

Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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Successful Community Expo



TerriAnn Ferren from the Torrance Cultural Arts Center promoted the city's various business and entertainment facilities available to book for a function including the Toyota Meeting Hall where this year's USBA Expo was held. For more photos see page 7. Photos Provided by Unified Small Business Alliance. •

Council Honors Retiring Employees From Four Different Departments

By Cristian Vasquez

Tuesday night's city council meeting honored employees from two different departments on their upcoming retirements, including Monty Latham for the General Services Department for 36 years of service and Chester M. Pitts from the Torrance Police Department.

Resolutions honoring Thomas W. Cook of the Public Works Department for 36 years of service and James Caprio of the Communication and Information Technology Department for 32 years of service were also approved but the two will be honored at a later date.

Latham began his career with the City of Torrance in 1979 as a semi-skilled laborer with the Street Department. After 12 years of service he became an airport worker at the city's municipal airport where he stood out not just as an employee but as mentor as well.

"I have known you the last 20 years of your 36 years and there were three important things that you taught me in that time," General Services Director Sheryl Ballew said to Latham during the meeting. "Number one: compassion. As they indicated in the resolution you were always very professional and caring during any incident at the airport, whether an event or an emergency. Number two was you taught me the art of patience. When I came to the airport I didn't know a piper from a cessna plane and then came the phonetic alphabet, yet you were always supportive and a good teacher.

"Lastly, you taught about an expression that is used frequently in the aviation world: any landing you can walk away from, is a good

landing," Ballew added. "And Mr. Monty Latham, I would say that after 36 years of service with the City of Torrance, you've had a very good landing."

Officer Pitts, who also launched his career in 1979, was born and raised in Los Angeles where he graduated from Crenshaw High School. After completing his education at Cal State University, Los Angeles, Officer Pitts applied with LAPD, Pasadena P.D. but it would be the Torrance Police Department to offer him a home to launch his career.

"It has been a wonderful ride, it really

has," Officer Pitts said. "I have had the distinction of working with five chiefs and not many people can say that. It's been good; I am kind of sad that it's coming to an end but I've had some great partners and worked with some really great people. The citizens of Torrance have always been number one, especially with the police department. They did not hesitate to pick up the phone."

Officer Pitts worked a wide-range of assignments with the police department and would become the first full-time officer assigned to

See City Council, page 10

Ragins, Lee Sworn-In During Board Meeting

By Cristian Vasquez

Former Torrance School Board President Don Lee and Board Member Terry Ragins were sworn in to their next term on the city's school board during Monday night's regular meeting.

Both Ragins and Lee, who are long-serving board members that plan to serve just one more term, won reelection in November by a comfortable margin.

"We represented the district well in the process," Lee said. "Mrs. Ragins and I managed to get 65 percent of the votes, so it looks like the community feels pretty well about what we did."

Both Lee and Ragins reflected on their time serving on the school board, as well as their respective journeys as public servants in the

City of Torrance. Lee, who was installed by Mr. Applegate, shared some details regarding the beginnings of his life in public service, dating back to when he was 21 years old.

"Mr. Applegate who knew my father, and what Mr. Applegate did which I think is something we should all do is, he mentored a lot of people through the political process," Lee said. "He had to put up with me hanging out and popping into his office from time to time, sit in a chair and learn what was going on. While a lot of people did that for me, he was certainly the first and it is something that I think the community needs to do. I think we need more people involved into this process, whether it be here or at the city council."

See School Board, page 12

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Mostly
Sunny/Wind
63°/48°



Saturday
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Sunday
PM
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65°/51°



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ExxonMobil Celebrates 19th Annual STEM Awards

By Cristian Vasquez

Gathered at the Ken Miller Recreation Center on Thursday night were Torrance Unified School District teachers, principals, administrators, and members of the Torrance Board of Education; also present were elected city officials, ExxonMobil Torrance Refinery management and members of the community judging selection committee, all excited to celebrate and honor the winners of the 19th Annual ExxonMobil STEM Awards.

Since 1997 the ExxonMobil Foundation has been funding the Torrance Refinery’s teacher grant program, which provides teachers the opportunity to enhance the classroom experience for their students with a creative and exciting curriculum tailored to science, technology engineering and math [STEM] education. To date, ExxonMobil has awarded more than \$1.5 million dollars in classroom grants via the grant program.

“When you start providing support for STEM, when you see how that support is used and when you get feedback from the kids through the teachers that it is all added value that helps the kids learn, that is huge feedback,” ExxonMobil Public & Government Affairs Manager Brian Ablett said. “It inspires you as a company to continue doing it and to think of new and creative ways to work with the schools and with the teachers.”

Through the grants, the ExxonMobil Foundation provides \$100,000 to the Torrance Refinery to fund Torrance Unified School District STEM programs. Winners are selected via a grant-selection committee that is made up of employees and community volunteers. This year the committee received 35 grant proposals from 59 district teachers. Of the submissions, 31 proposals were selected to receive a grant, which involved 49 teachers.

“STEM is the way of the future and really, the future is now. Our teachers have such a hard job with standards always changing, with the classroom constantly growing and yet every year we ask them to be better and better, so what an amazing resource the ExxonMobil grants are for our teachers,” Selection Committee Judge and President of the North High Parent Teacher Association Alicia Allen said. “As the old saying goes, ‘it takes a village to raise a child.’ The judging committee chose a couple of meetings and a few hours of application review but what

they really committed to was our community.” One of the winners from Victor Elementary School, Cheri Childers for her proposal “S.T.E.M.ulating Young Minds with the Next Generation Science Standards,” shared her enthusiasm for the learning opportunity that the grants represent for her students.

“I worked really hard to write a grant that would be excellent for my classroom and a good source with the NGSS [next generation science standards],” Childers said. “It is a wonderful opportunity for me to be able to try these things with my kids and I really think my grant will be a stepping stone for other lessons.”

Implementing current education guidelines, through the development of the grant proposals is part of the challenge to being selected as a winner. However, every year the proposals get more and more creative, making the selection process that much more challenging.

“You think you’ve seen something really exciting last year and then you see something more exciting this year and you think to yourself, ‘how did that happen?’ So I am continuously surprised and amazed by the creativity of the teachers,” Ablett said. “If you’re a teacher or are involved with kids and education and you see people really taking hold of learning and doing exciting things with it, it inspires you to just do more and more.”

In the elementary school level, the winners were: Allen Chin, Robert Baca and Doreen Joe from Adams for their proposal “uCode, iCode, We All Code Together: Solving Problems with Computer Science.” From Arnold there were several winners, including Alissa Goins, Margaret Hughes, Shawna Rogers and Ann Strauch for their proposal “Using Technology Across the Common Core Curriculum,” Carol Hankey for “STEM in the Next Generation,” Karen Kasper for “Bee Bot Programming” and Shannon Mastan for “Getting More from Math with Lego.” Carr Elementary’s winner was Teri Shimizu for “Carr Cubs for RAZ-Kids!” While Edison’s winners included Gloria Matoba for “Project Lead The Way-Launching First Graders to the Sun, Moon and Stars” and Daphne Tanimitsu and Joni Marumoto for “Expanding Vocabulary Skills Through Technology.”

Hickory Elementary winners included:

See ExxonMobil, page 12

Police Reports

Vandalism 11/29/2015 1:19:00 PM 22500 BLOCK NADINE CIR
Suspect(s) scratches victim’s vehicle’s paint
Theft 11/28/2015 8:50:13 PM 17500 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD
Suspect(s) takes unattended property/ purse
Theft 11/29/2015 9:00:00 PM 19900 BLOCK MANSEL AVE
Suspect(s) takes property from front of location/ stove
Theft 11/28/2015 8:00:00 PM 3500 BLOCK CARSON ST
Suspect(s) takes property from cash register/ cash
Burglary-Auto 11/28/2015 6:45:00 AM 20500 BLOCK ANZA AVE
Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means and takes property/ bag, ammunition, gas mask, gas canister
Burglary-Auto 11/27/2015 8:54 PM 18200 BLOCK KINGSDALE AVE
Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown

means, ransacks and takes property/ tool bags, tools
Burglary-Auto 11/27/2015 8:20:00 PM 21500 BLOCK WESTERN AVE
Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/ wallet
Burglary-Auto 11/27/2015 10:45:00 PM 3400 BLOCK CARSON ST
Suspect(s) smashes window for entry, ransacks and takes property/ camera
Burglary-Auto 11/27/2015 7:46 PM 1900 BLOCK DEL AMO BLVD
Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/ backpack, books
Burglary-Residential 11/27/2015 9:00:00 PM 100 BLOCK VIA LOS MIRADORES
Suspect(s) enters unlocked door and takes property/ jewelry
Vandalism 11/27/2015 8:22:15 PM 3500 BLOCK CARSON ST
Suspect(s) scratches victim’s vehicle’s paint
See Police Reports, page 10

Correction

Some one just shared your publication with me, specifically the 11/19/15 issue. I am pleased to see that the LG Bake Off at Pacific Sales was covered, however, the names and schools of the contestants are incorrect.

From left to right, pictured are Beth Gregorian from Edison Elementary School, Janet Kiley from Victor Elementary and Amanda Leyland from Hickory Elementary. We apologize for the error.•





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Traffic Commission

Water Commission

Applications are available in the Office of the City Clerk, 3031 Torrance Blvd., on our website www.TorranceCA.Gov or call (310) 618-2870 for further information or to request an application. To be considered for the next term, applications must be received no later than **Thursday, January 7, 2016**; before 5:00 p.m. Applicants must be registered voters living in the City of Torrance and current on their Commission Certification. Applicants are responsible to schedule interviews with the Mayor and Council and provide copies of your application to them. All applications will remain active and on file in the Clerk’s office for one year. Commissioners are paid a stipend of \$10 for each meeting attended. Stipends are paid quarterly.

Rebecca Poirier

City Clerk

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

Bye-Bye Bryant

By Adam Serrao

As recent days and even years have gone by in the National Basketball Association, it becomes hard to believe that the last time the Los Angeles Lakers won a championship was in 2010. Recently, the purple and gold that has forever been so glorious across NBA lore has now become almost a laughing stock of the league. The type of talent that it takes to accomplish the feat of winning an NBA title cannot be understated. The Lakers had that talent just five years ago. Now, they're one of the worst teams in the entire league. With one planned declaration, however, Kobe Bryant came to the rescue in only the way that he could. By announcing his retirement from the game of basketball last Sunday, Bryant singlehandedly took the criticism and condemnation placed upon the Lakers and immediately turned everyone's feelings into those of appreciation.

"This season is all I have left to give," Bryant wrote in an article/poem that he published on The Players Tribune website last Sunday. In the first person story that Bryant wrote explaining his decision to finally retire from the game that he loves so dearly, he described that the sport "gave a six-year-old boy his Laker dream/And I'll always love you for it." That Laker dream became reality when his 20-year career spent exclusively in Los Angeles turned out to feature championship trophies. Three from 2000-2002. Another two in '09 and '10. Before you knew it, the young superstar who was shooting air-balls in his first playoff series ever against the Utah Jazz became one of the best players to ever play the game before our very eyes.

"My heart can take the pounding," Bryant continued. "My mind can take the grind but my body knows it's time to say goodbye." If there's one thing that we all know about Bryant, it's that he's one of the most stubborn, determined, and passionate players to ever set foot on the hardwood. If it were up to him, he'd be carried away from the game on a stretcher. For him to admit that his body has had enough must have taken a lot. As Kobe's gotten older, his body has gotten the best of him and a game that is meant for youngsters just isn't as slow anymore to a man who has logged over 55,000 combined minutes of NBA game action.

"I've known for a while," Bryant said of his decision to retire. "A decision like this, you can't make that decision based on outside circumstances. It has to be an internal decision, and finally I've decided to accept that I can't actually do this anymore, and I'm OK with that." That acceptance certainly didn't come easily. After tearing his Achilles tendon, fracturing his knee and tearing his right rotator cuff, Bryant finally began to slow down and realize that perhaps his body was telling him something. "[The injuries] gave me perspective," he explained. "I knew that the game wasn't going to be there forever. I knew that, but I wasn't expecting it. It made me understand the finality of things and to appreciate them."

There certainly hasn't been much to appreciate over the last two seasons for anyone associated with the Lakers. After consistently finishing towards the top of the Western Conference standings and in playoff

contention in previous years, the Lakers have been among the worst teams in the league recently and have put up records that are the worst in franchise history. Last season, for example the Lakers began the year losing 10 of their first 16 games and finishing with a franchise worst record of 21-61. It certainly couldn't get worse - until this year, that is. The Lakers opened this season as losers of 14 of their first 16 games, including a loss to the woeful Philadelphia 76ers who make it a point to be the worst team in the league every year. The team is on pace to shatter its franchise worst record of last year and Bryant is on pace to easily put up the worst statistical year of his career. Currently, Bryant's field goal percentage and three-point percentage rank dead last among qualified players. His real plus-minus, according to ESPN, ranks him in the bottom 20 of the league that has about 400 total players. Kobe has gone from being the best player in the league to one of the worst.

That's precisely why the timing of his retirement announcement was so brilliant. By saying that he was giving the game up for good, Bryant singlehandedly took all of the attention and negative press off of the horrendous Lakers season and immediately turned the ill sentiments being sent the teams way into those of admiration and appreciation. No longer are people concerned with just how horrific the Lakers are doing this year. No longer are people talking about how awful Kobe has become. Now, it's all approval and gratitude as the final games of the legends career are played out and he goes on his retirement parade across the NBA. The Lakers could finish the season as the worst team in the league. They could set records for being downright awful and bad. Now, no one will care. This year has quickly become about Kobe Bryant and what he has done for the Lakers and the game of basketball as a whole.

Everyone will have their own opinion of Bryant. Some will be positive and some will unwaveringly be negative, steeped in microscopic judgment of every wrong step that the player has taken living his life in the public eye for the last 20 years of his career; a judgment that none of us would certainly wish to be placed upon ourselves by others. For once, however, let's forget about the negativity just as the media has recently done. For these last 60 games of the regular season, let's all remember the young and spry Kobe Bryant who came into the league flying through the air with his afro. Let's remember the Kobe that took the Lakers into the playoffs and won the team five championships. The player out of Lower Merion High school who came straight to the NBA at the age of 18 and was a 17-time All-Star, a two-time NBA scoring champ, an NBA Slam Dunk contest champion, an NBA MVP, a two-time NBA Finals MVP, scored 81 points in one game, became the all-time leading scorer in Lakers franchise history and is third on the NBA's all-time scoring list behind only Karl Malone and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Kobe Bryant is a legend. Appreciate him now for the final time while you still have the chance.

- Asixlion@earthlink.net •

Up and Adam

High School Legs Are Alive

By Adam Serrao

As Christmas time approaches every year the athletes from around the local High School's in Torrance get out their shorts, shin guards, and cleats and take to the field for what is sure to be an exciting year of soccer. This year, it is no different. While last year was an exciting season in its own right, no teams from boys soccer managed to make noise in the playoffs as both West High and South High lost in the first round. The girls featured a distinctly different story, however, as the Lady Warriors won their first championship in 33 years. This year has a whole new outlook and brings with it heightened expectations. Almost every team from around the city has a chance at the league championship this season as hopes for CIF playoff success are at an all-time high.

Naturally any preview of the season to come should start with last year's champions as they have certainly earned that right. The Lady Warriors (20-5-5, 8-1-1) of last year will be in for a challenge this year looking to replace star defender, Jenna Hernandez. The Warriors will return three key senior captains, however, in forward Emily Atkinson, forward Kaitlin Fregulia, and midfielder Sam Layman. Ex-West High player turned head coach, Jessica Murphy, will look to continue her early success at the helm and help the Warriors towards yet another championship, like the one she attained in her first year as head coach. "We've got a big target on our back," Murphy said. "Just because they did it last year doesn't mean it's going to happen again. They're going to have to put in even more work." With an experienced team returning to the pitch and a talented defense led by Ruth Soto in front of the net, the Lady Warriors are ready for any challenge that this year has to bring.

On the men's side of things, West High (16-4-5, 10-0) will look to defend last year's division championship with last year's game-saving goalkeeper, Denver Silverlake. Silverlake is now a veteran on what is a young team that will be looking to avenge last year's first round playoff loss to Lawndale. In order to do so they will need the help of first-team sophomore, Ryan Tamaki as well as key returners including Cole Prince and Brian Burrell, among others. Head coach Mike Shimizu knows that if the team won the Pioneer League last year, nothing should be out of reach this year with another year of experience in the books.

The South High Spartans were in the thick of things in both the men's and women's divisions last season. To think, a 17-7-3 record

while going 7-2-1 in league play was only good enough for a third place finish for the Lady Spartans last year. They finished behind both West and Torrance in the standings, but will surely be looking to overtake their rivals this season. After winning it all in 2013, South lost in the first round of the playoffs last year. Head coach Elizabeth Kitsios will be looking to do more damage this year with a senior-laden team that includes returning goalkeeper, Ashley Whittle and defensive standouts Sydney Baron and Tess Kossoff. On the boys side, head coach Chad Legerwey will be returning All-Pioneer League first-teamer's William Hayward and David Paine to form a solid attack with returning seniors Robbie Roosen and John Strauch in an attempt to improve on the team's third place finish from a year ago. Now that football season is done, Noa Harrison will join the squad to also try to make an immediate impact.

While all eyes were on the West High girls team for winning the championship last year, the Lady Tartars (17-4-3,8-2) put together a nice season of their own. Their second place finish in the Pioneer League was good enough to get the team into the playoffs and all the way to the CIF quarterfinals before losing to Cypress. Head coach John Martin will return goalkeeper Isabel Rojas and defenders Karina Rodriguez and Mia Ramirez, but may have a hard time replacing midfielder Anika Rodriguez. The boys team, under head coach Ryan Burnett, finished in fourth place last year and out of playoff contention. The Tartars (11-11-2, 4-6) will be looking to rebound despite losing Offensive Player of the Year, Marcos Ambriz, but will welcome goalkeeper Cesar Amezcua, midfielder Tony Gallardo and senior Bryan Mederos who will all join what has now become a very experienced club. The Tartars could make noise in the standings this year.

One team that has not been making noise in the sport of soccer lately has been the North High Saxons. The Lady Saxons (11-11-1, 4-6) finished in fourth place last season and out of the playoff hunt while the North High (5-10-4, 0-8-2) men's team finished in last place in their league. Head coach Katrina Johnson will look to get her girls back in the playoff hunt this season against stiff competition with returning sophomore Nora Schumacher, who was dominant in her freshman year last season. The North High men's soccer team hasn't experienced a winning year since the 2011-'12 season. They'll hope to get back on track this year and already have a nice win against Redondo Union to their names for added motivation. - Asixlion@earthlink.net •



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TerriAnn in Torrance

El Niño is Coming?

By TerriAnn Ferren

Anyone listening to a weather forecast within the last year certainly has heard that El Niño is coming, probably, most likely, absolutely. Weathermen and weatherwomen, along with meteorologists have been monitoring the temperature of the Pacific Ocean. Just what is El Niño? According to the *California Fish and Wildlife Association* website, “El Niño is a naturally occurring event in the equatorial region which causes temporary changes in the world climate. Originally, El Niño was the name used for warmer than normal sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of South America. Now, El Niño has come to refer to a whole complex of Pacific Ocean sea-surface temperature changes and global weather events.” That explanation sounded so sensible, and nothing like what



Gloria Watson.

I have heard on weather reports.

Remember, this is about weather. Meteorologists and weathercasters are the ones who have been warning us about El Niño based on their scientific knowledge. When the sea-surface warms and travels up from South America, it may affect us. Because

we may have a deluge of rain, I made some preliminary preparations. The gutters on my house are now free of pine needles and one particular drain has been ‘flushed’. I knew the drain needed to be cleaned out when I noticed a weed growing up from the spout! Going about the preparations reminded me of when Dr. Lucy Jones, seismologist expert who has worked with Caltech since 1983 and has recently been asked by Mayor Eric Garcetti to serve as Seismic Research Advisor, told me to always ‘be prepared for an earthquake’. And it is because of Dr. Jones, the calm voice after large earthquakes, that I have a cupboard full of emergency can goods, water, flashlights around the house, and slippers at the ready at night. I equate the El Niño alert to an earthquake we may have. Whether we get large amounts of rain, or less rain than expected, preparation seems prudent.

I wondered what citizens thought about El Niño and if they were preparing in any special way for the near Noah-like flooding we have been warned might descend upon our area.

Last week after Thanksgiving, I braved the crowds at our local mall, and asked a few shoppers what they thought about El Niño, and if they believed it was coming. Gloria Watson told me, “Yes, I believe it is coming. Have I done anything? No, but I am going to. I am working on my roof - I have already called to have it done. Trying to get my house together, that is about it.” Gloria has the same advice as Dr. Jones – be prepared.

Since there were children everywhere, I decided I needed a youngsters’ point of view. “Scary, terrifying, and I don’t know. Some people just say El Niño ...I have no idea

what it means – they just say it is something terrifying so...I am sure it is,” said Madison Jane, age 8. Well, some children seem to be listening but being frightened won’t help.

Shopping with her two children; Valentina, age 5 and Kingston, age 7 weeks, Georgia Tracy told me, “I really don’t believe it’s coming. I know I hear a lot of things, but



Yoko Miyaka.

I haven’t seen it. I did prepare though – I have the raincoats and boots, so they are ready but I haven’t seen much rain and am not going to get all freaked out about it until it actually happens.” That is a more ‘wait and see’ option – however she did prepare, just in case.

“Yes, El Niño is windy. I am a little bit preparing. Ice is melting, so I am a little bit worried,” said Yoko Miyaka.

Although most shoppers seemed to be more interested in the sales at the mall than the

weather, when I asked them their thoughts, everyone was more than happy to give me their view.

The next week while out at a local eatery, I asked Hannah Findling who was happy to share her thoughts, “I have heard that there is going to be a lot more extra rain – a lot more than California is used to - or maybe prepared for, but I am not personally doing anything to prepare for it. I am from Portland, Oregon and am pretty used to the rain. I can’t really do much to prepare myself. The city - I hope that they will get prepared. And I do believe it is a scientific occurrence - I would believe that.” Then Tara Garzon told me, “I have heard about, I haven’t been preparing for it, but I do believe in it. It is going to be very tragic. I think there might be lots of rain and we, in the beach areas may experience high tide. Even flooding.”

Nearly everyone I spoke with was either preparing for the heavy rains or not very concerned. Cleaning out gutters and repairing roofs seems wise no matter what happens. The more I read about El Niño and its unpredictability, I realize even with science, sometimes we just have to wait and see what develops. My hope is that our snow pack in the Sierra Nevada grows and we continue having northern polar jet streams, which cause more snow. Rain should fall beginning in January and carry through winter into spring, if we are lucky we’ll receive what is predicted. My advice? ‘Be Prepared’ like a good Girl or Boy Scout. •



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Georgia Tracy with her two children; Valentina, age five and Kingston, age seven-weeks.



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USBA Hosts Community Expo

Photos Provided by Unified Small Business Alliance

The Unified Small Business Alliance (USBA) held their 2nd annual Community Expo on November 18 at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center's Toyota Meeting Hall located at 3330 Civic Center Drive in Torrance.

Over 50 tables sponsored by small business owners from the South Bay displayed their products and services to 500-plus guests who attended the day-long event. Several elected officials participated including State

Assemblyman David Hadley, Torrance Mayor Patrick J. Furey, Torrance Councilman Tim Goodrich, Councilman Mike Griffiths, Councilman Geoff Rizzo, Councilman Kurt Weideman and Torrance City Clerk Rebecca

Poirier. USBA's mission is work together to foster lasting economic ties and development among small businesses. More info is at www.usba.club or (310) 742-5754. •



Emily Dockery from the Bluff Cove Olive Oil Company presented the Torrance company's selection of fine olive oils and balsamic vinegars.



The Torrance Police Department's Community Affairs department was represented by Christina Szczypkowski and Kelli McCarthy..



Dignitaries present at the USBA Expo included (L to R) Torrance Councilman Geoff Rizzo, State Assemblyman David Hadley, Torrance Mayor Patrick J. Furey, USBA Founder Aurelio Mattucci and Scott Fellows from Critics Choice that provided catering for the day's event.



Cecilia Chavez and her daughter Rianna showcased their Halo Photo Booth services for party, corporate and other event rentals.



First and Second Place winners stay leaders of the pack.



Lynn Robinson and Mary Jo Kohlmitter from the Torrance Rose Float Association were present at the Expo to publicize this year's float entry which represents the city's 61st year in the Rose Parade.



Affordable Bookkeeping & Payroll was one of the South Bay family-owned businesses at this year's Community Expo, shown here with President Candy Messer and Justin Ludwig.

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1/16	200	150	125	100	75

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Chicken and Grape Arepas

Makes 4 servings

Ingredients

- 2 cups arepa flour (pre-cooked masa, also called masarepa, which can be found online and in Latin specialty grocers, as well as some supermarkets)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons safflower or grapeseed oil (divided)
- 1 cup shredded cooked chicken
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 2 scallions, thinly sliced
- Salt and pepper
- 1 cup sliced red and green California grapes
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta

Preparation

1. Preheat an oven to 250F. In a large bowl, combine the arepa flour and salt. Stir in 2 1/2 cups warm water and stir until smooth. Let stand five minutes.
2. Knead the dough lightly and divide into eight pieces. Roll into a ball and then flatten to 1/2-inch thickness.
3. Heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add half the arepas, cover and cook until golden (about six to eight minutes.) Turn and cook uncovered, another six to eight minutes, adding more oil if needed.
4. Transfer to a sheet pan and put in oven to keep warm. Repeat with the remaining arepas.
5. Once the arepas are cooked, heat the remaining tablespoon of oil in the skillet over high heat.
6. Add the chicken, paprika, scallions, salt and pepper to taste and cook until chicken is slightly crispy and browned, about 5 minutes.
7. To serve, split the arepas and stuff with chicken, grapes and feta.

Police Reports

from page 3

Vandalism 11/27/2015 6:09 PM 3500 BLOCK CARSON ST
Suspect(s) smashes vehicle window/ no entry, no loss

Burglary-Auto 11/28/2015 1:00:00 PM 5600 BLOCK KONYA DR
Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle, ransacks and takes property/ cell phone

Burglary-Residential 11/27/2015 9:30:00 PM 22700 BLOCK MADISON ST
Suspect(s) enters unsecured window, ransacks and takes property/ clothes

Auto Theft 11/27/2015 11:31 AM VAN NESS AVE & REDONDO BEACH BLVD
Stolen vehicle: '69 VW Karmann Ghia

Theft 11/26/2015 7:10:00 PM 22000 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD
Suspect(s) takes property from victim's shopping cart/laptop

Burglary-Residential 11/26/2015 6:00:00 PM 2500 BLOCK 235TH ST
Suspect(s) enters open garage and takes property from unlocked vehicle/ purse, cash, check

Burglary-Residential 11/27/2015 9:00:00 PM 500 BLOCK VIA LA SELVA
Suspect(s) enters bathroom window, ransacks and takes property/ backpack, laptop

Burglary-Residential 11/26/2015 5:00:00 AM 2700 BLOCK HIGHCLIFF DR
Suspect(s) enters open garage and takes property from same and unlocked vehicle parked in driveway/ compressor, nail guns, bowling bag, bowling balls, bowling shoes

Burglary-Auto 11/26/2015 8:30:00 AM 2400 BLOCK LOFTYVIEW DR
Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means and takes property/ wallets

Burglary-Auto 11/26/2015 10:30:00 AM 18500 BLOCK SAINT ANDREWS PL
Suspect(s) pries door handle for entry and takes property/ toolboxes, tools

Burglary-Auto 11/26/2015 11:00:00 AM 2500 BLOCK LOFTYVIEW DR
Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means, ransacks and takes property/ MP3

Auto Theft 11/27/2015 11:20:00 AM 2300 BLOCK 205TH ST
Stolen vehicle: '98 Ford van

Burglary-Residential 11/26/2015 9:00:00 AM 4200 BLOCK 231ST ST
Suspect(s) enters unoccupied residential care facility by unknown means and takes property/ medication, safe, cash, client folders

Burglary-Residential 11/25/2015 2:30:00 PM 3600 BLOCK NEWTON ST
Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle in unlocked garage and takes property/ credit card terminal

Theft 11/25/2015 6:50:00 AM 20900 BLOCK AMIE AVE
Suspect(s) takes unsecured property from carport/toolbox, tools

Burglary-Auto 11/25/2015 2:00:00 AM 16500 BLOCK HAAS AVE
Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means and takes property/ backpack, book

Robbery-Weapon 11/24/2015 8:15:00 AM 2500 BLOCK REDONDO BEACH BLVD
Suspect brandishes a handgun and takes property from victim's pocket/ cash

Burglary-Auto 11/24/2015 7:30:02 AM 1800 BLOCK SCHILLING CT
Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle, ransacks and takes property/ purse

Robbery-Weapon 11/23/2015 10:12:02 PM 21300 BLOCK WESTERN AVE
Suspects simulate handgun and demand victim's property/cash

Burglary-Auto 11/25/2015 11:00:00 AM 20800 BLOCK TOMLEE AVE
Suspect(s) punches door lock for entry and takes property/third row seats

Burglary-Auto 11/23/2015 9:53:50 PM 3500 BLOCK CARSON ST
Suspect(s) punches door lock for entry and takes property/third row seats

Vandalism 11/23/2015 1:15 PM 5100

BLOCK 190TH ST
Suspect(s) throws rocks at business window

Burglary-Commercial 11/23/2015 4:26:46 AM 500 BLOCK MAPLE AVE
Enters building that is under renovation and flees when interrupted by witness/ no loss

Vandalism 11/22/2015 11:50 PM DOMIN-GUEZ ST & VAN NESS AVE
Suspect(s) tags exterior wall

Burglary-Auto 11/23/2015 8:20:00 AM 2100 BLOCK ARTESIA BLVD
Suspect(s) smashes window for entry, ransacks/ unknown property loss at time of report •

City Council

from front page

North Torrance High School, where through his presence on campus was able to impact the lives of generations of students.

"I will miss the people, I am going to miss the job, but the people I work with and also the people you get to help I will miss," Officer Pitts said. "I love working in the schools and love working with the kids. I run into kids at the grocery store who still remember me, and that to me is the greatest thing. Some kids who were on the edge at school are now coaching and have kids themselves, those are the great stories."

Officer Pitts thanked everyone present including Chief of Police Mark Matsuda, who early on in his career was partnered with Pitts.

"Making it to 36 years is quite a feat in itself but doing it in the way that you did, serving the community, impacting generations of North High students and also generations

of police officers is great," Chief Matsuda said to Pitts during the meeting. "I remember coming on as a young officer and working with you in those early years; not everybody was as friendly as Chester and that alone helped young folks integrate into the department and has a lasting impression."

Three decades of service and experience will be difficult to replace but the legacy left behind is not one that will be easily forgotten.

"It was a very hard decision. I have been off for a while and it was just time. A lot of guys leave at 50 and I just turned 59," Officer Pitts said. "I love my job but I got to the point where it was just time."

"I just want to say thank you to everybody for your recognition," Latham said. "It was a fun 36 years, actually. Mr. Jackson, everybody, I want everybody to have a wonderful life but I will be seeing you in Torrance. I'm not leaving." •

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A favorite of her litter, Ginger is a terrific kitten – super strong, athletic, funny, and rambunctious. If you’re looking for a cat you can actively play with, baiting with feathers, laser pointers, then Ginger is your kitten! She’s been known to leap into the air and tackle her siblings in epic wrestling matches that are hilarious to watch. She’s solid orange, the tallest of her litter, rescued from a shelter at 3.5 weeks old and has been held, loved and played with ever since. Ginger loves cuddling on laps and with her other kitten buddies. She’s the perfect combination of playful and loving. She’s highly adaptable and will adjust to situations very easily. She’s looking for a loving home, would be a great cat for kids and would be very lonely if she was adopted alone or into a house without other cats.

Merlin was rescued from a woodpile a few days after the 4th of July and trauma he went through still lingers as loud noises and the unknown are scary prospects. However, Merlin loves human attention and petting. Give him some pets and he turns on the charm, purring away and even asking for belly rubs! He loves to kiss your fingers when getting pets too! Merlin would do best in a calmer environment, away from loud sudden noises. He loves other cats to pieces and takes comfort from their presence. First time he met his foster buddies, he just sat there and let them sniff him all over - not one hiss! Merlin is absolutely adorable with his eye liner and tabby patches. He would do best in a home with adults or mature children

as sudden noises and movements are still a bit scary for this sweet boy.

Speckled with Tortoiseshell colors and boasting proud tabby stripping, Elektra is a visual bouquet of color and fun! A little livewire, this girl loves to play all day long! She made instant friends with the other kitties, romping and wrestling with them, or just playing with toys by herself when the others were napping. Scaling the cat tree without fear and always ready for the next adventure, Elektra loves a daredevil challenge. Elektra needs a forever kitty friend, she would be super lonely and bored as an only kitty. She does great with other cats and especially enjoys pouncing on them.

At just 6 weeks old, Holly wound up hospitalized where it was discovered she had



Holly

a motility issue with her colon. But then, at just 3 months old things began improving at lightning speed. Now, Holly is completely normal and hasn’t had a single problem in months! This very special little girl almost didn’t survive, but she fought hard and beat the odds. Due to the numerous medical procedures, Holly is nervous of new people and skittish of people walking around as she is convinced you are going to take her to the vet. However, when you are lying in bed, Holly purrs like a motor, butting her head into your hand, and demanding her share of attention. Holly loves wand toys she can grapple with and will come running when she hears a toy come out. Holly gets along with other cats and is super curious about other kittens. This precious girl would like a calm, quiet home with no children and is ok with calm, small dogs who leave her alone. She can be adopted into a home with other kitties or would be fine as the only kitty in your home. Holly is very photogenic and would be happy to pose for photos for you all day long.

Ryan Gosling may be the most awesome kitty you’ll ever meet. Or at least that’s what the people who meet him at adoption events say. Ryan is a true romantic who loves to love. He is super-duper affectionate, playful and energetic. This little love bug is happiest when he is close to you. He purrs even without being petted, and if you pet him, you’ll get his purring, kisses and head-butts all at once. Ryan will give you all the kitty-loving you can ask for. Being very socialable, he gets along well with all other kitties and enjoys snuggling with them as well as grooming them. His favorite games are kitty-soccer and trying to catch stringy toys.



Ryan Gosling



Merlin

Ryan was rescued in Istanbul along with his siblings. He’s looking forward to finding his forever home and giving you lots of love and happiness.

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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Ginger and friend

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Illustrated by Lili Chin www.doggiedrawings.net

ExxonMobil

from page 3

School Board

from front page

Gayle Bond, “Me Do Science---NO WAY (Hands-on Experiments for All);” Heather Fitzgerald, “Solar Powered Motor;” Leah Legaspi, “The Shocking Truth About Electricity;” Lindsay Cruz and Jennifer Watanuki, “Building Mathematicians, Engineers and Scientists Across the Curriculum;” and Melissa Davis, “Reach for the SKY-Give Programming a Try! [Cubelets].” From Torrance Elementary, the lone winner was Ann-Marie Frank for “Civil Engineering: The Engineering Process,” while Walteria’s winner was Tracy Bergen for “Magnets, Movement and Machines.”

Winners from Towers Elementary included Danica Burgner and Candy Moreno for “Energy by Design” and Sabrina Holdsworth who won for “Idita-what?” Lastly, from Victor Elementary the winners were Denice Gaunt and Carol Tokunaga, “Introducing OSMO... extending Learning Opportunities to our Youngest Students;” and Michael Atkinson, Katharina Blevins, Tara Fink, Steve Jennewin, Tim Magnus, April Pages and Paula Paulson for “Keep Your Hands, Arms and Feet Inside the Ride at all Times, Here We Go...(If we can dream it, we can built it).

The district’s middle school’s grant winners included: Kevin Tambara from Bert Lynn for “Let’s make Music-Uke Can Do

It!” and Patrick Donahue for “From Dream to Screen to Reality: Fabricating Computer Designs with a Laser Engraver/Cutter.” Winners from Calle Mayor were Ahbra Sargent and Ruth Tanouye for “Making Life Happen-Practicing the Skills.” Robert Medrano was the winner from Richardson for his proposal “Exploring Ancient Civilizations through Augmented Reality.”

In the high schools there were eight winners, including South High School’s Trisha Minahan for her proposal “If the Worlds Were a Fishbowl: A Project On Sustainability;” Christopher Cunningham for his proposal “Vernier Probes used in AP Chemistry Inquiry-Based Labs;” and Luminita Denisiu for “Energy Management-a 21st Century Global Challenge.” North High School winners included Katie Doupe for her proposal “Energizing Learning: Investigating Conductivity in Chemistry and Biology;” as well as Greg Wheeler, Stanley Masaoka, James Estabrook and Katie Doupe for the proposal “Chemical Detectives: The Determination of a Solution’s Concentration via Light Absorption Data with the Application of Beer’s Law.” Lastly, Torrance High School had two winners: Dana Hagen for “Pneumatics and Hydraulics for Engineers” and Paul Nitake for “Technology Blended with Science-Vernier Probeware.”•

Ragins, who was sworn in by former Torrance City Clerk Sue Herbers, also expressed her desire to see young people become actively engaged in issues concerning the city, in any capacity.

“I actually want to go a step further and say that I would actually like to see more women get involved,” Ragins said. “I sat on this panel when it was four-to-one [men-to-women] for a fairly long period of time and it is nice to see another woman join me. This is my last term, also so it would be wonderful to see some other women step forward.”

The evening’s meeting also hosted the board’s annual reorganization. Based on the board’s rules, the reorganization meeting requires that board members elect a president, vice president and clerk from its members. Martha Deutsch was nominated and unanimously approved as the new Board President, while Ragins was nominated and unanimously approved to be the board’s Vice president. Lee, former board president, was nominated and approved as the board’s clerk.

With the swearing in ceremonies having been conducted, Lee shared his desire to see the city’s current leaders play an active role in engaging the community in city affairs.

“To the average citizen who is somewhat interested, it looks a little more complicated sometimes than it really is to get elected,” Lee said. “If we can show and get people involved in the process, I think that it makes Torrance stronger, and it makes the community stronger.”

For Ragins, serving as an elected official is more than an opportunity to help make one’s city a better place.

“Something that changed for me about twelve years ago was when I did the Pledge of Allegiance after I got sworn in,” Ragins said. “I never really gave much attention to government before that. I clearly remember that first evening after having been sworn in, standing there shaking, saying the pledge and thinking ‘Wow, this really means something to me now. I have to say that every time that I have said the Pledge of Allegiance since then, it has been different for me.”

Part of the challenge in convincing community members to seek public office, or to become more engaged in civic life, is a general lack of knowledge about the process and avenues to become involved. Lee hopes that the public can overcome those uncertainties and just ask city leaders questions about ways to become involved.

“I want the community to start to look and use us as a resource and if you’ve ever thought about running for office, grab one of us and we’ll talk about it; grab one of the city council people, they’ll talk about it,” Lee said •.



Conquer The Last DIY Craft Frontier: Concrete

(BPT) - You’ve made furniture out of tree stumps and wind chimes from buttons, bottle caps and old tin cans. You are the queen (or king) of Pinterest projects, and you’ve DIYed your way to decorative splendor with just about every material imaginable. What’s left if you want to take your interior and exterior decorating projects up a notch? One word: concrete.

“Concrete is an exciting, creativity-inspiring design material,” says Fu-Tung Cheng, a pioneer in the integration of concrete into exterior and interior design applications, from outdoor water features to sculptural countertops. “Hobbyists and do-it-yourself decorators, however, may not realize the full potential of concrete.”

Cheng, president of CHENG Concrete, partnered with concrete products maker Sakrete to create a new type of concrete that puts the full creative power of the material in the hands of virtually any DIYer. “Sure, concrete responds to any form you pour it into, but we wanted to create a material that can do that and respond to how you shape it with your hands, tooling or even found objects,” Cheng says of the new product, ShapeCrete, which can be poured, rolled, pushed or molded to create custom concrete designs.

“We like to say ShapeCrete ‘plays like clay and works like concrete’,” says Eric Peterson, president of Sakrete of North America. ShapeCrete won Best Design Material honors during Dwell on Design 2015, an annual exhibit of current and future trends in architecture, interior design and landscaping. More than 32,000 people - including DIY designers and crafters - attended this year’s event in Los Angeles.

If you’re thinking about trying your hand at concrete design, here are five projects to liven up the interior and exterior of your home:

- Create a doorstep that will make visitors stop and stare. A 3/4-inch piece of Melamine-coated particle board, 2-inch thick piece of insulating foam or Styrofoam, some spray adhesive, a cutting tool and ShapeCrete are all you need to create an eye-catching, one-of-a-kind doorstep. Simply print out or draw the word “STOP” in large, bold letters, transfer to the foam, cut it out to create a mold, and pour the ShapeCrete into the mold.
- Concrete planters can be expensive if you buy them from a home and garden store. Making your own not only saves you money, but allows you to unleash your creativity and make planters in a variety of sizes, shapes and even colors. All you need to start are

some plastic planters in the size of your choice. Add water to the concrete powder to achieve a clay-like consistency and press the concrete into the container to create the form. Or, you can create a unique draped planter by rolling out the concrete on a piece of round fabric and then draping the fabric inside a bowl, plastic planter or other container.



- Turn a large, fresh leaf into a one-of-a-kind dish. Simply create a bed of sand on a piece of cardboard or sheet of plastic, cover the sand with a plastic bag to keep the grains from sticking to the leaf, and lay the leaf on top of the plastic with the vein side up. Mix the concrete to a clay-like consistency and begin packing it onto the leaf, starting at the center and working your way out.

During the mixing process, you can add color to the concrete. You’ll have 30 to 60 minutes of working time before the concrete

begins to harden, and it will cure completely after 24 hours. You can find detailed instructions for these concrete projects and many more online at www.shapecrete.com.

“You don’t have to have a shop or garage, or be a concrete expert to work with this product,” Cheng says. “You can work off your kitchen table, depending on the project size. The grand reveal of what you’re able to create after about a day or so is exhilarating. It doesn’t matter what your skill set is, you’ll surprise yourself every time, and that’s really the best part.” •



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Roger Hart (left) with sons: Kevin; Jeremy and his wife Stephanie; and Bradley with his wife Alannah. The Hart family has used its successful business to promote and preserve pride in the Torrance community through responsible real estate transactions and homeownership.