

Seniors

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class, you may still enter if there is room and provided you intend to complete the session. She does not want people to just drop in once or twice.

A list of simple required supplies will be issued. Most projects will be begun and completed in a morning. Some may take two classes. Each session has different projects from the session before since many of her students are returning. In the past, they have made ribbon banners, collages of colors and shapes, and collages of cutout words and sentences, which she calls "Letters from the Unconscious Self." She gives directions, but there is plenty of opportunity for individual approaches.

Manhattan Beach is lucky to have an artist

of this caliber volunteering her time, though she says, "I just provide a structure where something can happen, and the students can experience themselves.

They become open to trying new things." It must work. Responding to her questionnaire at the end of each class about what they liked best, students have made such comments as, "Learning to look into my soul..." "Thinking outside the box..." and "Learning to open my eyes and see things differently..." Casey says the pleasure is hers too. "I am charged up just being with them. It feels good."

To register for her class, call 310-802-5447. Karen Russo can be reached at kkrusso@aol.com. •

History

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showed a profit. The business was taken out of the "red" with a \$600,000 gross in the first year. Evan Shaw and Metlox were to go on to become a world leader in ceramic dinnerware and artware.

Metlox Pottery was the oldest and largest manufacturer in Manhattan Beach at its height of production. It employed some 500 people and was the last of the five major American pottery manufacturers. The demise of the facility was in 1989, when the entire complex was razed. More of Shaw's biography can be obtained in *A Walk Beside the Sea*.

As employment and businesses grew, so did the population. Thousands of families were leaving the "Frost Belt" for the sunshine of Southern California.

In Manhattan Beach, schools could not be built fast enough to keep up with the increase in student population. Actual school budget for 1947/48 was \$248,916 with an average daily student attendance of 1,263. This figure, however, did not take into consideration high school students, who mostly attended Redondo Beach Union High School.

At this time, there were two elementary schools in the Manhattan Beach City School District: Grandview Elementary and Center Street School, which in 1948 provided some of the buildings for Pacific School. With the arrival of Forster A. Begg as the District's new administrative superintendent, the upgrading of the school system began.

The first school to be built east of Sepul-

veda Boulevard was Manhattan Heights Elementary, located at 6th and Herrin streets. In 1946, a \$275,000 bond was passed and plans were approved by 1947. The setting of the cornerstone was celebrated the same year.

The school setting was in an extremely rural area consisting of rutty dirt roads, with horse trails and no sidewalks. The area was made up of many ranches and farms. In 1987, it was thought the City of Manhattan Beach would purchase part of the closed school grounds. However, the facility was later razed, with a housing tract replacing the old school site.

In May of 1948, another elementary school was dedicated, this time a private school--American Martyr's Elementary. This facility was a dream of Father Edmond O'Donnell, who arranged in 1944 for the parish to buy a plot of several acres on a sand hilltop west of Laurel and 17th Street. At a cost of \$150,000, the school was to house 240 students. Over the years, the eight classrooms became inadequate and several more rooms have been added to handle hundreds of students.

The parochial school was staffed by eight Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and two lay teachers. "Manhattan Beach was one of the fastest growing and potentially one of the most attractive small cities in California..." So it was stated in the *Manhattan Beach News*. As the community continued to grow, so did the need for a high school!

To be continued... •

Bruins

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song "Don't Stop Believin'" as their late-inning, comeback anthem.

Said the aging crooner with the throwback hairstyle: "It tweaks me to know they're using the song as a rally song. I really wished we'd have hijacked it first. I think the song is about hope and power, and it is working for them, damn it!" Course it doesn't hurt Los Dodgers to have the amazing Andre Ethier come to the plate in the late innings with the game on the line. Say what you will about Man-Ram, Ethier is *the* man who has been the difference-maker this season.

Finally, mercifully some would say, the LA Kings have begun tuning up for the upcoming NHL season, pointing towards opening night on October 3 when they host the bankrupt Phoenix Coyotes in their regular season opener. The Kings PR machine will do their jobs diligently, as always, touting their young talent, trying to keep fan interest up as the squad, coming off a 14th place Conference finish in '08-'09, attempts to make it to the playoffs for the first time since the '01-'02 season.

The time is now for the Kings to take the next step forward. Much like I did when playing pool the other night. And the Kings

know it. And aren't afraid to talk about it. Said Coach Terry Murray, on the Kings' website: "You have to address the fact that we are trying to make the playoffs. That's our goal, and we'd be very disappointed if that doesn't happen."

A key to the Kings' success, or lack of it, in the next seven months, will be the play of their goaltenders. Jonathan Quick, 23, ended last season as the presumed number one goalie, pickin -up 21 wins and compiling a goals-against average of 2.48. Erik Ersberg, 27, enters his third season with the Kings. He tallied eight wins last season, with a GAA of 2.64. Jonathan Bernier, who opened up the '07-'08 season as the number one net-minder with LA before being sent away for more experience, is back in camp with a shot at a job. Bernier was the Kings' first-round pick in the '06 entry draft, so the organization obviously has/had high hopes for the 21-year-old goalie.

Whoever seizes the starting spot will need to make the routine save routinely. Bad goals can deflate a team, and the Kings seem to have been the victim of a bunch of questionable scores in the past few seasons. As we all have, mates! •

Penguin

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hosted a lavish, over-the-top corporate gig? Lemme see...Trying to reference it, but I am struggling with it? Who is the gold-digger? I mean who was the corporate executive trying to drum up some more business? Do you remember? Lemme know at franklyplank@gmail.com.

Do you listen to the talk radio stuff? Specifi-

cally, the political/newstalk stuff? Limbaugh and his ilk? Just wondering. I listen a bit to the guy on KABC, Doug McIntyre. Used to listen to the old show on the same station with Ken Minyard and Bob Arthur. *Ken and Bob Company*, they called it, I believe. Guess my radio dial is stuck on AM790. And to think some say I may be stuck in the 70s... •

Mustangs

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a big-time sack of Huusfeldt to thwart the Aztecs' six-minute drive.

The Mustangs took to a more conservative approach in the second half, and with it they were limited to just two first downs. They did however get in range for Norocea to make a 50-yard field goal with 2:31 left in the third quarter to make it 20-7.

The teams exchanged possessions once more, and when the Aztecs took over with 10:41 left in the game they went on a 12-play drive that ate up over six minutes of the fourth quarter. The Aztecs got into the end zone on a five-yard pass play to make it 20-14 with 4:30 left on the clock. The Mustangs offense then fell out of sync and Esperanza got the ball back a minute later.

Starting on their own 22-yard line, the Aztecs continued their option attack. But this time, Huusfeldt used his arm to find his receivers instead of running.

He connected with Dustin Derieg on consecutive plays to get the ball to the Mustang five yard line with 18 seconds in the game. Then with 13.9 seconds showing on the

clock, Huusfeldt found Stubblefield alone in the back of the end zone for the winning touchdown pass, and the Mustangs' great effort for the night went awry.

Though the Mustangs came out on the losing end of this game, coach Don Morrow said that games like this would serve his veteran team well as the season continues. "These players know from last year that a loss like this isn't the end of the world, but it's something to learn and build on," he said.

Demarco, who was 8-for-23 passing for 179 yards and two touchdowns, said the loss was disappointing because of how well he thought the team played.

"We've just got to put this behind us and get ready for our next game and be resilient like we played last year; we'll be all right," he said.

The Mustangs (1-2) host Narbonne (1-1) Friday night at 7 p.m. The Gauchos are coming off a 28-14 loss to perennial power Long Beach Poly. Narbonne will once again boast a strong running game behind Sean Parker and Melvin Davis. •

Buyer's Market

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when compared to communities in Southern California's northeastern areas like the Inland Empire, where there's been a much greater amount of new housing construction, along with sub-prime mortgages. Still, the South Bay's higher-end communities have been pinched by lenders still reluctant to extend so-called jumbo loans, even to buyers with solid credit and investment histories.

Jumbo loans ---- loans above \$417,000 --- accounted for nearly 40 percent of all home purchases before the market meltdown two years ago. They accounted for 15.6 percent of all loans in August. That's from January's low of 9.3 percent.

Some market watchers like Tim Iacono, a regular contributor to the online market blog site seekingalpha.com, see a lot of similarities between the today's buying trends and those three or four years ago. "Investors are said to be snapping up homes at a blistering pace, accounting for some 20 percent of all sales, up from 18 percent last month," Iacono wrote

on his blog last week. A surge in buyers who are looking to take advantage of the soon-to-expire \$8,000 home buyers tax credit, the seasonally lower mix of foreclosures sales, the inventory of foreclosed homes now in the pipeline but still kept off the market, and the rise in overall median prices heavily influenced by higher-priced units "may all be contributing to a picture of rising prices that is not consistent with reality," according to Iacono. "Maybe it's just me," he added, "but this is starting to feel like 2005/2006 all over again."

For his own part, Clark, owner of the Dale S. Clark Co., agrees the market will likely "reset" and go through at least one more period of slowed growth before it fully gets back on the track to positive growth. And then he continued, "I think it will take all of next year for it to fully recover." In the meantime, Clark said, "For someone ready, willing and able, the time to buy is right now...I really think it's going to be a good year." •

Opinion

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company that pays no taxes, has no need to make a profit, has unlimited access to capital at the lowest possible rate, could never go bankrupt, and could lower premiums endlessly, private companies would be driven from the market. Voile, we would have a single payer system run by government czars. Simple, no?

While there are very legitimate questions regarding various proposals to improve the healthcare system, the core argument is about the proper role of government.

Interestingly, we have heard financial and political arguments for abandoning our current system, but we have not heard many argue that the reform will improve the quality of patient care from doctors, hospitals and other care givers. After all, isn't that what healthcare is really about?

Finally, gratuitous pandering by the President is insulting. Does anyone seriously believe:

He will add 30-46 million people to the roll of insured people at a cost of nearly \$1 trillion but will not add one penny to the budget deficit? A Rasmussen poll says 51

percent of the public does not believe him, and believes instead that the plan will cause their taxes to increase.

The President says the Public Option would be financed solely from premium payments and not taxpayer support. If that is true, who would fund the initial \$7 billion to \$8 billion required to start the company of this size and scope? Taxpayers, of course!

The President says he will cut Medicare spending, with all reductions coming from elimination of administrative waste, not from reductions in service. If waste were that rampant, why doesn't he eliminate that waste now, with or without healthcare reform? And doesn't that level of waste reflect on the government's ineptitude in running a major healthcare program?

Here's a last thought to keep in the back of your head. The President said Illegals would not be eligible for health care benefits. However he also proposed legal amnesty for the 12-20 million here illegally, after which they would be eligible for benefits. Clever.

Look out, folks, he thinks we're dumb. •