

Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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Weekend Forecast

Friday
Sunny
76°/54°



Saturday
Sunny
76°/56°



Sunday
Sunny
71°/56°



Calavera Artists at Tortilla Cantina



Tortilla Cantina in Downtown Torrance held their first annual Sugar Skull drawing contest on October 24. Sugar Skulls are a traditional folk art from southern Mexico used to celebrate the Day of the Dead where families take flowers and sugar skulls to decorate the tombs of their departed loved ones on November 2. Pictured (L to R) showing off their drawings are Mia, Mylene, Ava, Daven, Michael and John. Photo provided by Tortilla Cantina. •

Voters Decide Ragins, Lee To Serve Another Term On School Board

By Cristian Vasquez

Torrance voters reelect Don Lee and Terry L. Ragins to the Torrance School Board on Tuesday night.

Lee, School Board President, garnered 4,770 votes [32.99 percent] and Ragins, who also represents the board in the Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SoCal ROC) Joint Powers Authority, registered 4,516 votes [31.23 percent]. Finishing third in the votes was G. Rick Marshall with 2,898 [20.04 percent] of ballots cast in his favor, while Clint A. Paulson registered 2,277 [15.75 percent] votes.

With the election over, Lee is focusing his energy on getting the district to move forward and accomplish several goals.

“To get the rest of the bond projects done on time, on budget and take care of rebuilding the budget from when it was decimated back in 2009, 2010 and 2011” Lee said. “That is the task at hand.”

Paulson, who manages government contracts with Raytheon, lives in the Southwood neighborhood with wife, three children and a child for which the couple are legal guardians. Paulson has a history of service by aiding homeless families with kids in the community and serves on the Board of Directors of Family Promise of the South Bay.

“I am very fortunate to be involved with other organizations in the South Bay and that will be my focus going forward, as well as my continued involvement coaching various sports; my family will continue to work at our local school site to try and do what we can to make things better,” Paulson said. “I raised issues in the election that I thought needed to be raised in order for use to have the type of schools that I want for my kids in Torrance. I am still a little stunned that more people didn’t seem as concerned about those issues as I am.”

Marshall is a current City of Torrance Water Commission member and has served five years

as a coordinator for Prison Fellowship’s Project Angel Tree, a program dedicated to providing gifts to children of incarcerated prisoners during Christmas time. Marshall lives with his wife and two daughters, a college sophomore and high school sophomore.

Despite criticism from the challengers over statewide curriculum changes, a recent scandal involving a wrestling coach and the use of funds from bond measures, including approving certain contracts, voters were not convinced that a change in leadership was necessary.

“The opposition was loud but clearly there was a pretty big margin between their vote totals and ours,” Lee said. “The community likes what is happening at the school district.”

Lee remains focused on all that has been accomplished by the board, as well as working

toward improving the quality of education for the students and family the district serves. Working with a limited budget has been a challenge for the school board for several years. While revenues are trickling back into the district’s coffers, proper money management continues to be a high priority for board members.

“It isn’t like somebody has back up a dump truck full of money and we get to spend it freely; there are still limited resources,” Lee said. “The thing about school districts is that their budgets expand and contract, historically, every seven to ten years. You have to keep your eye on what we you had in the past but you have to keep your eye and what can come in.”

It is expected for the district to reach budgetary levels similar to those in 2007, before the financial meltdown, by 2020. •

Torrance Unified School District 2015 Election Results*

There were four candidates running for two spots.

Don Lee, Incumbent, School Board member from 2007-2015

Terry Ragins, Incumbent, School Board member from 2003-2015, Graduate, Ohio State University and Washington University

G. Rick Marshall, Graduate, Sterling College, Information technology, University of California Irvine Medical Center.

Clint Andrew Paulson, Contracts Manager

CANDIDATE	PERCENT	VOTES
DON LEE	32.99%	4,770
TERRY L. RAGINS	31.23%	4,516
G. RICK MARSHALL	20.04%	2,898
CLINT ANDREW PAULSON	15.75%	2,277

*results to date as of publishing.

Excellence in Arts Awards 2015

TerriAnn Ferren
Photos by TerriAnn Ferren

Last weekend, the 38th Annual Excellence in Arts Awards took place in Torrance, with the Cultural Arts Commission, the Torrance City Council Members, and Assemblyman

David Hadley all on hand to congratulate the winners. The winners of this years Excellence in Arts Awards are; Allyson Lockhart for Dance, Ready, Willing and Mabel for Music, David Wolfram for Visual Arts & Design, Ted Lange for Literary Arts, Larry Watts for Drama & Theatre Arts, and Patrick Tierney was presented the Dr. Tom Rische Arts Education Award. •



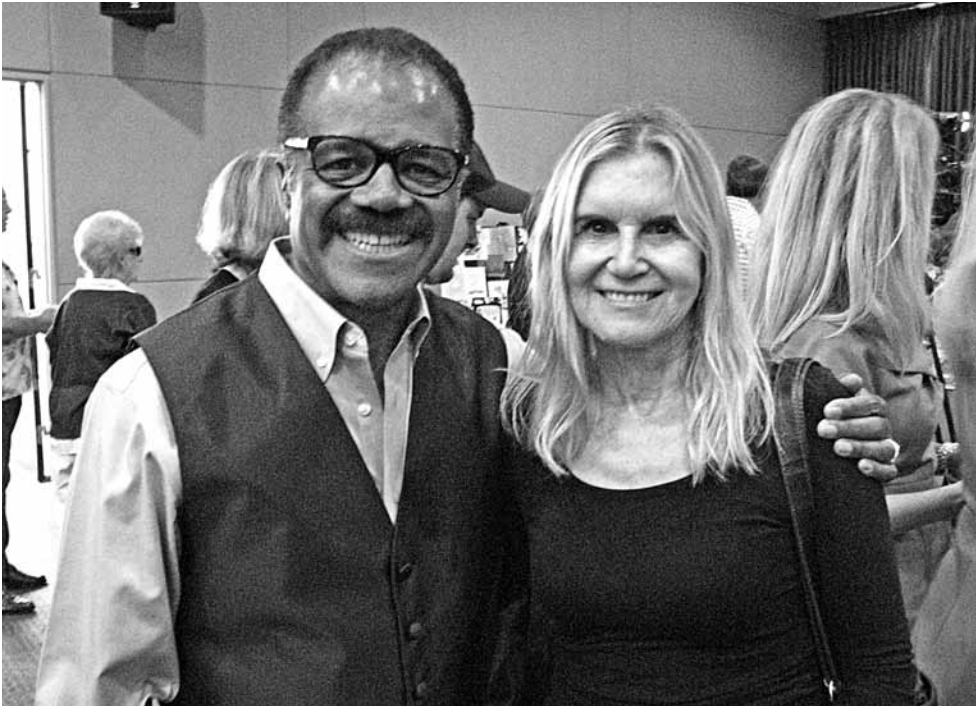
Debbie Collins, Eve Rappoport and Gia Jordahl.



Assemblyman David Hadley and Ted Lange.



City Clerk Rebecca Poirier and General Services Director, Sheryl Ballew.



Ted and Mary Lange.



Excellence in Arts Award winners, council members and commissioners.

Torrance Fire Chief Getting Closer To His Retirement Date

By Cristian Vasquez

Torrance Fire Chief William Racowschi always envisioned his career taking an upward trajectory that would, after many years, eventually slow down and taper off for a smooth landing. However, the reality is a bit different for the 35-year-veteran of the Torrance Fire Department.

“I feel like my trajectory is still going up,” chuckled Racowschi “I am waiting for it to start slowing down.”

As the Fire Chief ties up the type of loose ends that only exist after a lifetime of service with the department, he is at ease about the decision and looks forward to what awaits in retirement.

“I have been with the Torrance Fire Department for two thirds of my life and it is always going to be a part of my life,” Racowschi said. “This job is all about people; we don’t get anything done without people. They make the job easier.”

Chief Racowschi has been pondering retirement for a little more than two years and now that the decision has been made, the transitioning phase has been smoother than deciding to call it a career.

“The big step about transitioning out is really making the decision to retire; that drives the transition itself,” Racowschi said. “Torrance is a great place to work; this is an organization made up of great people and it’s the same across the entire city organization, not only in the Fire Department. It is like a big family. I haven’t dreaded coming to work,

one day ever; even in what someone might consider a bad day, there are no bad days.”

Getting his career with the fire department started was not any easier than deciding to retire. Chief Racowschi recalled the long and arduous process to becoming a firefighter as a challenging, yet fulfilling experience.

“You have to meet deadlines constantly as part of the selection process: you have to apply at a certain time, be at a certain place to take a written exam, if you are lucky enough to pass or score high enough to be considered to go forward in the process, you have to perform your agility testing, which is another benchmark,” Racowschi said. “If you are fortunate enough to pass that, you have to be at an interview at a certain place at a certain time. You are tested all the way through the process.”

Once Chief Racowschi completed all the testing and interview requirements, opportunities became available with the Cities of Burbank, Culver City and Torrance. The City of Burbank acted first and offered the Chief a position where he worked for seven months, until the City of Torrance made an offer. Since 1980 the Chief has called the Torrance Fire Department home and never had plans of having that change.

“I always told myself that I would try going (advance) as far as my abilities would carry me,” said the Chief. “The City of Torrance takes the public safety commitment very

See Fire Chief, page 8



Fire Chief William Racowschi. Photo courtesy of TTFD.

Community Briefs

Senior Citizens Arts and Crafts Sale

Senior Citizens Arts and Crafts Sale, 2:30 pm at the Ken Miller Recreation Center, Saturday November 14th from 9:30am to 3341 Torrance Blvd.

TorranceAlerts System Implemented

The City of Torrance, in an effort to keep all residents, visitors and other interested persons informed in the event of an emergency, implemented its TorranceAlerts system earlier this year. TorranceAlerts is a free service provided by the City to enable residents to receive information from the City in the event of an emergency. Registration can be done online at TorranceCA.Gov/TorranceAlerts/ •

Police Reports

Theft 10/24/2015 9:05:00 PM 17100 BLOCK ATKINSON AVE

Suspect(s) takes property from residence without permission/ medication, cosmetics

Vandalism 10/24/2015 8:44 PM 21600 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD

Suspect(s) scratches victim’s vehicle’s paint

Burglary-Auto 10/25/2015 7:00:00 AM 16700 BLOCK YUKON AVE

Suspect(s) pulls window/door for entry and takes property/stereo, MP3

Burglary-Auto 10/27/2015 8:05:00 AM 3400 BLOCK 171ST ST

Suspect(s) cuts square out of door for entry and takes property/ tool belt, tools, crawl suit, climbing belt, tote

Battery-Simple 10/24/2015 12:29:00 PM

2100 BLOCK PLAZA DEL AMO

Suspect blocks victim’s path and repeatedly chest bumps him

Vandalism 10/27/2015 11:15:00 AM 4300 BLOCK 178TH ST

Suspect(s) smashes sliding glass door of vacant residence and squats inside residence/ no loss

Auto Theft 10/24/2015 7:10:03 AM 20800 BLOCK HIGGINS CT

Stolen vehicle: ‘08 Ford van

Burglary-Residential 10/24/2015 6:09:56 AM 22100 BLOCK LINDA DR

Suspect(s) enters possibly unlocked door and sleeps in residence

Battery-Simple 10/24/2015 5:04 AM 20400

See Police Reports, page 8

Legal Aid for Elders

Second Time Around, Wedding Plans Should Include Estate Planning

By R. Christine Brown, southbayelderlaw.com

Just as second and subsequent marriages are more complex, estate planning for second and subsequent marriages is also far more complex than first marriages. How do you protect your spouse and your children at the same time? Can you provide for everyone comfortably? How do you make sure that wealth is transferred to your children and not your spouses’ next spouse, if you should pass first? And how do you keep everyone’s feelings from being hurt? Start by taking an inventory of everything that you own, from high to low value. Ask your spouse to do the same. Compare notes – who do you want to get the collectible car, who should get the artwork, and who should get title to the vacation home? The most important part of this exercise is to start a conversation about the things you own, the people you love and how you would like your possessions to be distributed. Consider two scenarios – if you die first, or if your spouse dies first.

Anytime a blended family includes children from prior marriages, estate planning becomes more challenging, as reported in The Meridian Star, in “Estate planning after a second marriage.” If there are young children, how can you ensure that the surviving spouse will take care of them? And what if you pass away and your surviving spouse remarries? One way to prepare for this possibility is to make a child the primary beneficiary of a life insurance policy, place certain property under joint ownership with the child or set up a trust for your children. But none of these steps are simple, and all require the hard conversation with your spouse and with an experienced estate planning attorney.

If you have a written a will, it may require an update. Be extremely specific about which heir gets what and state bequests convincingly. The more convincing your bequest, the less ambiguity and the fewer issues that will arise.

Also, update your beneficiary designations for retirement plans, investment accounts, and insurance policies. However, if you’ve been divorced, you may be precluded from changing beneficiaries in certain cases. Talk to a qualified estate planning lawyer. Take a copy of your divorcee decree with you and ask if revising your beneficiary designations will violate it.

You can also take a look at irrevocable trusts, which can be used to provide for your spouse and your kids. Some people establish a separate property trust to provide for their spouse after their death and designate their real property to their children. Parents can also create irrevocable trusts to direct assets to particular children. These can be great estate planning vehicles because: (i) a trust agreement isn’t a public document; (ii) assets within irrevocable trusts are shielded from creditors and from inheritance claims of spouses of the adult children named as heirs; and (iii) an irrevocable trust represents a “finalized” estate planning decision—which guarantees that particular assets transfer to a parent’s biological children. In addition, irrevocable trusts are rarely undone.

Pre-nuptial agreements can also play a role in estate planning, as they let you to designate personal assets for existing rather than future children. Post-nuptial agreements(similar to pre-nups, but drafted after a marriage) can also do this, but some states don’t recognize these types of agreements, and sometimes this is up to a judge.

Be sure to consult with an experienced estate planning attorney. Estates with this level of complexity require professional legal assistance from those with a thorough understanding of estate planning and tax issues.

For more information and articles on estate planning and elder law topics, please visit our website and sign up for our free monthly e-newsletter. You can also friend our law practice’s Facebook page (R.Christine Brown).•



2nd Annual Community EXPO

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

At the Torrance Cultural Arts Center *Toyota Meeting Hall*

3330 Civic Center Drive in Torrance

From Noon - 7PM

Note: **Meet & Greet your elected South Bay Representatives including State Assemblyman David Hadley, Torrance Mayor Patrick J. Furey, Torrance Councilman Tim Goodrich, Torrance Councilman Mike Griffiths, Torrance Councilman Geoff Rizzo, Torrance Councilman Kurt Weideman, Torrance City Clerk Rebecca Poirier and others from 2-3pm!**

Free Admission and Free Parking • All Day Event
Innovative Gift Ideas from Local Vendors • Over 50 Display Tables
Free Samples • Gift Bags and Raffle Prizes

Support Your Local South Bay Small Business Owners!

- including:
- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 24kt Video and Sound | Jamerry Nails | Redondo Fitness Center |
| 30KFT | J. Hilburn Men's Clothing | Semel Vision Care |
| Affordable Bookkeeping & Payroll | Jimmy's Bar & Grill | Solutions One |
| Arbonne International | Lomita Chamber of Commerce | South Bay By Jackie |
| Bearly Marketing | Mary Kay | South Bay Reiki & Wellness |
| Bluff Cove Olive Oil Co. | Mattucci Real Estate | South Bay Trade Exchange |
| Caboose Apparel | Mattucci Tailors | South Bay Workforce Investment Board |
| Counseling4Kids | Miche Purses | Stars N Stripes |
| Critic's Choice Catering | Milton Herring For City Council 2016 | The Parlor Shop |
| CrossHairs USA Tactical | Mobile Visual Entertainment | Torey's Ballet Lessons |
| Divita Home Finance | Money Mailer of South Bay | Torrance Cultural Arts Center |
| Dr. Smile | Neal Bracewell State Farm Insurance | Torrance Education Foundation |
| Dubli | New American Funding | Torrance Fire Department |
| Epic Inkjets | New Challenge Ministries | Torrance Health IPA |
| First Class Auto | Nickerson Insurance | Torrance Police Department |
| Genesis Pure | Night Owl Dental | Torrance Rose Float Association |
| Julian SolarCity Guy | Nothing Bundt Cakes | Trekkers Tropical Fish |
| Kidz Resale Boutique | On Social Marketing | Volante Enc |
| Halo Photo Booth | Pommerenck Chiropractic and Wellness Clinic | World Financial Group |
| imFORZA | | Your Actualized Visions |
- AND MANY MORE!

Sponsored by the Unified Small Business Alliance, a group of small business owners from the South Bay whose mission is to work together to foster lasting economic ties and development. For additional information, go to www.usba.club or contact Aurelio Mattucci, am@usba.club or (310) 742-5754.



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*AV Rated (Highest) Martindale - Hubbell / **Certified Specialist Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law, State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization

Classifieds

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

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

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

APARTMENT FOR RENT
1BD upstairs apt. ES. Quiet complex, stove, fridge, pool, laundry, covered parking, storage. No smoking/pets. Avail. 11/1. \$1275 + \$1275 deposit w/copy of credit report. Leave message at (310) 322-8099.

APARTMENT FOR RENT
1BD1BA apartment immaculate, appliances, stove and refrigerator. 707 East Grand for \$1,595 a month. Avail. Nov. 7 (310)365-1481 or (310)641-2148.

APARTMENT FOR RENT
2BD1BA coin laundry, 1 parking spot, \$2000/mo. 350 1/2 Concord Street Unit B. Contact 310-322-6099.

EMPLOYMENT
Help Wanted: We are accepting applications for kitchen help and a cashier at Valentino's Pizza, Manhattan Beach and El Segundo locations. Some experience necessary. 310-318-5959.

EMPLOYMENT
Freelance Writer wanted for local community newspapers. Area to be covered is El Segundo, Torrance and nearby cities. Topics include local

events, people and other items of interest, possibly a city council or school board meeting. You must have some writing experience. Please send a sample of your writing and resume to management@heraldpublications.com. No phone calls please.

EMPLOYMENT
MARKET RSRCH ANALYST Internet Brands, Inc. has an opportunity in El Segundo, CA for a Dir of Prod Mgmt. Exp must incl exp creating compelling products & consumer experiences. Reqs incl Bachelor s deg & 5 yrs exp. Mail resume to Attn: HR, 909 N. Sepulveda Blvd, Fl 11, El Segundo, CA 90245, Ref #ESJPA. Must be legally auth to work in the U.S. w/out sponsorship. EOE

FOR LEASE
For Lease-1900 Sq.ft. free standing Building 122 W. Imperial \$4,500/Month Please Call Bill Ruane's office 310-647-1635

FOR SALE
For Sale- Player Piano, Lagonda, many rolls of music, \$500, OBO. 310-505-2528

FOR RENT
3 bedroom 2 full bath complete remodel. \$3500 10+ location, family room, fireplace, 2 car garage. 527 Sheldon front house. SL Property Management 310-350-4096

GARAGE SALE
Clothing and Home Goods sale Friday-Saturday: 11/6-11/7, 8am-1pm. New and used items. See Judy and Monique-857 Sheldon, El Segundo 90245.

HOUSE FOR RENT
1219 E. Mariposa, ES Home for rent 2 bed 1 Bath \$2,795.00/Month Call Bill Ruane's office 310-647-1635

SEEKING ROOM FOR RENT
Wanted Room for Rent in El Segundo or near by South Bay city. Local E.S. Senior Woman, active, self-reliant, Drives Range \$600-\$700 per month.(negotiable) Please contact Lisa on behalf of Senior, 310-906-7576 cell

YARD SALE
Saturday 11/7 648 West Sycamore Ave. ES. Table, bird bath, and plants.

Visit us online: www.heraldpublications.com

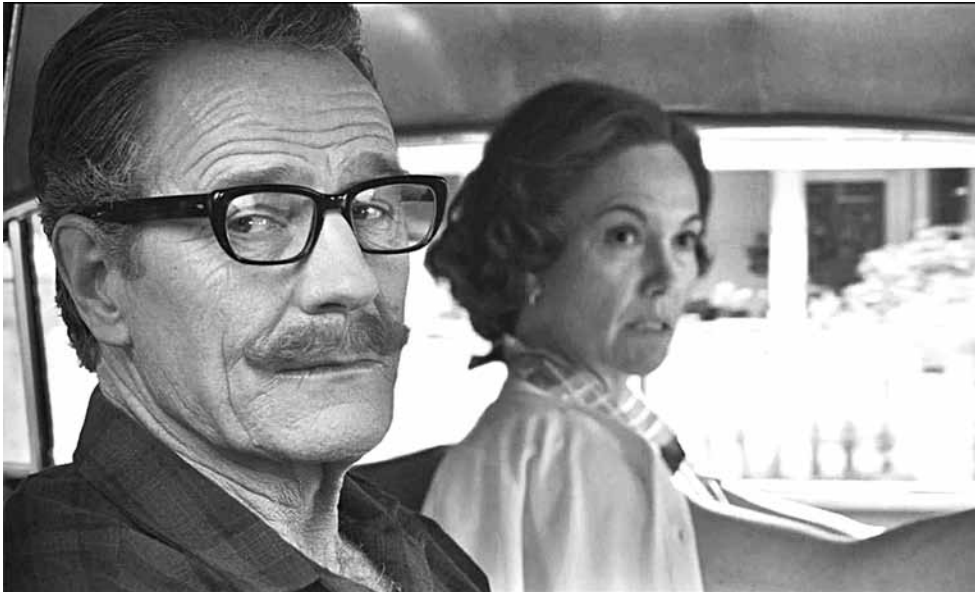
Film Review

Trumbo is Classic Hollywood Done Right with Bryan Cranston as Blacklisted Screenwriter

Jasper Bernbaum for CINEMACY

The Commies are having a moment in Hollywood. On the heels of the fantastic *Bridge of Spies* Cold War drama comes *Trumbo* - an earnest, if not clunky biopic about blacklisted Hollywood screenwriter Dalton Trumbo. It may seem odd that such a foreign concept

his couch, next to his wife and three children. Soon, Trumbo begins to fight back against the Communist prejudice and work his way back into Hollywood. *Trumbo* is easily director Jay Roach's "best" film in the most academic sense of the word. It is not nearly as memorable as his decade-



Bryan Cranston and Diane Lane in *Trumbo*. Courtesy of Bleecker Street.

to many young Americans was a contentious ideological struggle: however, it is one that mirrors a lot of gender and racial politics in the film industry today. *Trumbo*, the film, almost plays too close to a standard awards-season biopic, though Trumbo, the subject, is an important if not complicated figure that Hollywood can stand to, again, learn from. The film follows the height of legendary, Academy Award-winning screenwriter Dalton Trumbo's career. To say 'height' of his career may prove oxymoronic. Trumbo and the rest of the Hollywood Ten's tenure on the Hollywood Blacklist for their Communist ideologies put any communist sympathizers out of work in the business. Soon, Trumbo and his comrades find a route to work writing hundreds of screenplays under pseudonyms for studios tremendous and trashy. He would even win two Academy Awards during this time period under different writer's credits for *Roman Holiday* and *The Brave One* only to be limited to watching the ceremonies from

defining *Meet the Parents* and *Austin Powers* trilogies -- if that is really an appropriate word -- though it is his most refined and carefully crafted. This is in large part due to the very gifted ensemble he has rounded up. Bryan Cranston, for better or for worse, chews up the scenery as Dalton Trumbo in a larger-than-life performance befitting of Trumbo's towering personality. The performance is quite hammy next to Diane Lane's subdued portrayal of his wife Cleo or Louis CK's earnest, though awkward, portrayal of the fictitious Arlen Hird - a character compendium of many of Trumbo's comrades. Cranston disappears into the role though, leaving us with a better sense of the very complicated man behind the typewriter. Look for reliably standout supporting turns from the always great Michael Stuhlbarg, Helen Mirren, and John Goodman as well. Despite John McNamara's quick-witted script, the film slogs along for a picture that clocks in at a bit beyond two hours. The

See Film Review, page 8

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
					42				43				44	
45	46	47					48					49		
50					51	52				53	54			
55				56		57		58	59					
60					61								62	63
65											66			
67							68				69			

- Across**
- Form
 - Sot's sound
 - Cut short
 - Luau dances
 - Glues
 - Shaw play
 - European coastal sands plant
 - Open, in a way
 - Bionic man
 - Extreme suffix
 - Want ____
 - Many millennia
 - Termite, e.g.
 - Come to terms
 - "Go!"
 - Collapse
 - CEO degree
 - Brecht and Weill musical
 - Chemical suffix
 - Garden-variety
 - Captain's journal
 - Photographer's request
 - Badger's burrow
 - Diminish
 - ____ seal (dance solo)
 - Petition
 - Pressed

- Flurries
- Building materials
- Andrew Lloyd Webber musical
- Certain quacker
- Edge
- Frets
- Turning point?
- Corroded

- Down**
- Theater sound
 - Color
 - Carte start
 - Minister
 - Aromatic compound
 - "Listen!"
 - Notion
 - Swiss ____
 - Unwanted Iceland export
 - Lives
 - Of an egg
 - Inhabit
 - African scourge
 - Barely budgets
 - Tubular wind instrument
 - Links rental
 - "Uh-huh"

- 1922 Physics Nobel
- Ban
- Planning time
- Brains
- Cumberland ____
- Pool contents?
- Believers
- Danger to divers
- Omitting
- Joie de vivre
- Learning style
- Got mellow
- Outpourings
- Arrived
- Tristan's love
- Begin
- Mountainous republic
- Not new
- Awaken
- Boatload
- Operative beginning
- Harden
- Lady's title
- "Silent Spring" subject
- Brewed drink
- Itch

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

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

SUDOKU Medium

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

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.

Sports

Lakers Starting How They Finished

By Adam Serrao,
asixlion@earthlink.net

All of the big names and young talent that the Los Angeles Lakers have amassed in the offseason hasn't paid dividends to begin the 2015-16 NBA season. Sure, only a handful of games have been played thus far, but if anyone is looking for the championship contending Lakers that only the most enthusiastic of

point guard out of Ohio State, taken with the Lakers' first overall draft pick to finally give Bryant the ball-handler that he's never had in his lengthy, historical career. New faces like Roy Hibbert, Lou Williams and Brandon Bass were finally brought in to give this team much needed depth that was missing all of last season. But in the end, it's been the same ol' Lakers.

"All of the big names and young talent that the Los Angeles Lakers have amassed in the offseason hasn't paid dividends to begin the 2015-16 NBA season."

fans must have been expecting this year, they have been obviously and eerily absent. Fans of the purple and gold should now be getting used to the phrase, "The Lakers lose again." Whether it's in the offseason through free-agency or during last year's regular season with a 21 win year, it's rather clear now that Los Angeles is still worlds away from competing for another NBA Finals appearance.

Last Wednesday night the regular season began for the Lakers and Kobe Bryant as the 20 year old veteran entered into the record books once again. Not only did Kobe debut for the first time since injuring his shoulder last January, but by stepping on the floor and starting the game, he became the first player in league history to play in 20 different seasons for the same organization. Unfortunately for Bryant, that may be the only time he sees the record books again all year. The new-look Lakers blew a 16 point lead in a game against the Minnesota Timberwolves and wound up losing by a final score of 112-111. "It is hard to figure out how to keep a lead in this league," Bryant said after the game. "We will figure it out. I am encouraged by what we showed out there. We will only get better."

Tough to get any worse after setting a franchise record for losses in the previous season and then blowing a double-digit lead in the season opener. Not only that, but the Lakers subsequently went on to play the Sacramento Kings two days later and were routed, 132-114. "We just sucked," coach Byron Scott said after that game. "Simple as that." It really is as simple as that, coming from a coach who expected to inherit a team that has put banners on the wall. Instead of hoisting anything into the air, though, Scott's Lakers have only been digging themselves (and him) into the ground. A coach that prides himself so much on defense and preaches it every practice has taken a team that ranked 29th (second-to-last) in defensive efficiency last year and seen them give up 244 points through their first two games of this year. Ouch.

In the first game, onlookers were teased with optimism for the Lakers as the Staples Center was finally filled with a buzz once again. There was Julius Randle - out all of last year after tragically breaking his leg in his NBA season debut one year ago. There was D'Angelo Russell, the much coveted

In his first quarter back from injury, Kobe was 2-for-7 from the field. He finished the game leading the team in scoring like usual, but with an unimpressive 8 for 24 mark and one assist on the night. Bryant would followed it up going 5-for-12 the next night. While Kobe has been normally inefficient, D'Angelo has struggled to find his place on the team looking like a less than stellar rookie thus far. While Karl-Anthony Towns, Jahlil Okafor and Emmanuel Mudiay blow it up, Russell has had a game where he missed 16 of 24 shots against Minnesota and went 5-of-10 with a turnover against Sacramento. "I don't know what I do best yet," Russell said. "I'm still trying to figure that out." Not exactly what you want to hear from the guy who is supposed to be the new Lakers savior.

It's obviously still early on in the season and you can't expect the Lakers to come out of the gate looking like the Oklahoma City Thunder. The Lakers are that puppy that you just bought from the pet store, still teething and doing everything in its power to ruin your life. It's still so cute, though, and you're drawn to it with the hopes that you can train it and one day - maybe one day - it will grow up to be the best dog in the whole wide world. Byron Scott is the trainer in this case, but when asked if he has any answers for his team's recent play he responds, "I don't. I wish I did. If I did I would solve it." What answers could you possibly have when you allow Minnesota to score 40 points in the first quarter, 74 by halftime, and they reach 100 by the time the third quarter was over?

The Los Angeles Lakers are a work in progress, but if they want to win games this season, they had better start soon. The Lakers schedule only gets tougher as the season grows longer. By the end of November and on into December they'll be playing playoff-team after playoff-team from last season. It's a bit of a baptism by fire for the young guys on the team right now, but inexperience combined with inefficiency and terrible defense won't get the Lakers anywhere. It's still okay to get your hopes up about Los Angeles. They're the puppy that will one day be big, obedient and reward your efforts with love. When that "one day" actually is remains to be seen but if the beginning of this year's regular season has taught Lakers fans anything, it's to go ahead and keep on dreaming. •

Up and Adam Battle For Second Place Goes to Warriors

By Adam Serrao,
asixlion@earthlink.net

Head coach Greg Holt couldn't have been any happier with his team's performance last Friday night at South High when the West High Warriors took on the South High Spartans. In a game that had clear implications in the standings, the Warriors came out heated up and ready to get after the ball. 28 first half points led to an impressive, all-around performance from Holt's Warriors as the team ran away with a 45-14 victory and put a stranglehold on second place in the Pioneer League standings.

Warriors running back Michael Timmerman was the star of the show and set the pace early on for West High. A 17-yard touchdown in the opening minutes of the game got West on the board first and had the Spartans staring at an early deficit. Timmerman struck again with a little over four minutes remaining in the opening quarter, this time catching a 50-yard pass from starting quarterback, Drake Peabody to give the Warriors an early, two-touchdown lead. "[He] ran the ball with great energy and really got us going," coach Holt said of his running back. "I liked the energy we played with overall." The Warriors weren't done producing that energy in the first quarter. With a little over one minute to go, Peabody found a way to sneak in another touchdown, this time hooking up with Bobby Fujioka on a 25-yard scoring play. "Drake extended a lot of plays. He was being really smart with the football." The quarterback's intelligence showed. It was 21-0 after one quarter of play and 28-6 at the half.

The Spartans initially got on the board early in the second quarter when quarterback Gabe Zuniga tried to revive his team. A 44-yard touchdown pass to Trevor Talpas ended the team's scoring drought, but the point-after was missed to hold South at six points. Behind a strong defensive effort from West and Shige Kato that saw the junior strong safety come away with both an interception and a fumble recovery for a touchdown, The Spartans wouldn't see the end zone again until later in the fourth quarter when Zuniga hooked up Noa Harrison on a 47-yard touchdown pass. South would complete the two-point conversion, but by that time the game was well out of hand and the Warriors went home with a 33 point victory.

Peabody had a great game for West, completing 14 of 22 passes for 200 yards and three touchdowns while Timmerman finished the night with two touchdowns. South quarterback Gabe Zuniga had 164 yards passing and two touchdowns of his own. He also got it done with his feet, rushing for 60 yards on the night.

With only one game remaining in the season, both teams need a win for momentum heading into the playoffs. the Warriors (5-4, 3-1) will face off against Torrance High (1-8, 1-3) while South (6-3, 2-2) takes on North (8-1, 4-0).

North High

The Leuzinger Olympians held Mique Juarez to below five touchdowns last Friday night. North High still won by a final score of 28-14 at home and Juarez still put up three TD's, but the Olympians can hold their heads high knowing that they held Juarez to one of his lowest touchdown outputs of his High School career.

The Saxons came out with a different game plan, of sorts, against Leuzinger last Friday night. A nine-play drive that extended over half of the field and almost four minutes of game-time resulted in a 13-yard touchdown - not by Juarez - but by Malik Welch. The junior wide-receiver ran the ball in from 13-yards out to put North up 7-0 early in the first quarter. The rest was done by Juarez. A 75-yard touchdown in the second quarter, followed by a 10-yard touchdown pass to Justin Allmond in the third quarter, and a 8-yard rushing touchdown in the fourth quarter about summed it up. When all was said and done, the Saxons wound up scoring a touchdown in every quarter of play and walked away with a 14-point victory in a game that was more out of hand than the final score let on.

Juarez finished the night going 9 of 15 for 98 yards with a touchdown and ran for 127 yards and two touchdowns. The all-star quarterback will bring his team into the last game of the season week to face-off against the South High Spartans (6-3, 2-2). North (8-1, 4-0) has a firm hold on first place in the Pioneer League standings and will be looking to tune-up before the playoffs start in one week.

Torrance High

The Torrance Tartars have finally gotten their first win of the season. With a 25-20 win over Centennial, the Tartars not only tasted victory for the first time, but also vaulted themselves out of the cellar in the Pioneer League standings. Down early in the game, the Tartars trailed 14-6 at the half. With seven minutes remaining in the third quarter, Torrance scored again to cut Centennials lead to two points, at 14-12. Two minutes later, the Tartars were on the board yet again, using the second half as a scoring spree. A fourth quarter touchdown capped-off the win as Torrance (1-8, 1-3) used their huge third and fourth quarters to officially climb over Centennial (1-8, 0-4) in the standings. The Tartars will face off against the West High Warriors (5-4, 3-1) this week in the final game of the season. •



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TerriAnn in Torrance

Veterans Day 2015

By TerriAnn Ferren
Photos by TerriAnn Ferren

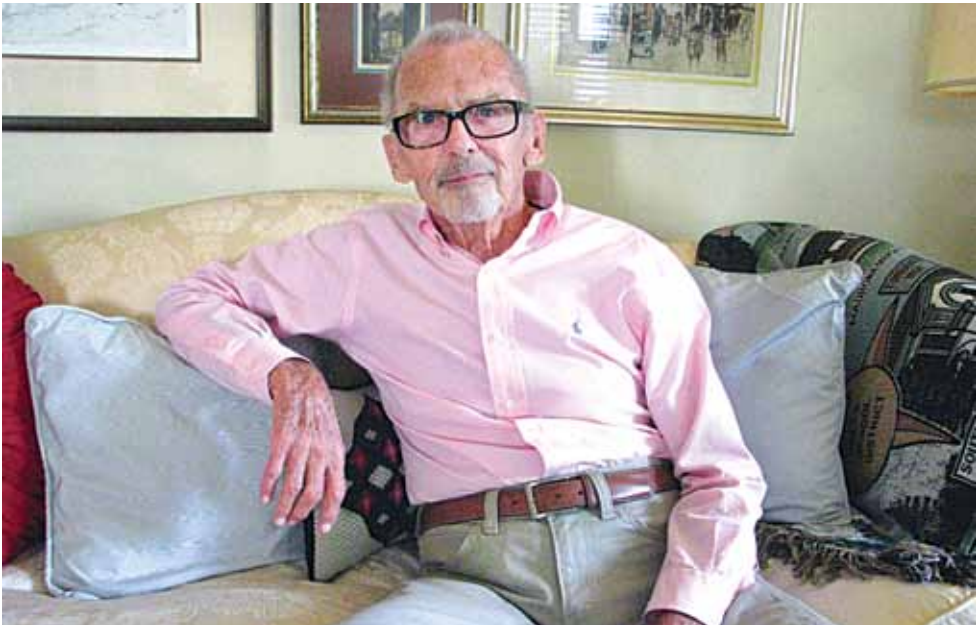
Veterans Day falls on Wednesday, November 11, and is a time to remember all those who have served our country. Abraham Lincoln once said, “To care for those who have borne the battle, and their widows and their orphans.” To remember our dedication and continued commitment to the needs of our brave servicemen and women still living is, I believe just as important as those we honor whose names are listed on our Veterans Memorial Wall on the corner of Maple

and gratitude. We have a solemn and sacred responsibility as Americans and citizens of this country to care for our veterans. To care for those who have served, sacrificed, and worn the uniform of this country is what I believe Lincoln was talking about when he spoke long ago. He knew, and was well aware of the fact, that concrete and marble monuments with beautifully etched words of patriotism, sacrifice, and freedom are one thing, but our continued caring and commitment to those who have served (and their families) long after they have returned home and taken off

served in the United States Navy during WWII. Jerry told me was drafted out of high school at the age of 18, in 1944, and sent into the Navy, along with his high school buddy, Cecil Harris. Cecil was inducted into the army, and was dead six months later in Europe. “We had been altar boys together and gone all through school – a little school – there were twelve in our graduating class. So that was a real shock. I ended up in the Navy - going Navy base to Navy base, never going to sea.”

Maybe because Jerry served his country

to spearhead this project after observing a teacher in South Dakota gather biographies of every deceased veteran in the entire state. Every name represents a person who had a history, and that history should never be forgotten. Jerry was contacted by the person gathering information on Cecil, his childhood friend, for the project in South Dakota. Later, Jerry thought that was a great idea for Torrance. “We have these names on the wall and most people didn’t know anything about them, and I could see that we were very fast losing their contemporaries from WWII. We



Jerry Ronan.

Avenue and Torrance Boulevard, dedicated on March 19, 2005.

We must never forget as we stand in reverence before this monument of marble and stone on Veterans Day all those who went before us and gave their lives and those who served honorably and deserve our upmost respect

their uniforms is the truest form of patriotism and love of country. A truly living and caring memorial is helping our veterans that come home wounded physically and emotionally.

We have many veterans in the city of Torrance and I had the honor of visiting with one of them – Gerald (Jerry) Ronan, who






Bert Crossland, our only WWI Veteran on the wall in Torrance.




and had relatives and friends who died in WWII, is why he remains one of the ‘movers and shakers’ of the Torrance Historical Society dedicated to documenting the names on the City of Torrance Veterans Memorial Wall, and writing about each one of them – putting a face to a name. He was inspired

had already lost them from WWI. We only have one name [on the wall] from WWI, Bert Crossland; the American Legion Post is named for him. The siblings were dying so I thought this is something we should do. It has been a marvelous experience,” said Jerry.

See TerriAnn, page 8

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Our Memorial on the corner of Torrance Blvd. and Maple Avenue.



Elf with Pearl Earring after Vermeer by Margaret Lindsey

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(from the movie “Burnt”)
Servings: 4

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- 1 package dried spaghetti
- 1 tablespoon coarsely ground black pepper
- 2 1/2 cups Castello Aged Havarti, shredded
- 3 1/2 tablespoons butter 1 clove garlic, peeled and crushed
- 2 tablespoons fresh chives, chopped
- Salt

Preparation

1. In a large saucepan of boiling, salted water, cook spaghetti until ‘al dente.’
2. While the pasta is cooking, add black pepper to a non-stick skillet and toast until fragrant. Add the butter and garlic and cook for one additional minute, until butter is melted.
3. Drain pasta, reserving 1/2 cup of the pasta liquid. Place the pasta and liquid back into the saucepan.
4. Toss with shredded Aged Havarti, season with salt (optional) and top with fresh chives.

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1/16	200	150	125	100	75

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Fire Chief

from page 3

TerriAnn

from page 6

seriously. We are protecting lives and making the community safe. The fire department exists in the public safety sphere; we are active and involved participants and take that commitment very seriously.”

With that, the Chief’s first hurdle with the department was passing his fire fighter probationary period. Upon completing that goal, Racowschi determined what career path to take, and that is when he decided to study for fire engineer. The Fire Engineer position is one of the first big promotional exams in the process and is a very technical position.

“You are the driver operator of a large and heavy fire vehicle and you need to know how to drive and operate all of the department’s engines and ladder trucks,” said Chief Racowschi. “During the time I was a fire engineer we had several different makes and models of fire engines, which all had their own individual idiosyncrasies and you need to know how to operate them, especially at 3 a.m.”

The Chief passed the test and was appointed fire engineer in 1986. As fire engineer he learned the response area hazards and major streets throughout the city, in order to respond to emergencies as soon as possible during the era when the department used its own hard-copy maps. Through continuous training and testing, firefighters were required to learn every nook and cranny in the city to be better prepared to respond.

Not one to sit idle, the Chief soon set his eyes on the Fire Captain position, which is the first level of supervision in the department. Once he scored high enough on the list and an opening came available, he was promoted: that was in 1992, two months after the infamous Los Angeles Riots.

“While Fire Engineer offered excellent challenges, it was as Captain where I think that I experienced my initial professional growth because the position allows the person to look at things from a different perspective,” Racowschi said. “As supervisor, you aren’t just responsible for yourself and a piece of machinery, but you are responsible for the lives of the people assigned to your crew. The decision that you make puts their lives in your hands because of how you say things, how to do things, where to do things and when to do things. Those decisions also impact the community, so we take training very seriously.”

As he settled in as a captain, Racowschi was assigned as the department’s Training Coordinator and earned a higher level of responsibility for the next three years. Among the some of the changes that Racowschi witnessed with the department, was the transition into the world of the computers, leaving behind the practice of typing out all paperwork. Eventually Racowschi would take what he learned as Captain, studied for the next step and earned a Battalion Chief promotion by 2000.

“As a firefighter you have the ‘boots in the street’ hands-on mentality because that is the focus. You get a street view of things, same as an engineer, but with more responsibility because you are driving. As a captain you get to look at the bigger picture, I call it ‘the 5,000-foot view’ because you need to have your head on a swivel,” Racowschi said. “As a captain you are a supervisor, safety officer,

coach, mentor, and the one who gives personnel ‘incentive’ to perform when needed, because the Captain is responsible for the work output of the crew.

“As a battalion chief you go up yet another level because now the people you supervise are Captains,” Racowschi added. “As a new Battalion Chief, your first assignment is as a shift platoon commander where you supervise all of the on-duty fire forces in the city in six fire stations and the captains that run those stations.”

Committed to learning and being the best public servant possible, the then Battalion Chief continued with his education and graduated from Cal State Long Beach.

“Education turns a job into a profession. I have a strong training background and I believe that a department rises and falls with the level of training and how seriously they take training,” Racowschi said. “When we train, we train like it is real because when it is real we will be ready to deploy and tackle the emergency at hand.”

As Battalion Chief he was tasked with being Administrative Chief, a position that allowed Racowschi to implement some of his college education while he dealing with budgeting, recruiting, training, testing and other areas requiring administrative staff support oversight for the department. In 2008 the department was on the search for a new Chief. With the knowledge that his wife always supported his career’s progression, Racowschi took the exam and was selected to the position in August of that year.

“One of the questions that have often been asked of me is how do I like being fire chief? Or which job have I enjoyed the most?,” Racowschi said. “I have enjoyed every single one of the positions I held. When you have fun going to work and you work with and for great folks, it’s like not going to work at all.”

The Chief, who has one brother serving as a Sergeant with the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department and another who is a Sergeant in District Attorney Investigative Police, never planned on overseeing an entire department despite knowing at an early age that he was to become a firefighter.

“I got interested in the Fire Department because of a friend; his father was a Captain in the Los Angeles Fire Department and we went to see him at the station one day,” recalls Racowschi. “I was impressed by the fire apparatus (engines and trucks), their great camaraderie and how happy they seemed to be there. So I wondered if this was something that could be for me.”

Having survived economic meltdown that afflicted the country during his first years at the helms of the department was beyond complicated but it reminded Racowschi that he was working in the right department.

“It was departmental survival mode pretty much from day one and I have to say from a dark moment came good things,” said the Chief. “We came together as a staff and made some really hard choices and decisions so that we could meet our obligations to the budget while at the same time maintaining as close to the same service model that we possibly could.

“I have never regretted it,” said the Chief. “Never looked back.” •

Film Review

from page 3

beginning takes off with the light feet of the most harmless made-for-TV movies and the brains of an Oscar player, though the pace slows by a significant amount during Trumbo’s blacklisted years. While this is truly the most affecting portion of the film - it becomes rather repetitious, not unlike Trumbo’s career during that time. The history lessons and moral lectures do become a bit cumbersome and things get a bit clunky in the final act, but *Trumbo* is really too charming of a film to get down on. Sharp, funny and very clean in its craft, it’s classic Hollywood done right - something that Mr. Trumbo himself would

be quite pleased with.

Check out www.CINEMACY.com for our one of a kind interview with Bryan Cranston, Diane Lane, Elle Fanning, Michael Stuhlbarg, and Director Jay Roach. Cranston talks about getting into the character of Dalton, incessant smoking included, while Fanning talks about her favorite costumes as Dalton’s daughter, Nikola Trumbo. From Roach’s interest in the Hollywood Ten to the actor’s initial script impressions, our interview highlights the individual connections everyone made to the film and is nothing short of inspiring, and a fun read. •

TerriAnn

from page 6

Jerry told me that former Mayor Ken Miller, who grew up in Torrance, was interviewed because he went to school with a lot of the WWII veterans whose names are on the wall. He wrote down little remembrances of each one.

After leaving Jerry Ronan’s home in downtown Torrance, I decided to ask a Korean War Veteran about his experiences. He told me, “I joined the National Guard to make \$30 a month to have some money. When I first joined, I signed up for three years - I was a ground trooper. I was in the guard nearly three years before I was ‘called up’ (the 40th Infantry Division of the National Guard was Federalized) in September and everyone in my unit was extended for another year, (by President Truman), beyond their anniversary date. At that point, we became part of the regular army.”

Immediately, ‘basic training refreshing’ was held at Camp Cook in Lompoc. By December, he was selected out of his group, and flown from Los Angeles to Columbus, Georgia (Fort Benning) for a nine-week radio repair course specializing in the type of radios used at that time. He said, “After nine weeks, the course was extended to eighteen weeks, so in the end, we were categorized as full-fledged electronics technicians. Then I got sent back to Camp Cook, (Vandenberg Air Force Base) and learned my unit had been shipped overseas to Sendai in northern Japan.”

The Korean War Veteran then told me that his beautiful young wife, and a friend, Donna Wegnes, (whose husband was already in the service) drove him to San Francisco where his ship was docked. He added, “I had to take a separate troop ship from San Francisco to Japan, which took fourteen days.”

At this point I asked him what were the conditions on the ship and he told me, “Well, for sleeping quarters, we were stacked four hammocks deep - and it was so hot down there that we would sneak up on deck to cool off under the life boats of the troop ship. I recall singing songs with my buddy.” I asked what songs they sang and he said, “Oh, just westerns that we knew at the time.” Half jokingly, I asked if it was anything like a cruise - and he laughed and said, “You’ve got to be kidding.”

Then the ship arrived in Yokohama, Japan. He said, “One of the things that impressed me when I got there was, from the ship, and when I got on the train to go north to Sendai, where my unit was located, - was that all the buildings in the harbor of Yokohama were riddled with bullet holes. You could see the bullet holes all over where our dive bombers attacked Yokohama Bay during WWII.”

The Korean War Veteran was then put on a bullet train toward Northern Japan, and when he finally arrived, his fellow troops were leaving in two days headed to an army base in Southern Japan for permanent quarters. He had one or two days to learn how to climb the rope ladders that were hang over troop ships, carrying his heavy backpack,

Police Reports

from page 2

BLOCK OSAGE AVE

Suspect punches victim in the face, causing injury

Burglary-Commercial 10/23/2015 11:34:00 PM 2300 BLOCK CRENSHAW BLVD

Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/cash

Burglary-Auto 10/24/2015 11:00:00 AM 200 BLOCK PASEO DE GRANADA

Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle, ransacks and takes property/ watch, jewelry, passports, SS cards

Burglary-Auto 10/25/2015 11:45:00 AM 200 BLOCK VIA LINDA VISTA

Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle and takes property/backpack, laptop

Theft 10/23/2015 2:50:00 PM 3500 BLOCK CARSON ST

Suspect(s) takes unattended property from bench inside store/ bag with new makeup

and rifle – not an easy task.

The Veteran then said, “This was on the sea of Japan. The ship took a week to get down to Southern Japan. I stayed there about three weeks and I was given notice that I had finished my one-year extension and they wanted to ship me home. So I had the option of shipping home or signing up for another year. I thought about a millisecond and selected, I am taking my discharge and going.”

He then took another train from his camp to Tokyo where he spent two to three weeks. At this point in the interview, the veteran’s wife said, “Yes, and he bought me a silk pillowcase.” I looked at the veteran and said, “You bought your young wife a pillowcase?” He laughed and said, “I was not very good about writing [either] – because I was...I was 20 years old.”

“He has made up for it [buying gifts for her] since,” said his wife.

“I do recall going to a department store in Tokyo with one or two of the guys. My job while waiting, was working at Camp Drake, outside Tokyo, where I helped with the soldiers coming back from Korea on R & R, taking their equipment, etc. I did that for two or three weeks until my orders came in to ship out of Tokyo, home. It took ten days by ship to Seattle and from there I was bussed to Fort Lewis, Washington. I was discharged and then bussed back home to Los Angeles. I was honorably discharged as a Corporal in the United States Army. My specialty was listed as ‘radio electronics repairman.’ I repaired walkie-talkies, and other radios used in Korea. I have the Official DD214 separation papers,” added the veteran proudly.

Then I asked this very special Korean War Veteran what he thought about Veteran’s Day, and he said, “I hear stories about the government not treating the veterans very nicely and I am appalled about that, and that ought to be fixed. I have some friends that are veterans and use the veteran’s facility, and some of it is good, [the care] and some of it is not so good. At any rate, we need to be more compassionate to veterans – because when they sign up – they know they could get killed. It is that simple. You sign up and just as well say, you are putting your life on the line, and you could certainly be killed, and that is what happened to hundreds and thousands of people in Korea. We ought to honor those folks. And I have been to the Korean War Memorial in Washington DC and it is very heartwarming. It is very moving.”

My daddy, Thomas Lancaster, told this story to me. He is a proud Korean War Veteran who honors those who served before him, and after him, and knows, as all veterans do, the price of service. Abraham Lincoln’s quote is still relevant today. We need to care for those who serve. May I suggest you take time to hear a veteran’s story this year and thank them. Remember them. Happy Veterans Day to all veterans! •

Battery-Weapon/Agg 10/23/2015 2:22:30 PM TORRANCE BLVD & WESTERN AVE

Suspect uses his vehicle to ram victim’s vehicle

Robbery-Weapon 10/23/2015 12:10:00 PM 1900 BLOCK 238TH ST

Suspect responds to victim’s Craigslist ad and brandishes a handgun that victim takes away/ no loss

Theft 10/23/2015 1:30:00 PM 24300 BLOCK CRENSHAW BLVD

Suspect(s) takes property from victim’s purse as she shops/ cash

Burglary-Commercial 10/23/2015 8:30:00 AM 4300 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY

Suspect(s) enters open door and attempts to pry open business office/ no loss

Theft 10/23/2015 4:30 AM 21100 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD

Suspect(s) enters unsecured door and takes property from sales counter/ lottery tickets •

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Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015250574

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LEVEL ONE INSURANCE AGENCY, 1) 1228 WEST 185TH STREET, GARDENA, CA 90248; 2) 21213-B HAWTHORNE BLVD. #5444, TORRANCE, CA 90503, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): PINPOINT SOLUTION INSURANCE SERVICES, LLC., 1228 WEST 185TH STREET, GARDENA, CA 90248. This business is being conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: PINPOINT SOLUTION INSURANCE SERVICES, LLC., Greg Higa, President. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on September 29, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on September 29, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to September 29, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5/2015. **H-1327**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015252465

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as AUTO PARTS PLEX, 7677 ALAMEDA ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90001, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): BIG TWO AUTO PART INC., 7677 ALAMEDA ST., HUNTINGTON PARK, CA 90001. This business is being conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: BIG TWO AUTO PART INC., JUAN M. CADENA, President. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on October 1, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on October 1, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to October 1, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5/2015. **H-1328**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015255677

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CAMPEAU AND ASSOCIATES, 7858 FLIGHT AVE APT 3/4, LOS ANGELES, CA 90045, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): BRIAN CAMPEAU, 7858 FLIGHT AVE APT 3/4, LOS ANGELES, CA 90045. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: BRIAN CAMPEAU, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on October 5, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on October 5, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to October 5, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5/2015. **H-1329**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015249518

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as RENEW SEWER AND PIPELINE, 3336 ROSECRANS AVENUE, HAWTHORNE, CA 90250, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. AI #ON: 01741331. Registered Owner(s): SANDAN PLUMBING CO., INC., 3336 ROSECRANS AVENUE, HAWTHORNE, CA 90250. This business is being conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/29/2015. Signed: SANDAN PLUMBING CO., INC., DANIEL VIENS, President. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on September 28, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on September 28, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to September 28, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Hawthorn Press Tribune: Pub. 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5/2015. **HH-1331**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015260075

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as World Series of Team Roping, 300 N. Continental Blvd., Ste 650, El Segundo, CA 90245, Los Angeles County. Registered Owner(s): Cruz Bay Publishing, Inc., 300 North Continental Blvd. Ste 650, El Segundo, CA 90245. This business is being conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: Cruz Bay Publishing, Inc., Brian Sellstrom, CFO/EVP. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on October 9, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on October 9, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to October 9, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5/2015. **H-1332**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015255311

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as NGAGE, 909 N. SEPULVEDA BLVD., 11TH FLOOR, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): MH SUB I, LLC., 909 N. SEPULVEDA BLVD. 11TH FLOOR, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245. This business is being conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/15/2015. Signed: MH SUB I, LLC., B. LYNN WALSH, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on October 5, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on October 5, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to October 5, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12/2015. **H-1333**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015251939

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as HODKINSON LAW GROUP, 2790 SKYPARK DRIVE, SUITE #200, TORRANCE, CA 90505, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): KEHRELA HODKINSON, 5331 WAUPACA ROAD, RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90274. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: KEHRELA HODKINSON, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on September 30, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on September 30, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to September 30, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12/2015. **HT-1334**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015257029

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Billy Brujo, 422 S. Guadalupe Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277, Los Angeles County. Registered Owner(s): William Grau Watson, 422 S. Guadalupe Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/7/2015. Signed: William Watson, Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on October 7, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on October 7, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to October 7, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19/2015. **H-1330**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015261922

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as TBT ADVANTAGE, 1) 4824 WEST 122ND STREET, HAWTHORNE, CA 90250; 2) P.O. BOX 912, HAWTHORNE, CA 90250, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): TERESA TWEEDT, 4824 WEST 122ND STREET, HAWTHORNE, CA 90250. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: TERESA TWEEDT, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on October 14, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on October 14, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to October 14, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Hawthorne Press Tribune: Pub. 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19/2015. **HH-1335**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015267566

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as WOOD TRENDS, 320 E WALNUT AVE, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): JEFFREY L. COOK, 320 E WALNUT AVE, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: JEFFREY L. COOK, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on October 20, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on October 20, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to October 20, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19/2015. **H-1336**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015255409

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as GLEN-MAC SWISS CO, 12848 WEBER WAY, HAWTHORNE, CA 90250, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): ARSENO INDUSTRIES, INC., 12848 WEBER WAY, HAWTHORNE, CA 90250. This business is being conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 12/10/1996. Signed: ARSENO INDUSTRIES INC., TORKOM POSTAJIAN, President. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on October 5, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on October 5, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to October 5, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Hawthorne Press Tribune: Pub. 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19/2015. **HH-1337**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015266806

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as VISTA DESIGN BUILD, 2225 CAMPUS DRIVE, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): VISTA INVESTMENTS MGMT. CO., 2361 ROSECRANS AVENUE SUITE 150, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245, California #C2224635. This business is being conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/15/2015. Signed: VISTA INVESTMENTS MGMT. CO., JUAN LLACA, President. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on October 19, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on October 19, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to October 19, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26/2015. **H-1338**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015276537

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Nuna Consulting Group, 3220 Sepulveda Blvd. Suite #204, Torrance, CA 90505, Los Angeles County. Registered Owner(s): Ricki L. McCarroll, 1900 W. 25th Street, San Pedro, CA 90732. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: Ricki L. McCarroll, Founder & Principal Consultant. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on October 29, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on October 29, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to October 29, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Torrance Tribune: Pub. 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26/2015. **HT-1339**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015277449

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1) MN WATCH CO, 2) OMAX WATCH COMPANY, 1314 SOUTH HILL STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. AI #ON: C2194781. Registered Owner(s): LAKHANI ENTERPRISE INC, 1314 SOUTH HILL STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015. This business is being conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: LAKHANI ENTERPRISE, INC., GULREZ MERCHANT, President. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on October 30, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on October 30, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to October 30, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26/2015. **H-1340**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2015262559

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LANDMARK TILE, 4435 W. 167TH STREET, LAWNDALE, CA 90260, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): HUMBERTO MOLINA, 4435 W 167TH STREET, LAWNDALE, CA 90260. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: HUMBERTO MOLINA, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on October 14, 2015. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on October 14, 2020. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to October 14, 2020. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Lawndale Tribune: Pub. 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26/2015. **HL-1341**

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Looking Up

NASA Studies El Nino Event as Never Before

Based on press release from NASA, provided by Bob Eklund

Every two to seven years, an unusually warm pool of water—sometimes 4 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit higher than normal—develops across the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean to create a natural short-term climate change event. This warm condition, known as El Niño, affects the local aquatic environment, but also spurs extreme weather patterns around the world, from flooding in California to droughts in Australia. This winter, the 2015-16 El Niño event will be better observed from space than any previous El Niño.

This year's El Niño is already strong and appears likely to equal the event of 1997-98, the strongest El Niño on record, according to the World Meteorological Organization. All 19 of NASA's current orbiting Earth-observing missions were launched after 1997. In the past two decades, NASA has made tremendous progress in gathering and analyzing data that help researchers understand more about the mechanics and global impacts of El Niño.

"El Niño is a fascinating phenomenon because it has such far-reaching and diverse impacts. The fact that fires in Indonesia are linked with circulation patterns that influence rainfall over the United States shows how complex and interconnected the Earth system is," said Lesley Ott, research meteorologist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland.

Using NASA satellite observations in tandem

with supercomputer processing power for modeling systems, scientists have a comprehensive suite of tools to analyze El Niño events and their global impacts as never before.

"This winter, the 2015-16 El Niño event will be better observed from space than any previous El Niño."

Throughout this winter, NASA will share the latest scientific insights and imagery updates related to El Niño.

For instance, scientists are learning how El Niño affects the year-to-year variability for fire

seasons in the western United States, Amazon and Indonesia. El Niño may also affect the yearly variability of the ground-level pollutant ozone that severely affects human health.

Researchers will be keenly focused on how the current El Niño will affect the drought in California.

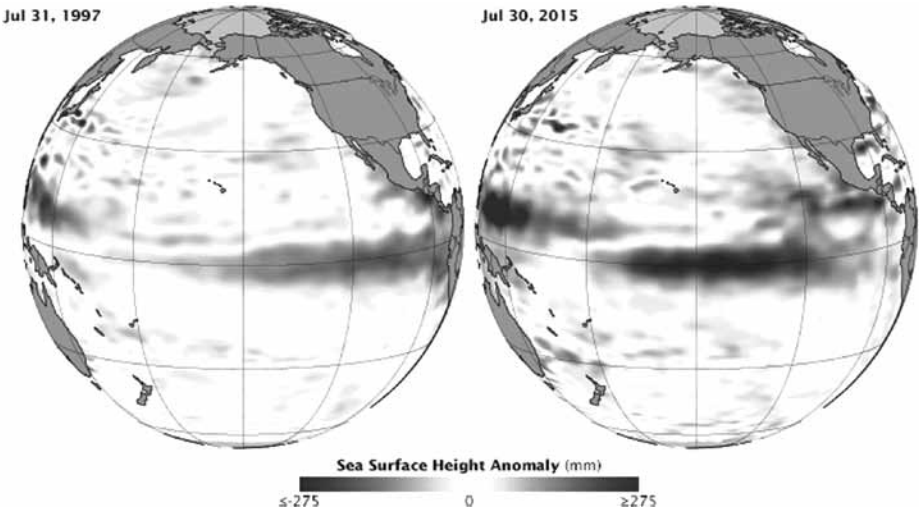
"We still have a lot to learn about these connections, and NASA's suite of satellites

will help us understand these processes in a new and deeper way," said Ott.

Many NASA satellites observe environmental factors that are associated with El Niño evolution and its impacts, including sea surface temperature, sea surface height, surface currents, atmospheric winds and ocean color. The joint NASA/NOAA/CNES/EUMETSAT Jason-2 satellite measures sea surface height, which is especially useful in quantifying the heat stored and released by the oceans during El Niño years.

NASA satellites also help scientists see the global impact of El Niño. The warmer than normal eastern Pacific Ocean has far-reaching effects worldwide. These events spur disasters, such as fires and floods. They change storm tracks, cloud cover and other weather patterns, and they have devastating effects on fisheries and other industries.

NASA's Earth-observing satellites help monitor those and other impacts by measuring land and ocean conditions that both influence and are affected by El Niño. For instance, NASA's Global Precipitation Measurement mission provides worldwide precipitation measurements every three hours. NASA's Soil Moisture Active Passive mission measures soil moisture in the top layer of land. Both of these satellites are useful for monitoring drought, improving flood warnings and watching crop and fishing industries. For NASA's El Niño Watch page, visit <https://sealevel.jpl.nasa.gov/science/elninopdo/latestdata/> •



A side-by-side comparison of two sea surface heights, measured in July 1997 and 2015, by TOPEX/Poseidon and Jason 2, respectively. Scientists believe that this year's El Niño event will be equal to the event in 1997, which was the strongest event on record. Photo: NASA Earth Observatory.

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Figaro is a tuxedo kitten who is very sweet.

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Figaro is a silky soft long-haired tuxedo kitten with a mini mustache. This little goof ball bounces around like a pigmy goat with a full fat belly and more fuzz than she knows what to do with. Figaro is downright adorable and incredibly sweet. She is on the mellow side, but is incredibly food motivated. She eats like a “hungry-hungry-hippo” and is shaped like a Fig...just perfect since we often call her Figgy!

Marble is a super sweet lap cat. She is a three-month-old kitten who likes to play, but is also very mellow and loves to cuddle. The second you sit down, she will be on your lap. She is silky soft and has beautiful fluffy fur. Marble loves other cats and can be adopted with one of her foster siblings or into a home with other young kitty.



Marble is silky soft with beautiful fur.



Valerius is big, strong, and loveable.

Julep is one of the most sweet and loving momma cats ever. She and her kittens were scheduled to be euthanized at the city shelter when Kitten Rescue rushed out to save them. Julep was terrified, but was doing everything she could to keep her kittens safe and healthy. Just minutes out of the carrier, once she knew she was safe, Julep was purring, kneading and giving nose kisses! Her Kitten Cam fans call her the Zen momma cat, because she never loses patience with her kittens! (You can see her and her kittens at www.livestream.com/SKCR) She loves playing, napping and cuddling with them. Julep would love if she could be adopted with her two adorable and sweet kittens, Amaretto and Martini. The three of them are very bonded, but if necessary, she can be adopted separately.

Martini is a sweet, playful adorable kitten! She likes to leap into your arms for a hug and a kiss! Martini has been known to enjoy



Julep is a sweet momma cat who takes care of her kittens. a little nap on shoulders as well! She has a very sweet temperament and loves to play.



Amaretto is daring and adventurous.



Martini loves to play and climb. She is a great climber and thoroughly enjoys wrestling and chasing after her sister Amaretto as well as her momma Julep.

Amaretto is an adorable, playful and adventurous girl. Amaretto has always been the most daring of the bunch! She is the first one to climb, jump and say hello to strangers. This loving little kitten has a very sweet temperament and loves to give nose kisses! She is very bonded to her sister Martini and her mom. Julep and her daughters Martini and Amaretto had a rough beginning in life and now ready to find their forever home and family!

Valerius means “Strong” in Latin; he got that name because he was, without a doubt, the biggest and strongest of his litter. He has continued to remain so, and is larger than both his siblings. Valerius is a big, strong, lovable, low-maintenance, silent-type. He is just kind of perfect, really. This handsome

kitty is playful, mellow, and just a naturally happy and contented little boy. He loves to play, and plays with any other kitten who is up for a game. His easy-going nature means he’s also buddies with anyone who wants to be buddies – he’ll snuggle up with anyone in the household who wants a snuggle buddy. Valerius is very social, so he needs to be adopted either along with another kitten or to a home where there is already another animal (kitten, adult cat, or cat-loving puppy or adult dog) that would be his full-time playmate. His beautiful, sweet siblings and playmates are available for adoption also. Please also keep an eye out for them on here as well: Maximus, Lucretia, Valeria, Tullia, Festus, Augustus, and Bitsy.

These kitties are available for adoption through Kitten Rescue, one of the largest cat rescue groups in Southern California. All of our kitties are spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for FeLV and FIV, dewormed and current on their vaccinations. For additional information and to see these or our other kittens and cats, please check our website www.kittenrescue.org or email us at mail@kittenrescue.org. Your tax deductible donations for the rescue and care of our cats and kittens can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to Kitten Rescue, 914 Westwood Blvd. #583, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

On Saturdays, we have adoptions from noon to 3:30 p.m. in Westchester at 8655 Lincoln Blvd. just south of Manchester Ave. and also in Mar Vista at 3860 Centinela Ave, just south of Venice Boulevard. Our website lists additional adoption sites and directions to each location. •

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4 Approachable Modern Home Design Ideas



(BPT) - Once limited to simplistic, clean lines and cool color schemes, modern design has evolved to include sleek, minimalistic looks with gentle, warm, organic elements. The new “approachable modern” design schemes emphasize the grace of nature, respect the strength of simplicity and can be effortlessly incorporated into any home by choosing the right accents.

INCORPORATING METAL

Metal accents often serve as the focal point of modern design. When incorporating metal into your space, start with the basics: hardware, faucets and fixtures. If you gravitate toward warm finishes like bronze tones, choose accents with clean, minimalistic silhouettes. Conversely, if you opt for modern finishes with cool blue undertones like chrome and stainless, look for hardware with organic shapes like the Delta Tesla bath faucet that boasts a gentle silhouette inspired by curves found in nature. The faucet also provides modern convenience, with optional Touch2O. xt Technology that activates the flow of water with a simple touch or via hands-free proximity sensing.

COMPLEMENTARY ACCESSORIES

To maintain a modern feel, simplicity is the key with accessories. Look for a few small items to work within modern and organic schemes. For instance, geometric shaped mirrors work well across from windows to enhance natural light and a touch of greenery can come to life in a minimal, white pot.

BALANCING COLOR

Choose a neutral, like grey, white or beige, as the primary color in your home to enhance a minimalistic, contemporary feel. To take a next step and elevate a home’s color palette, incorporate organic materials such as wood or slate in dark, rich tones to create warmth and texture.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Often overlooked, the right lighting is critical when creating a space that channels modern design and homeowners have a number of options to consider, such as recessed, wall mount, chandelier and pendant lighting. Remember quality of light and placement are key. If you wish to highlight certain room features, spot lighting can be incorporated, whereas skylights work well for added natural light. •

Renovating to Age in Place? Focus Efforts and Budgets on Bathrooms and Kitchens

(BPT) - No one relishes the prospect of having to move out of his or her home due to age-related health, mobility or dexterity issues. In fact, more than half of homeowners 60 and older say they intend to stay in their current homes indefinitely, according to a recent survey by Houzz. Fortunately for people who want to stay put, a range of home improvements can make it easier to remain in your home as you grow older.

In fact, 60 percent of those who plan to age in place already made renovations in 2014, and 52 percent plan to renovate this year, Houzz found. What’s more, if cost is what’s holding the handful of non-renovators back, targeting key areas like bathrooms and kitchens can improve a house’s long-term livability even on a modest budget, says Lee Saunders, founder of Adapted Living, a California-based company specializing in aging-in-place design work. Founded in 2007, the company has helped thousands of homeowners redesign their houses to facilitate aging in place.

“We’ve seen steadily increasing demand for this kind of design work and products,” Saunders says. “The growth in the industry and availability of products has been huge. Today, the biggest challenge we have is getting people to understand they don’t have to settle for an industrial or commercial look in order to renovate their homes for aging in place.”

Chris Peterson, a regional sales director with Saniflo, agrees. His company makes a number of above-floor plumbing options designed to work in spaces where traditional plumbing is problematic. As the aging-in-place trend has grown, the company has seen increased interest in its products among older homeowners who are renovating.

“Budget is typically a consideration for these types of projects and above-floor plumbing is often more cost-effective than traditional plumbing for homeowners who need to add or relocate a bathroom or reconfigure a kitchen,” Peterson says.

Homeowners can maximize the value of their renovation dollars by focusing their aging-in-place improvements on bathrooms and kitchens, Saunders adds.

BETTER FUNCTION IN BATHROOMS

Often when people develop mobility or dexterity issues, they find their existing

bathrooms are not in a convenient location in the house, or aren’t configured with safety in mind. They may need to add a bathroom in a small space or reconfigure the ones they have. When renovating an existing bath or creating a new bathroom where one did not previously exist, homeowners should keep key considerations in mind.

Multiple light sources can help reduce glare and shadows - two dangerous visual effects in bathrooms, where most home falls occur. Flooring material should be slip-resistant and grab bars are essential in showers, bath tubs and near toilets. Shower heads should be on a slide bar that allows the spray to be raised or lowered depending on the needs and height of the user. Showers and faucets should be controlled by levers, rather than knobs, and all showers should have thermostatic controls to reduce the risk of burns.

Whether you’re adding a half bath in a corner of your master bedroom where no bathroom existed before, or replacing a high step-over tub with a roll-in shower, traditional plumbing can be costly - especially in homes with slab foundations and no readily accessible below-floor drainage. Saunders uses the Sanigrind Pro system by Saniflo to minimize the need to break through concrete. The product can handle drainage for a shower, sink and toilet. For more information, visit www.saniflo.com.

CREATING MORE USABLE KITCHENS

Kitchens are another high-utility and high-risk area of the home for seniors. Mobility and dexterity challenges can make everyday tasks like cooking and cleaning difficult to achieve in an ordinary kitchen.

Saunders recommends seniors focus on improvements to enhance accessibility, such as installing lifts for countertops, cabinets, cooktops and sinks. These electric lifts allow homeowners to adjust the height of key work areas depending on whether they’re sitting or standing while using the spot.

Above-floor plumbing can also be useful in kitchen renovations, where homeowners and designers desire a more open floor plan to accommodate wheelchair users. Above-floor plumbing allows you to relocate a sink or create an “island” without the expense of extensively replumbing the entire kitchen, Peterson notes. •

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