

Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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Inside This Issue

Certified & Licensed Professionals	2
Classifieds	6
Crossword/Sudoku	6
Community Briefs	4
Food	5
Legals	6,7
Real Estate	8
Sports	3
TerriAnn in Torrance	4

Sleepy Hollow is the Place to See the Christmas Lights Extravaganza



As has been the case for many years, Torrance's Sleepy Hollow neighborhood has transformed into Candy Cane Lane to delight thousands of visitors throughout the month of December. Homeowners decorate their houses, trees and lawns with creative light displays that must be seen to be believed. The Sleepy Hollow Christmas Lights Extravaganza runs nightly from 6 to 10 p.m. all of December with walk streets closed to vehicle traffic during this period. Parking is available on PCH, Calle Mayor or Prospect Avenue. Photo by Peter Thornton. •

Council Approves Proposed Redesign to Landscape, Hardscape of City Hall

By Cristian Vasquez

A recommendation made by the Community Planning and Design Committee for a proposed redesign to the front of City Hall's landscape and hardscape received approval from the Torrance City Council during Tuesday night's meeting. Also approved was the option to extend the same improvements to the fronting of the building's East Annex and West Annex.

"Due to the deterioration out in front of the plaza at City Hall and because of uprooting trees and skateboarding, FEAP 907 was added to the capital budget in 2015 with a budget of \$200,000," said Facilities Manager Jon Landis. "Since then, this summer the City selected a Torrance-based landscape architect to do a conceptual design."

Through the landscape proposal, the architect recommended replacing the Carrotwood trees currently in front of City Hall now that those have reached the end of their lifespan. Furthermore, the roots in the trees have caused structural damage to some of the concrete and tiles in front of the building.

"Some of the items that were included were new stamped concrete hardscape, a new fountain which is an overflow," Landis said. "New plant materials, a drought-tolerant landscape and an option to expand the landscape from the east end, west bound to the Human Resources building."

The City Council Community Planning and Design Committee, along with Assistant City Manager Mary Giordano, Assistant to the City Manager Brian Sunshine, Landis and landscape architect Arthur Alaniz from the SEED Group (which prepared the conceptual design for the project) met on September 13. After the meeting, Councilman Tim Goodrich (also a Community Planning and Design Committee member) recommended that the City seal be infused into the new hardscape.

"Councilman [Mike] Griffiths requested lighting enhancements such as up-lights on

buildings and trees, as well as in the water feature, be considered," states the staff report. The councilman also recommended that the redesign include upgrades to infrastructure and an electrical conduit in case security lighting for the walkways are sought out down the road. This is a feature that Landis stated would be added beneath the new concrete to allow electrical features to be added in a future project--if the current budget can't accommodate it.

With the approval of the conceptual design, City staff will now move to complete a contract package for the competitive bidding process.

Purchase Order Approved For Voicemail System Servers

The Mayor and City Council approved the appropriation of \$27,280.94 from the Telephone Replacement fund for a purchase order with Digital Telecommunications Corporation (DTC)

to buy and install voicemail system servers and software. The City of Torrance has used the AVST CallXpress voicemail system since February 2010. While the system is capable of supporting 2,700 voice mailboxes, answering 50,000 per year, and routing calls through an automated answering system, staff pointed to the need for an upgrade.

"Staff has evaluated alternative Cloud-based voicemail systems and determined that maintaining a private voicemail system in premises offers the greatest security, best performance and easy access for technical staff to administer," states the staff report signed by Communications & Information Technology Director Richard Shigaki. "DTC is currently the City's contracted telephone service provider. It is recommended that City Council approve

See City Council, page 7

School District Slowly Transitions to PowerSchool Platform

By Cristian Vasquez

In an effort to expedite the registration process, the Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) will transition into a digital platform known as PowerSchool, phasing out its current system, Zangle (also referred to as Q). TUSD Chief Education Technology and Information Services Officer Gil Mara announced during Monday night's School Board meeting that the District is on schedule to introduce the PowerSchool registration platform by the beginning of the fall 2017 semester.

PowerSchool is leading education technology platforms for K-12. So far the platform provides service to more than 24.5 million students, 43 million parents, and 67 million

users in around the world.

"We need a more modern system in order to accommodate all of the current data needs of the District, so when they are looking for things on student achievement or wanting a report on any kind of data, a system like PowerSchool is built on an engine that can accommodate all of those things," Mara said. "It is also a better grade book for the teachers and allows for a lot better reporting capability."

The first step for TUSD for transitioning into PowerSchool will be switching to the registration aspect of the program, which is only a small piece of what the entire platform provides. "When the parents come

See School Board, page 6

Weekend Forecast

Friday
AM Rain/
Wind
60°/45°



Saturday
Sunny
57°/44°



Sunday
Sunny
59°/45°



Calendar of Events

Deadline for Calendar items is the prior Thursday by noon. Calendar items are \$1 per word. Email listings to marketing@heraldpublications.com. We take Visa and MasterCard.

THURSDAY, DEC. 15

- Secret Snowmen, All Day through Dec. 17th, free, El Retiro Library, 126 Vista del Parque, Call: 310-375-8418.
- WALTERIA Winter Word Search, 11:00 AM. – 8:00 PM., free, WALTERIA Library, 3815 W. 242nd St., Call: 310-375-8418.
- Torrance Theatre Company Presents – Peter and the Star Catcher – In Historic Downtown Torrance, 8:00 PM. – 10:00 PM., Tickets: \$30, 1316 Cabrillo Ave., Call: 424-243-6882.
- Propagation Society – Planting Seeds for the Future, 10:30 AM., Madrona Marsh Nature Center & Preserve, 3201 Plaza Del Amo, free to public, Call: 310-782-3989.
- Great Gifts, 4:00 PM., free, Henderson Library, 4805 Emerald St., Call: 310-371-2075.

FRIDAY, DEC. 16

- Friday Fun, 10:00 AM., free – donations accepted, Madrona Marsh Nature Center & Preserve, 3201 Plaza Del Amo, Call: 310-782-3989.
- Ntyme Winter Concert (North Torrance Youth Musicians Ensemble), 7:00 PM., Tickets: \$10/\$5, James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive, Call: 310-720-7624.
- Co-Rec Club - Holiday Celebration Party, 7:30 PM., For Torrance Middle School Stude\$4.00 Members/ \$6 Guests, Must have current Torrance Middle School ID, Ken Miller Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd., Call: 310-618-2729.
- Torrance Theatre Company Presents – Peter and the Star Catcher – In Historic Downtown Torrance, 8:00 PM. – 10:00 PM., Tickets: \$30, 1316 Cabrillo Ave., Call: 424-243-6882
- Secret Snowmen, All Day through Dec. 17th, free, El Retiro Library, 126 Vista del Parque, Call: 310-375-8418.

SATURDAY, DEC. 17

- Torrance Theatre Company Presents – Peter and the Star Catcher – In Historic Downtown Torrance, 8:00 PM. – 10:00 PM., Tickets:

- \$30, 1316 Cabrillo Ave., Call: 424-243-6882.
- Secret Snowmen, All Day, free, El Retiro Library, 126 Vista del Parque, Call: 310-375-8418.
- Breakfast and a Visit with Santa (Torrance Community Services Department), 9:00 AM. – 12:00 PM., Reservations required: \$20, Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Drive, Call: 310-618-2720.
- Holiday Wreath Making, 9:00 AM., Admission: \$5 per person or \$10 per family, Madrona Marsh Nature Center & Preserve, 3201 Plaza Del Amo, Call: 310-782-3989.
- Serendipity Saturdays: Grinchmas Party, 10:30 AM., free, Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Call: 310-618-5964.
- The Nutcracker (Dance West Dance Studio/ Metropolitan Ballet Company), 7:00 PM., Tickets: \$19.50/\$17.50, James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive, Call: 310-781-7171

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

- Torrance Theatre Company Presents – Peter and the Star Catcher – In Historic Downtown Torrance, 2:00 PM. – 4:00 PM., Tickets: \$30, 1316 Cabrillo Ave., Call: 424-243-6882.
- The Nutcracker (Dance West Dance Studio/ Metropolitan Ballet Company), 2:00 PM., Tickets: \$19.50/\$17.50, James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive, Call: 310-781-7171.
- Artist Reception for Estelle DeRidder, 1:00 PM. – 4:00 PM., free, Madrona Marsh Nature Center & Preserve, 3201 Plaza Del Amo, Call: 310-782-3989.

MONDAY, DEC. 19

- Madrona Marsh Nature Center & Preserve – CLOSED.

TUESDAY, DEC. 20

- City Council Meeting, 7:00 PM., City Hall, 3031 Torrance Blvd., Call: 310-618-2780.
- Tour de Torrance – Birding “hot spots” of the South Bay, 8:30 AM. – 10:30 AM., free, Madrona Marsh Nature Center & Preserve, 3201 Plaza Del Amo, Call: 310-782-3989.

THURSDAY, DEC. 22

- Propagation Society – Planting Seeds for the Future, 10:30 AM., Madrona Marsh Nature

Center & Preserve, 3201 Plaza Del Amo, free to public, Call: 310-782-3989. •

Police Briefs

DUI/Driver's License Checkpoint Planned this Weekend

Torrance Police Department Traffic Unit will conduct a DUI/Driver's License Checkpoint on December 16 between 8 p.m. and 3 a.m.

The deterrent effect of DUI checkpoints is a proven resource in reducing the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol- or drug-involved crashes. Research shows that crashes involving an impaired driver can be reduced by up to 20 percent when well-publicized DUI checkpoints and proactive DUI patrols are conducted routinely. DUI checkpoints are placed in locations based on collision statistics and frequency of DUI arrests, affording the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence. Locations are chosen with safety considerations for the officers and the public.

In California, this deadly crime led to 867 deaths and over 23,000 serious injuries in 2013 because someone failed to designate a sober driver. Nationally, the latest data shows over 10,000 were killed by an impaired driver. Over the course of the past three years, officers have investigated 313 DUI collisions which have claimed six lives and resulted in another 92 injuries.

Officers will look for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment and check drivers for proper licensing, delaying motorists only momentarily. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving.

Recent statistics reveal that 30 percent of drivers in fatal crashes had one or more drugs in their systems. A study of active drivers showed more tested positive for drugs that may impair driving (14 percent) than did for alcohol (7.3 percent). Of the drugs, marijuana was most

prevalent, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol. If you're taking medication – whether prescription or over-the-counter – drinking even small amounts of alcohol can greatly intensify the impairment affects.

Law Enforcement emphasizes the preventable nature of drunk driving reminding everyone that all it takes is a little planning ahead. Designate a sober driver or call a cab. But whatever you do, don't drink and drive. The California Office of Traffic Safety DDVIP (Designated Driver VIP) mobile app is now available for free download on iOS and Android devices. Launched last year, the new DDVIP app offers enhanced features, allowing users to “Map a Spot” with their current location to find DDVIP partnering establishments in their area or a “List of Spots” to search all participating bars and restaurants throughout California. Users will be offered free incentives at each bar to celebrate their life saving role. They can stay up-to-date with the latest from DDVIP and see what other users are saying via its social tab. Also through the app, for those who want to imbibe but also make it a point to plan ahead, users can easily order a sober ride from Uber, Lyft or Curb – all from one screen.

Drivers caught driving impaired can expect the impact of a DUI arrest to include jail time, fines, fees, DUI classes, other expenses that can exceed \$10,000 not to mention the embarrassment when friends and family find out.

Funding for this checkpoint is provided to the Torrance Police Department by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, reminding everyone to ‘Report Drunk Driver – Call 9-1-1’. •

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Sports

Up and Adam

Lady Saxons, Warriors Look to Stay on Top

By Adam Serrao

The North High Saxons girls' basketball team has been nothing short of exceptional over the last few years. The team's reign, under head coach Lauren Kamiyama, has lasted four years now--and with the way that things are looking, North's domination may just be poised to continue at least one more season. While predicting the Pioneer League has traditionally been extremely difficult to do, Kamiyama and her roster of talented players have done their part to make things rather uncomplicated for all of those looking from the outside in at the league. The West High Warriors have been successful in their own right. While the Warriors have given the Saxons a run for their money, though, it continues to look like North may just have the firepower to keep their rivals from the west side at bay for another year longer.

Coach Kamiyama has to go all the way back

to 2012 to remember a season in which her basketball team did not finish in first place in the Pioneer League standings. That year, Kamiyama and the Lady Saxons finished in third place, yet still made it to the playoffs and all the way to a quarterfinal matchup. That was when the team was just scratching the surface of their potential. Since the 2012-'13 season, the Lady Saxons have rattled off four first place seasons in a row, and in that same amount of time have only lost one game in league play (to the South High Spartans by four points).

The victories that North High has racked up haven't been for nothing. In the 2014-'15 season, the Lady Saxons went on to win the CIF championship in an exciting one-point finish over El Dorado. Now, two years later, Kamiyama and her club are trying to reach back into the past and bring home another

See Up and Adam, page 4

Sports Shorts

Former Eagle Finds Cross Country Success at El Camino

Brianna Harmon, former El Segundo High School cross country standout, continues her running ways at El Camino College. Brianna was the varsity team captain for the 2015 league

champion cross country Eagles. Now running for the Warriors, she was the only female El Camino cross country runner to advance to the state championship round in Fresno 2016.



Brianna with men's cross country team in Fresno. Photos by Tom Harmon.



Brianna Harmon with El Camino cross country coach Dean Lofgren.

Torrance Ed Foundation Awards \$39,500 in STEM Grants to Teachers

Grants to Support 48 Projects for K-12 Students

Torrance Education Foundation (TEF) recently announced it has awarded \$39,500 in grants for STEM-related learning projects at Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) schools through its third annual round of STEM Initiative Grant Awards. Forty-eight projects in District elementary, middle and high schools will take place in the 2016-2017 Academic Year, involving an estimated 6,000 students.

Lead Teachers for each project will this week receive the grant awards through special access accounts at Torrance Unified School District (TUSD). Funds will be used to purchase materials and supplies for participatory projects focused on science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics, and for competition entry fees.

"Torrance Education Foundation has created a groundswell of excitement and enthusiasm with their STEM grants," comments Torrance Unified Superintendent, Dr. George Mannon. "The District applauds the key role that the STEM Initiative Awards play in bringing interactive and hands-on extra-curricular learning opportunities to our students."

The response from our teachers this year was tremendous. The 48 winning projects represent a 55 percent increase over the 31 awards granted in 2015.

Says TEF Board President Kevin O'Brien, "Our teachers, students and families are actively engaged in 21st Century learning, and they are doubling down on their experience and knowledge and building their competitive edge. We encourage our community to visit their neighborhood school for a Family STEM Night, or attend another STEM-related Club competition to witness firsthand how our students are preparing for their futures."

About the STEM Initiative Grants

TEF created its STEM Initiative Grant Program in 2014 to encourage and enable teachers to offer K-12 TUSD students new and sustainable STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Mathematics) learning opportunities that promote collaboration among all

schools. Application for TEF STEM Initiative Grants is open to all teachers in TUSD with an interest in promoting STEM subject learning.

In the 2016 round of applications, TEF expanded the number of qualifying target projects from five to seven. Teachers submitted applications for qualifying expenses to coordinate and execute one of the following eligible programs:

After School Engineering Club – targeting K-8 students, this club empowers youth to tackle real-world engineering problems using the engineering design process along with creativity, collaboration and mentorship using the "Engineering is Elementary" program protocol developed by the Museum of Science, Boston.

Family STEM Night – introduction to STEM subjects through interactive workshops, hands-on activities, and other challenges for students, parents, and teachers, held on campus at school.

Math Counts - a middle school club that incorporates team competition in geometry, combinatorics, counting, number theory, and algebra.

First LEGO League/Robotics - a club for students in grades 4-12 that incorporates team competition; students engage in a "Challenge" by programming a robot to score points on a themed playing field.

Science Olympiad – targeting both middle schools and high schools, this team competition give students the opportunity to compete in "events" pertaining to various scientific disciplines, including earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering.

CyberPatriots – Students in grades 6-8 and 9-12 train for the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. A partnership with the U.S. Air Force Association, CyberPatriots inspires students toward careers in cybersecurity, as well as other STEM disciplines critical to our nation's future.

Hour of Code – School-wide coding events across Grades K through 12 target participation by all students in order to provide computer science education for every child, not just a lucky few. •



Torrance Education Foundation honored 2016 STEM Grant Awardees from Torrance Unified School District at a reception hosted by the Edelbrock Family Foundation at Vic's Garage and vintage automotive museum in Torrance. Find out more about TEF's STEM Initiative at www.TorranceEducationFoundation.org. Photo Provided by Torrance Education Foundation. •

HAPPY
Holidays

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Herald Publications Holiday Schedule

Our offices will be closed the following days for the holidays.

Friday, December 23 | Monday, December 26 | Friday, December 30



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TerriAnn in Torrance

Gift-giving

By TerriAnn Ferren

In the United States, I would say the month of December ranks at the top for gift giving. Although birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and celebrations of all kinds provide opportunities for gifts throughout the year, Christmas and Hanukkah rank at the top of the list. What is your favorite all-time Christmas or Hanukkah gift and why? I decided to ask a few Torrance residents this question.

Dena Kohatsu told me her all-time favorite Christmas gift was “getting engaged! It was at the department store at J.C. Penny.” She went on to tell me he got down on one knee and asked her to marry him as he presented a ring, just like in the movies.

“My favorite Christmas ever was visiting my parents in Texas because I hadn’t seen them in three years,” said Christon Cox. Jason Rosh told me his favorite Christmas gift when he was a child was “a Nintendo console. I was seven or

eight years old. It was a very nice gift and I still remember it.” Later that night, I bumped into Khai Edwards, who told me, “My favorite present was – my fourth grade year, I think it was 1999 – and I actually got... it was the year that scooters were really popular, so all the kids were getting scooters and I had just gotten two--a razor scooter and a street cruiser. Well, all my friends had razor scooters and they were cool, but the street cruiser was the smoothest thing I had ever ridden. It was perfect and I kept that one and my parents ended up taking the other one back, which was completely fine. Everybody wanted to ride my scooter, so I definitely had the best one.” Khai told me he was completely surprised with his gifts because that was the year he also received his Harry Potter books, so it was definitely his favorite Christmas.

Giving gifts dates back to the beginning of time, I suppose, and all over the world gifts are given and received in different ways. Gift-giving expresses our feelings for one another. In fact, diplomats study the gift-giving of other countries and cultures, as not to offend when visiting, and wise businessmen know when and how to gift. But most of us learn about giving at home. Sharing doesn’t come as naturally as we might think. After all, among a child’s first words are “No” and “Mine.” But we learn to give, share and receive.

The Three Kings gifted gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Jesus. Celebrating the birth of Jesus, Christians give gifts to each other. Hanukkah is celebrated by the giving of gifts as well, for eight days, commemorating the rededication of the Temple by Judas Maccabaeus in 165 BC, beginning on the 25th day of Kislev.

There are all kinds of gifts one can give, from the ultra-extravagant to the simple, and everywhere we look there are those vying for

our dollar. When I was little and didn’t have a cent, I would fashion homemade cards and special “coupon” books. The coupons were good for all sorts of practical chores and acts. And as



Jason Rosh.

a newlywed, I remember giving my husband a coupon book filled with special gifts only for him. But there is something I learned after I grew up that took some practice – receiving a gift graciously.

Uncle Gene and Aunt Dorothy, who lived in Walnut Creek, California, were two of my favorite relatives I acquired by marriage. They were not only older and wiser, but brilliant, accomplished and well-traveled. Dave and I didn’t see them except for maybe twice a year at family gatherings, so when Christmas came, I always made it a point of sending them a thought. Nothing extravagant, but I wanted them to know Dave and I loved, appreciated and thought about them. They, in turn sent us a little gift. This went on through the years until one year; a note arrived saying that, although the gift was appreciated, we should stop sending anything. Oh. I sent a gift the next year not paying attention to the note. Another note arrived with the underlined words, “No more.”

I got it. It hurt me that our little gifts were rejected, albeit in the most kindly manner. I knew what she intended, but I learned a lesson.

Yes it is wonderful to give--and this time of year many of us give what we can to charities, non-profits, those in need, our families, friends, neighbors and others--but there is also a great gift in receiving. Sometimes, it is more difficult to receive than to give. A thank you can be a gift to the giver. How many times have we heard a shopkeeper comment on someone saying, “Thank you?” Knowing that it is in giving we receive, can it also be said that it is in receiving that we give? For it takes humble gratefulness to say a simple thank you.

My favorite Christmas gift? The year I received my blue and white Huffy bicycle and my Monopoly game when I was little. As we open up and give the gifts of this season, let us remember both the giving and the receiving are gifts, be they tangible or spiritual. •



Khai Edwards.



Christon Cox and Dena Kohatsu.

Community Briefs

Free Rain Barrel Distribution at The Forum on December 20

Catch the rain when it hits with a free rain barrel from West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin). California has been in a statewide drought for five years, and likely a sixth. In response, West Basin is increasing public conservation and education by hosting no-cost rain barrel distribution events throughout the South Bay this fall season to qualified residents in the West Basin service area.

RSVP by visiting www.sbesc.com to participate on Tuesday, December 20 at The

Forum in Inglewood.

To obtain additional information on West Basin’s Rain Barrel Distribution Program, qualified residents must register with South Bay Environmental Services Center by visiting www.sbesc.com or calling 310-371-4633. West Basin’s service area includes El Segundo, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Manhattan Beach and Torrance, among other communities. For additional information on other water conservation programs, visit www.westbasin.org.

Torrance PD Updates Map of Coyote Sightings

The Torrance Police Department has posted an updated map of coyote sightings for the month of November 2016 and asks citizens who see a coyote to report that sighting. The

Department will update the maps monthly based on reports.

If a coyote is aggressive, call 9-1-1 immediately.

To report a sighting only or evidence of coyote presence, report the incident in the following ways (please include specific location):

- Non-emergency number 310-328-3456
- Animal Control 310-618-3850, or Animal-Control@TorranceCA.gov
- TPD Mobile App-

1. Go to “Report” icon, you can report anonymously or include contact info
2. Tap inside “What” box, drop down menu will include “Coyote Activity.”
3. Continue following prompts and send – report comes directly to TPD.

Here is the link to view November 2016 sightings: http://www.torranceca.gov/TPD/Documents/Coyote_Activity_Map_for_November_2016.pdf

For reference, the street between the orange section and the rest of the city is Hawthorne Boulevard and the street that separates the green and yellow sections is Torrance Boulevard. The Torrance Police Department is currently putting together an interactive mapping system for the near future. •

Up and Adam

from page 3

championship while also holding off their foes from around the city of Torrance. A team that hasn’t lost a league game in two seasons now returns a senior-laden group of girls who not only had success last season, but are also another year older in terms of experience.

Leading the way for the Lady Saxons is perhaps the best player in the entire area--Brittany McPherson. McPherson has been leading the team to victories since her freshman season and now as a senior is ready to break out for what should be her most successful year yet. Accompanying McPherson on the hardwood will be shooting guard Kellie Ogata and power forward Daylene Taulii, who both had breakout seasons for North last year. Rejoining the mix will be Cheridan Mataalii, who was forced to sit out last year because of a torn ACL. Her presence on the Lady Saxons’ roster once again, in addition to the firepower that already exists from a season ago, should certainly be enough to keep North at the top of the Pioneer League standings and lead to another deep CIF playoff run this year.

While North High has been stealing all of the headlines from around Torrance, the West High Warriors have been turning in extremely productive seasons year after year, to say the least. Now the team is entering its third season in the Pioneer League, but the Lady Warriors were enjoying success even before they switched divisions. West High was the class of the Bay League, dating all the way back to the 2011-’12 season when they finished with a 26-7 record (9-1) and in first place in the standings. West made it all the way to the CIF semifinals that year, but the team eventually lost by two points to Rio Mesa. However, that wasn’t the last of the Lady Warriors’ success. The team captured another Bay League crown the very next season, followed by a CIF championship in 2013-’14. West left for the Pioneer League the very next year and has had to put up with North High ever since.

Despite North’s dominance in the Pioneer League, West’s success has never been in peril. Though the team has finished in second place to North for two seasons in a row now, West still went on to capture yet another CIF championship just two seasons ago. Bill Atkinson took over as head coach of the girls’ team last year and brought the club all the way back to the championship game for the second season in a row. The Lady Warriors weren’t as successful in bringing home a title, but their performance remains clear proof that the team can compete with anyone, regardless of the league in which they are placed.

The Lady Warriors will look to remain competitive this season despite a few key losses from last year’s club. Atkinson was only expected to coach one season for West, and has now given up the head coaching position to Riki Murakami. Murakami hopes to guide the team back to the playoffs without a few key players from last year, including Hayley Tanabe, Dakota Jones and Kalei Atkinson (who most said was the team’s heart and soul). If the Lady Warriors have showed anything, though, it has been perseverance. Look for West to rebound nicely and compete with the Lady Saxons while making yet another deep playoff run this year.

The regular season has already begun this year for both North and West and while the Lady Saxons have held true to form, the Lady Warriors have struggled out of the gate. Three straight losses to open the young season have gotten West out to an early 1-6 start, while North has continued to impress with a five-game winning streak for a 5-1 record to begin the year. The season is young--and with a lot of tournament games to come before league play gets started near the beginning of January, certainly anything can happen. Follow all of the action from this year’s Pioneer League right here in what should be yet another very exciting girls’ basketball season.

– Asixlion@earthlink.net

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Butternut Squash Soup Shooters



For more seasonal recipe ideas, visit www.simplyorganic.com, provided by BPT.

Butternut squash soup turns shooter in this recipe featuring organic squash and curry powder.

Ingredients

- 2 teaspoons Simply Organic Curry Powder
- Simply Organic Crushed Red Pepper
- 1 tablespoon butter or olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped (about 1 cup)
- 4 celery stalks, chopped (about 1 cup)
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed and chopped
- 1 3-pound butternut squash, peeled and cubed (about 5 cups)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 5 cups vegetable broth (or a water and broth combo, if desired)
- 1 cup canned coconut milk
- fresh cilantro, for garnish
- cooked chickpeas, for garnish

Preparation

1. In a large stock pot, over medium heat, melt the butter or heat the oil. Add the onion and celery. Cook for four to five minutes, until the onions are translucent and the vegetables "sweat."
2. Stirring frequently, add the garlic and cook for one minute, until fragrant. Add the butternut squash, salt and curry powder. Stir.
3. Add the vegetable broth and bring to a boil. Then reduce to a simmer and allow to cook for 25 to 30 minutes, until the butternut cubes are soft when pierced with a fork.
4. Into the soup, stir coconut milk, then remove the soup from the heat. Using an immersion blender, blend the soup until smooth and creamy. Serve in shot glasses with a garnish of cilantro, chickpeas and red pepper flakes.

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.

CLASSES
Hot Yoga classes available, 142 Sheldon st., M-F 10:00am., 5:00pm, 7:00 pm, Contact: 657-259-8152 or elsegundohotyoga.com

EMPLOYMENT
Outside sales: Looking for Outside Sales Representative to sell display ads in Torrance. Sales experience a plus. Work from home, but must call on customers and attend events. Flexible hours, approximately 20 hours a week. \$15/hr, plus 10% commission to start, 20% of sales after probation. Interested parties send resume to management@heraldpublications.com.

HELP WANTED
Team to Manage, Rent, Clean, Must have tools, 45 units in Torrance- 2BD/2BTH, Garage + \$1,000 (equivalent to part time 30/hr.) 310-322-9255

FOR LEASE
Prime Retail/Office Space, Free Standing Building, 1,895/Mo. Available now, 216 Standard, El Segundo for further information please call: Bill Ruane - 310-647-1635

FOR RENT
1718 E. Mariposa, Unit E, El Segundo, CA 90245, 1 BD/1BA \$1,650/Mo, 1 Car enclosed Garage, Available December 5th. Open daily for viewing from 12-6pm beginning on Dec. 4th. For further information please call: Bill Ruane - 310-322-0000

FOR RENT
Single Family Home in El Segundo, 3BD/2BA, \$4,995/Mo. 7 Car Parking, Available January 5th. For further information please call: Bill Ruane - 310-647-1635

HOUSE FOR RENT
Back house 2BD/1Bth, beautiful, hardwood, crown molding, stove, dishwasher, microwave, w/d, private patio/yard, off street parking, extra storage. 2,300.00 310-322-3151

FOR SALE
2009 Honda Fit, in dash navigation, original owner 78,000 mi 26/36 MPG Large cargo space, very good condition \$6,500 (310) 414-0922

GARAGE SALE
Garage sale! 131 whiting st. #1, El Segundo. 07:00 am thru morning on Saturday December 17th

To appear in next week's paper, submit your Classified Ad by Noon on Tuesday.

School Board

from front page

to the Family Welcome and Enrollment Center and they are handed a paper packet that they return with proof of district residency such as a utility bill," Mara said. "The parent then brings it back, the child is processed and enrolled into school and then that data has to be entered by someone in the District into its database. By going online, parents can log in via a personal account."

Parents will still be required to visit the Family Welcome and Enrollment Center, prove district residency...and instead of a receiving a paper packet, they will now receive an access code. Through the access code, parents can input all of the student information for the District to then verify and accept into the system.

"Currently all returning students are also given a large packet which must be filled out," Mara said. "So if you have three kids in the district, you have three packets to fill out and it is the same information that was filled out the previous year that has to be filled out again because that is our current process. When we go to online registration, parents just have to log into their accounts, look at the information online and confirm that nothing has changed, they click submit; we verify on our end that everything is in order, the information is submitted and we save a forest without having to print out the paper packets."

Through PowerSchool, teachers and ad-

ministrators can also assess the kids from the classroom as individuals, or as groups within the school and through the entire district. Due to Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) funding requirements, districts are mandated to dedicate resources to specific groups--such as low-income students, English learners or foster kids--to ensure they are meeting academic standards. Through this new system, the District's ability to access data on specific demographics will be greatly improved.

"What we want to do is give the schools the right tools so they can gather information themselves. Right now my staff will gather that data, depending on the complexity of the requests," said Mara. "A lot of the schools can find their own data on their English learner students, for instance, but it gets complex when you need the information for all English learner students from the years 2010 through 2014."

In addition, the parent portal of the PowerSchool platform is created to provide real-time access to student information, which will allow parents to have the PowerSchool app on their phone, laptop, tablet or even iWatch for instant access to their child's grades, attendance, and school daily bulletins—plus direct communication with the teacher is also available via the platform.

"Because the platform is built with new **See School Board, page 7**

PUBLIC NOTICES

Order to Show Cause for Change of Name
 Case No. YS029362
 Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES
 Petition of: MAYWAND MOHAMMAD for Change of Name
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
 Petitioner MAYWAND MOHAMMAD filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 MAYWAND MOHAMMAD to NICK MAYWAND
 The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
 Notice of Hearing:
 Date: 01-27-17, Time: 8:30 AM., Dept: M,
 The address of the court is:
 825 MAPLE AVE.
 TORRANCE, CA 90503
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: TORRANCE TRIBUNE
 Date: NOV. 22, 2016
 STEVEN R. VAN SICKLEN
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Torrance Tribune Pub. 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22/16

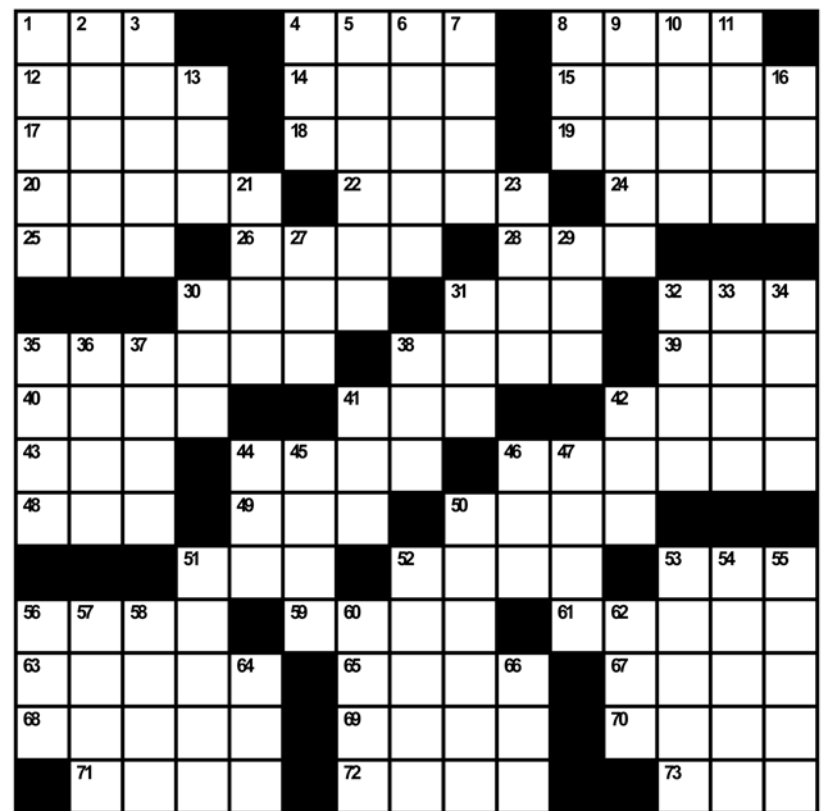
PUBLISH YOUR PUBLIC NOTICES HERE

ABANDONMENTS: \$125.00
ABC NOTICES: \$125.00
DBA (Fictitious Business Name): \$75.00
NAME CHANGE: \$125.00
 Other type of notice? Contact us and we can give you a price.
 For DBA's email us at: dba@heraldpublications.com
 All other legal notices email us at: legalnotices@heraldpublications.com
 Any questions? Call us at 310-322-1830

HT-25374

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

See Answers Next Week



Across

- 1. Green Day song
- 4. Kuwaiti
- 8. Look ___ (study)
- 12. Europe and the Americas
- 14. Painful wound
- 15. Pink color
- 17. Other than mentioned
- 18. Very large
- 19. Tag, ___ it!
- 20. Designs
- 22. Spoil
- 24. Birdie's abode
- 25. Miniature
- 26. Can be bended
- 28. Consumed
- 30. Fastens together
- 31. ___ - brush?
- 32. Transport
- 35. Actor's handbook
- 38. As recently as
- 39. Iron in the rough
- 40. Someone who shows strength and courage
- 41. Abolish
- 42. Token
- 43. The cat's
- 44. Halftime lead, e.g.
- 46. Commode
- 48. Impart color
- 49. Badinage
- 50. Reverse, e.g.

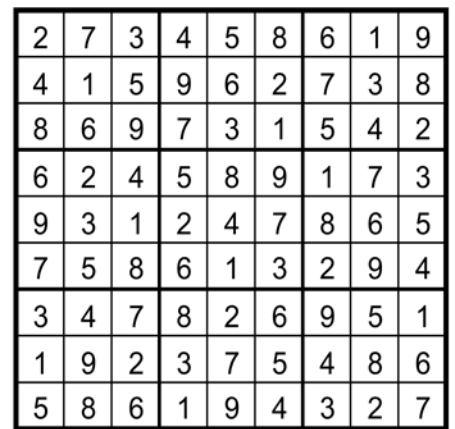
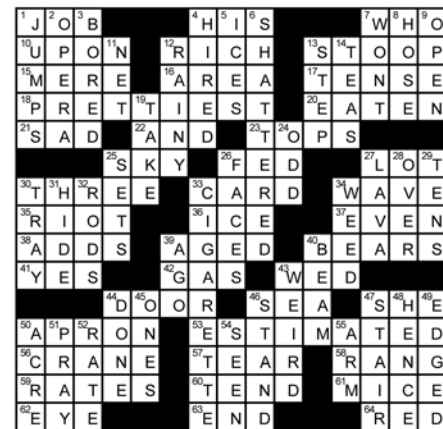
Down

- 1. Used a broom
- 2. "Hi!"
- 3. Op-ed piece
- 4. Fire remains
- 5. Circuits
- 6. Dispute
- 7. Part of BYOB
- 8. Aloof
- 9. Everybody's opposite
- 10. Line up
- 11. Equipment for the boat
- 13. Top score?
- 16. Court decision
- 21. Old record problem
- 23. Execute perfectly

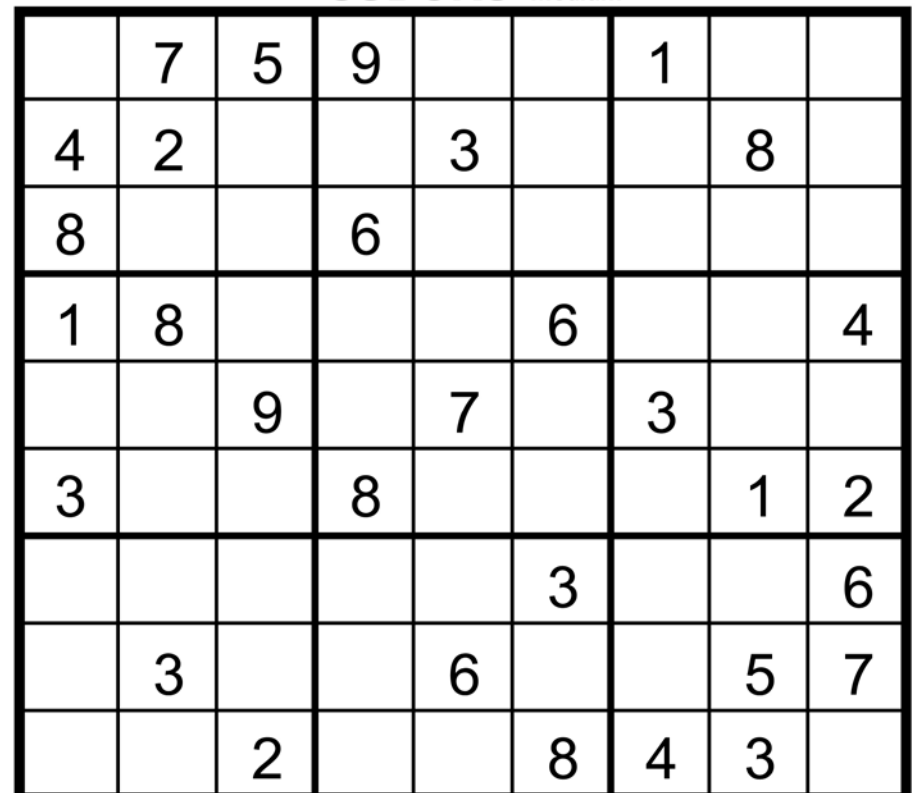
Across

- 27. Cirque de Soleil equipment
- 29. Attempt
- 30. OZ man
- 31. "Troilus ___ Cressida" Shakespeare
- 32. Be hopping mad
- 33. Spur (on)
- 34. Delighted
- 35. Tried to get home, maybe
- 36. Metropolis
- 37. Rambler
- 38. It's the loneliest number
- 41. It's good if it is golden
- 42. ___ Galahad
- 44. Time to remember
- 45. Fathers
- 46. Break drink
- 47. Mighty trees
- 50. Washer setting
- 51. Australian one cent
- 52. Month and landing starter
- 53. Winter drink
- 54. Merger
- 55. Bear
- 56. Public works project
- 57. Durations of life
- 58. Lose steam
- 60. After
- 62. Bad type of acting
- 64. Exercise area
- 66. Word before "I told you so!"

Last Week's Answers



SUDOKU Medium



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.

City Council

from front page

the purchase order with DTC because they are familiar with the City’s telephone system and can maintain warranty coverage and support.”

The current AVST system has a three- to five-year end-of-life expectancy and is approaching its seventh year in service with the City. It was determined that software upgrades are no longer possible, unless the server itself is to be upgraded. Unlike most other purchases made by the City, anything relating to computer, networking software and hardware are

based on regulations and procedures set by the City Manager.

“The software upgrade licensing is included in the prepaid annual AVST license fee. The cost to replace the server hardware and professional services to make the conversion is available in the Telephone Replacement Fund,” concludes the staff report.

After the purchase, the City’s Telephone Replacement Fund’s new balance will be \$525,252.91. •

School Board

from page 6

Web technology, HTML5, I can look up this information on any device since it is smart enough to identify what type of device I am on, whether it be an Android or iPhone, and it formats the information to be compatible with the device being used,” Mara said.

Kindergarten registration begins in the spring and it will have to be done under the current paper packet system since the District is still mapping out the registration aspects and building it out, as it’s customized to the District’s needs.

Once the registration process is established, the District will look into adopting more programs powered by the PowerSchool platform.

“The first step is having registration done in the fall, along with the entire PowerSchool sweep of the student information system, because that is what tracks attendance, tracks grades, generates report cards, generates transcripts for high school kids and generates all the reporting to the state,” Mara said. “The big deal is that we have a lot of state reporting that we are required to do.” •

PUBLIC NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016274397

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as HOBO BRIDGE PUBLISHING, 405 BUNGALOW DR, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245, LA COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): GRANT L TIMOTHY MYERS, 405 BUNGALOW DR, 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: 11/2016. Signed: GRANT L TIMOTHY MYERS, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on NOVEMBER 9, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on NOVEMBER 9, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to NOVEMBER 9, 2021. 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. 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15/2016 **H-1550**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016277302

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as PROTECTIVE SERVICE AGENCY, 18538 ROSLIN AVE, TORRANCE, CA 90504, LA COUNTY. AI #ON: 3946871. Registered Owner(s): PROTECTIVE SERVICE AGENCY (USA), INC., 18538 ROSLIN AVE, TORRANCE, CA 90504, CA. 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: PROTECTIVE SERVICE AGENCY (USA), INC., SHELBY BENJAMIN, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on NOVEMBER 15, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on NOVEMBER 15, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to NOVEMBER 15, 2021. 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. 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15/2016 **HT-1552**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016275872

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1.) TOKYOZEROSTAR, 22857 LOCKNESS AVENUE, TORRANCE, CA 90501, LA COUNTY. 2.) WILLIAM GAY 555 SOUTH FLOWER STREET #2900, LOS ANGELES, CA 90071. AI #ON: 201310710315. Registered Owner(s): KOTO INTERNATIONAL, LLC, 22857 LOCKNESS AVENUE, TORRANCE, CA, 90504, CA. 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: KOTO INTERNATIONAL, LLC, JEFFREY KASHIDA, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on NOVEMBER 10, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on NOVEMBER 10, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to NOVEMBER 10, 2021. 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. 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15/2016 **HT-1553**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016264286

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1.) PARKHILLAPARTMENTS, 336 BUNGALOW DRIVE, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245, LA COUNTY. 2.) 5025 ALDER DRIVE, FLORENCE, OR 97439. Registered Owner(s): 1.) STEVEN WELLS, 5025 ALDER DRIVE, FLORENCE, OR 97439. 2.) JAMES WELLS, 5025 ALDER DRIVE, FLORENCE, OR 97439. This business is being conducted by COPARTNERS. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/2016. Signed: STEVEN WELLS, PARTNER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on OCTOBER 28, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on OCTOBER 28, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to OCTOBER 28, 2021. 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. 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15/2016 **H-1554**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016280837

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BREWPORT MARKET, 204 MAIN STREET, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245, LA COUNTY. AI #ON: 3911687. Registered Owner(s): THE BREWPORT GROUP, 741 REDWOOD AVE., EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245, CA. This business is being conducted by a CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/2016. Signed: THE BREWPORT GROUP, PATRICK M. COX, TREASURER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on NOVEMBER 14, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on NOVEMBER 14, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to NOVEMBER 14, 2021. 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. 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15/2016 **H-1555**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016283456

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as PACIFIC INVESTMENTS HOLDINGS, 640 W MANCHESTER BLVD, INGLEWOOD, CA 90301, LA COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): 1.) DINU D. PATEL, 640 W MANCHESTER BLVD, INGLEWOOD, CA 90301. 2.) DAHYABHAI, 640 W MANCHESTER BLVD, INGLEWOOD, CA 90301. This business is being conducted by A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 03/2001. Signed: DINU D. PATEL, PARTNER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on NOVEMBER 21, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on NOVEMBER 21, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to NOVEMBER 21, 2021. 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). INGLEWOOD DAILY NEWS: Pub. 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22/2016 **HI-1556**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016287919

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1.) CURIO + WINE, 8601 LINCOLN BLVD., 4306, LOS ANGELES, CA 90045, LA COUNTY. 2.) PO BOX 882366, LOS ANGELES, CA 90009. Registered Owner(s): GERLONNIE ANITRA MOORE, 8601 LINCOLN BLVD., 4306, 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: GERLONNIE ANITRA MOORE, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on NOVEMBER 29, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on NOVEMBER 29, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to NOVEMBER 29, 2021. 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. 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22/2016 **H-1557**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016287835

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as FARADAYRF, 2000 MATHEWS AVENUE UNIT 2, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90278, LA COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): 1.) BRYCE TYLER SALMI, 2000 MATHEWS AVENUE UNIT 2, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90278. 2.) BRENTON JOHN SALMI, 2000 MATHEWS AVENUE UNIT 2, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90278. This business is being conducted by a GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: BRYCE TYLER SALMI, GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on NOVEMBER 29, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on NOVEMBER 29, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to NOVEMBER 29, 2021. 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. 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2016 **H-1558**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016283131

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as OG ORBZ, 231 PENN ST SUITE 7, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245, LA COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): DOMINIC CHARMELLO, 231 PENN ST SUITE 7, 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: 11/2016. Signed: DOMINIC CHARMELLO, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on NOVEMBER 21, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on NOVEMBER 21, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to NOVEMBER 21, 2021. 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. 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2016 **H-1559**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016292172

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as PHOENIX NEST TRANSPORTATION, 3720 GARNET ST SUITE 112, TORRANCE, CA 90503, LA COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): EDSON AGUILAR, 3720 GARNET ST SUITE 112, TORRANCE, CA 90503. 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: EDSON AGUILAR, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on DECEMBER 2, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on DECEMBER 2, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to DECEMBER 2, 2021. 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. 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2016 **HT-1560**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016291908

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as SAMBRE DESIGNS, 17015 CASIMIR AVE., TORRANCE, CA 90504. Registered Owner(s): LETICIA DELGADO, 17015 CASIMIR AVE., TORRANCE, CA 90504. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/2016. Signed: LETICIA DELGADO, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on DECEMBER 2, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on DECEMBER 2, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to DECEMBER 2, 2021. 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. 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2016 **HT-1561**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016278529

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MY JUNIOR COUTURE, 1152 S. SPAULDING AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90019, LA COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): 1.) BRYAN CHRISTOPHER RACHAL, 1152 S. SPAULDING AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90019, CA. 2.) AZAR ALEXANDER, 1022 AMELIA DR., LONG BEACH, CA 90807. This business is being conducted by A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/2016. Signed: BRYAN RACHAL, PARTNER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on NOVEMBER 16, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on NOVEMBER 16, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to NOVEMBER 16, 2021. 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. 12/15, 12/22, 12/29, 1/5/2017 **H-1562**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016283483

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as PETS PLUS, 2539 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY, TORRANCE, CA 90505, LA COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): DRICKS ENTERPRISES, INC., 638 CAMINO DE LOS MARES SUITE A-140, SAN CLEMENTE, CA 92673, CA. This business is being conducted by A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 12/2011. Signed: DRICKS ENTERPRISES, INC., GAYLE RANGEL, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on NOVEMBER 21, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on NOVEMBER 21, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to NOVEMBER 21, 2021. 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. 12/15, 12/22, 12/29, 1/5/2017 **HT-1563**

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Real Estate

Why Winter is a Smart Time to Buy a Home

(BPT) - Don't give up on buying a home as winter nears. In fact, December through February may be better for buyers than the busy season in spring and summer.

Enjoy Less Competition and Lower Prices

Fewer properties are typically available during the winter, as sellers and buyers aim to complete transactions before the school year begins. You can turn that to your advantage.

"In winter, there are fewer properties, but it's less competitive, with fewer buyers per property," says Greg Jaeger, president of USAA Residential Real Estate Services Inc., and former real estate agent.

The more favorable supply-demand balance can lower prices. In the winter, "negotiations are slower-paced and there is more negotiating room," Jaeger says. Also, winter sellers may be more motivated, especially if they're forced to sell by divorce or by corporate or military transfers.

In January and February, homes cost 8.45 percent less on average than in June through August, according to NerdWallet research conducted using Realtor.com data from 2014

and 2015. That's in line with what Jaeger sees, particularly in competitive real estate markets where supply is limited.

Lower Prices Help at Closing and Over the Life of Your Mortgage

A lower price eases your home purchase in many ways, Jaeger says. It lowers your down payment, any closing costs that are calculated as a percentage of the home's sale price and your mortgage payments. There's also less of a seller's agent commission bundled into the sales price. These savings help when you buy, and they add up over the life of your mortgage.

The Right Agent Can Help

When supply is limited, the right agent can help you get a jump on other buyers. Agents who are well connected learn about properties before they are listed.

The right agent understands the market where you are buying. That includes doing competitive market analysis so you understand what the house is worth.

Look for an agent who suits your style. For example, if you're a statistics geek, you need an agent who'll provide them. "Just



having access to statistics doesn't mean they have analytical skills and will use them," Jaeger says. He recommends USAA's Real Estate Rewards Network as a source for seasoned agents who deliver great service to USAA members.

Many resources are available to help consumers find the right agent, including USAA Real Estate Rewards Network, a free program that gives members access to USAA's network of real estate agents and rewards when they buy or sell. •

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