

Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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Santa Makes Grand Entrance at Torrance Kiwanis Holiday Event



Santa was spotted in a F-5 fighter jet on Dec. 14 in the parking lot of Palos Verdes Bowl on the corner of Crenshaw and Skypark. The visit was met with cheers from children and adults alike, who also were able to participate in model building and crafts and games, along with food and gift booths. The F-5 jet was courtesy of the Western Museum of Flight. The activities were sponsored by the Torrance Kiwanis Club. Photo by Charlene Nishimura.

Ashcraft Appointed to City Council

By Dylan Little

The Torrance City Council selected Heidi Ashcraft from a field of a dozen applicants to fill the position left vacant by Cliff Numark during the group's Dec. 17 meeting. The selection process was a bit random to replace Numark upon his election to the El Camino College Board of Trustees. Prospective Council member names were shuffled and then selected by students from West High and Riviera Elementary (who attended the meeting to perform holiday songs). The Council voting order was also randomized in order to eliminate any kind of bias. After two rounds of voting, Heidi Ashcraft was agreed upon, with Geoffrey Rizzo and Milton Herring also receiving nominations from Council members Pat Furey and Bill Sutherland respectively.

Ashcraft is best known for her 12 years of service to the Torrance Unified School Board. She was elected three times to the Board and served as Clerk, Vice-President and President. Before being selected, she mentioned her history on the Board as a reason to choose her for the position. "As you can see . . . we have a great school district," said Ashcraft. "I take claim to that a little bit for 12 years on that Board."

In addition to her history with the School Board, Ashcraft has served as a leader and a community volunteer in a number of different ways. She is currently President of the Southern California Regional Occupational Center's (SoCal ROC) Board of Education and in 2007 became the first woman chair of the Torrance Y. She has received awards including 2012 El Camino College Woman of the Year and the PTA Golden Oak Award in 2005. She said these experiences will help her to be an ideal Council member. "[Together that's] a minimum of about 15 years of governance and leadership - not counting the other areas of the community I've been involved in," said Ashcraft. "I've worked on budgets, set policies, hired employees and worked cohesively with my colleges. I have a track record that can be checked for my honesty and fairness."

After being sworn-in, Ashcraft gave a short address and promised to listen to the concerns

of residents. "I promise to do my best for the citizens of Torrance," said Ashcraft. "One of the most important things I can do is to listen. I thank you very much for this opportunity and I look forward to working for the City of Torrance and doing the best that I can do."

This is the Council's second appointment this year. Susan Rhilinger also left the group in 2013. Both times, Scotto noted that selecting replacement Council members is a major challenge because of the number of qualified applicants. "I got to tell you, it's been a trying situation for us up here because . . . a lot of these people are very qualified to be Council members," said Scotto. "You have 12 people that want to be appointed and obviously only one can make it and so it's a very difficult decision. I want to make sure everyone knows this was not taken lightly."

The Council also heard a report from Assistant City Manager Adam Chaparyan on a study to see if Torrance could economically support a conference center and an upscale "boutique"

hotel. The study was conducted by HVS--a Chicago-based hotel consulting and valuation firm. The results weren't positive, specifying a lack of name recognition and competition from more vacation-friendly sounding cities like Redondo Beach (a representative from HVS claimed the word "Beach" in the city's name was an advantage). However, Chaparyan said Torrance is already working on increasing its tourism appeal. "The findings at this time indicate that Torrance needs to focus on its branding efforts, which we are through the efforts of Discover Torrance," said Chaparyan. "The current market conditions do not create a favorable environment for a conference center nor a [boutique] hotel."

The Council was disappointed to hear HVS's remarks about adding a high-end hotel and a conference center. Furey expressed that while the news wasn't as positive as he expected, the report will give the Council ideas on how to make Torrance a bigger tourism and events destination. "I think I speak for all

See City Council, page 11

South High Senior Uses Talent to Spread Joy

By Cristian Vasquez

When South High senior Tiffany Hattori began balloon twisting, she never envisioned the hobby turning her into a sought-out local entertainer. After seeing a family friend balloon twisting, she became interested. Upon request, said friend taught her to make a balloon turtle.

"At first I was afraid to start because I was afraid the balloon would pop in my hand--I would hold the balloon as far away as I could," Tiffany said. "Eventually I got used to it and I have since popped many balloons while practicing. It is really fun and creative and once you get over the initial fear of popping a balloon, it gets a lot easier."

Tiffany began balloon twisting as a freshman because she considered it a

great art to express her creativity. Trying new designs takes a while, but she has never shied away from a challenge and can make animals such as an owl and a monkey, and has even developed the ability to make Spiderman and Hello Kitty.

"Once I had a bunch of extra orange and yellow balloons, so I thought it would be a good idea to try and make a duck," Tiffany said. "Other times I will Google how to make something and then try what I see. I just practice a lot. When I am trying to create a new balloon animal, I look at the picture and try to figure it out. I just keep going until I make it."

While Tiffany's brother Alex awes people with his yo-yo skills, balloon twisting See South High Senior, page 9

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Sunny
65°/50°



Saturday
Mostly Sunny
64°/49°



Sunday
Sunny
67°/52°



Chamber, Japan Business Association Grand Mixer

The 15th Annual Grand Mixer between the Japan Business Association and Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce was held on Dec. 4 at Vic's Garage in Torrance.

several dignitaries and executives representing the JBA, City of Torrance and Chamber were present to mingle, view the Edelbrock collection of cars and dine on delicacies prepared by the Red Car Brewery. Photos by Charlene Nishimura.

Christi Edelbrock, Founder of the Edelbrock Family Foundation served as hostess and



Enjoying the event are (L to R) Cherie Davis from the Miyako Hybrid Hotel, Brian Sunshine from the City of Torrance and Sue Moylan from Green Ink Marketing.



Alex Edelbrock, who represents the fourth generation of the Edelbrock business family, poses with his mom and Edelbrock Family Foundation Founder Christi Edelbrock.



The Japan Business Association President Masumi Muroi welcomes guests to the 15th annual grand mixer with the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce.



City of Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto, Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce's President & CEO Donna Duperron and Chairwoman of the Board Sherry Kramer, Edelbrock Family Foundation Founder Christi Edelbrock, guests from the Japan Business Association including Hiro Kato, Lisa Mitsuhashi, Hiro Kashiwai, Kazuko Ono, Hide Makinosumi, Yoshifumi Inoue and Reiko Tamura.

Business Briefs

Local Business Matches Funds from 'Movember'



Jenny and Jennie sport their faux 'staches. Torrance's 24Hr HomeCare raised a total of \$4,616 with its "Movember" team and matched \$2400 - a total \$7016 toward the awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer. The men of 24Hr HomeCare participated in growing mustaches, and the women made and wore imitation mustaches.

Grand Opening of South Bay Pain Docs



The South Bay Pain Docs celebrated a grand opening ribbon cutting in front of their Torrance office, located at 2557-A Pacific Coast Highway. Pictured cutting the ribbon are Dr. Andrew Morris and Dr. David Shawa along with dignitaries including City of Torrance Councilman Bill Sutherland, Councilman Tom Brewer and Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Donna Duperron. Photos by Charlene Nishimura.



The staff of the South Bay Pain Docs pose in front of their new Torrance office at 2557-A PCH include (L to R) Mike Downey, Dr. David Shawa, Dr. Andrew Morris, Dr. Jong Kim, Elizabeth Zazveta, Christopher Quinata, Maricela Romero, Ingrid Gonzalez, Suzana Reyes, Kristen Andrich, Antonio Ramos, Doris Staub and Jeff Holloway.

Community Briefs

West Torrance Robotics Recognized for Innovation



President Matthew Mizuta holds the Innovate and 2nd Place Alliance awards.



WTR's FTC robot that helped them advance to the Regional Championship held on Feb. 15.



WTR board member Anusha Ranganath. The West Torrance Robotics (WTR) team at West High School won the Rockwell Collins Innovate Award at the recently completed FIRST San Diego Regional Qualifier Tournament held at Horizon Christian Academy in San Diego.

In addition to the Innovate Award, West Torrance Robotics came in 2nd place for the coveted Inspire Award, runner up for the robot competition and was nominated for the Design Award. The Inspire Award is given to teams who act as an inspiration to other teams, acting with Gracious Professionalism™ both on and off the playing field and are able to communicate their experiences, enthusiasm and knowledge to other teams, sponsors and the local community.

With their standout performance in San Diego, the West Torrance Robotics team will represent West High and compete in the San Diego Regional Championships on Feb. 15. Photos provided by Matt Mizuta.

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Police Reports

The crimes listed are crimes where a report was taken by a law enforcement agency and submitted for investigation. The outcome of the investigation or any criminal court proceedings are not considered when reporting crimes. The crimes listed are as follows: arson, simple assault, aggravated assault-weapon, Auto: Theft: Auto: burglary, Commercial: burglary, Residential: burglary, homicide, strong-arm robbery, robbery with 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 7

Theft 5400 BLOCK LINDA DR Suspect(s) takes property from front yard/ Christmas decorations

Burglary- Residential 16700 BLOCK YUKON AVE Suspect(s) pries open sliding glass door for entry, but flees upon discovering victim is inside residence/ no loss

December 6

Burglary- Residential 18300 BLOCK WILTON PL Suspect(s) cuts hole in metal security door, pries open wood door, ransacks and takes property/ cash, jewelry

Burglary- Residential 18700 BLOCK CORDARY AVE Suspect(s) attempts to pry open sliding glass door/ no entry, no loss

Burglary- Commercial 2300 BLOCK CARSON ST Suspect(s) enters office by unknown means, ransacks and takes property/ cash, gift cards

Burglary- Residential 3800 BLOCK 186TH ST Suspect(s) enters unlocked door, ransacks and takes property/ cash, watches, jewelry

Burglary- Residential 17100 BLOCK ERMANITA AVE Suspect(s) pries open door for entry, ransacks and takes property/ handgun, knife, cash

130074561 Burglary-Auto 12/6/2013 6:47 AM 20300 BLOCK MADISON ST Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means and takes property/ suitcase, clothes, shoes, cosmetics

December 5

Burglary- 23100 BLOCK SAMUEL ST Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle and takes property/ registration, sunglasses, cologne, cash

Vandalism 1700 BLOCK CRENSHAW BLVD Suspect(s) tags exterior of location

Auto Theft-All 24400 BLOCK CRENSHAW BLVD Stolen vehicle: '12 Toyota Rav4

Theft 20900 BLOCK AMIE AVE Suspect(s) cuts cable securing property and takes same/ bicycles

December 4

Burglary-Auto Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle, ransacks and takes property/ GPS

Burglary-Auto 20600 BLOCK ANZA AVE Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/box of candy, picture frame

Burglary- Residential 1800 BLOCK 181ST

ST Suspect(s) removes screen, smashes window/ no entry, no loss

Vandalism 3800 BLOCK 242ND ST Suspect(s) damages storage building door/ no entry, no loss

Burglary- Residential 22500 BLOCK GREENWOOD AVE Suspect(s) smashes window for entry, ransacks and takes property/ purses, cash, jewelry, watches

Burglary-Auto 6100 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means and takes property/ TV, jewelry, cosmetics, clothing, purses, documents, photo album

December 3

Burglary- Residential 16800 BLOCK FAYSMITH AVE Suspect(s) cuts/ removes screen, smashes window for entry, ransacks and takes property/ tablet, laptop, MP3

Burglary- Residential 22900 BLOCK MARJORIE AVE Suspect(s) removes screen, enters residence tented for fumigation, ransacks and takes property/ watches, cash, jewelry, binoculars, toy cars

See Police, page 5

Calendar

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

• Winter Wonderland sponsored by the Friends of the Torrance Library, 4 p.m., WALTERIA LIBRARY, 3815 W. 242 St. For more information call (310) 375-8418.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

• Winter Wonderland Concert (North Torrance Youth Musicians Ensemble), 7 p.m., JAMES ARMSTRONG THEATRE, 3330 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

• Free Tech Training For Adults, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., KATY GEISSERT CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY. For more information call (310) 618-5945.

• The Nutcracker (Dance West/Metropolitan Ballet Company), 7 p.m., JAMES ARMSTRONG THEATRE, 3330 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

• "Dreaming of a White Christmas" presented by The South Bay Women's Chorus, 3 p.m., NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP HALL, 415 PASEO DEL MAR, PALOS VERDES ESTATES.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

• Downtown Torrance Antique Street Faire

(4th Sunday of every month), 8 a.m.- 3 p.m., 1317 Sartori Ave. For more information call (310) 328-6107.

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

• Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles, Torrance Meeting and Presentation, 7 p.m. Traveling Library 7:30 p.m. Program, Toyota Automobile Museum, 19600 Van Ness Avenue. For more information email judieson@aol.com.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

• City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Executive Session, 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting, 7-10 p.m., City Hall, Council Chamber, 3031 Torrance Bl. For more information call (310) 618-2870.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

• Mad Science of Los Angeles Presents Sounds Like Science, 4 p.m., North Torrance Library, 3604 W. Artesia Blvd. For more information call (310) 323-7200.

ONGOING

• Downtown Torrance Marketplace. Every Thursday, 3-8 p.m., on El Prado Street, from Sartori to the Buffalo Fire Department. •

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Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project

metro.net/projects



Winter 2013 Project Update

This year has been very productive for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project Team, beginning with the Metro Board of Directors awarding a contract to build the 8.5-mile rail extension to Walsh-Shea Corridor Constructors (WSCC). Running from the Expo Line to the Green Line, the \$1.272 billion project includes two recently added stations, one in Leimert Park and one at Hindry.

Construction

Since September 2013, Metro has been completing final design, mobilizing its team, conducting right-of-way surveys and preparing for major construction, scheduled to begin in Spring 2014.

Scores of utility lines have been relocated. These include an 18-inch sewer line at Crenshaw Bl/67th St, a 10-inch sewer line at Crenshaw Bl/59th St and a storm drain just north of Crenshaw Bl/48th St.

There have been zero accidents, and Metro remains committed to safety. Construction Safety Awareness Training for project neighbors has also begun. Schedule yours now at crenshawcorridor@metro.net.

Additional pre-construction activities include meeting with diverse stakeholders, coordinating construction activities and conducting business profiles in anticipation of construction. The project team has finalized its list of properties to be acquired and acquisition has begun.

The Project Groundbreaking is set for early 2014. Regularly scheduled construction update meetings will begin in February 2014. Be sure to sign up at crenshawcorridor@metro.net, to receive construction notices and invitations to all future meetings.

Delivering on Measure R's promise of speeding the delivery of transit projects to provide congestion relief, the majority of funding for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project flows from the Measure R half-cent sales tax approved by Los Angeles County voters in November 2008.

Jobs

Besides building the new rail line, the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project will bring many benefits to the City of Los Angeles, particularly jobs and economic revitalization. Construction and administration jobs for the project can be found at: walsh-shea-corridorconstructors.com/opportunities. Metro also offers ongoing employment opportunities and those jobs can be found at: metro.net/about/jobs.

WSCC is a joint venture between Walsh Construction and J.F. Shea Company. Together, they have collaborated on many rail projects in the United States, including systems in Dallas, Phoenix, Charlotte and Chicago. In addition to its October Business Opportunities Summit, WSCC has made an immediate impact in the Crenshaw/LAX community by hosting two food drives and a toy drive for the 2013 holiday season.

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Politically Speaking

One Man's Opinion

By Gerry Chong

The spaceship landed very quietly and cautiously in Lafayette Park in Washington, D.C. The little green men from that infamous galaxy far, far away peered out with trepidation and took their first steps on Earth, having searched for light years for a planet with intelligent life. To speed their evaluation, they divided themselves into teams, grabbing headlines from various news sources to understand how earthlings thought. Some of those headlines read:

"CBO: Top 40 percent paid 106 percent of income taxes. Bottom 40 percent paid -9.1 percent, got average of \$18,950 in transfers. In 2010, the CBO determined American households in the bottom 40 percent paid negative amounts in income tax dollars using a negative income tax rate."

"Obamacare exchanges limit access to top hospitals, medical centers. Said an anonymous Obamacare spokesman, 'The President never said you were going to have unlimited choice.'"

The sainted New York Times reported, "On health exchanges, premiums may be low, but other costs can be high. Consumers are finding that deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs are often much higher than what is typical in employer-sponsored health plans."

The Hill reported, "The Administration admitted Obamacare error rate was 25 percent."

The Competitive Enterprise Institute reports, "Government regs estimated to pound private sector with \$1.8 trillion in hidden taxes every year."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported 41 percent of net new jobs in November were in government.

The Mercatus Center research reported the private sector shrank in 41 states during the Obama Administration.

Fox News and the American Enterprise Institute predict the number of uninsureds

will grow from a current 45 million to over 100 million due to cancellations of existing policies.

American Thinker stated "Unbelievable incompetence led to NO-BID contract for healthcare.gov."

Nine states, including California are rejecting Obama's "fix" for five million cancelled existing policies.

CBS reports "Only 7 percent of the American public wants Obamacare kept as is. A full 93 percent want the law changed (48 percent) or fully repealed (43 percent).

Breitbart reports, "Thousands of doctors dropped from Medicare Advantage. Underfunded reimbursements will leave seniors with the choice of switching plans or paying more to continue seeing their doctors."

According to Kaiser Health News, CBS News, The Washington Examiner and others, 900,000 individually insured Californians will lose their existing health plan due to Obamacare.

The Association of American Medical Colleges predicts we will experience a shortage of 90,000 doctors over the next 10 years. Combined with an aging population, it's likely your doctor may refuse to see you. Today, only 43 percent of doctors will see Medicaid patients due to low compensation rates.

The government now reports there are 49.7 million on food stamps costing \$78 billion per year, even as the government is on an aggressive campaign to grow the rolls of dependents.

One-third of information being transferred from healthcare.gov to insurance companies is flawed and inaccurate.

Fox News reports the insurance industry is at such risk that President Obama is preparing plans for a possible insurance industry bailout.

The discouraged little green men from the galaxy far, far away skulk away, continuing their search for intelligent life somewhere else. •

Another Man's Opinion

Nelson Mandela's Life Proves Faith Can Overcome Anything

By Cristian Vasquez

This issue's write will vary a bit from the norm. Instead of the typical hit piece or attempt to rally support for some politician or law in our state or county, I will address the recent death of former South African President Nelson Mandela. The death of Mandela on Dec. 5 was a sad event that has moved many people around the world in different ways. I can only be fortunate enough to have witnessed part of his struggle growing up, in a limited capacity, through books and news stories. There are

him to endure the injustice of being restricted of his limited liberties in a country where he had little freedom. Faith allowed him to keep anger, hate and resentment out of his soul and allow him to envision a future in which these were just words rather than feelings toward fellow human beings.

I have never been to South Africa and I am not too familiar with the nation's laws or customs. What I do know is that much like our country, it has a history of racial intolerance. Much like our great nation, South Africa had

"Faith allowed him to keep anger, hate and resentment out of his soul and allow him to envision a future in which these were just words."

countless characteristics that we can all aim to possess as well as Mandela did, including courage, strength, passion, love and dedication, to name a few. Of all the valuable lessons the life of Mandela has taught, faith is the one that has reached me the most.

When I say that faith is a trait in Mandela that we should all aim to emulate, I mean that in more than the religious sense. The faith that Mandela displayed throughout the arduous journey that was his life was more than a spiritual faith—it was a faith in humanity, a faith in love, a faith in justice, and a faith in himself that led him to experience such a fulfilling and meaningful life.

Having been incarcerated for more than 25 years didn't break the man's faith. Only Mandela knows how much it might have bent, but the strength of that faith allowed him to see what is good about humanity. Faith allowed him to dream of a country where apartheid was not the law of the land. Faith allowed

leaders of tremendous character that despite enormous personal sacrifice dedicated their lives to ending the injustices that plagued each country. In the process, leaders like Mandela in South Africa and Dr. Martin Luther King in America, along with countless average citizens in both nations, set an example of the power that human compassion and unshakable faith can have.

Some people are committed to a career, to themselves or to their families. Very few people are committed to leading the fight for the oppressed. When many tried and gave up because of threats, violence and incarceration, Mandela pushed harder. He sat in a prison for almost a third of his life, mostly as a young adult, and came out just as committed to his cause as the day he went in. If we could all have at least half of that faith in ourselves, in humanity and in the love necessary to make this world a better place, we will keep Mandela's legacy alive. •

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Police *from page 3*

Burglary-Auto 1900 BLOCK 222ND ST Suspect(s) enters possibly unlocked vehicle and takes property/ GPS, bank card, shoes

Burglary- Residential 16700 BLOCK GLENBURN AVE Suspect(s) tears/ removes screen, smashes window for entry to unoccupied residence/ no loss

Auto Theft-All 2300 BLOCK SEPULVEDA BLVD Stolen vehicle: '87 Chevrolet Suburban
December 2

Theft 21800 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) takes property from exterior of business/ deep fryers

Theft 3600 BLOCK 182ND ST Suspect(s) takes property from locker room/ cell phones

Vandalism BLOCK EMERALD ST Suspect(s) punctures victim's vehicle's tires
Auto Theft-All NARBONNE AVE & 240TH ST Stolen vehicle: '13 Hyundai Sonata

Theft 3400 BLOCK GARNET ST Suspect(s) takes property from front porch/ delivered parcels

Vandalism 17000 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) scratches victim's vehicle's paint

Burglary- Residential 4700 BLOCK CARMELYN ST Suspect(s) smashes window for entry, ransacks/ unknown property loss at time of report

Theft 100 BLOCK PALOS VERDES BLVD Suspect(s) takes locked property from parking garage/bicycle

Auto Theft-All 231ST ST & ARLINGTON AVE Stolen vehicle: '00 Honda Civic

Auto Theft-All 800 BLOCK BEECH AVE Stolen vehicle: '93 Honda Civic

Burglary-Auto 500 BLOCK CRENSHAW BLVD Suspect(s) punches door lock for entry, tampers with ignition and takes property/stereo

Auto Theft-All 5200 BLOCK ZAKON ROAD Stolen vehicle: '10 Ford P/U
December 1

Auto Theft-All 22600 BLOCK CROSS-HILL AVE Stolen vehicle: '99 Ford van

Auto Theft-All 19000 BLOCK ENTRADERO AVE Stolen vehicle: '13 Fiat 500

Burglary-Auto 21400 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means, ransacks and takes property/ GPS, registration, insurance

Burglary-Auto 3800 BLOCK 226TH ST Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle, ransacks and takes property/ ID, registration, financial documents

Theft 4100 BLOCK TORRANCE BLVD Suspect(s) takes victim's vehicle's catalytic converter

Theft 4200 BLOCK 176TH ST Suspect(s) takes property from porch/ bicycle •

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The Night Before Dispatch

By Tara Griffin,
Torrance Police Department

Twas the night before Christmas,
and all through the land

Dispatchers were working,
isn't life grand?

Stockings were stapled
to a pillar quite bare,

In futile hope that a bonus
soon would rest there.

Dim lights were glowing
from monitors clean

The setting was sterile,
pure and serene

I'd just grabbed a cup of
the freshly made brew

And was settling down
to a bowl of hot stew

When from the phone
lines arose such a clatter

Oh for eff's sake, what
the hell is the matter?

I flexed all my fingers
and extended just one

Preparing for what
could be a long run

The first call was stellar,
but fairly routine

"My husband is puking,
his face is all green"

I'll send paramedics; they'll
take him away

So you and your children
can have a nice day.

The next call came in
from a panicking mother

"I can't find my daughter,
or her little brother

We were shopping together
in this crowded mall

And now I can't see them,
can't find them at all!"

A detailed description
was taken with care,

Down to the color
of each child's hair

Officers and mall security
began scouring,

And soon found the
children, scared and a-cowering

In a small darkened corner
of the toy store so packed

With torn and ripped
boxes haphazardly stacked

"We were touching the
animals with soft fluffy fur

When our mommy
got lost, can you take us to her?"

The phone kept a-ringing,
it failed to stop

The next caller (of course!)
demanded a cop

"I'm following a drunk,
this road he's all over
He just drove straight through
a field of old clover!"

The deuce team was close
by and flew to the site

But the guy was so drunk,
he wanted to fight

He swung at the officers
with a meaty closed fist

But they were quick to restrain
him – then teased him "you missed"

In handcuffs he rode
in the back of the car

With the pretty flashing
lights on the top-mounted bar

To the gray bar hotel where
he'll spend the night

With fluorescent lights
shining down on him bright

My coffee was lukewarm,
I had time for a sip

An older man called;
"My wife's broken her hip"

The ambulance crew responded
and treated her nicely

Loading her quickly,
and most precisely

As gently as possible
to the hospital they went

Extra care for the bumps
in the road was well spent

The man was so gracious,
and caring and kind

That it was nearly
Christmas, he didn't mind

My stew was congealing
but I managed a bite

Before the next call, a family fight
"My sister is high as a kite this fine eve,

Can someone come get her?
I want her to leave

I've had it to here with
her ruining our fun

This time it's over,
something must be done!"

More calls kept coming,
my crews were all busy

The speed they worked
at was making me dizzy

A man with a knife
was seen stealing a car

He was stopped by
the officers near a dive bar

He complied very meekly
in the dark of the night

"Even I know better than
to knife at a gun fight."

The next caller whispered
in a scared voice, so soft

"Someone has broken in to my loft

They're taking the presents
I worked so hard to choose

I won't confront them,
I have too much to lose."

With calm reassurance
in my voice I did say

"Officers are already
well on their way

Can you tell me how
many people you see?"

"I only saw two,
but heard another, so – three"

Policemen approached with
such stealth and precision

The thieves were then faced
with an easy decision

Two surrendered on the spot,
their hands were well raised

But the third wasn't thinking,
his eyes were all glazed

He suddenly fled in
the icy cold air

And officers noticed his feet,
they were bare

A deep rumbling voice
shouted "Comet, let's go!"

And a K9 flashed by,
chasing after his foe

The suspect was fast
but Comet was faster

This call could have
easily been a disaster

The suspect fell down
and in pain he did howl

Comet stood by and
silenced him with a growl

"I shouldn't have run,
don't know why I did"

He said in a voice
like a scared little kid

"Please take me to jail,
don't let the dog bite"

And proceeded along,
with no further flight

The next caller stating,
in a voice that was choking

"The stove in our kitchen
is mightily smoking

My family's all out, including the dog

But the house looks like
one great big cloud of smog"

Then suddenly fear
leaped into his speech

"I see flames! They are orange!
The walls they did breach"

As the fire engines approached
with sirens quite loud

The caller began chanting
– he was praying aloud

"Protect all these firemen,
brave and so strong

Please don't let anything
else to go wrong"

The house it was saved
with moderate loss

Very few items in the
trash they did toss

As midnight approached the
noise suddenly halted

And out of a seat my
partner soon vaulted

The phones were all quiet,
the radios still

Not a sound could be heard,
zip zilch zero nill

A faint buzzing noise soon
came over the air

Who was that calling?
Was anyone there?

A mysterious voice echoed
strongly and true

"To all public safety,
I'm speaking to you

Your efforts are noticed,
your sacrifices great

Your hours start early
and often go late

I wish you all peace t
his holiday season,

Whatever you celebrate,
whatever your reason"

There was no indication
of voice origin

Nothing to indicate,
domestic or foreign

The voice then concluded
in a tone sounding bright

"Everyone gets to go
home safely tonight." •

Sports

The Kobe Factor

By Adam Serrao

At the mention of the name Kobe Bryant, basketball fans think of a player who is already in rarified air. Kobe, the shooting guard out of Pennsylvania's Lower Merion High School. The same Kobe has been to 15 All-Star games in his 17-year career. The same Kobe is a five-time NBA champion and a two-time NBA Finals MVP. Recently, however, Bryant's legacy has been somewhat pushed aside while his name and ability to lead his team are under scrutiny. The Lakers, who without Kobe were one game above .500 at 10-9 and only one game out of the Western Conference's eighth seed, were said to be exceeding expectations. The addition of Bryant was sure to assist in the Lakers' winning ways. Kobe's emergence into the lineup, however, was accompanied by a losing streak, with three quick defeats in his first three games back, including a 25-point blowout to the Oklahoma City Thunder and home setbacks at the hands of the Toronto Raptors and the Phoenix Suns. Thus, the questions emerged. Are the Lakers really better with Kobe? Or does his presence on the court hinder the abilities of his otherwise young and hungry teammates?

The days of the Los Angeles Lakers walking on the rafters amongst some of the best teams in the NBA have come and gone. That fact is what needs to be noticed first and foremost. These Los Angeles Lakers as we have come to know should still have playoff potential within themselves, especially with one of the best players to have ever played the game on the active roster. The Lakers looked to gaining one of those playoff spots before Bryant emerged in the lineup. With three road wins in a row and as winners of six of eight games, the Lakers, under head coach Mike D'Antoni, looked as if they were onto something. Add into the mix that the Lakers had thus far ventured through the league's sixth-toughest schedule and some might say that the perennially hated D'Antoni was actually earning his keep. By sharing the ball, hoisting up three-pointers, running the pick-and-roll and playing enough defense as any D'Antoni-led team would be

allowed to play, these Lakers were opening eyes around the league.

Those years of winning championships have most certainly come and gone for the Lakers, as we have seen in recent years. But the Lakers looked as if they were capable of winning before Bryant stepped out on the court to reclaim his role as one of the best in the league. Perhaps Bryant, however, is not the reason for his team's lack of success recently. Jordan Farmar tore his hamstring after undergoing an above average start to the season and Steve Blake has been ruled out for six weeks with an elbow injury. Now, the point-guardless Lakers are forced to have Bryant handle the ball. That means things could either get worse or with time, they'll gel together and begin playing as a unit.

"It's a learning experience," Bryant explained. "Since we are a young team, you have to constantly remember that it's a marathon—not a sprint. You have to allow them to play and make mistakes and you have to be there to tell them and go over certain things that they can do differently." Bryant certainly plans to remain in the starting lineup for the foreseeable future, so the fine-tuning must begin. Or at least the attempt.

Whether the Lakers are better with or without Kobe may not be known until the key players on the roster are healthy. One thing is for sure—the media and fans here in L.A. want to see Bryant on the court. Most fans, if posed the question of whether or not they would take 40 wins with Kobe on the team, or 45 without him, would unquestionably take the 40 wins with Kobe. The fact is, these Lakers are not championship material either way, but Kobe is the show. The best the Lakers will possibly do is make it into the playoffs as a seventh seed, like last year, and inevitably get swept by one of the league's powerhouse teams as in the last two seasons. Even if the team is worse off with Kobe as the show, the fans will get what they pay to see. The Lakers may even be lucky enough to get a lottery pick and escape the purgatory in which they currently find themselves. •

Up and Adam

High School Sports Revving Back Up

By Adam Serrao

High school basketball isn't the only thing that's tuning up into full effect these days. Another sport that isn't often talked about around sports circles but is certainly gaining a lot of respect and credibility around the United States, let alone here in Torrance, is in the dead heat of play right now. Soccer here in Torrance might just be the most competitive out of all of the high school sports played and the rivalry matchup between South High and West High last Friday night at West showed precisely why. It had everything that true soccer fans would want and love: an underdog story, cool, crisp air and a bright green pitch to play on for these two inner-city rivals. In the end, the 3-1 Spartan victory provided a result for the two teams that hasn't been seen in over 12 years of competition.

Perhaps the most impressive soccer team in the Torrance area as of late has been the South High Spartans. Though it finished in second place in the division standings last year behind North High, some might say that South in fact had the better team. The playoffs proved exactly that, as the Spartans went on to the CIF Southern Section Boys soccer championship where they unfortunately fell to Ontario by a final of 3-2. Despite all of South's recent success, there has still been one thing that it hasn't been able to do. That is to beat the West High Warriors. That's why this game was so important to South and Ryosuke Inaba played just that way.

The game was tied 1-1 in the first half and it was Inaba who scored South's first goal. The contest remained close throughout the first half, as many competitions between South and West do. The pivotal moment of the game, though, came at the end of the first half just before the two teams left the field for a break. Ian Melnyk of West was whistled for a hand-ball inside of the box. The penalty drew an automatic red card, which subtracted a player from the Warriors for the rest of the game. That one-man advantage was all that South High needed.

South head coach Chad Lagerway knew of the advantage that his team maintained with West a man down. "I was talking about moving the ball around, using the extra space because West had to chase down a man, and we'd get chances," he said. Seconds after Lagerway gave his team that pep talk, Taylor Kang sent a shot into the corner of the net to give South a 2-1 advantage in the game. Up one goal and one man on West, South then listened to the coach, moved the ball around and pretty much played keep-away for the rest of the game. It was Inaba, however, who put the nail in the coffin in the 67th minute. Taking the ball off of a deflection, Inaba tapped it in past the goalkeeper to give his team the almost insurmountable 3-1 lead.

"I just ran my butt off, was lucky enough to get past the defenders and get a touch on it," Inaba said of his goal.

The victory for South was its first over West since 2000. Despite the loss, West head coach Mike Shimizu remained optimistic about his team. "It looked like we're finding the pieces," Shimizu said. "I was pleased with how we played. We had a lot of opportunities and good intensity." Shimizu and his team figure to see many more of those opportunities as this season rolls on, as this will certainly not be the last that is heard from either of these two teams this season.

Torrance High

The South High Spartans aren't the only ones making noise this year in the world of soccer. Just across the city to the east, the Torrance Tartars are putting up quite an incredible season themselves. Last season, the Tartars suffered a disappointing first round playoff loss to Duarte and have seemingly vowed to avenge that loss and get back to the playoffs this year. As it stands now, the team is certainly on the right track. With a 3-2 non-league victory over St. John Bosco last Thursday afternoon, the Tartars moved into second place in the Pioneer League standings, just behind Centennial. With two goals in the first half of play scored by Tommy Nash and Marcos Ambriz, Torrance took an early lead. Bosco scored early on in the second half to tie things up, however, before Roger Mies broke the tie in the 70th minute to take the eventual, nail-biting victory for the Tartars. League play starts in the middle of January for the Tartars, when the team will really be forced to prove its worth.

North High

As the North High Saxons struggle to get going in the first half of their soccer season (0-5), the basketball team has been doing quite the opposite. At 7-1 under head coach Luke Dupperon, the Saxons currently sit in first place in the Pioneer League standings. Workman, from the City of Industry, was the Saxons' latest victim as Mo Ndwadili led all players and had an absolute monster game with 28 of his team's 72 points while adding 17 rebounds in the 72-54 victory. Koh Flippen came through with 14 points and topped Ndwadili with 18 rebounds as the Saxons destroyed Workman and went on to win the Orangewood Academy Tournament.

The Saxons are ravaging their way through the basketball season thus far, losing only once to undefeated Mira Costa in the Mira Costa Pacific Shores Tournament. Costa, of course, went on to win its own tournament, but were it not for that loss, North would not only be undefeated thus far, but would also have two tournament victories to its name. League play starts midway through January for the Saxons, as other teams are hoping that the division standings aren't already too far gone by that point. •

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Recipe and photo courtesy of BPT.

Directions

Flavor fresh popcorn with caramel or milk chocolate caramel popcorn seasoning. Using left over brownies (either homemade or store bought), break the brownie into small pieces and add to the popcorn. Top it off with drizzled white chocolate melted in the microwave or a double boiler. Enjoy with friends and family or store in an airtight container and hide for late night snacking. •

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TerriAnn in Torrance

Christmas Favorites

By TerriAnn Ferren

Most of us have a favorite film that gets us in the Christmas and/or holiday spirit, so



Melissa Griswald

I decided to see what movies people around town are watching as they prepare for the holidays. The stores are brimming with activity and people seem to be rushing, checking off lists and preparing for Christmas Day. First, I asked my parents what their favorite Christmas movies are and they were very quick to answer my query. My daddy said, "Bing Crosby in *White Christmas*." My mom on the other hand told me, "*White Christmas* and *Miracle on 34th Street*." While chatting and enjoying coffee and donuts after church on Sunday, I caught up with Bob and Annette Ehrman. I asked them what their favorite movies are this time of year and they were happy to respond. Annette was all smiles



Leslie Cortez

and told me, "Goodness gracious, probably *Miracle on 34th Street*. I like that one." Bob surprised me and said, "I liked *Polar Express* pretty well. *Miracle on 34th Street*, I liked that pretty well. I can't think of any others right now."



Bob and Annette Ehrman.

The wind was whipping up and made the cold temperature outside seem even colder. I ducked into a local beauty supply store and asked Joy Fujimoto what her favorite movie for the season was and she told me, "Probably the way classic *Santa Clause is Comin' to Town* or the *Yogi Bear* one [*Yogi's*

First Christmas]." To tell you the truth, I am not sure I've seen the *Yogi Christmas* film, so I'll have to check that one out. Also busy at the store behind the counter was Estella Arellano, who told me, "I think the one I watch the most around Christmastime is *Home Alone*. That is the best one. I like the part where he is like shaving with the cream and screaming. It is cute – the original."

Then I had to run to catch up with Justin Polendey, who was 'being walked' by his dog past Trader Joe's. I asked Justin about his favorite film and he said to me, "I have to say the classic and first one that came into my mind when you asked me was *A Christmas Story*. That is because that was always playing when I was younger and every time to this day it kind of plays around the same time, so I guess that is the first thing that came to mind." I asked Justin what his



Riley Drexel

dog's name was and he told me, "This is Bella and she is looking to be adopted. We are working just down the street [on Crenshaw] at *Romp Rescue*." Justin told me that they have several dogs waiting to be adopted... so if you are looking for a family pet or a special canine friend to care for, don't forget the animals in our local shelters. Good tip.

Later that afternoon as I was driving down Airport Drive, I noticed three young skateboarders looking for smooth pavement and concrete on a lazy Sunday and I stopped to ask them if they had any thoughts on their favorite movie for this time of year. Saeed Sayegh, age 13, told me, "*Grown Ups* - and I've watched it two or three times." That is interesting because I didn't think that movie was about the upcoming holiday but about the Fourth of July, but I could be wrong. Kingsley Amugo, age 14, told me, "*Home Alone*." Then, Alex Bueno, age 14, added, "*Bad Santa*. It is a DVD." Later that night, I

went to a Lakers basketball game and Riley Drexel told me very quickly and definitely that his all-time favorite holiday film is "*Elf*." I have to admit that movie is pretty funny. By the way, we lost the game.

The next evening at a local restaurant, I ran into Aaron Aalcides and he was happy

to tell me his favorite film for the holiday: "I don't have one! I watch all the *Home Alone* movies. *Home Alone*, the original is



Aaron Aalcides

my favorite. Actually, I love *It's a Wonderful Life*. He's a banker!" Wow, another vote for *Home Alone*. Frankly, I am surprised how many people pick that particular film. All ages seem to relate to the story of being left alone to fend for oneself. Later in the evening, I asked Leslie Cortez and she was quick to tell me, "I like *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Christmas Story*, with Ralphie – with his red baron gun [Red Ryder BB gun]. He wanted a toy gun [for Christmas] and his mother said, 'I'm not going to buy you that because you will shoot your eye out,' and what does he do at the end? He shoots his eye out. Well, not out... But it has to be *It's a Wonderful Life*." Then Melissa Griswald



Joy Fujimoto and Estella Arellano

told me, "This is a really good question because it goes from *Frosty the Snowman* or *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* – the old school one where the elf wants to be a dentist." Gee, I must have missed that one too. Others mentioned were *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, *While You Were Sleeping*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Scrooge*, *Scrooged*, *Die Hard* and *Die Hard II* (frankly, those surprised me) and *The Muppet Christmas Carol*. Can't say we have a lack of variety out there!

As I left the gathering, I was thinking about the many movies that will be shown this time of year and how they stay with us through our lives. No matter how old we are, there are holiday favorites each of us hold dear. I find the old standards are still popular and *It's a Wonderful Life* seems to cross all age groups, as does *Home Alone*. What are your favorites?



Justin Polendey

This holiday season, I will take some time and dig out some of my favorite films and enjoy them with family and friends. Seasons of the year remind us of the passing of time and maybe somehow the Christmas and holiday films we all enjoy become part of the seasons of our lives. So whether our favorite movie is playing in the background as we decorate a tree or we are snuggled up on our couches with popcorn, the movies we love play a role in the daily unfolding of our own story. •



Alex Bueno, 14, Kingsley Amugo, 14, Saeed Sayegh, 13

South High Senior

from front page

keeps Tiffany busy and has earned her constant invites to perform at various civic, charitable and educational events. Still, school is where the majority of her focus is aimed.

very adept with the yo-yo and started teaching in the community. One day, a family friend taught Tiffany balloon twisting and she took off with it. Now she gets called to all these

“When South High senior Tiffany Hattori began balloon twisting, she never envisioned the hobby turning her into a sought-out local entertainer.”

She is a Girl Scout, Club Rep of the Math Club and Co-President of the Science Club, Student League Board Member, active tutor of the California Scholarship Federation, part of the robotics team and plays saxophone for the marching band, among many other activities.

Tiffany very much enjoys volunteering in her community, including assisting elementary school-aged children with their music program, helping at Torrance Memorial Hospital, assisting with Vacation Bible School every summer since sixth grade, and being an active board member on the City of Torrance Attic Youth Council. This past summer, she was selected for the Exxon Mobil Youth Development Program.

Over the years, Tiffany’s brother became

events to help charities, to help fundraise and to work with kids.

With graduation coming up in June, Tiffany looks to enjoy the rest of her high school career but continues to get joy out of her appearances at various events for schools, libraries and convalescent homes. “I think that I do want to hang out with my friends a little bit more before going off to college. Sometimes I am so busy that I don’t have time to be with them outside of band or school,” Tiffany said. “I enjoy seeing people smile when I give them the balloons. As long as they are smiling, I am happy.”

Persons or organizations interested in hosting a charity event and would like a volunteer balloon twister can contact Tiffany via email at ballonsforallages@gmail.com.



South High School Senior Tiffany Hattori spends much of her free time making balloon animals for kids and adults across the South Bay. Among the balloon art she has mastered is an owl, a monkey, Spiderman and Hello Kitty. Photo courtesy of Linda Hattori.

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The following person(s) is (are) doing business as JOEYWATTS.COM. 813 CENTER STREET, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245. Registered Owner(s): Joseph Conley Raymond Waits, 813 Center Street, El Segundo, CA 90245. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: Joey Watts, Owner/Registrant. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on November 14, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on November 14, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to November 14, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: December 12, 19, 26, 2013 and January 02, 2014. **H-1017**.

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013245336
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as JJ AND M COLLISION CENTER/TOWING. 4963 ALHAMBRA AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90032. Registered Owner(s): Kimathi Sweeney, 2401 W. Caldwell St, Compton, CA 90220. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: Kimathi Sweeney, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on November 27, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on November 27, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to November 27, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Torrance Tribune: December 05, 12, 19, 26, 2013. **HT-1012**.

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013244643
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BRONZE BAR. 2041 ROSECRANS AVE #170, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245. Registered Owner(s): C. Ashley Davis, 707 Hermosa Ave, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: C. Ashley Davis, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on November 26, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on November 26, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to November 26, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: December 12, 19, 26, 2013 and January 02, 2014. **H-1022**.

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013243212
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1. DANCEWEAR U. 2. COSTUME U. 3. KIDPACK U. 640 LOMITA STREET, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245. Registered Owner(s): Cindy A. Beckett, 640 Lomita Street, El Segundo, CA 90245. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: September 01, 2013. Signed: Cindy A. Beckett, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on November 25, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on November 25, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to November 25, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: December 19, 26, 2013 and January 2, 9, 2014. **H-1015**.

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013254676
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1. GARDEN MAVEN DESIGNS. 2. DENISE MAYNARD DESIGN & STYLING. 1720 GATES AVE, MANHATTAN BEACH, CA 90266. 222 N. SEPULVEDA BLVD. #2000, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245. Registered Owner(s): Denise Maynard, 1720 Gates Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: January 01, 2012. Signed: Denise Diane Maynard, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on December 12, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on December 12, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to December 12, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: December 19, 26, 2013 and January 2, 9, 2014. **H-1024**.

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013251875
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LA MECHA RESTAURANT. 7831 S. ALAMEDA ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90001. 1675 E. 111TH PLACE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90059. Registered Owner(s): Maria Elizalde, 1675 E. 111TH Place, Los Angeles, CA 90059. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: Maria Elizalde, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on December 9, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on December 9, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to December 9, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Hawthorne Press Tribune: December 19, 26, 2013 and January 2, 9, 2014. **HH-1023**.

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013249828
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BALLERS. 140 E. TAMARACK AVE, INGLEWOOD, CA 90301. Registered Owner(s): Nima Nicholas Shafiee, 32650 Nantasket Dr #96, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: Nima Nicholas Shafiee. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on December 05, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on December 05, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to December 05, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Inglewood News: December 12, 19, 26, 2013 and January 02, 2014. **HI-1018**.

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013248294
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BULLDOG FARMS. 555 W. 5TH STREET 31ST FLOOR, LOS ANGELES, CA 90013. Registered Owner(s): Christopher J. Hamner, 555 W. 5TH Street 31st Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90013. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: November 30, 2013. Signed: Christopher J. Hamner, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on December 04, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on December 04, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to December 04, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Inglewood News: December 12, 19, 26, 2013 and January 02, 2014. **HI-1021**.

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013243089
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MODERN TWIST BARBER SHOP. 4563 W. ROSECRANS AVE., HAWTHORNE, CA 90250. Registered Owner(s): Adrian Saldaña, 720 Steppney Place, Inglewood, CA 90302. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: Adrian Saldaña, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on November 25, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on November 25, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to November 25, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Hawthorne Press Tribune: December 5, 12, 19, 26, 2013. **HH-1016**.

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013244289
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CARRIAGE HOUSE MODELS. 5237 W. 138TH PLACE, HAWTHORNE, CA 90250. Registered Owner(s): Patrick Strong, 5237 W. 138TH Place, Hawthorne, CA 90250. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: Patrick Strong, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on November 26, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on November 26, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to November 26, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Hawthorne Press Tribune: December 5, 12, 19, 26, 2013. **HH-1013**.

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013231393
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as THE BIBLE CHURCH OF HIS WILL. 1. 2000 E. MARIPOSA AVE, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245. 2. P.O. BOX 91603, LOS ANGELES, CA 90009. Registered Owner(s): The Bible Church of His Will, 2000 E. Mariposa Ave, El Segundo, CA 90245. This business is being conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: November 12, 2003. Signed: The Bible Church of His Will, e.uche nyeche, president. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on November 7, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on November 7, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to November 7, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: December 05, 12, 19, 26, 2013. **H-1014**.

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at
Herald
Publications
wish
the
community
Happy
Holidays!!

Classifieds

The deadline for Classified Ad submission and payment is Noon on Tuesday to appear in Thursday's paper. Advertisements must be submitted in writing by mail, fax or email. You may pay by cash, check, or credit card (Visa or M/C over the phone).

Errors: Please check your advertisements immediately. Any corrections and/or changes in an ad must be requested prior to the following Tuesday deadline in order to receive a credit. A credit will be issued for only the first time the error appears. Multiple runs will only be credited for the first time the error appears. No credit will be issued for an amount greater than the cost of the advertisement.

Beware: Employment offers that suggest guaranteed out-of-state or overseas positions may be deceptive or unethical in nature. If you have any doubts about the nature of a company, contact the local office of the Better Business Bureau, (213) 251-9696. Herald Publications does not guarantee that the advertiser's claims are true nor does it take responsibility for those claims.

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GARAGE SALE

Huge garage sale. Dec. 21st 7am-1pm. Alley of 500 block Concord Street. Lots of treasures.

HOUSE FOR RENT

1BD/1BA. Cozy Cottage house for rent, w/beamed ceilings, updated

kitchen cabinets, hard wood floors in living room, small yard and patio, laundry facility, includes water and power. \$1,500/mo. No pets/ No smoker. Call 310 335-6099 or 310 343-8654.

House for Rent

3 Bdrm./1.25 Bath, house and detached garage for rent. Clean, huge yard, great landscaping, hardwood floors, fireplace, Westside. Water and gardener included. \$3475 call or text Chris for more info: 310.321.2558

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HERALD PUBLICATIONS

The deadline for Classified Ad copy and payment is at Noon on Tuesday. We reserve the right to reject, edit, and determine proper classification of classified ads. Herald Publications does not guarantee that the advertiser's claims are true nor does it take responsibility for those claims.

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Payment Type CASH CHECK

Credit Card Billing Information

Card Number Security Code Expiration Date

First Name on Card Last Name on Card

Address

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For your convenience you can fill out this form and fax it (310-322-2787), email (class@heraldpublications.com) it or bring it into the office at 312 E Imperial Avenue, El Segundo.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD See Answers Next Week

Parts of Speech

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

Across

- North Atlantic fishes
- Asset
- Kuwaiti, e.g.
- Circle
- Blood line
- One of three vessels
- Caspian feeder
- Man of many words
- Bygone title
- Izzard album title
- Bowls
- Game piece
- Australian mimic
- Interweave
- Some votes
- Army attack helicopter
- He or she
- Sitting spot
- Islam denomination
- First-aid item
- Invigorate
- Toupee
- Thesis type
- Source of grammatical debate
- Animal house
- Buoy

Down

- Posterior
- Solar system model
- More indifferent
- Like tears
- French native
- Swag
- Spur
- Benefit
- One who hasn't turned pro?
- Microprocessor type
- Analytic, for short
- Empty
- Take ___ (travel)
- Bag
- Public util.
- Shag rugs
- Indian metropolis
- Waiting period, seemingly

- Blood letters
- French vineyard
- Chinese dynasty
- "Wheel of Fortune" choice
- Fraternity letter
- "Yadda, yadda, yadda"
- Delicacy
- Break down
- Eyeball benders
- Daredevil's trait
- Percussion instrument
- Samoan staple
- Amount eaten
- Stirred up
- Amy or John
- African menace
- Distort
- Hogwash
- Excortiate
- Bank claim
- Like some wills
- Enthusiasm
- Egyptian fertility goddess

Last Week's Answers

H	E	R		A	F	T	E	R		P	E	P	I	S		
O	R	E		L	I	S	L	E		U	V	E	A	L		
O	R	T		L	E	A	S	E		T	E	R	R	A		
D	A	Y		S	O	F	R	E		C	K	O	N	I	N	G
I	N	P		U	T	S		H	E	N						
E	D	E		N		S	P	O		T		P	L	U	S	
B	A	Y		O	U		O	A		F	I	S	H			
I	N	D		E	P	E	N	D		E	N	C	E	D	A	Y
D	I	N		A	R	S		G	R	E	E	N				
S	L	A		M		S	O	Y		A		N	E	S	T	
O	E	R				S	E	I		N	E	R				
T	H	A		N	K	S	G	I		V	I	N	G	D	A	Y
E	A	G		E	R		I	N		E	R		E	N	S	
C	L	A		R	A		E	S		T	E	R		A	C	T
H	E	R		D	S		S	T		O	N	Y		R	E	S

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

SUDOKU Medium

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

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.

Finance

Understanding the 'Kiddie Tax'

By Jason Alderman



For something that's nickname sounds so innocent, the "kiddie tax" certainly can wreak havoc on unprepared taxpayers' yearly returns.

Congress first introduced the kiddie tax as part of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 to discourage wealthy parents from sheltering their investment income in accounts under their children's names, thereby avoiding paying taxes on the amounts. The rules have been tweaked periodically ever since.

Although the kiddie tax once applied only to the unearned income of children under 14 (hence the nickname), it now impacts all children under age 19 (as well as full-time students under 24), provided their earned income does not exceed half of the annual expenses for their support.

Moreover, the kiddie tax is not just a wealthy person's problem: Any outright gifts parents or grandparents bestow on young children, whether to avoid triggering the gift tax or simply out of generosity, could actually be generate investment earnings that would be subject to the kiddie tax if they exceed a threshold amount.

Here's a primer on how the kiddie tax works and whom it impacts:

As it does with adults, the IRS differentiates between income children earn (paper routes, summer jobs, etc.) and unearned investment income they receive such as interest, dividends and capital gains – usually by way of accounts opened in their names by parents.

Taxation of the first \$1,000 of a child's unearned income is generally offset by the \$1,000 standard tax deduction for dependents and thus won't be taxed; the next \$1,000 is taxed at the child's own income-tax rate (e.g., it's 10 percent for taxable income up to \$8,925). However, all unearned income over \$2,000 is taxed at the parent's marginal tax rate, which

can be as high as 39.6 percent for married couples with taxable income over \$450,000.

There are two ways to report your child's investment income to the IRS: File a separate return for your child using IRS Form 8615; or include it on your own tax return, using IRS Form 8814 – the latter only works if they had no earned income to report. The tax owed will be the same either way.

Important note: Although including your children's investment income on your return may be more convenient, doing so could increase your adjusted gross income so much that you become subject to the alternative minimum tax or ineligible for certain income-based deductions and credits. For example, eligibility for the American Opportunity Tax Credit begins phasing out for individuals whose modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$80,000 (\$160,000 for married couples).

Other kiddie tax rules: To be considered full-time students, children must attend school full time during at least five months of the year. The kiddie tax does not apply to children who: are 19 to 23 and not full-time students; provide more than half of their own support from earned income; are over 24 and still dependents of their parents; or under 24 but married and file a joint tax return. These children are all taxed like adults at their own tax rate.

Remember, gifts themselves are never taxable to the recipient. If a gift generates unearned investment income, however, that's when taxation comes into play. Also, any gifts over \$14,000 per individual, per year, will trigger the gift tax – although most of us will never come close to the \$5.25 million lifetime gift exemption.

For more details on tax filing requirements for children, see IRS Publication 929, "Tax Rules for Children and Dependents." •

City Council

from front page

of my colleagues [by saying] I'm somewhat disappointed by the results of the study," said Furey. "But it gave us some guidance on where we have to go and I think that is very important. There's a light at the end of the tunnel, so to speak."

Lastly, Congresswoman Maxine Waters was in attendance at the meeting to recognize

South High graduate Max Kaplan on earning a Congressional Gold Medal Award for his initiative, achievement and service. Currently a sophomore at Princeton, he earned this award through his volunteer work such as serving on the California State Board of PTAs and working with Major League Soccer to increase access to the sport for underprivileged children. •

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2013 Torrance Tribune's Best of the Best Awards

Herald Publications Best of the Best Awards gives the community an opportunity to let their voices be heard. The rules are very simple. All one has to do is submit a completed entry form to Herald Publications' office by *December 27, 2013*. Results of this survey will be published in the *January 9, 2014* issue with special sections highlighting the winners to follow.

Each individual in the community is invited to vote one time only. The completed form must be on an original page of the newspaper. No photocopied entries will be accepted.

To include your entry in our contest, simply fill the name of your favorite establishment(s) and the city in which they are located, in the blank below each category. Then, mail or bring in your completed entry form by *December 27, 2013 at noon to:*

**Herald Publications
 Attn: Best of the Best
 312 E. Imperial Ave.
 El Segundo, CA 90245**

Partially completed will be accepted however at least 35 of the categories must have entries.

BREAKFAST

LUNCH

DINNER

HAPPY HOUR

PIZZA

ITALIAN

CHINESE

MEXICAN

JAPANESE

UNIQUE STORE

SANDWICH SHOP

GIFT STORE

PHYSICAL THERAPY/WELLNESS

FLOORING/CARPET

YOGURT SHOP

ICE CREAM SHOP

REALTOR - MALE

HANDYMAN

VIDEO RENTAL

NAIL SALON

BEAUTY SHOP

JEWELRY STORE

CLOTHING STORE

COMPUTER STORE/REPAIR

FLOWER SHOP

HOTEL

CONSTRUCTION

COFFEE HOUSE

REALTOR - FEMALE

INSURANCE AGENT

BANK

DENTIST

PHYSICIAN

PHARMACY

AUTO REPAIR

BARBER SHOP

PET CARE

FITNESS

PLUMBER

PAINTING

Real Estate

Caramel to Cranberries: Holiday Stain-busting Tips Keep Carpets Bright

(BPT) - Whether it's the ghouls trick-or-treating on Halloween, the gobbles of great food on Thanksgiving, or the gatherings of loved ones over the holiday season, you will likely be hosting an event at your home in the upcoming months. Food and friends make the perfect pairing for celebrations - but that can mean spills and splashes on carpets. There's no need to panic when you know the tricks the pros use to treat tough holiday carpet stains.

"It is important to treat spots and stains promptly and properly to avoid letting them do permanent damage to the fibers," explains Barry Lichtenstein, a certified master textile cleaner and owner of Amcho Carpet Cleaning in Framingham, Mass. "This can cause damage to either the color or texture of the fibers."

From splashes of punch and gravy to smears of caramel and cranberries, the holiday season can leave your carpet looking drab. Lichtenstein says many homeowners with good intentions are actually making stains worse by incorrectly treating the spots. He advises homeowners to avoid these common mistakes when treating carpet stains:

- Do not over-saturate the stain with cleaning products. This just makes a small spot larger.
- Do not rub the carpet. This can cause damage to the texture of the carpet.
- Do not put water on a dry soil. Rather, make sure to vacuum it first.

When fighting the inevitable drips and dribbles of entertaining at home, Lichtenstein



says there are a few general best practices for treating carpet stains.

1. First, remove as much stain material as possible. If it is dry, vacuum up as much as you can. If it is semi-solid, scrape or scoop it up with a spoon or dull knife. If it is liquid, blot it up.
2. Next, blot the stain with cool water, and then blot dry.
3. Make foam using a mixture of 1/4 teaspoon clear liquid dishwashing soap in a cup of tepid water. Be sure to always test any cleaning agents in an inconspicuous area of the carpet first to ensure there is no adverse reaction with the flooring. If not, apply the foam with a sponge or soft brush to the stained area in a wiping motion going toward the

center of the spot. If you start in the center with circular motions, the stain will spread. Finally, blot with cool water, then blot dry. From candy canes to fudge to Grandma's famous yams, most stains can be cleaned using these techniques. For additional stain removal information, Lichtenstein recommends visiting the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) Residential Spot Solver on carpet-rug.org, or choosing a spot remover from the CRI list of tested and certified products.

In addition to stains, parties mean more foot traffic in your home. As people come and go during your holidays, you'll likely notice extra soil on carpets and other flooring. There's no need to panic that your carpet investment is compromised. Simply vacuum

regularly with a quality vacuum that has received the CRI Seal of Approval, which means it's been tested thoroughly for soil removal, soil containment and the ability to maintain the texture and appearance of carpet.

Frequent vacuuming is also a great way to keep the air in your home clean, especially during the long months of winter when we spend most of our time indoors. A high efficiency vacuum from the Seal of Approval list removes 80 percent or more of the soil in a carpet - making carpet a good option even for allergy sufferers.

"Carpets and upholstery fabrics should be cleaned on a regular basis before they show overall soiling or staining," Lichtenstein says. "When a high level of overall soiling or staining has been reached, there is always some permanent damage that has occurred. For the best results, clean the fabrics before they reach that level of soiling."

How often should you vacuum? The CRI recommends high-traffic or pet areas be vacuumed daily, medium-traffic areas be vacuumed about twice a week and light-traffic areas should be vacuumed weekly.

For tough holiday stains or deep set-in soils, it may be time to call in the professionals for help. Working with an IICRC certified firm (a leading certifying body for the cleaning and restoration industries) that uses CRI Seal of Approval equipment and cleaning agents ensures your carpets and upholstery will be cleaned the right way by knowledgeable experts. •

"The California Museum of Fine Art was looking to promote its grand opening in Downtown Torrance earlier this year and to publicize its special event accommodations. The Torrance Tribune did a superb job covering our grand opening and while we just started running the special event ad, we are already very pleased with the feedback from the local community and businesses."

Brian Higa
President
California Museum of Fine Art

Torrance Tribune

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*Kay Grundhaus, has found a way to make her job even more meaningful. As a 30+ year resident of the South Bay and a long time member of many local community service organizations, she has always participated in charitable and community volunteer activities. Now she is offering a unique program in conjunction with her real estate business to fulfill her desire to "pay it forward."

Whenever Kay helps someone in the South Bay area to buy or sell a home, she will contribute 10% of her commission to the charity of THEIR choice on their behalf.

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."-Winston Churchill



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Roger Hart (left) with sons: Kevin; Jeremy and his wife Stephanie; and Bradley with his wife Alannah. The Hart family has used its successful business to promote and preserve pride in the Torrance community through responsible real estate transactions and home ownership.