

Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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South Bay Children's Choir Prepares for Christmas Eve Event



During the Dec. 2 holiday performance at Marsee Auditorium, members of the South Bay Children's Choir (SBCC) entertained parents and other guests with Christmas musical compositions from Norway, Spain and more traditional American numbers. The SBCC now prepares for its scheduled performance at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles on Monday, Dec. 24 at exactly 3:25 p.m.

Council Holds Outreach Meeting for Central Torrance Residents

By Dylan Little

The Torrance City Council held the second of this year's community outreach meetings at the Dee Hardison Sports Center at Wilson Park on Tuesday. During the meeting the Council highlighted current projects that might be of special interest to residents of the area, like the restoration of the city's iconic railroad bridge, improvements at local parks and the rehabilitation of Wilson Park's duck pond.

Public Works gave an update on the restoration of the Irving Gil Railroad Bridge, which is located near the intersection of Torrance Boulevard and Western Avenue. Originally, the City hoped to have the bridge cleaned, repaired and lit by the end of the Centennial year. Public Works representative Beth Overstreet said that the project has encountered some delays, but should be ready to start by January of next year, which would lead to it being finished by the 100th anniversary of the bridge's construction.

"We did run into a couple roadblocks," said Overstreet. "No one decided to bid—five companies picked up the plans, but they all backed away. We made some changes to the request and now we will be awarding a contract at the next Council meeting. It has taken us longer than we anticipated, but we are going to make it look good for its birthday."

Next, Community Services Director John Jones announced that three parks—Delthorne, Hickory, and Greenwood—will get their sport courts resurfaced in 2013. Jones was also excited to announce a slew of improvements to Pueblo Park, including plans to install new play equipment; erect a permanent, pre-fabricated restroom to replace the current port-a-potty; and turn an adjacent dirt lot into a grass play area. At Wilson Park, his department is still working on the pond. The City has been having issues with the pond and had drained it until shortly before the Centennial Birthday Bash event after finding a temporary solution for some of the problems. Jones said that right now the water clarity in the pond is "amazing" and in

the near future the department will be adding more features to the small body of water. "We will be coming back and adding the fountains and a chemical distribution system...in March," said Jones. "Right now, it's up and running, but it will be in better condition in the spring."

The meeting also contained informative presentations from City Librarian Hilary Theyer and some crime prevention tips from the Torrance Police Department. After hearing all the information about what the City is doing for central Torrance, no one came forward with additional questions, but one woman did

commend the Council for taking the time to meet in Old Torrance. On behalf of the Old Torrance Neighborhood Association (OTNA), Janet Paine thanked the Council for focusing on the downtown area of the city. "Thank you for having this meeting in our neighborhood," she said.

Paine also noted that the OTNA has been active in the community with clean-up efforts. The group has donated 900 hours of volunteer work (or about \$18,000 worth of volunteer labor) cleaning up the Torrance Rail Bridge

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South Bay Children's Choir Starts off Holiday Season

By Cristian Vasquez

Christmas trees, presents and poinsettias decorated the stage at the South Bay Children's Choir (SBCC) performance during "Songs of Snow and Caroling," the holiday celebration at Marsee Auditorium. The show included a variety of songs, in different languages, including medieval Catalan, which was much more influenced by Latin, as well as French and Spanish ("El Desembre Congelat"). The choir also performed "Winter's Night," a haunting song of the Sami People of northern Norway. "Korobushka" was a delightful song sung in Russian and "Fuyu No Uta" was a folk song about snow familiar to anyone raised in Japan.

"I think for people who really like classical music, 'Winter's Night' [might have been their favorite piece, whereas some people, their favorite piece might be the popular 'White Christmas' by Irving Berlin, featuring eight-year-old Maggie Shepphird in a charming solo,"

Artistic Director for the South Bay Children's Choir Diane Simmons said. "'It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas' was the grand finale, with choreography."

All the presents used to decorate the stage during the performance were actual gifts donated by parents. The gifts were picked up by Janet Read with the Spirit of the Giving Heart Foundation, which donated the items to children on a Native American Reservation in Arizona. The performance also included the debut of The Troubadours, the new boys' chorus, and their new director Associate Conductor Maza Zimmerman.

"The concert went very well—it was fantastic and we had a great turnout," Zimmerman said. "The kids loved it. All the conductors and other musicians were very excited. It was something that we have been working on since September. We have been preparing ourselves for

See Children's Choir, page 9

Weekend Forecast

Friday

Partly Cloudy
58°/47°



Saturday

Partly Cloudy
58°/50°



Sunday

Few Showers
57°/50°



TerriAnn in Torrance

Holiday Toys in Torrance

By TerriAnn Ferren

At the Torrance Police Station, things are looking a lot like Christmas. Christina Szczypkowski, Services Officer in the Community Affairs Division of the Torrance Police Department, has been busy organizing

Station 1. We also opened it up at the Fire Prevention Office by the courthouse by City Hall." I learned that schools are a target to find any families who are in need.

Last year was the first time Christina was in charge of the *Holiday Toy Drive* and

town. The giant truck is very efficient for collecting and dropping off the toys at the Police Department. Laura helps organize things on the Fire Department end and works hand-in-hand with Officer Szczypkowski to coordinate the collection of the toys.

I asked how people learn about the program and Officer Szczypkowski explained, "Most of the families that apply have applied for several years, so they are familiar with the program. Some friends or relatives will tell them--so most of the people generally know how it goes, but we do get some new people that come in. Schools have been doing it for years, so they are on the ball with it." They get lists from the Torrance schools and then later drop off the toys at the school to the person that gave them the application. Some families will wrap the toys themselves and give them to their children. The Department does not dictate how the toys are distributed as long as the children get them. I also learned that the schools are top priority because they take off for Christmas break and the program organizers want to meet the children's needs before school is out.

All the toys are distributed by the Police and Fire departments respectively. For example, each officer will take one or two bags during their beat and when they go into the recipient's homes, they talk to the kids

saw tables filled with toys, bookcases filled with books and puzzles, bicycles and bins and boxes overflowing with stuffed animals. Girls' toys seemed to have a pink glow and the boys' toys were organized with items such as trucks, building blocks and cars. Officer Szczypkowski explained to me that they try and pack three to four toys for each child along with a game or piece of sports equipment--and everyone gets a book along with a stuffed animal. Amazing! And as it gets closer to Christmas, I was told that patrol officers have been known to take some toys in their unit. If a situation occurs where they are called and they find a child in need, they can give them a toy on the spot and the firefighters and paramedics do the same thing. Now that is giving in action. What a wonderful story!

What happens when there are more family requests than they can fill? Miraculously enough, Officer Szczypkowski told me that that has never happened. Needs are always met and they continue to collect toys up to Christmas morning. If there are more toys than needed, the Department donates the surplus to the local churches and the inner cities.

There are a lot of other organizations that gather toys this time of year as well. The Salvation Army has a drive, the Toys for Tots has been around for years, and our own Torrance Transit Department started a "Stuff a Bus" program that is proving very successful. All the programs help meet children's needs at Christmas. "I was blown away by the generosity of the citizens here [in Torrance]. I just said, 'Wow, they are just so giving,'" commented Officer Szczypkowski.

Officer Christina Szczypkowski was a preschool teacher for seven years before coming to the Police Department in Torrance. She was born at Little Company of Mary Hospital and has lived in the South Bay most of her life. One day while playing volleyball at the beach, she took the advice from a Torrance police officer and friend who suggested she try to become an officer. She thought about it and realized there was a wide variety of occupations within the Police Department and after going through the recruitment was accepted into the Torrance Police family. Wow! "I fell in love with this job and I really do care about our community," said Officer Szczypkowski.

So as you make out your holiday list, take the time to purchase a toy or two for the *Holiday Toy Drive* and donate it at one of the drop-off locations at the Fire Stations or the Police Station. For more information or for drop-off locations at the Fire Department,



Christina Szczypkowski Service Officer Community Affairs Division with the stuff animals that will be given to each child.

the joint *Torrance Fire & Police Department Holiday Toy Drive*. Every year right after Thanksgiving, the Police and Fire departments get together to set in motion the process of accepting new donated toys from the citizens of Torrance for those in need. Bins are set up at all six fire stations located around the city and the main police station where the collecting and sorting takes place. Last week I visited with Officer Szczypkowski in her second floor office at the Police Station near City Hall.

Officer Szczypkowski told me, "We begin collecting unwrapped [new] toys right after Thanksgiving. We composite our list--we have applications available to families right here in Torrance. We want to meet the needs with our families who live here first. That is our main priority--children in our schools as well as individual families that are having a hard time. They fill out an application. They can get them [the applications] here at our front lobby at our station or the Fire Department

everything was brand new, but now that she is a "veteran" she is diving head first into this special project. This project has been a wonderful challenge for Christina and she is excited to now store the new, unwrapped toys in the MCV (mobile command vehicle) shed located in the police yard. Usually, the large shed houses the SWAT vehicle and police motorcycles when it rains. Before the MCV shed was secured, the toys were stored in a small shed that did have its drawbacks.

All the toys are delivered to the Police Station where Officer Szczypkowski, along with other volunteers, sort, organize and bag the toys. Sorting makes the filling of "orders" much easier. All toys are sorted by gender, age and type. The toys are brought in daily as the season begins. Laura Bednar, Public Education Officer, Fire Prevention Specialist in the Fire Department, secures a large-stake bed truck, which is a huge open vehicle that is perfect for collecting all the toys from the many drop-off locations around



Toys for boys.

and give them the toys. Both officers and firefighters distribute toys during their shifts. And the volunteerism doesn't stop with the departments. Children of the Police and Fire departments volunteer their time to sort and stack the toys as they come--in addition to donating toys, gift cards or whatever else they notice is needed.

And the volunteers come from the departments involved. Cadets, officers and emergency services volunteers are all ready to help at a day's or moment's notice. They have the same people helping out year after year. Christina told me not only toys are donated. For example books, gift cards and art supplies are also very welcome. Plus, don't forget the older teenage children. They like sports equipment and maybe Mc Donald's gift certificates, or certificates to local department stores or specialty shops. The only thing they don't take is video games.

At this point, I could see that this toy drive is a very large project that is extremely well-run. We left the second floor of the Police Station and headed down the hall and out the door and across the parking lot to the large MCV shed where all the toys are stored. As we walked into the huge shed, I noticed the large white police vehicle to the right, and lined up to the left were several "motors" (police motorcycles) parked in the shed due to the rain. Down the middle and sides of the large area all the way to the back of the shed on the left were toys. Toys everywhere! Loaded down with treasures I



Toys for girls.

call 310-781-7071. For information at the Police Department, call 310-618-6392. Make this year special not only for the child you help, but for the joy you receive when you give during this Christmas season. •

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November 2012 Winner

SMILE awhile



Our Staff Pick for November is Tucker Watson (2 and a half), who shows off his voting sticker after helping Mom vote. Provided by Heather Watson. The winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate from our advertiser "Valentino's Pizza". Congratulations.

Readers send us your photos! Do you have a favorite photo? An old yearbook photo? Glamour Shot? Baby photo? **We want them.** We will accept only one photo, per person, every month. Once a month, we will pick a "Staff Favorite" and the winner will get a **\$25.00 gift certificate** from one of our local businesses, who are advertisers.

Email your photos to:
 Management@heraldpublications.com.
 We will only accept emailed photos and they must be in jpg form.

Calendar

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

Friday, December 14• South Bay Ballet presents "The Nutcracker", 7 p.m., El Camino's Marsee Auditorium, 16007 Crenshaw Blvd. Also at 2 p.m. on Dec. 15 and 16. For more information call (310) 329-5345.

Saturday, December 15

Sunday, December 16• 'Twas the Night Before Christmas reading, 4 p.m., Torrance Historical Society Museum 1345 Post Ave. For more information call (310) 328-5392.

UPCOMING

• Think Clean, Go Clean! Eco Art Contest and Festival, Jan 12 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Drive.

ONGOING

• "Giving Tree" to support Walk With Sally's Presents for Parents program at the South Bay Galleria, Dec. 1-Dec. 16. Ornaments, designated with a specific gift a child would like to give to their parent, can

be purchased.

• The Salvation Army Torrance Corps needs volunteers for Angel Tree Program, bell-ringers, Adopt-A-Family Program and Can Food Drive. For more information contact Angela Ohl at (310) 370-4515.

• Fundraising to benefit L.A. County Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Eddie's Barbershop - Men & Women, 2455 Sepulveda Blvd. through Mar. 23, 2013. For more information call (310) 533-9474.

• West High Entertainment Unit Christmas Tree Lot benefiting marching band, percussion, color guard and drill team programs. Weekdays, 3-9 p.m., and weekends 9 a.m.-9 p.m., West High school parking lot, corner of Del Amo and Victor.

• "Get Your Lights On" Holiday Light Contest for a chance to win \$300 cash and a \$100 donation to a charity of your choice. Register at www.prudentialsouthbay.com. Entries must be submitted by Dec. 17. •

Business Briefs

"GET YOUR LIGHTS ON" HOLIDAY LIGHT CONTEST

A Get Your Lights ON Holiday Light Contest is being sponsored by Prudential Real Estate. If you see a South Bay home that displays great holiday spirit or you are excited to share your own bright lights, enter them or yourself for a chance to win \$300 cash and a \$100 donation to a charity of your choice. You can register by going to www.prudentialsouthbay.com and be sure to check out the "Get Your Lights On" video. Entries must be submitted by Monday, December 17.

WEST HIGH ENTERTAINMENT SELLING LUSCIOUS CHRISTMAS TREES

Looking for a beautiful, fresh Christmas tree this season? Be sure to visit the West High Entertainment Unit Christmas tree lot. This annual event benefits the marching band, percussion, color guard and drill team programs. Sales are underway with weekday hours of 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. and weekend hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. These beautiful, fresh trees are selling fast. The tree lot is located in the West High school parking lot on the corner of Del Amo and Victor in Torrance. Happy Holidays from West High Entertainment!

TONY ROMA'S COLLECTING FOOD, TOYS TO BENEFIT COMMUNITY

Tony Roma's is collecting toys and canned goods donations at its Torrance restaurant location to benefit Toys For Tots and Torrance-area senior citizens as well as the Torrance New Challenge Ministries Fresh Rescue Food Bank. Items can be taken to Tony Roma's, 24301 Crenshaw Blvd., on Sunday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Friday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. All donors will be given a Free Appetizer coupon as well as a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate to Tony Roma's. Donations will be accepted through December 20. Please call 310-326-7427 if any questions.

CONGRESSWOMAN WATERS ELECTED RANKING MEMBER OF THE HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) was elected Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee on Dec. 4 by the House Democratic Caucus. Congresswoman Waters will be the first African-American and woman to serve in this position on the Financial Services Committee. Following the election, Congresswoman Waters released the

See Business Briefs, page 4

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.

DECEMBER 1

Auto Theft-All: 17500 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Stolen vehicle: '95 Honda Accord.

Burglary-Auto: 3500 BLOCK GARNET ST Suspect(s) takes property from victim's open trunk/jewelry, purses.

Theft: 300 BLOCK CALLE MIRAMAR

Suspect(s) disconnects surveillance camera wires and takes property from carport/video camera, computer monitor.

Burglary-Commercial: 22700 BLOCK LUPINE DR Suspect(s) removes window for entry, attempts to pry open office door/unknown if property loss at time of report.

Burglary-Commercial: 1900 BLOCK SEPULVEDA BLVD Suspect(s) enters property by unknown means and takes property/camper shells.

Burglary-Commercial: 20500 BLOCK VISTA DR Suspects request to tour victim's residence that is for sale and take property/jewelry, cash.

Auto Theft-All: 23000 BLOCK ARLINGTON AVE Stolen vehicle: '99 Honda Passport.

Theft: 2900 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Suspect(s) takes forgotten property off of sales counter/tablet.

Battery-Simple: 3700 BLOCK EMERALD ST Suspect punches victim in the face.

Theft: 22300 BLOCK KENT AVE Suspect takes property from residence without permission while there with permission/cash. •

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School Board Appoints Martha Deutsch to Vacant Seat

By Dylan Little

During its last meeting, the Torrance School Board voted to appoint former Torrance Council of PTAs President Martha Deutsch to the seat vacated by Al Muratsuchi after his election to the State Assembly in November. Deutsch has long been involved with Torrance education as both a volunteer and a teaching assistant in Torrance Unified School District. In a brief address, she cited her efforts (both as a professional and volunteer) in improving the District's schools and the diversity she would bring to the Board as a woman and a Latina as reasons to consider her for the position.

Upon being chosen, Deutsch first immediately handed over a signed resignation letter to Superintendent George Mannon (as TUSD employees can't served on the Board) and then took the oath of office. She said she is excited to start down this new path and find new ways to improve education for Torrance residents. "I'm ready to start working," said Deutsch. "I've been such a strong advocate for children and now I get to extend those skills to the community."

The new member came from a diverse field of candidates, each with accolades and knowledge that could serve the Board.

Among the 13 other applicants were physician Evan Bass, who had won multiple volunteer awards from his employer Kaiser Permanente; computer software developer Todd Hays, who has worked with the Board as a member of the Citizens Oversight Committee; former public finance banker Lori Koh, who also has extensive youth-oriented volunteer experience; nonprofit IT manager Pamela Milroy, who has volunteered in TUSD in many roles from noon-aid to PTA Board member; and political science professor John Tabakian. Board President Michael Wermers warned all the applicants that only one of them could be selected, but noted that it would be a difficult decision. "I can tell you right now we are going to disappoint 13 of you," said Wermers. "I'm not looking forward to that at all."

Wermers's warning on the difficulties in picking a replacement turned out to be an accurate prediction of the night. The Board held six different votes before agreeing on Deutsch as Muratsuchi's successor. Board members also nominated Hays, Koh, Milroy and Bass, but none of the candidates were able to achieve the three required votes to win. After deciding on Deutsch in the sixth round of voting, Wermers said with relief, "It's finally over." Board member Terry Ragins

said that tough decisions like this one are what make a fifth individual in the group necessary. "I would just like to point out that situations like this is why boards don't have even numbers," said Ragins.

The Board thanked all the candidates for their interest in serving and their patience for sticking through the appointment process. For those still interested, Board member Don Lee recommended they continue to help improve education. He even half-joked that he would give them assignments himself if they asked. "It's not fun to sit out there and not get appointed," said Lee. "Stay involved—there's lots to do and if you can't think of anything, you have our email and we'll assign you some tasks."

The Board also heard the first interim report on the 2012-2013 budget. In it, Mannon described how the District's budget will be affected by the passage of Prop 30 and what challenges await in the next few years. While the predictions weren't overwhelmingly positive, the Board lightheartedly referred to the presentation as "better bad news."

The good news in the report is that due to the passage of Prop 30, \$10 million in cuts to the District's budget were prevented. This allowed the District to avoid submitting a

qualified certification of the budget (meaning reserves would be adequate to cover expenses, but the budget would reduce the reserves to less than the three percent level required). However after the current school year, the District would be back to deficit spending. "Yes, we have enough in reserves for a positive certification," said Mannon. "This year and the three out years, we will be above the three percent requirement. But between 2013-2014 and 2015-2016, we will be in deficit spending."

While the passage of Prop 30 helped shore up finances, there are still some looming threats to the District's financial well-being. Mannon said that in the future, the Governor's plan for "weighted student funding" could lead to budgetary problems. Under weighted student funding, the number of economically disadvantaged students (as determined by how many students receive free or reduced priced lunches) and the number of English language learners would factor into District revenue—which could lead to as much as \$22 million in funding losses. "It creates winners and losers," said Mannon. "The larger urban districts emerged as winners and the suburban districts [like Torrance Unified] were the losers." •

Business Briefs

from page 3

following statement: "I am deeply humbled to be elected as Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee by my Democratic colleagues today. I want to foremost extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Congressman Barney Frank for both his friendship and outstanding service to the Committee, particularly for his steadfast leadership during the 2008 financial crisis – the most perilous moment our economy has faced since the Great Depression. The last few years have been

very turbulent for our financial system, and Congressman Frank should be commended for leading us out of the crisis, and assuring the passage of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which rightfully bears his name."

TORRANCE MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER'S DELIVERY STAFF ACHIEVES ADVANCED CERTIFICATION

Registered Nurses (RNs) and laborists in Torrance Memorial Medical Center's Labor

and Delivery and Mother Baby units are now trained to provide advanced life support to high risk pregnant mothers who may develop sudden cardiac complications during the labor and delivery process. The Advanced Cardiac Life Support Obstetric focus (ACLSOB) course ensures the highest safety and care for pregnant patients who develop complications such as cardiac arrest. Torrance Memorial now requires their in-house laborists and Maternal Child nursing staff to complete the ACLSOB training. With the important role as

first responders when patients are admitted for delivery, Torrance Memorial recently made it a mandatory requirement for its team of 22 private practicing laborists to receive ACLSOB training. A laborist is an obstetrician who stands in for a patient's personal obstetrician in case of emergency when that physician is unavailable or perhaps on their way. Laborists work 12-hour shifts to provide 24/7 on-site coverage. The American Heart Association requires that ACLS providers renew their certification every two years. •

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|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| American Tire 22940 Hawthorne Blvd. | Ken's Market 901 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Bch | NEW Spires Restaurant 1750 Sepulveda Blvd |
| Arco 23510 Crenshaw Blvd. | L. A. Fitness 3550 W. Carson St #404 | Starbuck's Coffee 5005 P.C.H., Torrance |
| Arico Hallmark 3856 Sepulveda Blvd. | La Cocina 4438 182nd St., Redondo Bch. | Staybridge Suites Hotel 19901 Prairie Ave. |
| Artesian Car Wash 17500 Prairie Ave. | Lingley Chevron Extra Mile 23420 Crenshaw Blvd. | T.R.G. Real Estate Group 3480 Torrance Blvd. |
| Benihana 21327 Hawthorne Blvd. | Little Company Of Mary Hospital 4101 Torrance Blvd. | Manee Thai Massage 24020 Vista Montana #A |
| Billy's Deli & Cafe 5160 W. 190th St. | Little Company Of Mary Medical Cntr 4201 Torrance Blvd. | The Depot 1250 Cabrillo Ave. |
| Bottle Shop 2087 Torrance Blvd. | Courtyard Torrance 1925 190th St. | The Little Gym 21203 Hawthorne Blvd. |
| Buffalo Fire Department 1261 Cabrillo Ave. | NEW Massey's House of Flowers 25929 S. Western Blvd. | Tony Roma's 24301 Crenshaw Blvd. |
| Capricciosa Italian 24301 Crenshaw Blvd | Miyako Hybrid Hotel 21381 S. Western Ave. | Toraya Ramen Restaurant 24231 Crenshaw Blvd., #D |
| Chamber Of Commerce 3400 Torrance Blvd. | Mercedes Benz of South Bay 3311 P.C.H., Torrance | Torrance Bakery 1341 El Prado Ave. |
| Chase Bank 2549 P.C.H., Torrance | Golden Camel 21006 Hawthorne Blvd. | Torrance City Hall 3031 Torrance Blvd. |
| Chateau Liquor 4545 W. Sepulveda Blvd. | Pacific Porsche 2900 P.C.H., Torrance | Torrance Cultural Arts Center 3320 Civic Center |
| Chinese Shanghai Restaurant 2880 P.C.H., Torrance | Palos Verdes Bowl 24600 Crenshaw Blvd. | Torrance Library 3301 Torrance Blvd. |
| Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf 21300B Hawthorne Blvd. | NEW Pediatric Therapy Network 1815 W. 213th St., Suite 100 | Torrance Library 4805 Emerald St. |
| NEW Cookin' Stuff 2722 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance | Infiniti South Bay 3233 P.C.H., Torrance | Torrance Police Dept. 3300 Civic Center |
| Cop-A-Tan 24231 Crenshaw Blvd. | Power Volvo 3010 P.C.H., Torrance | Torrance Police Dept. 3624 Artesia Blvd. |
| Cousin Vinny's Cafe 5150 W. 190th St. | Pregnancy Help Center 1311 Crenshaw Blvd., Suite A | NEW Torrance Produce Market & Deli 1303 El Prado Ave. |
| Creative Cuts Int'l. 21217 Hawthorne Blvd. | Prudential Real Estate 23530 Hawthorne Blvd. | Torrance Recreation Center 3341 Torrance Blvd. |
| Crest Restuarant and Bar 1625 Cabrillo Ave. | Ralphs 1413 Hawthorne Blvd. | Tortilla Cantina 1225 El Prado Ave. |
| Dee Hardison Gym 2400 Jefferson St. | Ralphs , 5035 P.C.H., Torrance | NEW Toyota North America 19001 S. Western Ave. |
| Del Amo Car Wash 20505 Hawthorne Blvd. | Rascal's Teriyaki Grill 5111 Torrance Blvd. | Tucker's Market 3690 Newton St. |
| Del Amo Professional Pharmacy 21320 Hawthorne Blvd. | RE/MAX Exec South Bay 23740 Hawthorne Blvd. | Vince's Spaghetti 23609 Hawthorne Blvd. |
| Dino's Burgers 1975 Torrance Blvd. | Residence Inn 3701 Torrance Blvd. | Wahoo's Fish Taco 3556 Torrance Blvd. |
| Eddie's Barber Shop 2455 W. Sepulveda Blvd. | Seashore Chinese 5137 Calle Mayor | Walgreens 2690 P.C.H., Torrance |
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Sports

Deconstructing the "Super Team"

By Adam Serrao

It is slowly becoming increasingly popular in professional athletics to construct what analysts like to call "super teams." The birth of these so-called super teams is most commonly attributed to the NBA and LeBron James when his "decision" had the world waiting to see what later formed a Miami Heat squad that also recruited Chris Bosh to team up with Dwyane Wade--thus creating a powerhouse down in South Beach. The truth is, however, that the super team started much sooner than that. When Mitch Kupchak made his first huge transaction as the GM of the Los Angeles Lakers and brought in Gary Payton and Karl Malone to play alongside future hall-of-famers Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal, the first NBA "super team" was created. While all of the big names being smashed together on one team does indeed create nationwide attention, the super team has still become somewhat of an oddity. While more and more organizations are doing all that they can to acquire as much talent as possible and fit it all onto one team, success oftentimes remains unattained. Is the idea of creating a super team a fruitless attempt at championship-chasing, or does the correct application of the process bear success?

With Shaq, Kobe, Payton and Malone all on one team, how do you lose? Well, the Lakers didn't lose very often that year as they made it all the way to the 2004 NBA Finals to face the Detroit Pistons. This Lakers team was perhaps the first super team ever created and did its part to not only open up other GMs' eyes around the league, but also opened a decade-long race for super team supremacy. While the idea was good, however, the initial constitution of the super team was ultimately a failure. The Lakers lost in the Finals that year to the Pistons--a team that seemed to have much more chemistry along with the willingness to play together. To this day, whenever a team is constructed with various skilled players on its roster and that team fails to live up to its expectations, it is always compared to the initial super team of Malone and Payton.

Next up, the Boston Celtics rolled into town and created a super team of their own by adding Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen to Paul Pierce's squad in the summer of 2007. The emergence of Rajon Rondo assisted in creating a team that was far superior to any other in the Eastern Conference at the time. Unlike Payton and Malone, however, Garnett and Allen were in their primes at the time. Their energy assisted the team in advancing to the NBA Finals in 2008 where they went on to beat none other than the Los Angeles Lakers for their first championship in 12 years. Not to be outdone, the Lakers soon

followed and continued with their lineage of super team-dom. By adding Pau Gasol in what was one of the most lopsided trades in NBA history, the Lakers put together a team with Bryant and future All-Star Andrew Bynum that wasn't just one to be reckoned with, but also one that took down the Celtics and made three straight trips to the NBA Finals, losing in 2008 but winning in both 2009 and 2010.

As previously mentioned, the Miami Heat came together in the summer of 2010 to create one of the most athletically talented teams the NBA has ever seen. With James, Wade and Bosh, the Heat had all the right pieces in all of the right places. In the first year of their existence, however, they would make it to the NBA Finals but lose in six games to the Dallas Mavericks. If they were so talented, then why didn't they win right away? Maybe it didn't matter, because the very next year the Heat made it back to the Finals and this time won in five games over the Oklahoma City Thunder. As everyone knows, the Lakers have done their part to toss their name back into the hat by creating their own new super team comprised of Dwight Howard, Steve Nash, Kobe and Pau. So far, it's not looking good for the Lakers as they find themselves under .500 on the season and unable to beat any quality opponent. With so much talent on one team (setting aside the injury to Nash), how can one team lose so often and be so inconsistent? The Lakers aren't the only team in Los Angeles that is having trouble with a surplus of talent. After all that the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim did in last year's offseason (including adding Albert Pujols), they wound up missing the playoffs for the third year in a row despite the extra wild card spot. Likewise, the Dodgers reinvented their team with the additions of Hanley Ramirez and Adrian Gonzalez, to name a few, but actually got worse as a team down the stretch. So is it the super team that is failing, or just an unlucky streak for all of the teams of Los Angeles?

Perhaps the Miami Heat team that won the title last year answered the question as well as it can be answered. Despite all of the talent that is given to a team through specific athletes, if those athletes can't work together then they won't achieve their ultimate goal of winning a championship. Perhaps sound advice to apply to everyday life as well. So to expect these Lakers to be as good as they can be, or even to win this year's championship, may be farfetched, to say the least. Same goes for the Angels and the Dodgers. Such high expectations are often met with generally large disappointment. Once these teams have enough time to play with each other and build enough chemistry together, the full value of the super team in L.A. will at last be met. •

Up and Adam

Basketball is Back

By Adam Serrao

It's that time of year again and basketball is back at high schools all around Torrance. Perhaps no high school is more optimistic about its chances to compete this year than the South High Spartans. Last year, the Spartans struggled midway through and towards the end of the season before squeaking into the playoffs with an at-large bid. Always ones to make the most out of the opportunities given to them, head coach Leo Klemm and South High rallied off four playoff wins in a row before meeting and ultimately falling to Calabasas in the CIF final. Though the year was still a success to the Spartans, they hope to not only repeat their accomplishments but also capitalize on the experience that was provided to them in their playoff run. Only time will tell, but so far they look to be off to a good start.

With three returning starters in the lineup this year, the Spartans appear pretty formidable when matched up against any opponent. Jake Ly (13.5 points, 5.2 rebounds), Kenichi Hackman (12.4 points, 6.6 rebounds) and Amar Kukreja (7.8 points, 2.2 assists) round out a returning senior class that will be the fulcrum of the Spartans' team this season. "Those three bring back more than 30 points per game," said an optimistic head coach Klemm. Thirty points is enough to ignite any offense and that's precisely what the Spartans will look forward to doing this year. With a high-scoring offense, South will look to get ahead early before bringing Hackman in off the bench to extend any possible lead.

Where the Spartans have a deficit in size, they surely make up for it in quickness and depth off the bench. The team didn't fully come together until late last year, but with significant starters returning to make contributions this season, chemistry should be at an all-time high. "We're different in that we're deeper," said Klemm. "We can go deep into our lineup without sacrificing quickness." Hopefully for the Spartans, the quickness that they boast will be enough to get them past some of the bigger lineups in the Pioneer League. With the experience at the coaching position and this year on the team itself, the Spartans should have what it takes to get the job done. South is already out to quite an impressive start to the season with a record of 4-1, including a 73-29 win over Calvary Chapel and 52-36 win over Whitney.

TORRANCE HIGH

The Torrance Tartars are up against a tall challenge this year in the wake of 16-year veteran George Tachibana's retirement from the head coaching position of the boys' basketball team. In his stead, first-year head coach Andru Vaughan will take over a team that got hot at

the end of last year and made a run all the way to the semifinals of the CIF Southern Section Division III-A bracket behind Brandon Gardner, Jimmy Carley and Shane Smith. All three of those players from last year are gone and moved on to college, so maintaining a team that is adept at proficient scoring may come as a challenge to Vaughan in his first year. One player who should make that job a bit easier is returning starter Brett Akahiji. Akahiji averaged almost 15 points per game last year, but is constantly battling the injury bug, so he will have to fight to stay on the court for the entirety of his senior season. The Tartars are already off to a rough start with a 1-4 record to start the season, but with a lot of time until league play begins, Vaughan will have ample opportunity to develop his young team.

NORTH HIGH

The North High Saxons had a great season last year, taking the Pioneer League outright and advancing into the third round of the playoffs before being eliminated by Mayfair. Like the Tartars, the Saxons are experiencing a head coaching change at the top of their team as Gary Dupperon has handed the varsity squad over to his son, Luke Dupperon. Davante Jenkins is the lone star returning from last year's first place team, so the newly inaugurated head coach may have a bit of molding to do before this team really gets into the swing of things. Already it has become apparent that the Saxons have been struggling early on, as they are off to a 2-4 start to the season. It is worth noting that Jenkins, fresh off his team's successful football season, wasn't with the club for its first couple of games. While the team has a lot of catching up to do, there is some optimism surrounding Jenkins' leadership abilities.

WEST HIGH

The West High Warriors are in a league of their own. The only team in Torrance that's not in the Pioneer League, the Warriors find themselves battling each year against some very skilled ball clubs. Last year, the Warriors compiled a 19-9 record that got them into a tie for second place. This year the team is hoping for continued success, but under head coach Paul Nitake can even see themselves capturing the Bay League crown. If they're going to do so, they will have to get past the likes of not only Leuzinger but also Mira Costa and the two traditionally competitive teams from Palos Verdes. So far the Warriors are off to a decent start at 2-2, but with a lot of season remaining to be played, there is still plenty of time. The Warriors will rely on Stefan Inouye, Ethan Kishimoto and Christian D'Emilia for point production and leadership this year. The road to a Bay League crown lies in their hands. •

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29th Annual Holiday Festival Winter Wonderland Hosts Gala

Photos by David Bever

The Torrance Memorial Media Center's 29th Annual Holiday Festival Winter Wonderland continued last Friday with the Festival Night Gala's dinner and auction. This year's event proceeds are going toward the medical center's 390,000 square foot, seven-story Patient Tower which is scheduled to open in 2015.



Highest bid comes from Ralph Moore.



Craig Leach, President/CEO of Torrance Memorial Media Center and his wife Judy.



Laura Schenasi, Executive VP of the Torrance Memorial Health Care Foundation and her husband Marc.



Becky Ward and Angie Scott pose in front of one of the fabulously decorated trees.



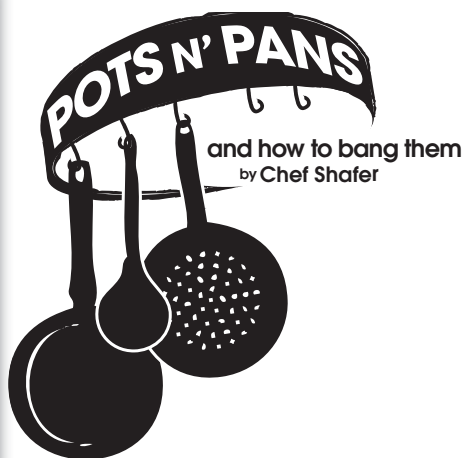
Michelle Olenick from Manhattan Beach and Erin O'Hara visiting from New Zealand.

See Annual Holiday Festival for more photos, page 8

The smell of cinnamon reminds me of the holidays more than any other thing. This is a version of a bread pudding that I served at the Hotel Bristol in Vienna Austria in the early 1980s when I was working there during the opera season. We used sweet egg bread but you can substitute challah bread or brioche bread.

When this comes hot from the oven the scent of the holidays will fill your home...

The Chef



Christmas Morning French Toast Custard Bread Pudding

8 x 11 casserole dish
Generously coated with butter use about a 1/4 pound 12 to 14 slices of bread.

The Custard

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons vanilla
- 1/2 cup chopped dates
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans

Lay the bread out in the casserole dish overlapping the slices slightly. Mix the eggs, cream, sugar, cinnamon and vanilla add the dates and nuts then pour over the bread making sure that all the bread gets soaked in the custard. Bake at 350 for 25 to 35 minutes the serve with whipped cream and berries. Happy holidays.



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Annual Holiday Festival

from front page 6



Dave Klein and Patty Lynch enjoy the musical entertainment.



Rocker Gene Simons with fans Barbara Dentley and Elaine Gee.



Song Klein and Deena Ruth posed in their stunning eveningwear.



Cliff and Peggy Berwald catch up with Peggie and Dr. Gerald Reich.



Richard and Melanie Lundquist topped the entire evening's bids!



Dr. Moe Gelbart and his wife Debbie pose in front of their tree.



Distinguished Guests.

See Annual Holiday Festival, page 11

Children's Choir

from front page

this concert and it is really a great feeling to see it all come together, especially in such a big venue as Marsee Auditorium. To look out into the audience and see all the parents supporting these kids was really amazing. Also, to hear what they have done in such a short amount of time, to get together and perform all these pieces and to perform them so well, it really is a great feeling as a conductor and from a musician's standpoint."

There are 13 boys in The Troubadours, all of whom are in their first term. Yet for Zimmerman, the talent and commitment of the group is what allowed the performance to come together and translate into such a

a performance slot.

"They have dance groups and they have bell chimes--they have professional groups and a few children's choirs, as well as adult choirs," Simons said. "They try to make it very representative of the Los Angeles area. You have to audition six months ahead of time, so I sent in an audition tape and they'll let you know until sometime in October. I tried to send in something that is going to be representative of what we are actually going to be performing."

Once the holiday season ends, the SBCC will begin preparations for its March 24, 2013 Great American Folk Song at Marsee

A Student's Perspective

On the Underappreciated Art of Teaching

By Glen Abalayan,
Torrance High School Student

The practice of teaching is one of the most underappreciated occupations in the world. Unfortunately, those who are trained in the art of teaching are overlooked by their students and are not recognized for their successes. Teachers deserve better than this maltreatment. Instead, they should be placed upon a pedestal for ceaselessly educating the next generation of innovators. There is no bigger debt a student owes to someone than to his or her teachers, who have provided the tools needed for success.

Teaching is a humble practice. It is the only practice other than parenting in which they will knowingly play a role in their students' success without receiving any compensation. This practice is severely underrated and underappreciated concerning how far they go for their students.

Teachers perform superhuman tasks for the successes of their students. Every year, they are assigned to an increasingly larger group of students and are paid even lower wages. They must then endure insulting remarks defying their authority by the very students they educate. On top of their challenges within the classroom, teachers must also sacrifice their own social lives by having to grade piles of assignments instead of being with their families. With the great challenges teachers face, it is certain they are not doing this for their financial advancement.

So what drives teachers to continue this grueling career when they can receive greater pay working as accountants? The answer lies in the very people who occupy their classrooms every day. When asked about what keeps them returning to school every day, most teachers say, "It's my students." They pursue their occupation not for the money, but the comfort that their teaching

has molded their students into better citizens. To them, there is no greater feeling than seeing their students develop into better individuals than when they first stepped into their classrooms. Simply put, teachers want to give their students the tools to become successful and prepared for the real world. This hope of making a difference in their students' lives is what motivates them into continuing to practice this truly humble occupation.

It can be safe to say that the success of any individuals is partly caused by what their teachers taught them during their younger years. One of the greatest examples to prove this statement is how the wisdom of Aristotle, which was later passed on to Alexander The Great, would have never existed without his teacher Plato--whose teachings were from his mentor Socrates. Were it not for the teachers of Aristotle to have willingly taught their pupil, the theories that have shaped today's modern world would never have existed. The same can be said for the successes of any individuals, as what they have put into practice is what their teachers have instilled to them in theory. Any successful individuals should pay gratitude to the teachers who have given them everything they had to help the former achieve their dreams.

An anonymous writer once wrote: "A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they'll never sit in." This is no closer to the truth than in the art of teaching, where those in the profession must humble themselves in order for their students to succeed. It is unfathomable how far a teacher can go to help students. Were it not for teachers' generosity, students would have never realized their true potential. Thanksgiving has come and gone, but people should always be grateful for the teachers who have paved the way for their success. •

"These kids are very skilled and they are very motivated, which makes it a lot easier and a lot more enjoyable for us on the conductor side because we are making music with kids who want to make music."

strong showing. "They come on a Saturday morning and that is not easy for a child to be there after going to school five days a week. Every single one of these kids wants to be there--they have that motivation," Zimmerman said. "Once we come in, they motivate us maybe more than we motivate them because we see the excitement in their faces and we see how far they have gone in such a short amount of time. These kids are very skilled and they are very motivated, which makes it a lot easier and a lot more enjoyable for us on the conductor side because we are making music with kids who want to make music."

The December 12 performance, being broadcast by Hawthorne Cable throughout the month, is only the first televised performance by the SBCC which will also be appearing on KCET on December 24 at exactly 3:25 p.m. The Holiday Celebration, being hosted at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, is a free concert with free parking included that allows parents and families to watch their children perform in a venue with a strong reputation. This is the fourth year that the SBCC will perform at Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Despite the continued presence in this prestigious holiday event, the choir must continue to audition in order to earn

Auditorium where musicians such as Cathy Fink, Phil Salazar and Lauren Donahue will be present. In addition, the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers of Los Angeles will perform a program of spirituals. Yet for now, Simons and everyone at the choir is focusing their energy for that five-minute performance at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on Christmas Eve. For Simons, the performance does more than just enhance the holiday spirit.

"I never realized until we actually were part of the performance, that we had someone in our group about 10 years ago who did not have a lot of money. She was a single mother and when she came up to me after the concert, she said it was such a thrill and that she and her daughter always came and watched it every year," Simons said. "I realized that this was their only chance to go to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion to see a show and it is a wonderful show. Presenting this is a wonderful thing for the City of Los Angeles to do--giving people the opportunity to see something in that grand venue for free. It is full and I didn't realize what it was going to be like to walk out on the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion stage and see the sea of faces all the way up to the top balcony." •

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Council

from front page

and community parks. Anyone interested in joining in the next clean-up is encouraged to attend the next OTNA meeting (scheduled for January 16) at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center at 1318 Cravens Avenue and more information on the OTNA can be found at www.olderoranceighbors.org. "We've inspired a lot of neighborhoods, but we are the only neighborhood that has an ongoing program," said Paine.

Tuesday's meeting was the last community outreach gathering planned. However, Councilmember Bill Sutherland said that a yearly community information-focused meeting would be a good idea. While taking the Council's show on the road would be too costly, holding a meeting at City Hall for residents to catch up on what's going on in the City's departments would be an appealing idea to Sutherland. "I think maybe we should consider doing this once a year at City Hall for the whole city," said Sutherland. "I think this is very informative."

The Council also awarded two custom engraved bats to the winners of the Centennial Softball Tournament. The tournament was held during the Centennial Birthday Bash (also located at Wilson Park) and had teams

representing three of Torrance's Rotary clubs, the Kiwanis club, the Torrance Police Officers Association (TPOA) and the Torrance Firefighters Association. While honored by the trophy from the Council, Mayor Frank Scotto noted the real prize of the tournament was something more ephemeral. "The stakes were high, as the winner would win bragging rights for the next 100 years," he said.

The two victors were the Kiwanis, which won out over the three Rotary teams, and the TPOA team that bested the Torrance Firefighters Association. TPOA President Jassen Bluto said that they are open to a rematch. "We were more than happy to compete against the Fire Department," said Bluto. "We'll take a rematch if the Fire Department is willing. You have a hundred years to get ready."

Kiwanis team captain (and Centennial Committee chair) Laurie Love didn't issue a rematch challenge to the Rotary clubs, but she did comment on how honored she was to help organize the festivities. "As the chairperson on the Centennial, I have said already how thankful I am that I got to contribute so many great ideas so everyone could enjoy it," said Love. "The softball game was one of those fun ideas." •

WEEKLY CROSSWORD See Answers Next Week

Cut A Rug

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

ACROSS

- Quirk
- Classic opener
- La lead-in
- Cirque
- Symbol of purity
- Diamond stat
- Ground breaker
- Tango, e.g.
- Negative particles
- Small valves
- Large amounts
- Matched
- Wrinkly fruit
- In a consistent manner
- Ancient Spaniards
- Carnaval site
- Two-step, Latin American style
- Part of a balance
- Botanical gardens
- Positions
- Growing room
- Vacillate
- J.F.K. postings
- Old counters
- Cruelty
- Jarabe tapatio

DOWN

- Big brass
- Cockeyed
- Eyelashes
- Norse goddess of fate
- "Aeneid" figure
- Plastic ___ Band
- When haroseth is eaten
- Bloviates
- Surgeon's tool
- À la mode
- College grind
- Ryan and Tilly
- Resolution
- Car ad abbr.
- Conclusion
- Hokkaido native
- Kind of mill

ACROSS

- Delay
- Mold-ripened cheese
- Fluff
- Eastern discipline
- Pucks
- Vanquished
- White-tailed eagle
- Swell place?
- Ring result
- Fox competitor
- Easter preceder
- Relating to a sytem of belief
- Fungal spore sacs
- Tennis ties
- Halvah ingredient
- Intuit
- Havana residue
- Metallic sounds
- Japanese publisher
- Makeup woe
- Concert array
- Squire
- Bridge toll unit
- Eye problem
- Purim's month
- Actress Brenneeman

Last Week's Answers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
T	O	N	G	A	B	A	S	S	S	T	E	P		
O	P	A	L	S	A	D	I	T	T	H	R	U		
M	A	G	I	S	T	R	A	T	E	O	R	A	L	
H	A	S	A	S	C	R	E	W	L	O	O	S	E	
T	Y	P	E	S	A	L	V	E	R					
M	E	R	E	D	U	B	U	S	E	R	S			
O	R	A	N	G	E	H	E	A	R					
B	A	T	S	I	N	T	H	E	B	E	L	F	R	Y
B	E	A	U	C	L	O	C	H	E					
S	C	A	C	H	O	U	P	A	N	T				
O	U	T	I	N	L	E	F	T	F	I	E	L	D	
O	D	O	R	T	R	A	I	T	O	R	O	U	S	
T	A	P	S	R	I	S	C	B	E	I	G	E		
S	L	I	T	A	N	T	E	R	N	S	T			

SUDOKU Medium

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

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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Annual Holiday Festival

from front page 8



Melanie and Richard Lundquist with Craig Leach.



Irene Wilson and Ginny Olney were two of the many volunteers who worked to make the Festival Night Gala a success.



Phyllis and Rene Scribe looking black tie elegant.



The Gala Night dinner celebration included Susan and Dean Reuter.



Jerry Marcil placing the winning bid.



Laury and Erik Wedin enjoy the evening.



Dr. Lisa Humphreys and Dr. John McNamera enjoy the festivities.

Children's Institute's Holiday Festivals Bring Smiles to At-Risk Children

Photos by Lizanne Fleming.

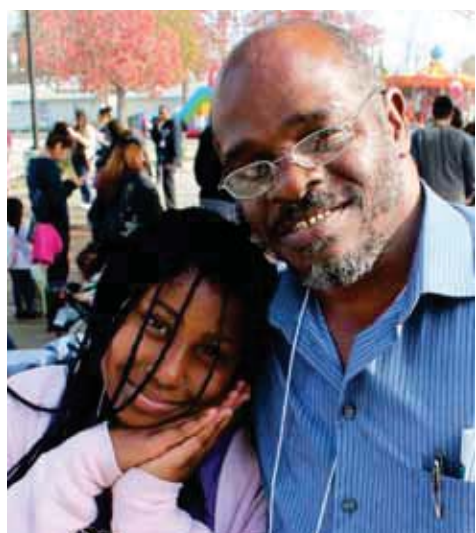
On three very special days in December, CII brought cheer to more than 6,000 children and their parents whose lives have been impacted by family and community violence, abuse or neglect. Now a well-loved holiday tradition for our clients, the Mattel Holiday Festival for Children's Institute provides time for families to put aside their stresses for a few hours and enjoy the often rare opportunity to spend quality time together. CII's Burton E. Green Campus in Torrance was the site of a two-day festival on Dec. 8 & 9, with a one-day celebration on Dec. 1 at the agency's headquarters, the Otis Booth Campus, near downtown Los Angeles. The fun-filled festivals featured family entertainment and amusements, arts and crafts, pony rides, a toy giveaway, and of course, Santa Claus. Title Sponsor Mattel's generous donation of thousands of toys ensured gifts for every child during the three festival days. Courtesy of CII.



A volunteer helps a young child pick out the ultimate gift in the toy giveaway at the Mattel Holiday Festival for Children's Institute, Inc.



A ribbon cutting by Title Sponsor Mattel at the Holiday Festival for Children's Institute, Inc.; Mattel Children's Foundation's Deidre Lind (left) and daughter join CII's Executive Vice President Nina Revoyr.



Quality father-daughter time at the Mattel Holiday Festival for Children's Institute, Inc.



Families spend time at Children's Institute's Toy Giveaway, where each child received a special gift, thanks to Mattel's generous donation of thousands of toys.



Mattel's Deidre Lind spends time in Children's Institute's Toy Giveaway with Santa.



Home Care For the Holidays

(BPT) - Whether it's guests arriving for a holiday party, visiting relatives or holiday revelers, your home can feel like a revolving door during the holiday season. Unfortunately, all of this added traffic can also bring unwanted dirt and germs that can outweigh holiday cheer. Keep your home looking clean, germ-free and ready to welcome guests throughout the holiday season by establishing a cold-weather cleaning routine.

If you regularly take care of the tasks on the list, your home will be ready for guests who arrive on schedule or on a whim. And by giving your guests a clean environment to enjoy, you'll also be giving them the gift of health. According to the American Lung Association, poor indoor air quality can cause headaches, dry eyes, nasal congestion, nausea and fatigue.

To start a routine in your household, follow these tips:

- Keep the air cleaner - and healthier. Because cold temperatures ensure that windows stay closed through the holiday season, air quality can quickly deteriorate. That problem can be exacerbated when you consider it's also cold and flu season. To help keep your air cleaner - and your family and guests healthier - make sure that your vacuum is helping air quality, not hurting it. Many standard vacuums release lung-damaging particles back into the air, which defeats cleaning efforts. For those

guests or family members who are susceptible to allergies, the need for a vacuum cleaner that truly cleans the air is more important than ever.

- Minimize clutter. Everyone gets a little bit busier at this time of year, and putting things away and keeping living spaces tidy can fall by the wayside. From the morning routine to the evening return home, encourage family members to put things in their proper places. Piles or stacks of clutter can collect dust and cobwebs and make your cleaning tasks take longer, so it's best to avoid them in the first place.

- Establish a freshening routine. As you go through your day, take opportunities to do a bit of dusting and freshening up, even if it's one room at a time. Strip guest beds on a regular basis - even if they're not always being used - and launder the sheets and blankets to ensure they smell and feel fresh when guests arrive. Utilize the attachments on your vacuum to easily clean window treatments like blinds and curtains to ensure they're not hiding dust or cobwebs.

- Don't forget pets and their belongings. While it's obvious to vacuum floors, carpets and furniture, you should also remember to keep your pet's bed and toys clean. For a thorough cleaning, be sure to launder your pet's beds and plush toys in the washing machine. •

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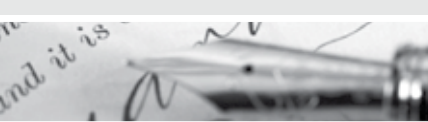
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