

El Segundo Herald

The Weekly Newspaper of El Segundo

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Greetings From Mother Nature



The storms have started and have already caused some damage. Stevenson Field was flooded and this tree was split three-ways. Photo by Marcy Dugan. •

Realtor Jim Marak Sees the Best of Times for El Segundo Homes

By Brian Simon

Now 31 years into his career, local Re/Max branch manager/associate broker Jim Marak said he has never felt better about the El Segundo real estate market than he does today. Thanks to the infusion of key major employers and high-paying jobs in the area coupled with the community's many unique amenities, El Segundo property values are up 50 percent over the past seven years to all-time highs—and Marak believes there is still room for additional growth. “The strongest factors causing El Segundo home values to increase are the arrival of over 2,000 Google and Yahoo employees into nearby Playa Vista, as well as the recent successes of SpaceX in Hawthorne bringing well-paid aerospace engineers and their families into our community,” he said. “The jobs make the real estate market healthy. These employees know El Segundo is an ideal place for raising children, with great schools, top-notch public safety services, and a wealth of family-oriented activities.” Marak also noted that El Segundo itself continues to grow and will be poised to attract businesses and corresponding employees for years to come—with more large-scale development and office complexes on the horizon east of Sepulveda, as well as the planned conversion of Smoky Hollow from an industrial sector to a haven for creative media companies.

Despite the cyclical aspects of the economy and four significant slumps since 1987, Marak does not believe El Segundo will

experience another severe downturn thanks to the aforementioned elements now firmly in place. “Interest rates will go up and this is inevitable—but our property values due to the nature of our family-friendly community should hold up over the long haul,” he said.

The recession and cutback in defense-related jobs spurred a mass exodus in the real estate industry in the early '90s. Marak, who became manager of Re/Max Beach Cities El Segundo in 1989, had 23 agents on board at the time. That number is now down to eight. “The difficult economic times weeded out those

agents who didn't have the tenacity to work with the public and educate them as to the true market conditions,” he said, adding that he himself has managed to avoid a significant dry period even as the economy sagged. “I never once thought of leaving real estate sales. I believe I managed to thrive due to being completely honest with sellers and buyers as to what the marketplace should bear and then to structure listings to meet that reality.”

Raised and schooled in Burbank, Marak eventually attended San Jose State University
See Jim Marak, page 14

School Board Holds First Meeting of 2016

By Duane Plank

The Tuesday night meeting of the El Segundo Unified School District School Board, the first one in 2016, featured four special presentations, including the recognition of High School senior Victoria Chu, who recently was feted with a runner-up award in a prestigious computing competition sponsored by the National Center for Women & Informational Technology.

Chu, who started computer programming when she was eight-years-old, is the founder and president of the High School Cyber and Security Club and Computer

Club. She was one of 350 National Award runner-up recipients that were selected from the nearly 3,200 applicants for the Aspirations in Computing competition, a contest open to students “who want to use computing to make the world a better place.”

High School teacher and Robotics advisor Jennifer Cho, who encouraged Chu to enter the competition, was also recognized by the Board for her “significant contribution to Robotics, STEM, mathematics, and inspiring female students

See School Board, page 12

Weekend Forecast

Friday

Partly
Cloudy
61°/51°



Saturday

Partly
Cloudy
62°/52°



Sunday

Partly
Cloudy
64°/53°



Obituaries

Don McLees

Don McLees of Camano Island, WA passed away on Jan 7, 2016. He is survived by his wife of 59 years Marlene, three siblings, four children, 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

After graduating from Montana State Univ. in 1959 with a degree in business, the family moved to California, where Don worked for five years as an IRS Agent, later branching out as owner/operator of a specialty manufacturing company, along with his income tax and investment consulting business on Main Street. Don served as El Segundo Planning Commissioner, President of the Optimist Club, and a Boy Scout leader in Troop 267. After 24 years in El Segundo, Don and Marlene moved onto their ranch on Camano Island, where they raised cattle and grandchildren. Don loved billiards, cribbage, camping in their RV, and hunting in Montana. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Jan 16th at 2:00 p.m. at the Camano Center, 606 Arrowhead Road, Camano Island, WA.

Don, three of his children, and many of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren are affected by Charcot Marie Tooth Syndrome (CMT), an inherited disorder that affects the peripheral nerves. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the CMTA, dedicated to Don's memory, to help fund research towards a cure. For information, and to make a donation, contact www.cmtausa.org. •

Letters

El Segundo Cares

Last year was a great one, thanks to the generosity and thoughtfulness of so many different support groups for the V.A. patients at the West Los Angeles Hospital. The year turned out way beyond our dreams and expectations. Donations and volunteers came from businesses, service organizations, churches, relatives, friends and neighbors. There's no doubt, El Segundo cares.

Unfortunately, the problem still exists

nothing has changed. The vets still need our help. The first trip this year is in February, please if you have any good. clean, clothing that you no longer need, may we take it to them? Warm clothing is especially needed. Grooming items, games, and pocket books are also wanted. While we take items for women, there is a much bigger need for the men. So, let's make this year even better, a Happy New Year for our deserving men and women.

– Jan Cruikshank

Community Briefs

Free Tax Preparation Assistance Program

Free Tax Preparation Assistance for seniors and low-income residents on Tuesdays, beginning February 2, from 11am-3pm at the Joslyn Center. Call (310) 524-2705 for an appointment. Must bring 2014 tax return documents and all W-2 and 1099 forms (Social Security, Interest Income, Retirement, etc.) for your 2015. Limited appointments are available Tuesdays 11am-3:00pm. Call early to reserve your space at (310) 524-2705.

Gelin and Abaci Trunk Show at The Jewelry Source

For one day only, on Saturday, January 23, The Jewelry Source invites you to a special showing of Gelin and Abaci jewelry designs. The event will be held between 10-3:00 p.m. and hosted with champagne and chocolate. A special representative will be available

to answer any questions about this jewelry line, which is unique and features "tension settings". Really something to see! Jewelry Source's ideal cut "Crafted by Infinity" diamond inventory information will also be available to review.

An Alert for Residents and Businesses

Please be aware of any phone call or walk-up solicitations involving the El Segundo High School Athletic Program and a promotion benefiting an El Segundo High School Athletic Program. These organizations are not affiliated in any way with El Segundo High School and are using deceitful, and unscrupulous methods to obtain your donations. Each year these groups prey on the innocence of high school sports and the donations good people make in the name of El Segundo Athletics. We encourage everyone to investigate through inquiry of what is the

motive for these solicitations.

The most recent is a campaign involving donations in the name of the El Segundo High School for a sport calendar. The high school does not receive any money from this scam. If you are not convinced of the integrity of the promotion, please do not give anything until you contact us. Please, if you have any questions or concerns about the validity of any sport related fundraising, contact Steve Shevlin, Athletic Director, El Segundo High School, 1-310-615-2662 x 2310, or 2312. •

Police Reports

Monday, January 4, 2015

One female adult was arrested at 0132 hours from Mariposa Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard for misdemeanor DUI with a BAC of 0.08% or above.

A battery report was taken at 0749 hours from Utah Avenue and Douglas Street. Unknown suspect threw a water bottle at the victim during a road rage incident.

A grand theft report was taken at 0849 hours from the 1100 block of East Acacia Avenue. Unknown suspect(s) removed miscellaneous tools from the truck bed of the victim's vehicle.

A vandalism report was taken at 1119 hours from the 300 block of Virginia Street. Known suspect vandalized the victim's vehicle and residence.

A vehicle theft report was taken at 1446 hours from the 100 block of Sheldon Street.

A black 2006 Aprilia SR50 motor scooter was taken.

One male adult was arrested at 1648 hours from Mariposa Avenue and Nash Street for shoplifting, obstructing a peace officer, one outstanding LASD felony warrant and one outstanding Inglewood PD misdemeanor warrant.

A petty theft report was taken at 1658 hours from the 800 block of South Sepulveda Boulevard. Unknown suspect(s) removed money from the victim's unlocked vehicle. A criminal threats report was taken at 1739 hours from the 500 block of West Palm Avenue. Known suspect repeatedly called the victim and made threats.

One male adult was arrested at 1850 hours from Crenshaw Boulevard and 120th Street

See Police Reports, page 14

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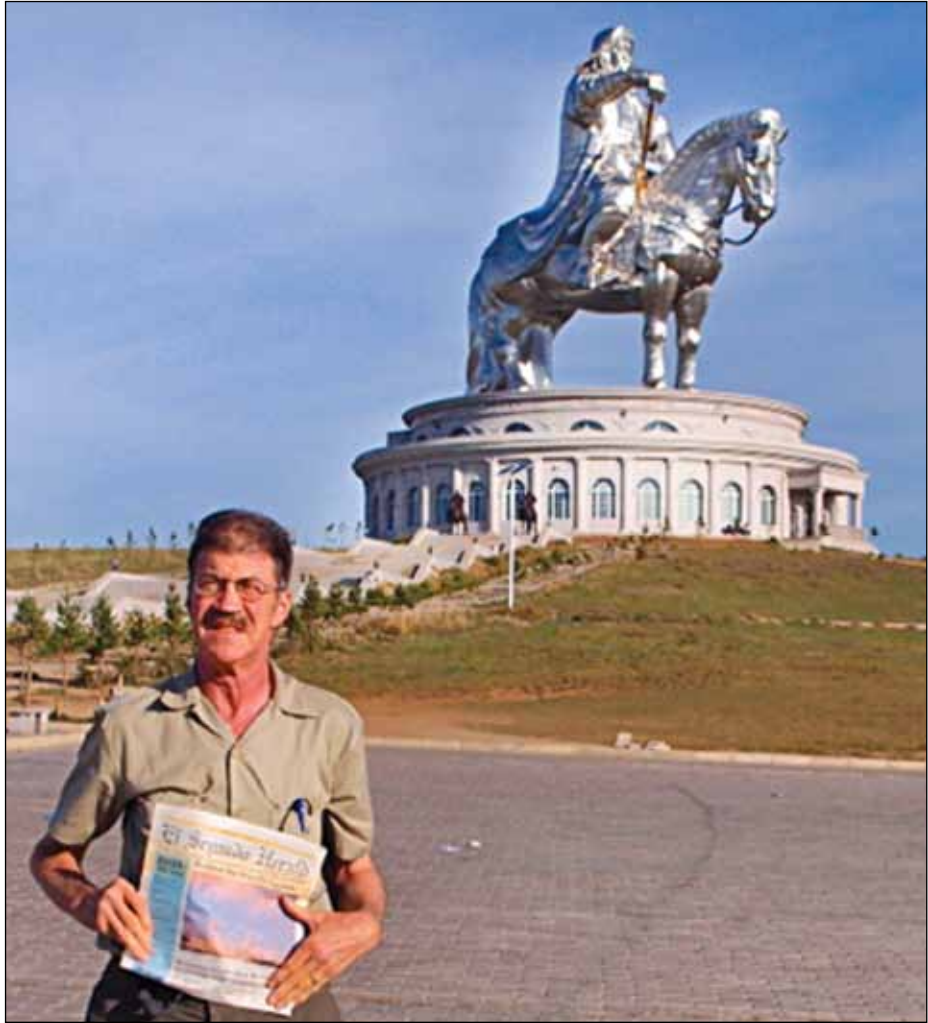
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Don Baggett holds up ES Herald in Mongolia East of the Capital City Ulaan Baatar. •

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Earbuds Plugged into Driving Law for 2016

By Rob McCarthy

Listen up if you're a driver who likes to wear earbuds to talk on the phone or listen to your music downloads while you're behind the wheel. A new law for 2016 says you have to have one ear free, or you're going to be ticketed.

California Vehicle Code Section 27400 already existed before Jan. 1 of this year. It needed some clarification that the popular earbuds worn in both ears pose a traffic danger for drivers of motorized and nonmotorized vehicles alike, according to Officer Siara Lund with the California Highway Patrol's division office in Glendale.

Drivers of four-wheeled vehicles aren't the only ones affected by the 2016 headset-earbud traffic law. Bicyclists are under the same restrictions and will be cited the same as drivers and motorcyclists, Lund told me.

“The way that we can tell obviously is if both earbuds and headsets are in, the officer will pull that driver over,” said Lund, adding that the headset law for 2016 isn’t new. It just added language to the existing law that wearing two earbuds while operating a car, motorcycle or bike is illegal.

The Southern California Automobile Club explained on its web site that the change in law was done to “ensure drivers and bicyclists can hear sirens, horns, and other safety alerts while driving.” There are exceptions for drivers of heavy machinery and garbage trucks who require noise-cancelling headsets for protection. Drivers of emergency vehicles, such as a fire engines or ambulances, are exempt. Wearing hearing aids while driving is permitted, the law says.

The CHP and local law enforcement have the discretion to begin enforcing the headset and earbud restriction immediately. In the past when new traffic laws, such as hands-free cell phone use, became law, the CHP

and police departments issued warnings to drivers who were caught talking or texting on their cell phones.

Will that be the case if an officer spots a driver or cyclist bee bopping down the road without a free ear? No, said Lund, because the ban on headsets and earplugs has been law in California for a decade.

No doubt, many California drivers were surprised to hear that one of the new traffic laws for 2016 involved earbuds. They probably presumed, like I did, that the tiny in-ear listening devices for cell phones and iPods were outlawed a long time ago.

Enforcement of the new “old” traffic law means this for drivers who insist on wearing their headphones or earbuds in both ears or covering them:

The next sound they hear could be the whoop of a police siren, which isn't music to any driver's ears.

Pleading ignorance of the new laws may not result in a warning instead of a ticket. So, here are other traffic laws for 2016 that California drivers and vehicle owners are expected to know, courtesy of the Automobile Club of Southern California and the California Highway Patrol:

Slow vehicles on the highway - Bicycles are added to the law about slow-moving passenger vehicles on the highway. All vehicles, including cyclists, should pull over safely to let faster traffic pass on a highway. Any slow-moving vehicle that is holding up five or more vehicles must use the next available turnout or available area to let traffic pass.

Electric bicycles - An electric bicycle with a maximum speed of 28 miles per hour can only be operated by a person 16 years or older, and a helmet must be worn. The new law also creates safety restrictions for

See Earbuds, page 14

NFL Closer to a South Bay Return

By Rob McCarthy

There is plenty of name recognition and civic pride that comes with being a city with a team in the National Football League. Only 32 cities in the nation can say they made the cut.

Los Angeles hasn't been among them in 20 years.

Three NFL teams have applied to relocate to Los Angeles, and the league's owners could decide as early as next week which, if any of them, can switch cities. The St. Louis Rams, the San Diego Chargers and the Oakland Raiders have applied to pick and up and move their headquarters, coaches and players. The South Bay figures again to be on the receiving end if the Rams, Chargers or Raiders return.

The catch is there is not a NFL-caliber stadium waiting for them.

For anyone who isn't following the yearslong waiting game the NFL has played with pro football fans here, here's what you need to know to get up to speed:

- Inglewood and Carson have competing stadium proposals. The Chargers and the Raiders reportedly have agreed to play at the Carson stadium, should the NFL approve a two-team move.

- The Rams owner, Stan Kroenke, owns a site next to the demolished Hollywood Park in Inglewood land and plans to build a sports and entertainment complex without taxpayer money. That is according to D'Artagnan Scorza, spokesman for the group that spearheaded the petition effort, Citizens for Revitalizing the City of Champions. The City Council already approved the project.

The developers are asking for an “infrastructure reimbursement” from Inglewood to pay for the construction of roads and sewers if the sports and retail complex generates more than \$25 million in annual tax monies

for the host city. They have submitted a petition signed by 22,000 Inglewood residents in favor of putting the project on the ballot for a citywide vote.

The Carson City Council also has approved construction of a stadium, just off the 405 freeway. The Chargers and the Raiders, who play in the same division of the AFC, would share the stadium, under the approved arrangement. The price tag for the Carson project is projected at \$1.65 billion.

Financing of the stadium would be similar to what the San Francisco 49ers did to build its new home, Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara. A local stadium authority, a governmental agency created by Carson last year, would hold the deed to the stadium, which it would build and operate using \$400 million from the NFL, according to the Orange County Register. The rest of the construction would be financed and guaranteed by the Raiders and the Chargers. The sale of stadium naming rights and personal seat licenses would be used to pay down the construction loans, the paper reported.

NFL.com writer Albert Breer laid out a timetable for the return of the Rams to Los Angeles, writing in a January 2015 column that “the idea that the Rams could be playing at the Rose Bowl, L.A. Coliseum or Dodger Stadium in 2016 and 2017 and in Kroenke’s new Southern California football palace by 2018 is not at all far-fetched. In fact, it’s trending toward becoming a likelihood.”

Kroenke is believed to have the inside track to has his application approved to move the Rams back to Los Angeles. The Rams left Cleveland in 1946 after winning an NFL championship and came to Los Angeles. The team left the L.A. Coliseum in 1980 and played in Anaheim Stadium until 1994.

See NFL, page 13

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Closure of Little Tokyo/Arts District Station & 1st Street

Metro Briefs

SOUTH BAY

Regional Connector Project Closures

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Go Metro in the New Year

The New Year is starting and it's a good time to consider going Metro. Regular Metro riders can save as much as \$10,000 a year on gas and parking. Plus, they can relax on their commute to work! Plan your trip at metro.net.

Watch Metro Motion's Latest Show

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Take a Tour of the Expo Rail Line

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Classifieds

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

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

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Film Review

Richard Gere is plagued by emotional turmoil in *The Benefactor*.

**By Rebekah Roberts for
www.cinemacy.com**

It is always refreshing when a new storyteller is on the rise in Hollywood, and *The Benefactor* (previously titled *Franny*) comes as a feature-length directorial debut by newcomer writer/director Andrew Renzi. Well received by film festivals and critics alike, *The Benefactor* is



to Luke (Theo James) a young, handsome doctor who is in need of employment. Franny is revitalized and beyond excited to help out in any way he can.

Without prompting, in addition to securing Luke a job at the children's hospital he supports, Franny showers the young couple with lavish gifts. Olivia and James quickly

learn that all of the expensive gestures come with a price. Franny shows little regard for personal boundaries; the red flags surrounding his shifting intentions begin to alarm Luke.

It becomes more and more clear that Franny is addicted to morphine, which he uses to medicate not only his pain but also his guilty conscience. We watch his descent from charming philanthropist to an erratic and desperate addict.

The film creates an uncomfortable level of tension for the viewer. Along with the rising suspense, *The Benefactor* almost takes on the direction of a psychological thriller before pulling back in the last scenes- perhaps in an attempt to appeal to a wider audience.

Writer/director Andrew Renzi loosely based the character of Franny on the famed Philadelphia philanthropist, John Dupont, **See Film Review, page 14**

WEEKLY CROSSWORD See Answers Next Week

Letter Drop

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**
1. Fungal spore sacs
5. Bashes
10. Quarrel
14. Pettifoggery
15. Figurative
17. Makes a poor purchase
19. Aim
20. In a bowl
21. Riyadh resident
22. Puffed up
24. Fey
26. Rag
32. Oriental tie
35. Pastoral sounds
37. "___ Her to Heaven" (1945 Tierney film)
38. Getting older
42. Separate the strands of a rope
43. Word with steel or snare
44. Put the kibosh on
45. Go up and down
47. ___ one
50. Theories
52. Iran-Contra Affair figure
54. Oliver
56. English playwright John
61. Some computer programs
62. Gambled, in a way
65. Scientific instruments
66. Midmonth time
67. Swindle, in London
68. Beneficiary
69. Latin infinitive
- Down**
1. Old Jewish scholars
2. "King Cotton" composer
3. South American rodent
4. Private
5. Goggle
6. Singer DiFranco
7. Time delay
8. Out
9. Voiced
10. Dwelling: var.
11. Desktop feature
12. Gridiron move
13. Vamoosed
16. ___ furnace
18. Seed covering
22. Choice dish
23. Word jumble
25. Hoover's org.
27. HBO's "Da ___ G Show"
28. Shamus
29. Bit of filming
30. Square
31. Tear to bits
32. ___ probandi
33. Shade of white
34. Cruise stopover
36. Dashes
39. Father figures
40. Scandanavian rug
41. "Interesting!"
46. Out of breath
48. Chinese leader?
49. City slicker
51. Brief brawl
53. Busts
54. Mulgas, e.g.
55. Wiesbaden's state
56. Decides
57. Did in
58. Island east of Java
59. Court cry
60. Ad ___ (relevant)
61. Bishop's seat in ancient churches
63. Biddy
64. It comes before long

Last Week's Answers

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	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104

SUDOKU Medium

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

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.

MVP Chili

Ingredients

- 2 packages of Hot Italian Sausage Links (use mild links for less spicy chili)
- 1 large onion
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons chili powder (use mild chili powder for less spicy chili)
- 1/4 teaspoon cumin
- 1 bottle (12 ounces) dark beer (OK to substitute light beer or 1 cup beef stock)
- 1 can (28 ounces) crushed tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 can (15.5 ounces) red kidney beans
- 1 can (15.5 ounces) black beans
- 1-1.5 cups corn (frozen or fresh off the cob)
- salt and pepper

Preparation

1. De-case sausage and saute in large pot; use wooden spoon to crumble sausage as it cooks.
2. Once sausage is nicely browned, stir in onion, garlic, chili powder and cumin and continue cooking until onion softens, about 5 minutes.
3. Add beer and allow it to simmer for an additional 5 minutes scraping up any brown bits from the bottom of the pan.
4. Stir in tomatoes and tomato paste and allow it to simmer, uncovered for an additional 10-15 minutes on medium-low, stirring occasionally.
5. Taste and adjust seasonings with salt and pepper.
6. Finally, stir in beans and corn.
7. Let this come to a simmer and it's ready to serve! (Can be prepared a day ahead.)

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Seniors

The Best Gift Any Grandparent Can Give Their Grandchild Is...Good Health

(BPT) - For grandparents, giving is quite possibly the best part of the holiday season. When you gather with your kids and grandkids this holiday season it's wonderful to share your homemade cookies and heartfelt gifts, but two things no one in your family should ever give to a loved one are influenza (flu) or whooping cough.

Most people have heard of the flu and understand how contagious it may be. However, many people might not know how serious it can be, particularly for young children and older adults who are at high risk for severe complications. In fact, each year the flu causes an average of 200,000 hospitalizations, and thousands of deaths. Pertussis, which is also known as whooping cough, may not be as well-known as the flu; however, it is also a serious and highly contagious disease that affects the respiratory tract. It can cause severe coughing fits that can last up to 10 weeks or more, and it spreads from person to person much like the cold and flu viruses - through coughing and sneezing. People of all ages can get whooping cough, but the disease is especially dangerous for infants and young children to whom it can cause severe and even life-threatening complications.

Sadly, about half of children under 1 year old who get whooping cough end up in the hospital and approximately 1 out of 100 infants hospitalized for whooping cough will die. Because the disease may be milder in adolescents and adults, many people may not



realize they actually have whooping cough, and accidentally spread it to others. In fact, babies are most likely to catch whooping cough from a family member. One recent study of infants with whooping cough showed that approximately 85 percent of babies got the disease from a member of their immediate or extended family, when a source could be identified.

A Simple Solution To Help Keep Your Family Healthy

No one likes to be sick during the holiday

season, but thanks to the extra travel and large family get-togethers, someone always seems to fall ill. As a grandparent, you may take the normal precautions, such as frequently washing your hands and coughing and sneezing into a tissue, but these are not enough to stop the spread of the flu and whooping cough. Fortunately, there is something you can do to help prevent these diseases. Talk to your healthcare provider about what vaccines you need to help keep yourself and your family members healthy.

Getting The Word Out

Despite the seriousness of both flu and whooping cough, the number of adults who get vaccinated against these diseases remains alarmingly low. While the CDC recommends everyone, especially those around babies get vaccinated against whooping cough, only 14 percent of adults 19 years and older, and 26 percent of adults living with an infant have had the recommended Tdap vaccination, and only 43.6 percent of adults were vaccinated against the flu last season.

"Grandparents are such an important part of their grandchildren's lives," says Amy Pisani, Executive Director of the nonprofit organization Every Child By Two. "That's why it's important that they speak to their healthcare providers about getting vaccinated against the flu and whooping cough. We want every grandparent to be able to play a happy, healthy, helpful role in their grandchildren's development, for many years to come."

To help raise awareness about the importance of timely vaccination for people of all ages, Every Child By Two is launching the Vaccinate Your Family program. The program includes a new website for the public - VaccinateYourFamily.org - and a number of new resources including the "Grandparents Toolkit." The toolkit includes a number of materials including tips on how to soothe a fussy baby, ideas for the perfect baby shower, a guide to discussing whooping cough with your healthcare provider, and much more. •

Sports

Eagles Getting Ready for League Play

By Gregg McMullin

With the new year in its infant stages its time to direct our attention to the upcoming Ocean League schedules for the Eagles. The basketball and soccer teams as well as girls' water polo have doing their part to prepare for league play with final non-league games. With the hectic traveling schedule and the top teams each played during the last week of 2015 the basketball programs returned home to make final adjustments before starting league play this week. The girls' water polo team competed in the rigors of the Western Tournament.

The Lady Eagles basketball team returned from playing in the Green Valley Tournament in Henderson, Nevada and faced Mira Costa. The second ranked Mustangs, who have reached the CIF finals the past two consecutive seasons, made El Segundo look sluggish in their 66-46 win over the Eagles.

The Eagles took their only lead of the game early when Quinn Adams' lay up went uncontested. from there on it was all Mira Costa. The Mustangs went on a 10-0 run before Ani Finau took a pass from Paige Endo and scored. The Eagles couldn't match up with inside play of the Mustangs and trailed 19-11 after the first period.

The closest the El Segundo could come was a 3-pointer by Endo to make it 21-16 midway through the second quarter. The Eagles missed easy shots and had problems with the Mustangs zone press. When Mira Costa's 7-0 run to end the half gave the Mustangs a 35-23 lead it was only the beginning of a runaway.

The Mustang's distinct advantage inside gave them three and four shot attempts on the offensive end while the Eagles had trouble getting off any type of clear shots. There were literally no offensive rebounds so second chance shots were out of the question due to their lack of inside play.

The Mustangs stretched their lead to as many as 30 points late in the third quarter

before the Eagles made a surge in the fourth quarter and lose by twenty.

The Eagles played host to Bellflower, a program that has been on the rise the past few seasons; the Buccaneers have averaged 17 wins the past two seasons. After getting embarrassed by Mira Costa the Eagles played more inspired basketball with all 12 players getting time in their 57-31 win.

El Segundo came out flat and missed easy opportunities and led just 8-4 after the first quarter. Head coach Randy Kiehm lit a fire under his team and the Eagles responded with one of their most productive quarters of the season. Hannah Nonoguchi, who had been in shooting slump, and Quinn Adams made 3-pointers and the Eagles raced to a 31-10 lead at half-time.

Coach Kiehm was happy about how his players responded in the second quarter and reiterated they just needed to play smarter and keep up their intensity on both ends of the court. "We need to crash the boards at both ends and get more involved," he said.

Coach Kiehm cleared his bench midway through the third quarter. Though the Buccaneers made a run at the Eagles and cut the lead to 15 points El Segundo went on an 11-0 run to lead 53-26 midway through the fourth quarter.

A peek at the future surfaced in the second half when sophomores Makaela Bordieri, Alliya Nomura and the quartet of freshman including Kailea Lee, Chanel Murray, Kayla Smith and Malia Hui all got significant playing time.

The Eagles (9-7) opened their quest for the program's first league title by facing Beverly Hills last night. Friday night they host Culver City the four time defending Ocean League champions and have a forty game Ocean League win streak intact. Next week the Eagles host Hawthorne on Wednesday at 6pm.

Coach Jason Ito's Eagles had a great trip to Hawaii but according to Coach Ito the team

See Eagles, page 16

NFL Divisional Round Set

By Adam Serrao

Is there anything at all in this world better than playoff football? After last week's wild card matchups - that were certainly wild in every aspect of the word - the answer is a clear and overwhelming, 'No!' If there is anything bad at all that the playoffs signify, it's that the football season that seemingly flashes by in the blink of an eye is almost over. With that being said, there are still a handful of teams attempting to duke it out in order to fulfill their dreams and scream,

"Certain teams excelled, others buckled under pressure and others simply just didn't show up. Seeing who rises to the occasion is what sports are all about. Which team will rise the highest?"

"I'm going to Disneyland" into the camera come postgame, February 7th. Last week was a clear example of the lengths different teams will go to in order to reach prominence. Certain teams excelled, others buckled under pressure and others simply just didn't show up. Seeing who rises to the occasion is what sports are all about. Which team will rise the highest?

The team that certainly sank the lowest was the Houston Texans in their matchup against the Kansas City Chiefs. An absolutely horrible performance was low-lighted by Brian Hoyer who highlighted the question of how the Texans made it to the playoffs in the first place. A total of 136 yards passing and four interceptions on the day were just some of the things that Hoyer did wrong as his team - which finished first place in the AFC South with a 9-7 record - managed zero points on the day in a 30-0 blowout. On the other side of the ball, the Chiefs defense looked like the best in the league. With Justin Houston, Husain Abdullah, and Allen Bailey leading the way, the Texans looked completely and utterly outmatched. Alex Smith managed the game nicely, throwing for 190 yards and a touchdown, while star receiver Jeremy Maclin left with what was a high ankle sprain. His potential absence from this week's game will make it that much harder to get past what should be a rejuvenated New England Patriots team next round.

The Steelers took on the Bengals in a game that was exactly the opposite of what Houston vs. KC was. If you're a football fan, this game had everything you needed. Pouring rain, big hits, a rivalry between two AFC North teams that absolutely hate each other, and a game that came down to the very last second. In the end, it was the Bengals who beat themselves. With just 1:23 remaining in the game, Cincinnati's defensive star's let their tempers get the best of them and came undone. Vontaze Burfict took a cheap shot at Antonio Browns head that cost the Bengals 15 yards and Adam "Pacman" Jones lost his cool, pushing a Steelers defensive coach that cost the team yet another 15 yards. Those brainless moves, combined with the reemergence of Ben Roethlisberger following a sack that injured the AC joint in his shoulder, led the Steelers to a last second field goal that won

the game and pushed Pittsburgh into the next round of the playoffs where they'll travel to face Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos.

The Seattle Seahawks versus the Minnesota Vikings was the third coldest game ever played in the history of the National Football League. At kickoff, the temperature at the stadium was -6 degrees with a wind chill factor of -25. That made me cold just watching the game from my couch with blankets all around me. Unfortunately for the Vikings, they also went cold with just

seconds remaining in the game - a game that they pretty much dominated from start to finish. As you can expect, football played in negative degree weather isn't going to yield many points, but a 10-9 game with less than 30 seconds remaining came down to just one 27-yard kick for the Vikings to advance. If I've ever learned anything from Jim Carrey movies, it's that the laces need to be facing out! Well, in this case, they weren't. Vikings placeholder Jeff Locke received the ball from center and placed it down with the laces facing in. Blair Walsh missed a chip-shot that would have won a playoff game. It was the shortest missed field goal that wasn't blocked of the entire football season. Now, after a game they should have won, Minnesota will be watching the rest of the playoffs from their couches just like me. Can you say heartbreak?

The Washington Redskins were outscored 35-7 after leading the Green Bay Packers 11-0 early on. It was a rough first quarter for the Packers, who magically reinvented their running game in their 35-18 victory over Washington. Eddie Lacy got into the end zone, James Starks got across the line, and Aaron Rodgers threw for 210 yards and two touchdowns after a rough start that had Cheesehead's nervous early. The Packers are hard to beat when they get production like that, as the Redskins eventually found out. Kirk Cousins didn't like that. He and the Redskins failed to make plays in the second half and now, Green bay will travel to Arizona to take on my pick for AFC champs, the Cardinals.

The playoffs wouldn't be the same if we didn't see Tom Brady and Peyton Manning in action. We'll get exactly that this week as both Hall of Fame quarterbacks will come off of their respective bye weeks to compete. The Pats will welcome the Chiefs to Foxborough while the Broncos will be at home against Pittsburgh. Over in the NFC, the Packers get the Cards while the Seahawks will travel to Carolina to take on Cam Newton and the Panthers. For the first time ever, a round in the playoffs will feature four quarterbacks taken with the No. 1 overall pick (Manning, Newton, Alex Smith, Carson Palmer). Things are getting a whole lot more exciting on the road to the Super Bowl! The Divisional Round is officially set. Soon, we will have our final four. - Asixlion@earthlink.net •

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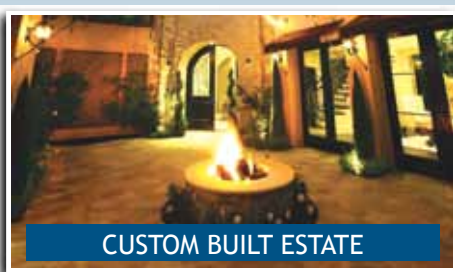
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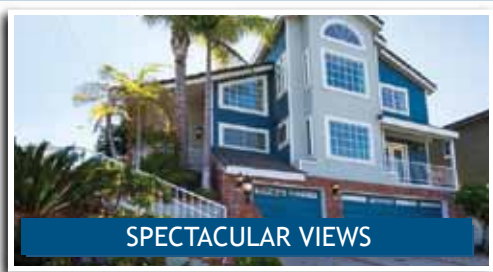
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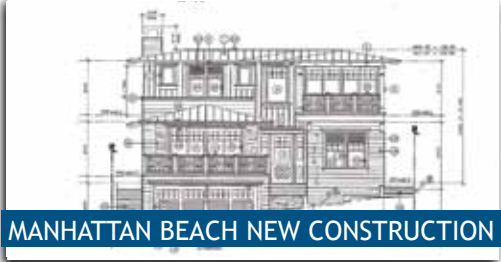
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Modern Farmhouse on 1448 E. Palm Ave.
Designed and built by De Bilt Homes with Saga Architects. The main house is 2400 sq. ft. (4 bed, 4½ bath). Separate large garage topped by a 600 sq. ft. apartment (3 rooms, ½ bath). 3,000 combined square footage. Lot size is 6100 sq. ft. This home will on the MLS late January 2016 and be completed the beginning of February. The kitchen includes custom cabinetry, modern appliances, and a 48" range. The family room has a fireplace and television area pre-wired for surround sound. Speakers installed for whole home audio. The Master Suite includes a large dressing room/closet, separate vanities, a soaker tub and a generous shower. Both upstairs bedrooms have tall vaulted ceilings. Central heat and air conditioning are installed. Insulation includes spray foam. A metal "cool-roof" helps reflect radiant heat. Tons of light enters via energy efficient windows. Tankless water heating and LED lighting are incorporated. First floor is polished concrete for temperature stability. The property can be sold prior to completion. Asking \$2,000,000. Please call Gina Hoffman at 310-864-5347 for information.



quote for the week

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754 Virginia St	2	1	1256	\$840,000	12/22/15
500 Washington St	4	3	3,014	\$1,243,750	12/11/15
315 Center St	2	1	768	\$650,000	12/10/15
522 Whiting St	5	3	3,027	\$1,555,000	12/10/15
216 W. Franklin Ave	4	3	2,152	\$1,096,000	12/9/15
815 Virginia	3	2	1746	\$1,049,000	PENDING
895 Penn	3	2	1,151	\$799,000	PENDING
840 Center St	5	6	3,876	\$2,199,000	PENDING
610 Sierra St	3	2	1291	\$799,999	PENDING
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208 Arena	14	8	7,148	\$2,665,000	12/31/15
120 W. Walnut	4	2	1,632	\$1,199,000	12/18/15
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Your Real Estate Connection

Quick, Easy Ways to Bring Order to the Kitchen



(BPT) - The kitchen may be the heart of the home, but it's also home to a lot of clutter. From food and utensils to small appliances and phone chargers, the kitchen is the second most-cluttered room in the house, according to a Moen Consumer and Market Insights Group. But, that doesn't mean it has to be difficult or even complicated. Make it one of your New Year's resolutions to bring order to the kitchen with these easy tips.

STASH YOUR STUFF WHERE YOU CAN SEE IT

You don't need a large pantry or countless cupboards and drawers to find the perfect spot for all your stuff. If you have blank space on the walls, consider adding a few open shelves. They provide plenty of storage while keeping everyday dishes and staples, like the coffee canister or cookie jar, within easy reach.

DESIGNATE A DROP ZONE

The biggest pain point - and eyesore - for homeowners is lack of counter space, and feeling like there isn't enough real estate for everyday essentials. Instead of adding to the chaos, designate a specific "drop zone" for items that find their way into the kitchen each day, like mail, paperwork or electronics.

HANG THE DISHTOWEL

Extend the "everything in its place" mentality to another kitchen staple - the dishtowel. Instead of leaving it in a damp heap on the counter, install a towel bar, towel ring or hook to the side of a cabinet or island

to create a spot for it to hang. Not only will it free up space, but like in the bathroom or powder room, you'll always know where to look for it when you need it. The Hensley accessory collection from Moen features soft, square shapes to keep you stylishly organized; plus, it boasts Moen's exclusive Spot Resist finish, keeping it finger-print free. There's also a matching pulldown faucet available within the collection to create an impressively coordinated, organized space for the new year.

STORAGE SPACE THAT WORKS BETTER, AND SMARTER

If you're lucky enough to have a pantry, go beyond simple shelves to make this area work better - and smarter - for you. Pullout baskets and shallow drawers will ensure your pantry offers a proper place for everything. Curved cradles can turn an ordinary shelf into a beverage storage center, allowing you to store wine, water or soda bottles on their sides, while eliminating the fear of them falling off the shelf. And instead of wasting the space on the back of the door, install a slim, vertical storage system to provide a spot for plastic wrap, aluminum foil and other awkward-sized kitchen must haves.

The key to staying organized is making the best use of the space you have. With a little imagination and the right additions, getting the kitchen organized once and for all is a New Year's resolution that's easy to achieve. •

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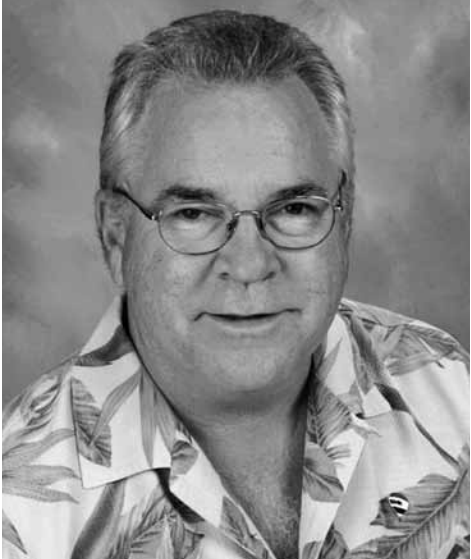
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Jim Marak

from front page

where he earned a degree in public administration and identified a specific career path while still in his teens. “I wanted to be the director of a planning department for a young, growing city,” he said. But then the passage of Proposi-



Jim Marak. Photo courtesy of Jim Marak.

tion 13 put a sudden halt to state funding for planning and municipal administration jobs. That prompted Marak to alter his course and pursue a business degree at Cal State Los Angeles. This eventually led to an eight-year stint as a managerial accountant for a capital investment counseling firm in Beverly Hills. During this period, Marak was also a sailing instructor and lifeguard on Catalina Island. In 1978, the then-24-year-old moved to El Segundo after purchasing a home there in partnership with two brothers. By the mid-’80s, Marak had tired of his daily work grind and imagined something more independent as well as closer to home. Always intrigued by the concept of property assets and purchasing on leverage, Marak decided to take the plunge into the world of real estate. He actually experienced his first taste of the industry during college when he took several real estate courses thinking it might prove a decent source of secondary income at some point down the line. He took and passed his license exam in 1985 and went to work for Century 21 on Main Street the following January. After that office closed, he joined Re/Max and the rest is history. Out of about 800 Re/Max agents in the local region, Marak is now fourth in total seniority and second in tenure as a branch manager. At the age of 61, he remains as enthused as ever about his work with no plans to slow down. “Realtors don’t retire,” he pointed out. “They instead get to enjoy selling to two or three generations of

the same families they have represented during their careers. For me, that is hugely rewarding. More than three-quarters of my business comes from referrals from prior buyers and sellers.”

Those referrals along with the other listings add up to well over 1,000 transactions handled in the El Segundo area alone over the course of Marak’s career. And with property values now at historically high levels (most homes now sell for over \$1 million in town), he mentioned that the current marketplace has become akin to a three-legged race with a particular mindset driving activity. “Number one is to get a home now before they’re even more expensive,” he said. “Second is to get a home before interest rates go up—but first make sure to earn or borrow from family that substantial down payment you’re going to need. The best time to buy was really yesterday, but in lieu of that you’d best buy as soon as possible.” Marak admitted that it can be a tough timing issue for clientele, particularly baby boomers trying to pinpoint the ideal time to sell. “Those same baby boomers also need to prepare to loan the down payment money and perhaps even co-sign so their kids can purchase a home in El Segundo.”

While certain dynamics continue to spur the market, the housing stock remains strong despite heavy demand. “Condos, townhomes and houses in El Segundo are selling at a swift pace while also appreciating in value, but they still need to be accurately priced in order to sell rapidly,” Marak said. “Other elements play a part such as our proximity to Manhattan Beach where homes are significantly more expensive, but ultimately it’s the El Segundo community itself and its appeal to the influx of new employees that creates and sustains the appreciation.”

Having learned to successfully weather the various highs and lows of the industry over the years, Marak reported that he has few regrets looking back on his career. “I sold several properties in town that in retrospect I wish I had purchased for myself,” he admitted. “There were a few theme homes and duplexes that especially come to mind, as I am fond of Spanish and California bungalow (Marak lives in a 1913 craftsman house on the west side of town) architecture. But at the same time, I am very happy for the people who bought those homes and what their investment in El Segundo has meant to them. It’s a win-win no matter how you slice it.”

With no thoughts of ever retiring, Marak is also equally adamant about El Segundo itself.

“The only way I will ever leave this town is when they carry me out of my house in a pine box,” he said. “I love it here, cherish the relationships I’ve established in the close to 40

Police Reports

from page 2

in Hawthorne for grand theft, possession of stolen property, one outstanding LASD felony warrant, one outstanding Long Beach PD misdemeanor warrant and one outstanding Vernon PD misdemeanor warrant.

An online lost property report was taken at 1232 hours from the 100 block of South Sepulveda Boulevard. A wallet was lost at the location.

One male adult was arrested at 0022 hours from the 1900 block of East Grand Avenue for domestic violence

Tuesday, January 5, 2015

An attempt petty theft report was taken at 0622 hours from the 100 block of East Imperial Avenue. Unknown suspect entered an unlocked vehicle and attempted to steal the

years I’ve lived here, and couldn’t imagine a better place to be. And I’m not the only one who feels the same way. We are truly blessed to live and work in El Segundo.” •

victim’s property.

A grand theft report was taken at 0654 hours from the 900 block of Pepper Street. Miscellaneous sporting equipment was taken from the truck bed of the victim’s vehicle. One male adult was arrested at 0921 hours from the 300 block of Main Street for one outstanding El Segundo PD felony warrant.

Wednesday, January 6, 2015

One male adult was arrested at 0609 hours from LAPD Van Nuys Division for one outstanding El Segundo PD want for identity theft.

Burglary (residential) report was taken at 0814 hours from the 800 block of Pepper Street. Unknown suspect(s) broke a window to the residence and entered the house without permission. •

Earbuds

from page 3

all electric bikes, including those with a 20 mph maximum speed, and regulates access of trails and paths.

Motorized skateboards and hover boards - This new law comes just as hoverboard sales are increasing, making them super popular with young adults and teens. The specifics on the new law are that an “electronically motorized board” is defined as a wheeled device designed to be ridden standing up, propelled by an electric motor and limited to 15 mph. A board can be ridden only on a

highway where the speed limit doesn’t exceed 35 mph or a specific designated bikeway. A rider must be 16 or older and wear a bicycle helmet. Cities and counties have the authority to decide whether to allow, restrict or ban the motorized boards from public places.

There is no mention anywhere if it’s illegal to ride a hoverboard or a motorized skateboard while wearing earbuds or a set of headphones. It’s just possible the ear-free driving law will need another tweak down the road to catch up. •

Film Review

from page 4

who we all know from Bennett Miller’s 2014 critically-acclaimed film Foxcatcher. However in this film, Renzi offers little to no history of Franny- the origins of his wealth remain a mystery. On a similar note, Olivia’s character could have been more fleshed out and interesting if given a backstory. If expanded upon, she could have reflected an opposing extreme to Franny’s approach to coping with the loss of her parents. In comparison to Franny’s isolation and self-destruction, Olivia’s reaction to the sudden tragedy is bottled up emotion paired with a cold exterior. She attempts to fill the void by rushing to adulthood, creating her own family and a

sense of stability. It is all there, but would be more compelling if explored further.

The Benefactor premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival last April and has been gaining momentum ever since, going on to win “Best U.S. Narrative Feature Film” at the Catalina Film Festival in 2015. The film proves to be an entertaining and suspenseful watch with engaging performances by the all-star cast, and Renzi is a promising director worth remembering. As he grows and develops as a director, I look forward to what the future has in store for this talented filmmaker.

The Benefactor opens in select theatres and VOD January 15, 2016. Unrated. •

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Colton

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Hello, my name is **Colton** and I'm a 2-year old, male Miniature Schnauzer mix. If you ask me, my Dad was the Miniature Schnauzer and my Mom was the mix. No one is clear on what I'm "mixed" with but Mom must have been a tiny thing because I'm only 12 pounds! My buddy, Dolton, and I were rescued from a LA county shelter after our previous owners surrendered us. I don't even know why they didn't want us anymore. I know I was a matted mess but once I was groomed, "TA DA" the cutest little guy emerged! While I'm a bit shy upon first introductions, I do make friends

very quickly. I'm well behaved, get along great with other dogs and I'd be the perfect addition to your family. If you are interested in Colton, please email info@msfr.org for more information.

Hi there, I'm **Dolton** and you've already been introduced to my pal, and possible littermate, Colton. I too am a 2-year old, male Miniature Schnauzer mix. I wholeheartedly agree with Colton when it comes to our parentage because I'm also only 12 pounds of affection. I was rescued from the LA county shelter after being surrendered, however, I have no idea what I could have done to warrant such treatment. I mind my manners get along well with other dogs and would be the perfect companion. I have to admit that my appearance wasn't the best but all it took was a little TLC and some grooming to reveal my adorable, handsome self. If you are interested in Dolton, please email info@msfr.org for more information.

Have you ever seen a 2-year-old, 60-pound, male Catahoula mix dog? If you'd like to meet one, just ask for **Earl**. I was rescued from a LA county shelter where they called me a stray but I was just lost. I'm very intelligent and would be a great addition to your family. I have fine leash and car manners, I'm housebroken, crate and doggy-door trained. I aced my leadership-based obedience classes but like many large-breed adolescents, I can be stubborn. I would do best with an "alpha" handler who has experience and time to help me fulfill my potential. In fact, I thought I had found my



Dolton



Earl

forever home, but unfortunately I was returned after just a few months. My over-scheduled adopter decided that she did not have time for a young, very active dog who's is a happy, playful, affectionate boy. I absolutely *love people* of all ages, sizes, and genders. If you are interested in meeting Earl, please email Emread@verizon.net for more information.

Hello, my name is **Thorin**, which is Scandinavian for Thunder. I'm a 3-year old,

male, German Shepherd who was rescued from the San Bernardino City shelter the end of June. I currently weigh 66 pounds but when I was found and turned in to the shelter, I was very thin and filthy – a total, mess. My ideal weight should be around 80 pounds so you can imagine how emaciated I was. I get along with other dogs and I'm very friendly with people – even those I've just met. I'm learning all kinds of skills – leash manners, sit and I even ride calmly in the car. I keep hearing about something called cats and another called children but since I'm not acquainted with those terms, I'm not sure how I would do with those. Thorin can be seen anytime at Yellow Brick Road Doggie Playcare in El Segundo Call 310-606-5507 or email southbaydoggie@hotmail.com for appointment. •



Thorin

*Saving one animal won't
change the world, but
the world will surely change
for that animal.*

Happy Tails

Congratulations to **Nixon** and his new family. Nixon is our rescue from last April who had been surrendered to a shelter as part of a cruelty case. After liberating him we had him groomed and under the matted mess was the sweetest little guy. He was

very fearful of strangers but has come around. It took some work but Nixon's a happy little guy who gives endless kisses. He joins a family of five and has his very own kids to play with and look after. What a great way to start the New Year! •



Nixon resting easy in his new home.

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Eagles

from page 6

treated the trip as a business trip with some obvious benefits. The Eagles returned home to host Torrance in a tune-up for this week's Ocean League opener. The Tartars are the likely choice to win the Pioneer League and had already defeated the Eagles 70-61 earlier

by Josh Hessing, Chase Ali-Watkins and Eli Chaney to cut the deficit to two points. Early in the final period Ali-Watkins hit a 17 foot jumper to tie the game. The play was set up when Marc Cooper intercepted a pass and fed Ali-Watkins who found an opening

pointer at the buzzer made it a one point game. The Eagles opened up their Ocean League schedule last night at Beverly Hills and host Culver City Friday night at 7:30pm. Next week they host Hawthorne at 7:30pm. The girls' water polo team competed in the

offensive end from Emma Romero. She has garnered the nickname 'Cannon' due to her blasting shot attempts, by her teammates. Talia Dominic scored in each of the five games at the Western Tournament. Elysse Barriga has been outstanding all season long. She's played



Kailea Lee looks for dribbling room against Mira Costa.

in the season in the El Segundo Tournament in December. This time the game would be different. The confidence the Eagles gained in their 56-55 thrilling win over Torrance should boost their belief they can challenge for an Ocean League title. At the outset both teams looked lethargic and out of sync. The Eagles held a 12-5 lead before Torrance raced back with eight unanswered points. In the second quarter there were more turnovers than you'd see on a Sunday morning at Doughboys. Torrance seemed to be in control of the game holding a 33-24 edge at half-time. The third quarter proved to be the turning point for the Eagles. They dialed up their defense and caused the Tartars to slow down the pace. The result was consecutive points

and from there it was all El Segundo. Saleia Ahloo first basket of the second half gave the Eagles a seven point lead. As good as the Eagles were playing, that included an ESPN highlight type steal and pass to Eli Chaney for a basket, couldn't thwart the Torrance from making a comeback attempt. It gave the Eagles a 51-41 lead with 1:30 remaining. The last 90 seconds proved to be some of the most exciting moments of a game this season. The Tartars cut the lead to 51-46 when Chaney sank two free throws. And the game got even more interesting cut the deficit to 53-51 before Hessing calmly sank two free throws. But Torrance wasn't through. With six seconds remaining, and the Eagles holding on to a 55-52 lead, Hessing sank one of two free throws to ice the game. Jerome Duhon's three



Hannah Nonoguchi was held in check against Mira Costa but she had 15 points against Bellflower including three 3-pointers.

Western Tournament and played some of the top teams from Orange County. The Eagles went 3-2 and finished tenth in the 32 team tournament. The Eagles lost the first game 7-6 to Laguna Hills. In the second game, against the defending Division 6 CIF champion Pasadena Poly, the Eagles squeaked out an 8-5 victory. A showdown against Garden Grove League favorite Garden Grove The Eagles held off the Argonauts for a 7-5 victory. El Rancho proved to be a challenge but the Eagles held on for 4-3 win against the highest scoring team from the Del Rio League. According to head coach Riley Brady the team is starting to jell and play well as a team. Layla Chamberlin has been a wall in the cage and has finished each game with at least 10 blocks. They are also getting great play on the

great defense and threat on offense. The Eagles began league play this week at Culver City on Tuesday and are at Santa Monica today. The Lady Eagles get a crack at Segerstrom on Monday at home at 3pm. The Jaguars eliminated the Eagles last season in the first round of the CIF playoffs. The Eagles then host Beverly Hills on Tuesday in an Ocean League game. The boys' soccer team played at Beverly Hills yesterday and host Culver City on Friday at 3pm. Next week they host Hawthorne on Wednesday at 3pm. The girls' soccer team, which lost 4-1 to second ranked Mira Costa, faced Beverly Hills at home yesterday and travel to Culver City on Friday. Next week they'll travel to Hawthorne on Wednesday and host Lawndale next Friday in a key Ocean League showdown. •



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