he falls through, one of the most successful franchises in all of basketball may be in for some major hurt in the near future. Could the Lakers possibly decide to tell Kobe to take his time getting back from injury and "tank" the upcoming 2013-14 season in order to get a better draft pick? It may actually not be the worst idea. Mitch Kupchak, the Buss family and the Lakers are too proud of a franchise to do that, though. While the front office has done a great job of finding talent to get the team past this season with one-year contracts, the books will be clean come 2014. It is still unclear as to what the Lakers will actually do to turn themselves into contenders once again, but it looks as if we will all have to wade through one more excruciating season in order to find out. •

Up and Adam

Summertime Baseball

By Adam Serrao

The Major Leaguers aren't the only ones playing baseball throughout the summer. The hot sun and the green grass are just too good to stay away from for an entire offseason, and for that reason teams like the South High Spartans participate in summer ball. Though technically it is still the offseason, summer baseball gives coaches and players alike the ability to assess talent. Coaches get to see the players who are looking to make a difference on the team for next season, while players get the chance to

and two runs scored, were the catalysts on offense for Palos Verdes.

Despite the loss, South High still enjoyed a successful summer league season, going into the game against Palos Verdes undefeated. The Spartans wound up with a record of 5-1-2 when all was said and done. One loss doesn't affect the way the team played all summer long, however, and Sain found what he saw this offseason very encouraging. "We've been pitching well, playing good defense and getting timely hits," the coach explained. "Most games

"Despite the loss, South High still enjoyed a successful summer league season, going into the game against Palos Verdes undefeated."

showcase their skills in their attempt to become the next MVP of the ballclub. While there is no championship at stake, teams like the Spartans use the summer to their advantage in an attempt to put together the next championship team that will grace the baseball fields of South Torrance.

Just two months ago, the Spartans ended a successful season that saw the team wind up in a tie for first place in the Pioneer League standings. The team started the season out by winning five of their first six games and 10 out of their first 13 when everyone around Torrance knew that the Spartans and head coach Grady Sain were going to be one of the main teams to reckon with in the Pioneer League. Behind brilliant junior pitcher Matt Mogollon (10-2, 1.41 ERA, 71 strikeouts) and the timely hitting of players like Nick Cohan (.409 with 24 RBIs and 25 runs scored this season), South reached the second round of the CIF Southern Section Division IV playoffs before being knocked out by Northview with a tough last inning loss.

The Spartans went into the last game of their summer league experience with the intent to fix what went wrong in that last game of the season and get a little bit further into the playoffs next season. Going up against a Palos Verdes team that had trouble scoring runs last season, the Spartans figured to finish off their year with a bang. Unfortunately, those plans went awry when Palos Verdes took a 4-1 lead into the third inning. There was no shortage of runs for the Sea Kings in this summer game, as the team tacked on five more runs to eventually win up with a 9-1 victory over the Spartans. Players like Blake Matsuda, who went three for four with an RBI and run scored, and Dirk Durko, who went two for three with a double

have been close. Today got a little bit sideways. PV was really swinging the bats and put us in tough situations." Sain's observations were correct, especially in the third inning when the Sea Kings broke the game wide open against South pitcher Nick Beardsley. Beardsley is going to join the rotation next season behind team ace Mogollon and didn't look overly impressive in that inning of play when he surrendered five straight hits and four runs. He did, however, show a great deal of mettle by coming back the very next inning to retire the side in order. "He's been pitching quite a bit lately," Sain explained of Beardsley. "I think he got a little tired. But what I liked is that after the tough third inning, he went out in the fourth and threw quality pitches for a one, two, three inning. It was a good comeback inning for him mentally."

The Spartans are going to need solid mental toughness to get through a demanding Pioneer League schedule next season. The North High Saxons and the Torrance Tartars are continually improving and are out to un-seed the Spartans as the defending Pioneer League champs. Last season, the Spartans had only three league play losses all season long. One was to the Tartars at home in early April when Torrance shut the Spartans out by a final score of 4-0. The other two were to the Saxons when North swept South in consecutive games near the end of April by the scores of 2-1 and 6-5. If the Spartans are going to look to defend their status as Pioneer League champions, they must first find a way to get past the cream of the crop in their own division. With a successful summer season like the one just completed, South looks to be well on its way. •

Business Briefs

Hillside Dentistry Celebrates Grand Opening

Dr. Dave Goldwyn Jequinto and his staff hosted a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate their new office Hillside Dentistry, located at 2945 Rolling Hills Road in Torrance. For more information,

go to www.hillsidedentistry.net or call (310) 530-4300.

Special guests at the Hillside Dentistry ribbon-cutting included Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto, Councilman Bill Sutherland and members of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce.



US Hybrid Celebrates New Facility

US Hybrid President Dr. Goodarzi celebrated the new integration facility at 2945 Columbia Street in Torrance on July 17 along with several dignitaries including Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi who represents the 66th Assembly District. Founded in 1999, US Hy-

Assembly Bill 1077 which he introduced which would give incentives for the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles by lowering the upfront and long-term costs. Other dignitaries present at the ribbon-cutting included Torrance Councilman Bill Sutherland, Councilman Pat Furey, CALSTART President & CEO



brid Corporation specializes in the design and manufacture of integrated power conversion components for electric and hybrid vehicles as well as renewable energy generation and storage. Assemblyman Muratsuchi spoke about

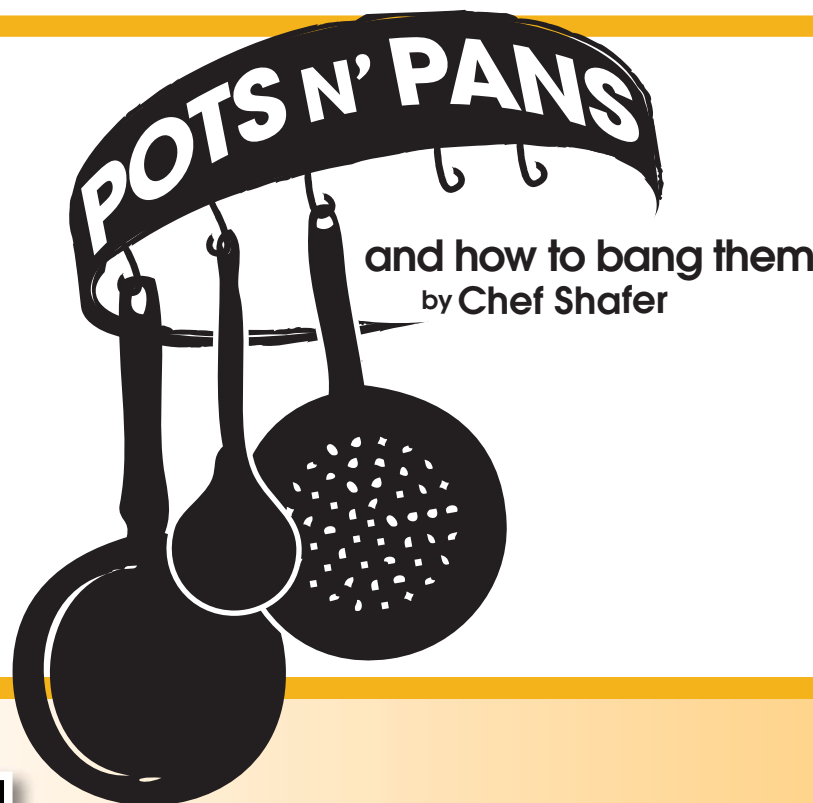
John Boesel and Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Sherry Kramer. For more information on US Hybrid, please call (310) 212-1200 or visit www.ushybrid.com. Photos by Charlene Nishimura. •

The weather is hot and I'm sick of turning on the oven at home, so I'm making a chilled chicken and penne pasta salad with a twist!

The best part is that I'm going to buy the chicken from Costco and chill it down then pull all the meat of the bones and chop it up for the salad.



The Chef



and how to bang them
by Chef Shafer



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

Cold Chicken and Penne Pasta Salad

- 1 pound penne pasta blanched in water, then cooled down
- 1 cup of diced tomatoes
- 1 cup of diced bell peppers
- 1 cup of diced celery
- 2 cups of diced cooked chicken
- 6 basil leaves, chopped
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 cup chopped olives
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- Salt and pepper to taste

Here comes the easy part...mix it all together and eat! If you want to you can spice it up with some chilies or your favorite hot sauce.



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Live Well, Love Much, Laugh Often

McCormick & Schmick's Gets the Seasoning Right With Summer Seafood Menu

By Brian Simon

Despite a recent spell of atypically dreary weather for late July, summer in the South Bay still has plenty going for it. Perhaps no one realizes this more than the local McCormick & Schmick's, which recently unveiled its "Summer

vegetables atop very good mashed potatoes. Cara Cara oranges are a hybrid of two navel varieties noted for their slight sweetness and low acid content. They make a perfect base for a citrus relish to accompany the salmon. A favorite dish of Herald CEO Heidi Maerker,

the "Chocolate & Decadent" category, this dessert is not overly sweet. Circles of strawberry sauce surround the mouse cake and provide a wonderful dipping complement for the chocolate.

The kitchen has taken presentation to the next level with all of these dishes. Executive chef Joe Gonzalez, sous-chef Stephen Rodriguez and the rest of the staff deserve kudos for their plating expertise and top-notch knife work. They make it look a lot simpler than it actually is, as it's no piece of cake to julienne vegetables using a mandoline.

McCormick & Schmick's has also unveiled a new lunch menu, with debuting items including Shrimp and Bay Scallop Fettucini, Crispy Fried Cod Sandwich and Chicken Portobello Sandwich. Those looking for a refreshing beverage can also order one of many excellent Summer Refreshers. The non-alcoholic options (each \$5.00) include Strawberry Lemonade (with homemade simple syrup), Sunset Punch (with strawberry, pineapple, apple, orange and grapefruit juices), and Blackberry Splash (with simple syrup and lemonade). Drinks with alcohol include the Mango Mojito, Perfect Patron Margarita and Prosecco Sangria.

not one, but two such events. Starting August 5, happy hours will run from 4 to 6:30 p.m. and then again from 9-10 p.m. on weekdays in the bar and lounge area. Menu choices run from \$2.99 to \$5.99 with a minimum beverage purchase of \$3.25 per person. Meanwhile,



Wild Alaska Duo

Seafood Limited Catch" menu to showcase several new items that represent the season to a tee with the emphasis on light, fresh, crisp and colorful—not to mention flavorful.

An ideal remedy for the heat and humidity, the Heirloom Tomato Gazpacho (\$6.99) is a particularly refreshing starter. A cold soup of Spanish origin, gazpacho in questionable hands can sometimes taste too much like a nondescript mild salsa. The McCormick and Schmick's version is tangy and vibrant. Topped with lemon crème fraiche and also featuring chopped onion and cucumber along with several shrimp croutons (similar in texture if not in sweetness to hushpuppies), this is one of the

the Alaska Halibut With Clams & Succotash (\$34.99) features a lovely piece of the prized white fish along with fresh clams. The kitchen's creamy rendition of succotash replaces the usual lima beans with Edamame (the Japanese name for soy beans) and also includes corn, onions and bell pepper. The flaky and moist halibut is perfectly pan-seared.

Both the salmon and halibut join forces on the Wild Alaska Duo (\$32.99), with the two grilled and plated side by side with yellow summer squash, watermelon relish and heirloom tomato salad and drizzled with balsamic vinaigrette. It's a great option for those who can't decide between one or the other.

The Seared Steelhead With Artichoke Ravioli (\$27.99) is another well-executed pairing. Though almost identical to salmon in color, taste and texture (since both fish eat the same krill-based diet and behave identically in the wild), steelhead is a kind of rainbow trout and not quite as rich as its counterpart. The fish is pan-seared and comes with sautéed squash ribbons and ravioli tossed in a lemon-thyme cream sauce.

With these entrees, diners have the option to add a three-course enhancement for \$10 by selecting a soup or salad (clam chowder, walnut mixed greens or Caesar salad with garlic croutons) and dessert (upside down apple pie, vanilla bean crème brulee or seasonal cheesecake). One additional dessert is available a la carte and should not be missed if you have anything left in the tank after your meal. The three-layer Bailey's Chocolate Mousse Cake (\$8.99) doesn't skimp on portion or flavor. The bottom is a dense and rich strand of chocolate cake, followed by individual layers of Irish cream-laced mousse and white chocolate mousse. Though aptly listed under



Alaska Halibut with Clams and Succotash

patrons who order any item from the Summer Seafood Menu also receive a Scratch and Win card, with prizes including free entrees and \$25 reward cards, among other possibilities. Every card is a winner.

Still going strong 15 years after opening on Rosecrans, McCormick & Schmick's remains a winner in its own right with a large and diverse menu that continues to evolve while never resting on its laurels. It helps to have the same general manager--Joe Garcia--since 2000. The man runs a tight ship and seamless operation--and also mixes a mean cocktail...

McCormick & Schmick's is located at 2101 Rosecrans Avenue across from the ArcLight Theatres. Diners can enjoy a meal in the main dining room, in a secluded booth, in the lively bar area, or on the outdoor patio. Two large rooms are also available for private dining with combined seating of up to 70 perfect for birthdays, business meetings or other events. For more information, call 310-416-1123. •



Baileys Chocolate Mousse Cake

A pioneer in the world of happy hour, McCormick & Schmick's has always featured



Wild Alaska Salmon with Cara Cara Orange

better and more unique gazpachos around.

It's an especially good year for heirloom tomatoes and McCormick & Schmick's is taking advantage of that fact by featuring them in two other starters. The Heirloom Tomato Carpaccio (\$6.99) features multi-colored "toybox" heirloom tomatoes sliced thinly with fresh basil and a balsamic reduction. The Summer Salad (\$6.99) places mini heirlooms with mixed greens tossed in an inspiring orange dill vinaigrette, with fresh watermelon and feta cheese to provide flavor and textural contrast.

The one warm dish in the "Fresh & Crisp" section of the new menu is the engaging Grilled Summer Flatbread (\$11.50) enlivened with basil pesto, Fontina cheese, prosciutto, arugula, marinated tomatoes and a sprinkling of Romano cheese for good measure. Thin and with the perfect degree of crunch, it's perfect for two to split.

On the entrée side, three notable fish play starring roles—including Copper River salmon, Alaskan halibut, and steelhead. Sockeye salmon make their annual spawning journey through the cold, turbulent 300-mile Copper River that flows through Alaska before emptying into Prince William Sound. To store up for the long trek, the fish must build up healthy reserves of fats and nutrients and the end result is one of the richest, moistest salmons you can order—but availability is limited, as most restaurants only serve it for a brief period during the summer. The Wild Alaskan Salmon With Cara Cara Orange (\$34.99) features a perfectly grilled, well-seasoned piece of fish with seasonal

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TerriAnn in Torrance

Midwives Today

By TerriAnn Ferren

One thing is true for all of us--we were all born. One way or another, we were brought into this world either by a medical doctor or a midwife who assisted with our birth. I thought midwives were used in the



Ilene Gelbaum Nursing School Portrait by Arnold Yelin, Hay Photographers.

olden days when a doctor wasn't available or if the birth was sudden--or in some cases when parents wanted a home birth. What a surprise it was for me to discover that all of my preconceived ideas were wrong.

Residing in Torrance lives one of the most prestigious and honored midwives in the country. This year, Ilene Gelbaum was inducted as a Fellow of the *American College of Nurse-Midwives* with Prestigious Distinction. I dropped in to speak with this amazing woman to find out exactly what a midwife does and specifically how Ilene Gelbaum happened to become a modern midwife.

According to Ilene, the field of obstetrics is very new, beginning in the early 1900s. She told me that immigrants were having their babies delivered by lay midwives, grandparents and neighbors. She said, "Modern medicine kept telling everybody it's safer to have your baby in the hospital where the profession of obstetrics came and flourished. So that is how we got from the back rooms to the hospital. Those midwives who had no education got pushed aside and made the way for physicians to do birth, which they hadn't done before... *The American College of Nurse Midwives* came into being in 1955ish. I am a certified nurse midwife. I am a registered nurse who received additional education and training to become a nurse/midwife. Midwifery school is in the universities at the Masters level and many midwives have their PhDs. It is a very highly specialized level of nurse. My licensure in the State of California is that of an RN. I am a board-certified nurse/midwife certified by the *American Midwifery Certification Board* which manages the certification and maintenance of that certification by midwives

in the United States." Most Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM) work in hospitals and less than one percent of midwifery attended births occur at home. I found that fascinating. Most nurse/midwives work in hospitals, are trained in hospitals and stay in hospitals.

Ilene Gelbaum was born in Brooklyn, New York and grew up four blocks from her husband-to-be Mark and one mile away from Kings County Hospital/Downstate Medical Center. Mark and Ilene met in high school when she was 14 years old and Mark was 16. Ilene told me that she and Mark would talk about what life would be like when she became a midwife. Graduating high school, Ilene entered nursing school on a full scholarship exactly 50 years ago at age 16. Can you imagine a young woman telling her prospective husband she was pursuing a career in midwifery which would call for a different sort of life than he knew as a child? Obviously, Mark was/is the consummate man and ahead of his time in the "Mr. Mom" category. He was all for his young bride reaching her goal. The couple wed very young. Ilene said, "I knew exactly what I would do with my life. Why? Because we used to sit out on the cement stoop outside the house--we were on the bus line that crossed in front of us that went to Kings County/Downstate Medical Center. They had the most amazing nurse/midwifery program there and I was very convinced I would be doing that. It was as though I had blinders on." She knew from the time she was a little girl that she would be a nurse/midwife. How



Ilene Gelbaum with the 5,000th baby she delivered.

many of us at the young age of three or four are certain of what our path in life will be?

After the young Gelbaums were married, they said yes to an adventure that would change their lives. In nursing school while editing the senior yearbook at Mount Sinai, the school was receiving the most amazing letters from a former graduate who was in Africa with the Peace Corps. These letters sparked excitement and adventure, so the young couple submitted their application to serve in Ethiopia. But a year later, the offer they received was for Sri

Lanka (which at the time was called Ceylon). Mark and Ilene said yes.

In 1967 the two young adventurers--after being trained in Fresno, California, the Philippines and Hawaii--took off to a jungle village in Sri Lanka to teach the people how



Ilene Gelbaum CNM, FACNM Photo by Mark Gelbaum. Photo by Mark One Photography and Co.

to grow "miracle rice." Ironically enough they were moved into the midwife's quarters, which was the only non-mud hut cinderblock structure available. No midwife wanted to live in a jungle village. The young Gelbaums accessed their village and found an alarming 92 percent malaria rate. So, the two set up the microscope that they brought with them and with the knowledge of laboratory techniques acquired in high school were able to test for malaria and distribute the free government medication to the people. Their malaria clinic succeeded and trust was established between the people and the two young Peace Corps workers. This trust opened the door for the women of the village to call Ilene to deliver their babies. At that time Ilene, who had been an ICU nurse at Mount Sinai Hospital, hadn't delivered babies. But armed with her copy of the Mount Sinai-issued *Air Raid Shelter Emergency* book, a bottle of aspirin and Mark to boil water, off they went to deliver babies. Her first delivery ever was assisting a neighbor living across the dirt road. Ilene was called in the middle of the night--remember there was no electricity--to deliver a baby boy in a hut. A midwife was born. Ilene told me, "The whole family was there and we delivered a nice, healthy, bouncing baby boy. I delivered her baby and that baby was two and a half when we left Sri Lanka and came home. You go into the Peace Corps thinking you are going to change the world, but you don't change the world--you influence one person at a time."

After returning home to the United States, the young Gelbaums were expecting their first child and Ilene secured a job at Mount Sinai in the newborn nursery where she wouldn't be turning patients, or doing any heavy lifting. Remember it was the early '70s and times were different. Later in New Jersey, Ilene was part of the first in-hospital birthing center. "I and my best friend--we were working together there--we actually implemented the first in-hospital birthing room and it was successful and we worked there until '79," said Ilene. "What a sweet place to work and it was just perfect! You would deliver. I didn't at the time--I was an RN [registered nurse] and RNs don't do deliveries, but you and the

doctor would deliver the baby and then after taking care of the same woman and all her labor you would take her to post partum... I would do all the work and they would get all the glory and the money."

It was at this point Ilene decided to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a midwife. She called the nearest school, enrolled, was accepted and graduated. In 1979, Mark and Ilene moved to California where Ilene accepted a position with the County of Los Angeles and then joined Dr. Kenneth Bell in Anaheim who had done his residency in New York and brought midwifery to Kaiser and to California. "You cannot imagine. Dr. Bell trained under the midwives at King's County and they influenced him," said Ilene "His mentor Louis Hellman told Dr. Bell, 'Midwives are the future--don't you ever forget that.'" Anaheim is where Ilene Gelbaum worked for 29 years. After driving half a million miles back and forth from Torrance to Anaheim and delivering over 5,000 babies, Ilene Gelbaum retired. Her 5,000th baby was a boy named Aiden.

Now, Ilene Gelbaum spends her time speaking, lecturing and informing people about midwifery. She has spoken in front of the *California Medical Association* and was the first non-physician ever to do so on the *Role of the Nurse-Midwife in the Birthing Room*. I asked how that was received and Ilene said, "Pretty mixed. A lot of physicians had never even met a midwife. But I was the professional model. I was an established midwife."

After Ilene had shared, I decided to call on another midwife I had heard about. Born and raised in Torrance (graduate of North High School), Joanne Tarkington, CNM, graduated from and then worked at USC--then at Harbor UCLA and two hospitals in San Luis Obispo County. Joanne became interested in delivering babies while on vacation in Canada. Coming to the rescue of a husband whose wife was ready to deliver, Joanne successfully delivered her first baby in the back of a van armed with the book *Spiritual Midwifery* by May Gaskin (which happened to be in the van at the time). Then, later while she was back home in Torrance acting as a birthing coach for a friend,



Joanne Tarkington CNM.

Joanne was amazed by the two styles of birth. Her Canadian mountain introduction versus the hospital delivery was a contrast to her. This sparked her interest and she began studying midwifery, leading her to a 30-year career delivering over 2,000 babies as a midwife. I then asked Joanne what was the biggest difference between the two births she witnessed and she told me, "I think the biggest difference is with the doctors. They go to medical school and they see birth as a medical condition and they treat it like a medical condition. Whereas midwifery

See TerriAnn, page 9

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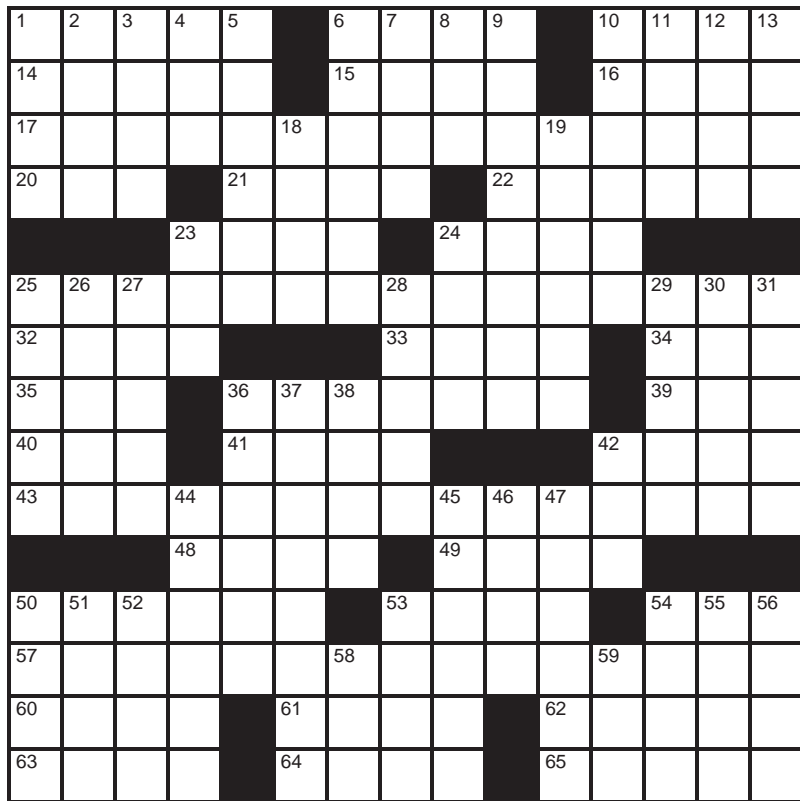
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD See Answers Next Week
Crossing the Line



ACROSS

- 1. Gauging subjects, often
- 6. Actor Gooding, Jr.
- 10. Indian dish ingredient
- 14. Dead to the world
- 15. Load
- 16. Odd, spelled oddly
- 17. Place on the field
- 20. Wilbur's home
- 21. This and that
- 22. Orient
- 23. Popeyed
- 24. Dizygotic ____
- 25. Unexpressed
- 32. Lap, as a wave
- 33. The Old Sod
- 34. Gloaming
- 35. "____ over!"
- 36. Surveyed
- 39. Body part
- 40. Known formerly as
- 41. Kind of shell
- 42. With the bow, in music
- 43. On the job
- 48. Made like
- 49. Panegyric
- 50. Leader born in Georgia

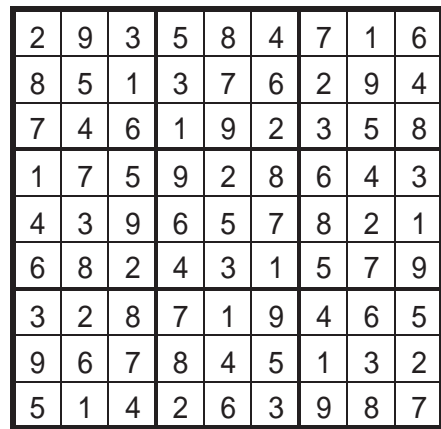
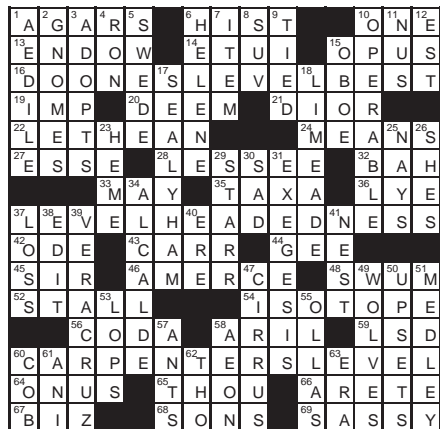
DOWN

- 1. Lagerlöf protagonist
- 2. Newton, e.g.
- 3. Controvert
- 4. Shortly before?
- 5. Larry, for one
- 6. Guarantee, in a way
- 7. Remarkably
- 8. Sticker
- 9. So to speak
- 10. Sign of summer
- 11. Patch up
- 12. Proof word
- 13. Appraiser
- 18. Arctic sight
- 19. Sent
- 23. Wow

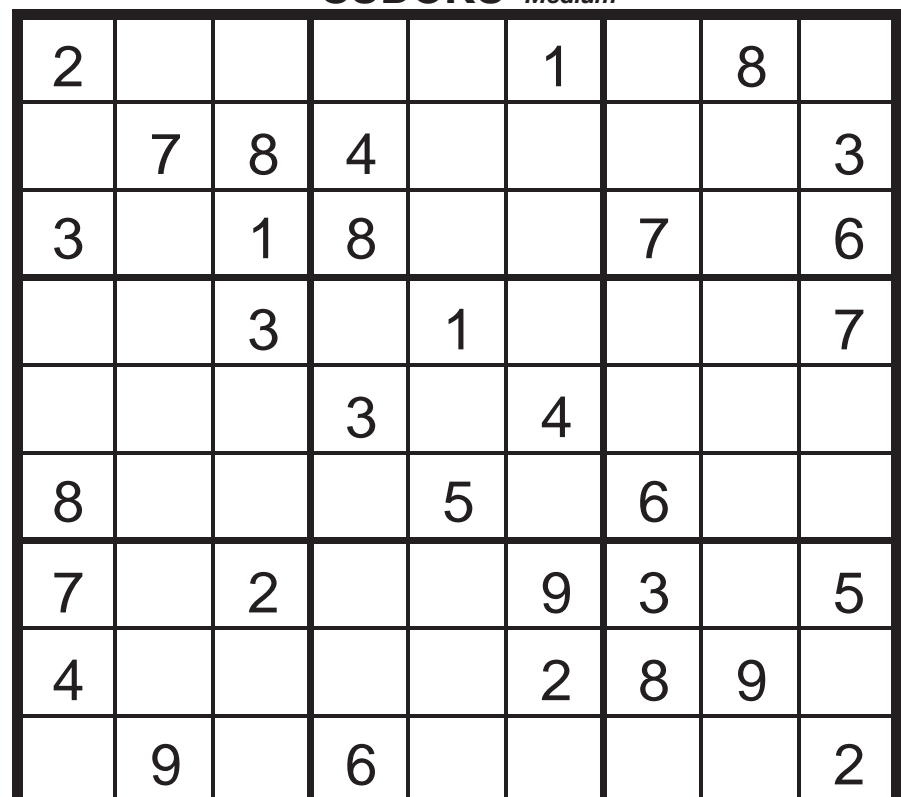
ACROSS

- 24. Weak
- 25. Buckwheat pancakes
- 26. No longer on the plate
- 27. Tube
- 28. Part of a joint
- 29. Kind of jacket
- 30. Boot
- 31. ____ Rebellion
- 36. Enter
- 37. Schedule
- 38. Like gastric juice
- 42. Elaborate
- 44. Most sound
- 45. In groups
- 46. Word of honor
- 47. Friction matches
- 50. Hasenpfeffer, e.g.
- 51. National park acronym
- 52. Interminable time
- 53. Throw ____
- 54. Japanese soup
- 55. All over
- 56. Compaq competitor
- 58. Crater on Mars
- 59. Fond du ____, Wis.

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.

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To appear in next week's paper, submit your Classified Ad by Noon on Tuesday.

TerriAnn

from page 8

training, we are taught to see birth as a natural part of life and it is not really a medical condition--it is a process. Midwife means to be 'with women' and you are assisting them through a normal process. Of course there are always things that can go wrong and they do go wrong, so we are skilled to handle any crisis or emergency situations and can do almost any interventions that the doctors do that can happen during labor. It is just the approach we take. A lot of people think we only do natural childbirth with no epidurals or pain meds, but we do. We are

allowed to give all those medications, but just don't automatically do it. Over the years, I have come to the conclusion that you give women the information and they make the choices and we support them in their choices. Doctors tell them what their choice is. The one thing about birth is that it is universal--you can go [and work] anywhere."

After speaking with these two remarkable women, my idea of midwives has changed dramatically. Thank you, Ilene Gelbaun and Joanne Tarkington for your selfless gift to all the women you have helped. •



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Police Briefs

Torrance Police Detectives are looking for a subject wanted in connection with a residential cat burglary that occurred in the 1300 block of Beech Avenue in the City of Torrance. On July 7 at approximately 1:15 am, a 70-year-old victim was asleep inside his residence and when he awoke, he noticed an interior light had been turned on and that personal property of his had been stacked and was on the floor in the hallway. The victim observed a male subject standing inside his residence carrying a baseball bat that belonged to the victim. A struggle for the bat ensued and after the victim

was able to wrestle it out of the suspect's hands, the suspect fled out the front door and began running eastbound on Beech Avenue. The lone suspect is described as possibly a teenager, 5-08, with short brown hair, clean shaven and last seen wearing a teal-colored shirt and shorts. This case is being investigated under the command and direction of Captain Bernard Anderson of the Special Operations Bureau. Anyone with additional information about this incident is encouraged to contact the Torrance Police Department, Detective Eric Applegate at (310) 618- 5581. •

Grand Reopening

from page 3

depression, anxiety or trauma that may have happened in their lives," SBCHC Clinical Director Rachel Green said. "We also work very closely with the local school district and all of the school districts in the South Bay. We either contract directly with them or get referrals. We contract directly with Torrance and Redondo

resources can be made available to community despite all challenges. "The City of Torrance is always pleased when someone opens a business because it creates jobs, but in this particular case it is like a family coming together with all of us rolling up our sleeves and making a place much better for all those working and

"Nothing but smiles could be seen during the South Bay Children's Health Center Guidance Clinic's Grand Reopening."

Beach school districts, so we get a lot of referrals through the schools. We also get referrals through local pediatricians, community centers, churches and through word of mouth. Our clients come to us through a variety of sources."

The SBCHC is a nonprofit organization and with the renovations adding two therapeutic offices, there will be an increase in the number of children served each day. Currently it is estimated that each year, the SBCHC Child Guidance Clinic serves more than 200 children and their families.

"Now that we have two additional rooms, we can expand our services. With therapeutic services, you need a private room where the door is closed and silencer is on and it is confidential," Harris said. "Office space is important and we have tools of the trade such as books and games or dollhouses for young children to be able to work in a family unit."

For local leadership, the grand reopening is an example of how through strong partnerships

for the children who come here," Scotto said. "First-hand, I know how difficult it is to open these doors and create a pleasant environment. All of you should feel great that you have done something that could potentially change the life of a child that comes through those doors."

Since 1947, the SBCHC has been providing for children and families who are low to moderate income in the South Bay by using evidence-based practices. It prides itself in increasing children's self-esteem and self-image and contributing positively to behavior at home and in school. Furthermore, the South Bay Youth Project, a division of the Child Guidance Clinic, provides school-based counseling to children attending Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, El Segundo and Palos Verdes schools.

"It was very challenging since money is always an issue," Harris said. "But we are very proud and very thankful that this whole project was 100 percent underwritten by different groups." •

School Board

from page 3

He mentioned that Torrance is financially much better off than some of its neighboring districts. "Thank you to the bargaining units for helping us through these past four years—it's been substantial and amazing" said Wermers. "It's actually remarkable how good we turned out to look after all this compared with surrounding districts...other districts are still laying people off and having furlough days. Thanks to the efforts of both [the TTA and the District], we've been able to survive this rather gracefully."

Lastly, newly elected Torrance Education Foundation (TEF) President Dee Hardison shared what the organization is currently planning. Hardison was already building

buzz about one of TEF's biggest events--the Sketchers Pier to Pier Friendship Walk that will take place on Sunday, October 27. The walk benefits South Bay school districts based on their own fundraising. Torrance Unified has usually had a strong showing, but Hardison noted that it still brings in less than some smaller districts. She believes the District can more than double the amount raised compared with last year. "Last year, we raised \$40,000 and there's no reason we can't raise \$100,000," said Hardison. "I'm getting tired of getting beaten in numbers by some of the smaller districts around. It's time TUSD steps up and show who we are. So we're going to work on that." •

Awards Dinner

from front page



Annie Hume, Facility Booking Specialist II, was presented the Distinguished Staff Award for her development and updating of the facility booking page on the City Website as well as her research for new registration software support to be implemented this fall.



The Distinguished Individual Award was presented to Jody Robelotto who has been supervising the "Employee Adopt a Rose Garden" program ensuring the roses are properly cared for.



The Distinguished Individual Award was also presented Whit Walter who has volunteered hundreds of hours to the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide preparing approximately 2,000 tax returns each year for the Torrance community.

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Real Estate

Easier Mortgage Processes, Positive Attitudes Inspire Renters To Buy

(BPT) - Owning a home has been an integral element of the American Dream for generations. But is ownership right for you? And if it is, how do you know if it's the right time in your life to purchase a home?

Thirty-two percent of American households are renters, according to the National Multi Housing Council. Generally, more people younger than 30 occupy rentals, while the percentage of people who own their home increases with age, NMHC statistics indicate. People decide to buy a home for many reasons, but the recent real estate market downturn caused many Americans to rethink their assumptions about renting and owning.

Even with many real estate experts predicting the market will continue to improve, it pays to carefully evaluate how home ownership does - or doesn't - figure into your long-term financial goals. If you've been renting and wondering if it's time to apply for a mortgage and buy your own home, consider these points:

1. Renting isn't always the cheaper option, and comparing your monthly rent payment directly to a mortgage payment won't give you a clear picture of the financial impact of either option. Online calculators, like Guaranteed Rate's rent vs. buy online calculator, can give you a better understanding of the comparison. With mortgage rates consistently low and rental markets competitive across the country, real estate experts agree that in most major metropolitan areas it will still be cheaper in

the long run to buy than continue to rent.

2. While the days of zero-money-down

mortgages are essentially over, it's a misconception that you need a huge amount

of money to buy a house. Yes, you'll almost certainly need a down payment, but different lenders will require different percentages. Research your mortgage options before you begin house hunting so you'll know how much you'll need to save in order to secure a mortgage - and the home of your dreams.

3. Although the mortgage application process is detailed, it doesn't have to be drawn out and tedious. Many lenders now allow you to initiate the process online. Automating the application process compresses the traditional time frame from days - sometimes, even weeks - into minutes.

4. Buying a home affords you the opportunity to really grow your roots, but the flipside is that in order to get the most out of your investment, you need to stay put for a while. If you anticipate being in your current job and living in your current town for at least five years, the long-term investment of buying a house will make more sense for you. If you anticipate a job change or a move within a few years, you may want to hold off on buying a house. The good news is, doing so gives you more time to save toward a down payment so you'll look even more appealing to lenders when you are ready to buy.

While only you can decide if homeownership is right for you and your family - and if now is the right time to buy - keep in mind a few statistics from Trulia.com: 42 percent of renters say they regret not having bought a home, and 31 percent say they want to buy a home in the next two years. •



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• Sat. 1-4pm Mike Work	617 Loma Vista St. The Real Estate Consultants	2/1	\$789,000 424-225-1750
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• Sun. 1-4pm Alex Abad	6620 Vista del Mar, Playa Del Rey Palm Realty	4/4	\$1,485,000 310-877-6488
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• Sun. 2-4pm Jim Marak	137th Pl., Holly Glen RE/MAX Realty	4/2.5	\$659,000 310-322-1900
• Sun. 2-4pm Bill Ruane	12975 Agustin Pl. #310, Playa Vista RE/MAX Beach Cities Realty	2/2.5	\$795,000 310-877-2374

"Torrance Tribune has helped Torrance Civic Chorale focus advertising for our two December concerts and our one Spring concert toward Torrance residence. The professional assistance, guidance and positive encouragement from Torrance Tribune have helped broaden efforts toward increasing concert patrons. Thank you Torrance Tribune."

David Burks
Artistic Director and Conductor
Torrance Civic Chorale

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