

ElSegundoHerald

The Weekly Newspaper of El Segundo

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Weekend Weather Forecast

Friday

Partly Cloudy

69°



Saturday

Partly Cloudy

63°



Sunday

Mostly Sunny

69°



UK Lacrosse Teams Visit ES



El Segundo sophomore defenseman Nate Edwards against Long Beach earlier this season. Photo by Jeff Reed.

See Lacrosse, page 7

It's an El Segundo Ballroom Blitz

By Jesse Blake McCann

Several years ago, Marvin Cameron had an operation on his left knee. Late last year, his right knee went under the knife. He said he wore them out after a long career as a mailman. But even after all that work on his knees, it still didn't stop the 1939 Centinela Valley jitterbug champion from hitting the dance floor. "I got up and danced as soon as I could," Cameron said.

Cameron, 89, dances three times a week. He does the cha cha and he does the rumba, but he especially loves his swing dance. And one of the spots he hits is the El Segundo Joslyn Center for ballroom dancing.

Every Saturday night from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., a large room in the Joslyn Center becomes alive with people sweeping across it ballroom-style. For the price of \$3, attendees are provided with music and a dance floor, along with snacks and raffle prizes.

The ballroom participants welcome new people and they don't let them sit on the sides, Dance Chairperson Shirley Williams, 81, said. Somebody will go over and make him or herself known. At the last dance, even a certain reporter covering a story was not excused from the dance floor.

Williams is one of the attendees who talks to people and gets them to dance. She understands the value of friendly people from traveling with her husband. "I've lived all over the country and gone in many, many places where we knew no one," Williams said, "And so I know that it's nice to have somebody just come up to you and talk to you when you're in a strange place."

If single guys come and do nothing, other attendees sit with them, talk to them, and point out the single ladies, Williams said. "Then dance with them to get them warmed up for [the single ladies!]" Williams said.

Williams has been running the dance with her husband John, 85, for a year and a half.

"It's been very rewarding because the people are all so nice," Shirley Williams said, "We don't have to worry about fights or anything; all we have to worry about is hugging!"

Usually 40 to 60 people show up each week, Williams said. The general age group of the attendees is 50 and up, but it's open to anyone over 18.

Ballroom dancing may call to mind a formal event involving couples dancing in tuxes and long dresses. But the atmosphere at the Joslyn Center is casual and there is a variety of dances and music. Last Saturday there was a song that involved hopping with a partner at certain cues, tango music, and synchronized dancing to "Mambo Number Five." Also, the same three line dances are held every week, Williams said. This gives

the single people a chance to dance because line dancing doesn't require a partner.

Ed Fiester, 82, is the DJ for the event. He also teaches West Coast Swing for the Los Angeles Swing Dance Club. If the people want different music, Fiester said he has a wide variety. He has 10 CDs, and each one has about 25 numbers on it. DJ Fiester also plays music people bring in, Williams said.

In the middle of the bop n' boogie, the attendees get to rest their feet at a snack break. They move from the dance floor and gather in another room at long tables covered with red and checkered table clothes. Cookies, chips, coffee, and punch are served and people sit, eat, talk, and laugh. Attendees are invited

See Ballroom, page 3

Read the Herald and Sun on the Web!

If you happened to miss a week of the Herald or Sun or maybe want to check out an article or ad from a previous issue, you can now do so online by visiting our website Heraldpublications.com.

It took us awhile to finally jump on the Internet bandwagon, but we feel this additional coverage will provide a wonderful benefit to our readers, writers and advertisers. A special thank you is in order to El Segundo Mayor Pro Tem Eric Busch, who contacted us months ago and encouraged us to take the plunge.

This week, you can view the El Segundo Herald and Manhattan Beach Sun editions published on April 23 and

24 respectively. We'll continue to post the prior week editions from this point forward. We'll feature every individual page from both papers, including all editorial, classifieds and advertising, so you won't miss a beat!

Both papers will of course continue to be available at news racks all over El Segundo and Manhattan Beach as well as being delivered door-to-door to residences. So we'll be sure to get you the news one way or another.

Cheers!

Heidi Maerker
Editor-in-Chief