

South Bay Cities

Featuring the Weekly Newspapers of Hawthorne, Lawndale, Torrance and Inglewood

Hawthorne Press Tribune
The Weekly Newspaper of Hawthorne

Lawndale Tribune
AND LAWDALE NEWS The Weekly Newspaper of Lawndale

Torrance Tribune
The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

Inglewood News
The Weekly Newspaper of Inglewood

Herald Publications - El Segundo, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Torrance & Inglewood Community Newspapers Since 1911 - (310) 322-1830 - Vol. 7, No. 30 - July 24, 2025

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Weekend Forecast

Friday
Mostly
Sunny
71°/61°



Saturday
Partly
Cloudy
70°/61°



Sunday
Mostly
Sunny
72°/61°



Torrance Turned Back the Clock at Rock around the Block Event



The Torrelle's, a group of City employees who perform a cappella renditions of 1950s and 1960s classics, entertained guests as they strolled through the crowd at Torrance Historical Society's annual Rock Around the Block. The event is a 1950s-style celebration honoring Torrance's All America City Award that was received back in 1956. It was a night full of vintage vibes, classic cars, swinging music, fun competitions and hometown pride. Photo courtesy Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

Now a Member of a Grand Club

By Ron Sokol

When you are young, people often ask: “So, what are you going to be when you grow up?” You might say fire firefighter, or ball player, an artist, a writer, a senator, a president, maybe a teacher... But, I do not recall anyone saying: “When I grow up, I want to be a grandparent!”

We have several friends who have been grandparents for years, and some have many grandchildren. To a person, each has said, rather emphatically: “There is nothing like it! It is the greatest! You will see! It is so wonderful!”

Well, we recently became grandparents for the first time. Our daughter-in-law’s labor took longer than anticipated and was a bit bumpier than hoped, but thankfully, all went well in the end. The doctor and the nurses were kind and very helpful. My son, with a wink in his eye, gifted me: “Dad, here is a special hat. Wear it well. You are now officially a member of “The Grandpa Club”. So far, I take the hat off just before going to sleep...

Granted, the sky did not suddenly open up when our grandchild was born, nor did a chorus of angels start singing. However, it did feel like our heads spun around 360 degrees. We have joy that is essentially impossible to describe. Bottomline, becoming a grandparent is transformative. Now I know that to be true.

To wit: This can actually mean affection without stress. After all, you do not have 24/7 responsibility. In fact, you do not want to become a “helicopter grandparent.” The kids, the actual parents, will remind you: This is their kid. You go home, Grandpa, Grandma... relax and sleep well! Let them do the rest of the work. Let them dote and dote, and then dote some more.

With the grandchild, there is now enhanced legacy and continuity. The grandchild is literally the next generation. That squiggly little baby is carrying some of your DNA. Your family is not just growing, and this is not just another tree in the forest. It is, in fact, one of your own trees. Those are some of your leaves, as well as some of your branches!

Perhaps there are actions you took as a parent that, if given the chance, you would prefer to have done better. Now you have another chance, at least an opportunity, to take what you have learned, what you know, and improve on it. The grandchild is a full-on new opportunity. You might be able to give helpful guidance to your child and to his bride.

And, who doesn’t enjoy being a storyteller, a mentor, a safe haven? That can be you now, as

a grandparent. Should you wonder from time to time how much meaning your life has, the baby will remind you without saying a word, without doing nary a thing; just by opening their eyes even a tad.

Have you been wondering what to do with your free time now that you’re not working as much, or perhaps even retired? Voila! You can be a special companion to the grandchild, a precious helping hand to the new mom and dad, and you are going to develop a very unique bond. The image that comes to mind, though not right on point, is the drawing of God’s hand touching the hand of the human, crafted by Michelangelo, as part of the Sistine Chapel.

You will begin to see the world through a pair of very new eyes, the observations of a

See Grand Club, page 4

Film Critic Morgan Rojas Gives the Herald a Decade of Reviews

By Brian Simon

When asked how long ago she had submitted her first article in the Herald—a review of the documentary film *The Wrecking Crew*—Morgan Rojas almost did a double-take. “I realized it has been over 10 years,” she said in recalling the piece that appeared in March 2015 and noting how time flies. Her thoughtful contributions remain a vital component of the paper, even over a decade later. Meanwhile, her passion for film discourse and the promotion of independent, documentary, and art-house releases continues undaunted to this day.

Morgan founded the online film community Cinemacy (a combination of Cinema

and Intimacy) back in 2013 after seeing the lack of female voices in movie criticism. Given the dearth of women writers in the field and her youthful age at the time, she could be described as a pioneer. “Back then, I was among the youngest journalists at screenings and press days and would very often get confused for a publicist,” she said. “Funny, right now I actually *am* a publicist.”

Cinemacy began as a WordPress blog and evolved into a professionally recognized outlet, boasting a digital viewership of 150,000 and a print circulation of 60,000 in the Herald and other local media. Morgan serves as the editor-in-chief, overseeing

See Morgan Rojas, page 5

Entertainment

Check It Out

Orbital by
Samantha Harvey

By Cathie Hinkle, Library Assistant-
El Segundo Public Library

Orbital, in addition to winning the 2024 Booker award, drew me in with its kaleidoscope cover as well as the promise of lyrical questions about earth and humanity and how they attempt to coexist.

Upon opening the book, we are introduced to six astronauts as they launch their day on a fictionalized international space station. The day consists of sixteen orbits: witnessing sixteen sunrises and sixteen sunsets. When the travelers wake up, these quiet interlopers, witnessing our planet, have been instructed to tell themselves it is a new day, even though they are witnessing sixteen sunrises and sunsets.

We, the readers of the book and dwellers on the blue planet, go about our daily lives filled with love, chaos, grief, work, joy, disasters, mundane acts, laughter and so much more. All this time, circling above as quiet as a whisper, are six spectators. Witnessing our planet and our lives from a heavenly distance. Pondering our questionable achievements and documenting chaos while slowly orbiting and contemplating their own frailty and value.

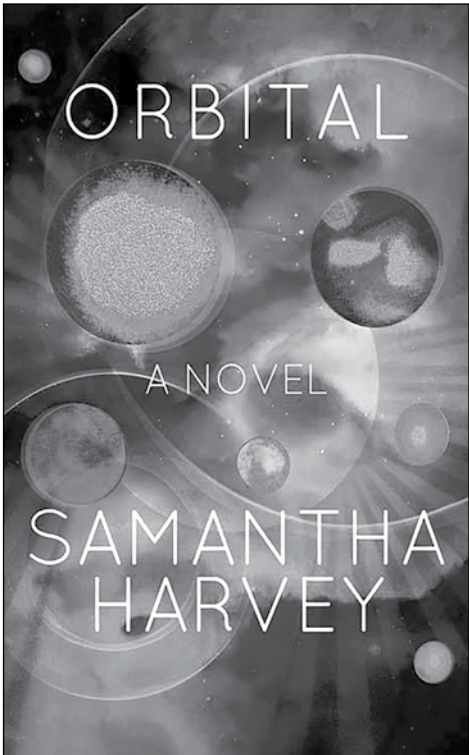
To me these ponderings read like a thoughtful, mind probing journal. Adding to the feel of a journal, the book does not contain quotation marks, making it read more as immersive prose than plot-based story. I compare

the book to a stargazer lying under the stars one night, lantern by their side, writing in their journal. Thinking existential thoughts such as “How are we writing the future of humanity? We’re not writing anything, it’s writing us. We’re windblown leaves. We think we’re the wind but we’re just the leaf.” I had to put the book down a few times to take in some of the phrases. The book is filled with similarly beautiful poetic summaries.

Orbital is only 207 pages long, but those pages are swollen with poetic phrases and words, thoughts, questions, and mind-numbing facts about earth. The reader bonds with the astronauts on a quiet, introspective, otherworldly journey. Finishing the orbit by entering reality at the close of the last page. The ending is anti-climatic and a bit abrupt, like a sunset on an overcast day.

Nothing truly happens plot wise in *Orbital*, and the book does not contain quotation marks which might be a drawback for some. However, the reader, if choosing to pick up this novel will experience a tranquil voyage aboard an international space station. Witnessing the awe-inspiring wonder of earth and frailty of humanity in its entirety. Possibly feeling as if they are traveling on the space station while at the same time being an observer from earth. Watching as the astronauts go about their daily routines of housekeeping, checking in on themselves and seeing the ebb and flow of earth from their unique perspectives. It is an artsy type of book that will linger with me for a while.

If you are interested in a chill, meditative read, this book might be a good fit. It is available for check-out at El Segundo Public Library. •



Orbital by Samantha Harvey.



Cathie Hinkle

Film Review

Good Side of Bad Review: A Mental Health
Diagnosis Leads to a Life-Changing Dynamic

By Morgan Rojas for Cinemacy

When someone close to you is diagnosed with a mental health disorder, it doesn’t just affect them. A diagnosis often becomes a family affair, providing an opportunity to come together and support a loved one in need. This sentiment is the basis of filmmaker Alethea Root’s emotionally stirring family drama, *Good Side of Bad*. Making its World Premiere as the opening night screening at Dances with Films, *Good Side of Bad* aims to end the stigma around mental illness by showing how communication is the key to getting through hard times.

Florence (Lexi Simonsen) is a budding photographer who is in the middle of experiencing a dangerous mental breakdown. Believing that hooded men are chasing her, she jumps off the side of a bridge to escape her “captors.” Thankfully, she survives the fall, but this incident raises alarm bells for her siblings, Sara (Jules Bruff) and Peter (Alex Quijano). The three siblings have been

somewhat estranged until this terrifying event brings them closer together. Sara and Peter recognize the important role they now play in Florence’s life after she is formally diagnosed with Schizophrenia. Putting aside their differences, the trio faces the future head-on and, more importantly, they’re doing so together.

Good Side of Bad is based on the bestselling book by author Beverly Olevin. Director Alethea Root captures the novel’s humorous and moving journey and heightens the sense of vulnerability amidst a crisis. The lead actors do a phenomenal job balancing the darkness and light that comes from being forced to work through an unexpected diagnosis. Lexi Simonsen stands out as the youngest sibling suffering from Schizophrenia. Her performance is captivating and magnetic in a way that’s reminiscent of a young Jennifer Lawrence.

There are many reasons why families become fractured, but *Good Side of Bad* proves that the bonds between siblings are powerful, and nothing is too difficult to face with loved ones by your side. This raw family drama touches on potentially tragic results of disconnectedness, and how coming together to provide support and connection is ultimately the best way to help one another. Available to stream via VOD, DVD, cable and satellite on-demand. •



Good Side of Bad, courtesy Charming Stranger Films.



Morgan Rojas

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The Jr. Sparks Girls Basketball Championship Game Took Place at Crypto Arena



A tournament was held at the Betty Ainsworth Sports Center in collaboration with the LA Sparks, and the top two teams held their final game in the legendary arena. The final matchup was between Lady Premier Elite and NSB, with NSB taking home the trophy. Thank you to all the teams that participated, and congrats to the winners. Photo courtesy City Of Hawthorne Facebook page.

For the Birds: Project Phoenix and Citizen Scientists Partner

By Tommy Vinh Bui, MLIS Associate Librarian, Inglewood Public Library

Year after year wildfires devastate the southland and the city is continually reeling from the indiscriminate destruction that is seemingly becoming the new normal. But against all odds the city proves itself resilient and recovery efforts are nothing short of heroic as the city bounces back as strong as ever. But through all the ravages of climate change, we sometimes forget the effect these conflagrations have on the local wildlife. And that’s where we citizen scientists can step in and remedy that oversight.

Ornithologists are beseeching the help of volunteers in California to assist with Project Phoenix which is a multiyear research project that explores the relationship between wildfire and the local bird population. No special pair of binoculars or any previous birdwatching experience necessary. Just use your bare peepers and have a gander in your very own backyard. All it takes is a mere ten minutes each week and you’ll be making meaningful contributions to science’s understanding of the impact of wildfires on our flying feathery friends overhead.

Project Phoenix is a partnership between UCLA and the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum seeking astute goose glimpsers to help collect data from July through November which is historically peak wildfire season on the West Coast of the United States. Citizen Scientists can contribute from the comfort of beanbag chairs plopped down in the backyard. Just spend ten minutes at any location be it a balcony, back porch, or neighborhood park and observe bird activity and then record your valuable findings on the online platform eBird. All levels of birders welcome and the only requisite is an insatiable desire to help scientists form a better

understanding of the relationship between birdlife and catastrophic natural disasters.

In a nutshell, Project Phoenix will help researchers better understand the effects of wildfire smoke on birds. The more diverse and rich the data set collected, the better concerned ornithologists can help propose mitigation strategies and policies to protect vulnerable native birds in Los Angeles and across California. Researchers will perform an analysis on volunteer data and compare with smoke distribution data to detect discernable patterns in bird behavior. To assist vigilant pigeon-peeper volunteers, resources will also be made available to help distinguish between and identify local common species and other practical bird behavior background information.

Critical data culled from this project has already provided precious insights. The project data from the first two years of Project Phoenix yielded conclusively that the presence of soot particles from wildfire smoke deters certain bird species from occupying

See Birds, page 8



Tommy Vinh Bui

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Lawndale Tribune

AND LAWNDALE NEWS The Weekly Newspaper of Lawndale

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A Fun Day at the RAP Summer Quest 2025 Color Run



This summer, our students had the amazing opportunity to participate in RAP's (Realizing Amazing Potential) Summer Quest, Lawndale Elementary School District's (LESD) enriching summer program. One of the favorite activities this summer was the Color Run, which encouraged kids to have fun and get active while embodying the unifying and collaborative spirit that the program aims to foster. Students enjoyed running under the balloon arch with their friends, getting sprayed with water, and covering their white shirts with colorful powder. What a fun event. Photo courtesy Lawndale Elementary School District Facebook page.

Grand Club

from front page

baby, an infant, a child. This will enrich you in ways you never expected. Indeed, the baby is just being introduced into the world and the universe. "Where am I"? the newborn seems to be asking. You will assure the child that this is a safe place. Your smiling face is the sky he looks at.

Yes, I am keeping an album. On the day of our grandchild's birth, I bought two newspapers and one magazine. Hence, down the road, the "little one" can see what was going on that very special day. I have also bought and done, variously, at least all of the following: Diapers, clothes, toys, food, flowers, run multiple errands, taken out trash, cleaned things, carried furniture, held the baby, listened to information that I never previously knew much about, which now seems to be top priority – from the color of his poop, to when he is calm, to the remarkable nature of a mother's breast milk – and I am ready 24/7. SB GP at your service! That stands for: Stand By Grand Parent.

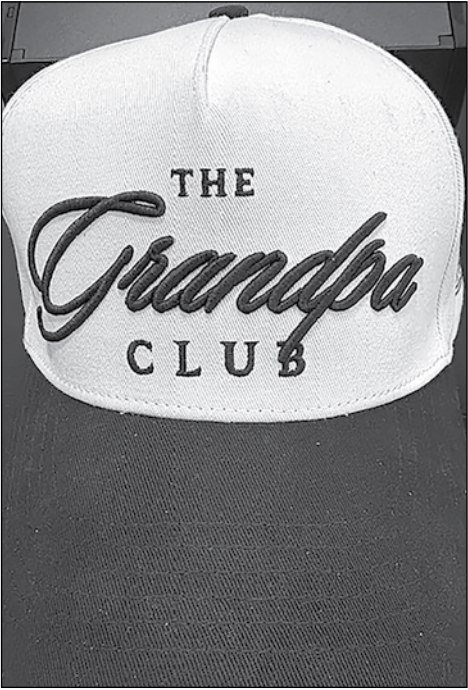
Could I teach a class on grandparenting? Hardly. It would be more silly than serious. Being a part of this unique club "just happens". One day, you are a bit older than many. You

may be a dad, a mom, a brother, a sister, a friend, an Uncle, or an Aunt, and then you become a member of the Grandparents Club. It lights up the whole stage. It is one of the coolest, if not the very coolest, stripe on your uniform. You look in the mirror, and you might even salute yourself! •

One observation so far that I am keeping nearly tucked away in my heart and mind is that of my son and daughter-in-law leaning over the crib, fawning over their newborn. I have known my son all of his life, and my daughter-in-law for nearly ten years. They have not done anything like this before. It is not at all surprising, yet at the same time, it is a bit astonishing. The world goes away; the only thing that matters is that little baby. The center of the universe becomes a newborn who understands so very little, who is rather helpless, who is going to have a life, who, incredibly, will become a grandparent as well, many years down the road. Circle of life indeed.

I have become a member of the Grandpa Club. I don't remember signing up or paying any membership fees. No one quite voted me in, but to be sure: I ain't complainin'.

Getting older is not for the faint of heart. Was it Bette Davis who said that? I don't disagree, but getting older does have its perks. So, I am thinking of getting myself an embossed card,



The Grandpa Club.

"Proud Member of the Grandparents Club". That way, if someone needs my calling card, I just hand it to them. Except my son reminds me, "Dad, just leave the hat on!" •



Trusty Companion.



Tiny Feet. Images Provided by Ron Sokol.



Baby Crib.

Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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Summer Magic at Movie in the Park



Saturday, July 12 at De Portola Park was an unforgettable night under the stars as families and friends gathered for an epic screening of *Moana 2*. From cozy blankets to glowing smiles, the park came alive with laughter, music, and community spirit. With over 500 in attendance, we want to give a huge Thank You to everyone who joined us and made it such a special evening. Special thanks to our Movie Sponsor — Club SciKidz for supporting this magical event and joining us on-site. And a big shoutout to our amazing food vendors who kept everyone fueled and happy: Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck; Pinch of Flavor Truck; Chicken King; and Popa Churro — your sweet treats were a hit. Also in attendance were Madrona Marsh, Torrance Library and El Camino College. Thank you for sharing your resources and connecting with our community. Mark your calendars — the fun continues. Join us for our next Movie in the Park on Saturday, August 9 at Wilson Park featuring *Sonic 3*. You won't want to miss it. Photo courtesy Torrance Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

Morgan Rojas

from front page

all the content. Visitors to cinemacy.com will find not only reviews, but also interviews, soundtrack premieres, and articles designed to spur “new insights and perspectives.” She is a Rotten Tomatoes-certified film critic and has additionally been a member of various guilds, including the Online Association of Female Critics and Hollywood Critics Association.

Until last year, Morgan's brother, Ryan, was a contributing critic, and the two would alternate reviews in the paper. She is now a solo act. “Ryan was integral in the early days of getting Cinemacy off the ground,” she said. “We've always been close, and it was such a natural fit for us to grow Cinemacy together.” In doing so, the siblings traveled all over the country to attend prominent film festivals, including Sundance, Tribeca, SXSW, and AFI Fest. “Over the last couple of years, Ryan has been getting progressively busier with his work as a social content producer and has made the difficult choice to step back from Cinemacy for the time being. But he is still a total cinephile and proud AMC A-List member, and we talk about movies all the time.”

Morgan grew up in neighboring Hollywood, and her family moved to El Segundo for her sophomore year of high school. Her education here jumpstarted her involvement in the world of mass media, albeit initially in a different role. “I attended El Segundo High School and took a video production class for three years, which led to my first job as a reporter for El Segundo TV at 15 years old,” she said. Next, she studied at Chapman University, where she majored in Journalism/TV Production. Morgan's intention at that juncture was to become a news reporter. “Even though my trajectory has shifted since graduation, I still return to

Chapman every year as a guest speaker for the film school's Entertainment Journalism in the 21st Century seminar.”

Morgan described her overall career journey as “non-linear” with never a dull moment and plenty of exciting twists and turns. One of her first positions after college was as a production assistant on film and commercial sets. “I then worked my way into an executive/creative assistant role at a boutique studio where I worked alongside some of the most inspiring filmmakers,” she said, listing Hiro Murai, the Daniels (Kwan and Scheinert), and Nabil among other notables. “During this time, I was also getting more involved in music supervision, and eventually I transitioned full-time into that world.” She earned a certificate for music supervision from UCLA Extension and continues to take on various projects from that realm to this day. Currently, she heads the Public Relations department at the commercial production company PRETTYBIRD and the Oscar-nominated creative studio Ventureland.

Given the sheer volume of films she has seen over the last 13 years alone, and acknowledging that her tastes evolve over time, Morgan found it hard to pinpoint an absolute all-time favorite title. That said, she zeroed in on the ones that make her “fall in love with the movies all over again.” That shortlist includes *The Lobster*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Cleo from 5 to 7*, and—in particular—*Mean Girls*. With a wide and diverse appreciation of various genres, Morgan refuses to be pigeonholed.

On the personal side, Morgan lives with her fiancé, Paul, and their dog, Kenny, in the historic Mt. Washington neighborhood in Northeast Los Angeles. Brother Ryan resides close by in Los Feliz. Her parents, Larry and Sandra Rojas, still live in El Segundo with

two pups of their own. When not immersed in her screen-focused world, she likes to unplug in what she described as a “pretty extreme way.” She puts on the underwater gear and goes scuba diving.

With over a decade of film analyses under her belt, Morgan is happy to get the word out through the local paper and offer something a little different from the usual. “I love how

open-minded the Herald has been in sharing our reviews, as they definitely lean more towards independent films and smaller titles over big blockbusters,” she said. “Basically, I love having the ability to amplify diverse films and voices—especially in the indie scene—and appreciate the Herald for helping share some of the smaller films with their audience.” •



Morgan Rojas. Photo provided by Ryan Rojas.

Congratulations to Wendy Jacques on Her Retirement



Thank you for 34 years of dedicated service to the Inglewood Police Department. Wendy, good luck and we wish you much happiness on your new journey. Photo courtesy Inglewood Police Department Facebook page.



GUNDOGRAM
SUBMIT YOUR YUM DISH!!

Grilled Swordfish Steaks with Citrus Salsa

Provided by Campbells Soup Corp.

Swordfish steaks are grilled and then topped with a scrumptious combination of picante sauce, fresh squeezed orange juice, chopped tomato, green onion, chopped orange and fresh cilantro. The combination of flavors is the perfect partner for the fish and best of all, it's ready in just 30 minutes.



Ingredients

- 2 oranges
- 3/4 cup Pace® Picante Sauce or Pace® Citrus Pineapple Salsa
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantroleaves
- 1 medium tomato, chopped (about 1 cup)
- 2 chopped green onion, sliced (about 1/4 cup)
- 1 1/2. pounds swordfish steak, 1-inch thick (about 4 steaks)

Send us a photo and recipe of your favorite dish. We'd love to share it with the community. Send to: web@heraldpublications.com

Directions

- **Step 1:** Grate 1 teaspoon zest and squeeze 2 tablespoons juice from 1 orange. Peel and coarsely chop the remaining orange to make 1 cup.
- **Step 2:** Stir the picante sauce, orange zest, orange juice and cilantro in a medium bowl. Reserve 1/2 cup picante sauce mixture to baste the fish. Stir the chopped orange, tomato and onions in the bowl with the remaining picante sauce mixture. Cover and refrigerate.
- **Step 3:** Lightly oil the grill rack and heat the grill to medium. Grill the fish for 10 minutes or until cooked through, turning the fish over once halfway through the grilling time and brushing often with the reserved picante sauce mixture. Discard the remaining reserved picante sauce mixture.
- **Step 4:** Serve the fish with the orange mixture.

Recipe Tips

- **Serving Suggestion:** Serve with hot cooked brown rice tossed with chopped green onion and smashed peas with cilantro. For dessert serve yogurt and fresh berry parfaits.

PETSPETS

Pets

PETSPETS

PETSPETS

Featured Pets of the Week

Provided by Hannah Collett, spcaLA

Meet **Nerf**, a stunning male domestic short hair grey cat with a personality is as big as his heart. At 2 years old, Nerf loves nothing more than to be brushed by volunteers and he can often be found making biscuits on your lap. Nerf would fit well with any family! Come visit him today at spcaLA South Bay Pet Adoption Center! <https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-19090>



Nerf

[adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-19615](https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-19615)

Meet **Kimmel**! Kimmel is a handsome and playful 8-week-old domestic short hair male kitten. He is neutered and microchipped and is ready to meet his Friends for Life! Kimmel's ideal home is one where he can make new friends, receive lots of affection, and play with toys. Come meet this social boy today! <https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-19090>



Kimmel

Meet **Chestnut**! Chestnut is as goofy as he is cute. This male 4-month-old Pit Bull Terrier mix loves to run and play ball followed by a dip in the kiddie pool on a hot day. He is very social and friendly to everyone he meets. He would make a wonderful new addition to any family. Come say hello to this silly boy today! <https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-19608>



Chestnut

Jerry is a 4-year-old male black and tan German Shepherd mix with a heart of gold. This sweet boy is very active and loves to spend time with staff and volunteers. He likes playing with his toys and sitting for treats. If you're looking for an active partner who enjoys going for a hike and then lounging at home, Jerry is your guy! <https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-18712> •



Jerry

Birds

from page 3

certain regions of Los Angeles. And that birds have been displaced and are relocating to new grounds to avoid declining air quality, i.e., soot saturated skies and are becoming territorial to heretofore unclaimed pockets of green spaces.

So flock to the project and maybe spare a few minutes weekly to a worthwhile cause.

Stake out that birdfeeder, keep a weather eye on the horizon, and keep your ears peeled for any new warbling and chirps that seem unique to your corner of the map. And you'll be making a significant contribution to bird conservation statewide and providing a boost to the wellbeing of our amity avian allies everywhere. •

Seniors

from page 7

vitality. New for 2025, the brand has introduced Impatiens Beacon® Chicago Mixture, named for the Chicago Harbor Lighthouse, including Violet Shades, White and the new Blue Pearl, and Impatiens Beacon® Otway Mixture, featuring clear, bright colors in warm shades including Lipstick, Rose and the new Light Pink. Beacon® Impatiens are disease-resistant varieties and their mixes are named after renowned lighthouses worldwide, particularly where the disease impatiens downy mildew has caused intense challenges that Beacon® Impatiens has solved. Visit [BeaconImpatiens.com/HelloBeacon](https://BeaconImpatiens.com>HelloBeacon) to find more inspiration for your garden therapy from PanAmerican Seed. •