

# Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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## Happy and Safe Holidays to All



South Bay Santa wishes everyone in Torrance a Merry Christmas! Photo by Marcy Dugan.

## Council Approves Amendment to Implement Bus Signal Priority System

By Cristian Vasquez

Under the recommendation of the Transit Director, members of the Torrance City Council approved an amendment with Iteris, Incorporated for an additional \$324,169 in order to put into place a Bus Signal Priority System.

The agreement would extend the existing contract until Sept. 30, 2015 and will be fully funded through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Bus Signal Priority monitors activities of a specific traffic corridor through the use of electronic transponders located within a vehicle and receivers placed inside traffic signals. "Contingent upon the nature of the service that the vehicle performs, a traffic light or signal can be 'held' for a given duration of time too ensure that the vehicle can safely cross the intersection," states the staff report.

In 2005 the countywide Metro Rapid Signal Priority Expansion Project began in order to put into place signal priority for seven Metro Rapid's traveling through a total of 24 jurisdictions. The Metro Rapid Five-year Implementation Plan was established so that the first phase of the project would provide bus signal priority in four Los Angeles County MTA rapid corridors, including Hawthorne, Pacific-Long Beach, Soto and Florence.

Torrance Transit began to operate Line 3 Rapid in November 2012 as part of the Regional Rapid Program. The staff report indicates that via a series of Memorandum's of Understanding developed with Metro, funds were "secured for the operation of the services as well as the implementation of a Bus Signal Priority System."

According to the staff report, the council approved a consulting services agreement with Iteris, Incorporated after having received several bid proposals. The initial contract with Iteris, Incorporated expires Dec. 31. Since the project entails overlap with jurisdictions outside of Torrance, obtaining permission to work at several intersections has not always been easy and at times is a lengthy process. The length of said delays has increased the initial foreseen cost and timeline for the project have been

more than projected.

Installing such technology heavily benefits emergency services such as fire and police as they receive the highest priority. Other vehicles with equipped with a transponder can also hold traffic signals for an extended period of time, such as transit buses, are programmed for lower priority and can only extend the length of time that a traffic signal holds for a few seconds.

### Council Defers Approval of Lease Agreements for City-Owned Property as Baseball Fields

Due to traffic safety issues, the city council deferred an item to approve lease agreements with Torrance American Baseball, Torrance Little League, Riviera Little League and West Torrance Little League for the use of city-owned properties as youth baseball fields.

The five-year lease agreement recommended by the Parks and Recreation will have to wait for approval as city staff can find a resolution for the concerns brought up during the Dec. 9 city council meeting.

"I have been living here for 33 years I want to make it clear that I very much support TAB [Torrance American Baseball] and the renewal of the lease," James Hurst, a resident of the Seaside Rancho's community, said. "My driveway is the public alley and I do have to negotiate getting in and out of the alleyway. My issue here today, for the record, is public safety and the children because that entry way is not only vehicular but also pedestrian."

Councilman Geoff Rizzo, who asked that the item be discussed separately from the rest of the consent calendar, started by asking what staff could do with regards to traffic and public safety outside the parks where these league play. Hurst's comments were a direct plea for enhanced public safety.

"I live there and a lot of people don't obey speed rules. I do want to go on record and say that I do believe that TAB is doing a great job as an organization to provide a great service to the community and I commend the city for making

See City Council, page 6

## Weekend Forecast

**Friday**  
Sunny  
65°/45°



**Saturday**  
Mostly Sunny  
65°/48°



**Sunday**  
Partly Cloudy  
61°/47°



## Moratorium on "Job Killers" Proposed by Former Governor

By Brandon Matson for Torrance Chamber of Commerce

Former Governor Gray Davis has a simple message for Sacramento: do not pass laws that will cause California to lose jobs. Davis emphatically announced his recommendation to business, community, and elected leaders at the fifth annual Southern California Economic Recovery and Job Creation Summit. Davis believes that the economy needs time to recover and that Sacramento needs to allow that to happen. "I am proposing a moratorium on any legislation that is more likely to reduce jobs than create jobs," Davis announced. He later recommended that any legislation causing job loss should not be considered for five years.

The conference, hosted by the Southern

California Association of Governments (SCAG), brought together policy and economic experts to provide an in-depth analysis of the region's economic recovery following the great recession. The Summit's panelists focused primarily on California's over-regulatory environment and workforce readiness.

Economic experts agreed that the SCAG region is on pace to regain the jobs it lost during the recession but are concerned that the new jobs coming into the economy are not the same well-paying middle-class jobs that were present in 2007. Davis is worried that over-regulation in Sacramento is keeping much needed middle-class jobs out of the state. "The reason why California

See Job Killers, page 6



# Sports

## Drama in San Francisco

By Adam Serrao

Think back to the year of 2012. Just one year after head coach Jim Harbaugh left college football and the Stanford Cardinals to take over the San Francisco 49ers, he had the team in the Super Bowl. Harbaugh's first year with the team was a success, too. Finishing the 2011 season with a 13-3 record put an end to an eight-year streak of consecutive non-winning seasons for San Francisco's football team. The 49ers would lose in the NFC championship game that year to the New York Giants, who went on to win the Super Bowl, but the ascension up the ranks of NFL football was already well documented. Harbaugh and the 49ers would be a team to be reckoned with. Fast forward to this season. The castle that Harbaugh and starting quarterback Colin Kaepernick had built over the last two to three years seems to be crumbling down all around them. With word of Harbaugh's demise at the helm of the red, white, and gold not greatly exaggerated, could the 49ers descend to mediocrity almost as fast as they climbed out of it?

Sitting at 7-8 and in third place in the NFC West standings this year, the San Francisco 49ers have already been eliminated from the playoffs for the first time under coach Harbaugh. That's not to say that just all of a sudden Harbaugh has devolved into a subpar coach, though the way he has been treated lately by 49ers brass may lead one to believe so. In his four seasons at the helm of San Francisco, Harbaugh has compiled a 42-18-1 record with three postseason appearances ranking him fourth in league in win percentage ranking over that period of time. Unless team general manager Trent Baalke just really doesn't like ties, there's no reason to believe that Harbaugh is suddenly just not a good football coach. Including his time at Stanford and his time at the 49ers, Harbaugh has done his job to rework the framework of football in the South Bay. A cumulative 63-24-1 record would suggest that he has simply just got a mind for football. So why all of the angst?

Expectations have risen in San Francisco over the past few years and Harbaugh has quite frankly compiled a bunch of near-misses in that amount of time. With expectations so high, fans and the bosses upstairs have begun to clamor, loudly at that, for more than just an NFC championship trophy to be won. There have also been some rumors that the head coach has lost his locker room. With his hard-nosed, in-your-face style of coaching, certainly players can certainly be rubbed

the wrong way. Combine that with Baalke's incessant want of a Super Bowl trophy and there you have it. Harbaugh is undoubtedly on his way out. Don't discount losses this season to the Oakland Raiders, Chicago Bears, and St. Louis Rams and things begin to become clearer. No coach has ever been to a conference championship game in three consecutive years like Harbaugh has, but lose to the Raiders? Something has to be wrong in that locker room.

It may not be fair to call for Harbaugh's head and send him packing to another team, whether it be college or the professional level. Those expectations that Baalke has built have been, of course, built because Harbaugh himself is the one who created them. He took the team out of the doldrums of the NFC West where they had resided for eight straight seasons and gave the South Bay hopes of championships that they hadn't had since the Steve Young and Jerry Rice days. If Harbaugh hadn't of taken over the team, Mike Singletary may still be pacing the sidelines, yelling at Vernon Davis to take his pads off and sit in the locker room for the remainder of the season.

Davis may have already done just that without Singletary even telling him to do so. He, like much of the 49ers offense this season, has disappeared into a black hole of nothingness. A once feared club on the offensive side of the ball with the versatility of a young Colin Kaepernick and the toughness of a Frank Gore in the backfield has now been dwindled down to a team that gets outplayed and overmatched by the two-win Raiders. Certainly when the team hits rock bottom like that, some heads must certainly roll and changes must be made. "This is a divorce that a lot of us have seen coming since that surreal day at the combine that we learned that the Cleveland Browns and 49ers had talks about a potential trade for Jim Harbaugh," said NFL Media's Michael Silver. "It's been individualized in the last year. Players have wondered if Jim Harbaugh is more about himself. The pistol offense has disappeared, where Colin Kaepernick was so successful. Why? Was that about credit, or was that about trying to win games. And you've got a coach clearly who is dissatisfied in bosses who aren't going to the mat for him. Divorce is inevitable."

Whatever the answers to Silver's questions are, we may never know. Silver certainly is right to state the premise that divorce is inevitable, however. Whether that means that

See Drama, page 6

## Christmas Comes Early for Torrance High

By Adam Serrao

There weren't any French Hens or Maids a-Milking in the building, but Christmas certainly came early for the athletes of Torrance High last Thursday night at the Torrance gymnasium. It was a rare chance to witness both the basketball team in action as they took on El Segundo in a non-conference game and the baseball team

was able to hold El Segundo to one of their lowest point outputs all season while almost doubling them up on the scoreboard.

Hino, who could emerge as one of the Tartars best players this season, explained how he avoided becoming one of many Geese a Laying an egg and had the game of his lifetime. "I just felt it today. Without my teammates, I

*"Without another game until the day after Christmas, coach Nitake and his club can relax a bit now and relish in their best game of the season to date."*

back on school grounds as they celebrated their first-ever section championship title. Justin Hino was one of the "Lords a-Leaping" for the Tartars basketball team, racking up 21 points on the night, leading Torrance to a 82-43 victory over the Eagles. At halftime, it was the baseball team's turn to take center stage. More than Five Golden Rings were handed out at the ceremony taking place at the break to the players that assisted the team in winning their championship back in June when they beat the South High Spartans by a score of 11-0 in the title game.

The Tartars have had El Segundo's number over the past few years, winning 15 of the last 22 games played between the two teams including last Thursday's showdown at Torrance High. Head coach Paul Nitake knew now to take their recent success for granted, however, and had his team coming out on fire to start the game. By halftime, the Eagles, who had only won one game all season long leading into their matchup with the Tartars, found themselves in a huge hole. Nine Ladies Dancing on the sidelines cheered their best cheers as Torrance went into the break leading by 27 points. The Eagles, showing no signs of life on the night, gave the crowd ample opportunity to anticipate the baseball team's ring ceremony at halftime.

There were Drummers Drumming at the start of the second half, hoping for even more offense from their beloved Tartars that had been bringing it all night long. More offense is precisely what they got. Hino was like a Swan a-Swimming through shallow water as he came out and moved effortlessly through the El Segundo defense. Two 3-pointers and one four-point play later the Tartars and Hino had rallied off 10 more points to tack onto their lead. "This is our best game of the season," coach Nitake said of his team. "Just playing together as a team on both ends. I'm really proud of them." Not only did the Tartars bring it on the offensive side of the ball, they showed up defensively as well. 10 steals on the night got the Pipers Piping with excitement as Torrance

couldn't do this. They got me open and I just had to knock them down." He certainly had no trouble doing that, making his impact on the game as the leading scorer of the night. The victory was a good way for the Tartars to enter into what will be a little bit of a break for the team. Without another game until the day after Christmas, coach Nitake and his club can relax a bit now and relish in their best game of the season to date. "We feel like we're making big strides, big improvements" he said. "A lot of good things defensively, and offensively just getting more chemistry." The Tartars (4-6) are going to need that chemistry if they are going to want to stay on top of the Pioneer League this season and compete with the likes of South (3-5) and West (3-6) who aren't too far behind in the race for first place.

When Torrance's baseball team took center court at halftime, the Calling Birds in the crowd let them hear it for a job well done and a victory in the CIF-Southern Section Division 4 championship game. When the rings were presented to the team, it was as if Turtle Doves flew up into the heavens. The smiles on the players' faces as they accepted their rings said the whole story and the team was finally able to bask in their accomplishment. "It's awesome. The whole accomplishment was awesome," baseball coach Ollie Turner said of the experience. "I'm just glad they finally get to wear their rings and be proud of it for the rest of their lives."

The Tartars baseball team ended their season having won 16 games in a row, including two in a row over El Segundo, and the final over their rivals from South High. Their accomplishments will certainly look to be repeated once the baseball season gets underway once again this March. Until that time, it up to the boys of basketball to carry the torch and bring one home for the school. For now, however, the team will sit back and enjoy their winter holiday. A win over El Segundo, a baseball championship celebration and an evening full of cheering and fun for Torrance High. The only thing missing was the Partridge in a Pear Tree. •

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# Politically Speaking

## One Man's Opinion

### Ho, Ho, Ho

By Gerry Chong

Merry Christmas, everyone! In a time of good cheer and joy we wish everyone the Season's best. Despite the President's naming the D.C. tree a "holiday tree" rather than a "Christmas tree," this is still an unquestioned Christian celebration, in which people of other faiths are encouraged to participate. But joining does not make it an inter-faith celebration, nor does it make it secular (Godless), as Obama may imply. So with that irritant out of the way, let's all be kids again and write an irreverent Christmas wish letter to the Old Fat Guy:

Dear Chubs,

We've been tempted to ask for a year now, as to whether or not you've been on Michelle O's lunch menu. Have you thrown it in the trash like the kids or are you going "svelte" this year? You're our role model, so shoot straight with us.

As to the Christmas season, you've already given Jeb Bush his present. On the day he nearly declared his presidential candidacy you got Obama to announce an agreement to renew relations with Cuba. Since Florida is filled with anti-Castro Cubans, Florida will go to Bush. I'm sure he will send you a thank you note after the holidays.

What's it gonna take, Santa-baby, for you to tell the Liberal press to put a sock in it and just report the facts without the spin. This economy is not recovering! As the Pew Center and Associated Press reported last week, the net worth of all American households in 2007 was \$135,700, but by

2013 had fallen to \$81,400. Some recovery, huh?

Concurrently, annual family incomes fell from \$56,000 to \$51,000. So, Santa, in this season of giving, we hope you will give Congress the backbone to make the policy changes to restore financial optimism to a discouraged people.

With a snide grin, we hope you will make Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts the Democratic presidential nominee. You see, like Barack Obama, she had never before run anything, but had been a law school professor who specialized in bankruptcies. That's the perfect background for another Democratic administration!

How's the mileage on your sleigh, Big Guy? Every state in the union is benefitting from lower gas prices due to the benefits of fracking. But New York would like to receive the benefits of lower gas prices while banning fracking in its state. We wish you, Santa, could find a way to make the point that, if one wants benefits, one must contribute to the productive process. But the break in the rational chain of causation between productivity and benefits is pandemic in this country, isn't it?

Well, Old Pal, I've given you quite a list, but since it is a season for optimism and joy, I hope it isn't more than you can handle. God willing, next year's list will be shorter. I look forward to hearing the little hooves on my roof and the merry HO, HO, HO resounding through the heavens.

Saddle up, Jolly Man. •

## Another Man's Opinion

### Opening Up Dialogue, Relations with Cuba is Long Overdue

By Cristian Vasquez

President Obama's decision to normalize relations with the island of Cuba is a move that is long overdue. Anyone on Capitol Hill criticizing the president and indicating that this is a bad idea is convincing me that they are attempting to earn political points for an election in the near future. There is really no reason now, nor has there been since the fall of the Berlin Wall, to remain distant from the Communist-ruled island. There is no financial benefit to continue to marginalize Cuba; there is no humanitarian reason to continue the embargo mentality. Cuba isn't a national threat to the United States and if the criticism stems from the fact that the island is under a communist regime, that hasn't stopped us from becoming the best of friends with China.

I am aware that the President's steps to "normalize" relations with the island can mean a lot, or they can signify nothing in the political world. However, I am honestly excited, happy and hopeful that this normalization process can bring together two countries that have been foes for far too long. From the Cuban Revolution, to the Cuban Missile Crisis and for many years that followed, there were more than enough of reasons to remain vigilant, distant and ready to react to any sort of hostility. But today, what is our excuse to not be friendly with Cuba and rebuild a political, economic and social relationship? When was the last time that Cuba was a threat to us? There is

no reason not to applaud this decision by President Obama.

There is much uncertainty with regards to how this new foreign policy approach with Cuba will work out. Putting aside the financial benefits that this new era in American-Cuban relations should generate, I am more thrilled for the millions of Cuban families that will be able to reunite with their loved ones still on the island. The Cuban Revolution and everything that has followed has made life for people in Cuba bad enough that many prefer to risk dying on a raft to escape the regime or the living conditions in their homeland. I am fortunate enough to not know first-hand what that experience is like, but I have been blessed with Cuban friends who have shared family stories and some have confided in personal anecdotes. To hear some of those stories is heartbreaking, sometimes inspiring and at many times frustrating that not far from the Florida coast exist a nation with people yearning for the old regime to end.

I don't ever want to know what it is like to live abroad and not have the ability to come back to my beloved Los Angeles. So knowing that political steps will be taken that will allow for Cuban families to reunite, and that would give older individuals who fled Cuba a chance to revisit their land of birth is remarkable. It saddens me to know that there are Cubans in Miami, just 90 miles away from their birth land, that can't go visit loved ones. This move in diplomatic relations between the nations is long overdue. •

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The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1) FLEET VEHICLE REGISTRATION SERVICES CORP., 12016 CARSON ST., HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716, LOS ANGELES COUNTY; 2) FLEET VRS, 19100 VON KARMAN AVE. SUITE 950, IRVINE, CA, 92612; 3) FLEET VEHICLE REGISTRATION; 4) FLEET VEHICLE REGISTRATION SERVICES. Registered Owner(s): FLEET VEHICLE REGISTRATION SERVICES CORP., 19100 VON KARMAN AVE. SUITE 950, IRVINE, CA, 92612. This business is being conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on: n/a. Signed: FLEET VEHICLE REGISTRATION SERVICES CORP., PRESIDENT, Scott Burri This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on December 12, 2014.

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2014344031

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Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere. - Albert Einstein



## TerriAnn in Torrance

# Merry Christmas

By TerriAnn Ferren

Photos by TerriAnn Ferren

Today is Christmas Day. Celebrated all over the world, this special holiday brings



Manger display on Christmas Eve (note baby Jesus is not there yet!).

families together, traditions to a high level, and thoughts of Christmases past, present, and future to light. Exchanging gifts highlights the season and shoppers, looking for that perfect gift, have filled malls and stores. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. Mangers are a reminder of the time so long ago when even the way we mark time changed.

Since it is Christmastime, I decided to ask people what Christmas means to them and how they celebrate this special day.

Last Sunday afternoon, I caught up with the four members of the Barlough family and asked them what Christmas meant to them and how they celebrate the holiday.



Gary Barlough and Ronnie Kovic

Irene, the matriarch told me, "We are going to be home for dinner." When I asked Irene if she was cooking this Christmas she told me, "Half and half." The menu hasn't been established as yet and she told me she was going to discuss it with her family. The Barlough family usually has turkey or ham. "We are still finishing Thanksgiving ham and we put our tree up three weeks ago. We have a little artificial tree but I think this is the last year for it. It is a little shabby looking. [Christmas] means a lot of things [to me]. Gathering, family, just a lot of things – being together mostly," said Irene with a tear in her eye.

Son and author Dr. Jeffrey Barlough told me, "What I am going to do for Christmas

is stay home and enjoy the season and it means being at home." His brother, Gary, a composer, and musician, told me, "Number one, we are going to celebrate Christmas at

our house. Secondly, what does it mean to me? Family - being together." Ronnie, who was sitting next to Gary that evening added, "Christmas means to me, peace on earth, kindness, goodness, togetherness, and love." And the patriarch of the Barlough family, Ernie chimed in from across the table, "Gifts I don't have to pay for."

The next day, I asked my friend Leann what Christmas means to her and she responded, "Well, I celebrate Jesus because I believe in Jesus." Then I asked her what she intended to do on Christmas and she told me, "I am going to be with my mom. I will give her caregiver the day off and stay with my mom. Then the next day I will go to my daughter's house." After listening to her, I

thought about all the other unselfish people doing silent, generous, kind acts this time of year – especially on Christmas.

I asked the President and CEO of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Donna Duperron what she will be doing this Christmas and she shared, "My favorite time of the year, with family, friends, and those in need we want to help. This Christmas I plan to spend it in a very special way with our new grandson [Hezekiah] - and at the same time try to make it an extra special day for my dad, who has stage four cancer." After listening to Donna and knowing how difficult it is when someone you love is sick, reminded me we need to celebrate each and every day.

Later that night, I thought about the Christmas movies that run on television during this time of year. We all have our special favorites. Mine? It's the 1946 classic, *It's a Wonderful Life* with James Stewart and Donna Reed. No matter how many times I watch that movie, I choke up at the end when the townspeople arrive to help out George Bailey pay his mortgage, And of course who can forget when Clarence (played by Henry Travers) the angel gets his wings at the sound of a bell?

We always had a real Christmas tree when I was little and my sister Linda and I would help my mom decorate. Usually, it was my daddy who carried the tree into the house, set it up in a stand and secured it before we began decorating. My mom is an expert decorator. She knows how a tree should be decorated so it is "balanced" with ornaments. Once, my husband Dave told me when he was young, his mom got after him for 'tossing tinsel' on the tree. She was particular too, and took the time to hang one piece of tinsel at a time on the branches. Yikes! Do you take that much effort to decorate your tree?

One memorable Christmas when I was a teenager my younger brother Tommy got sick with the mumps and my mom stayed home with him while my daddy drove Linda and I all over the southland visiting the

stay home that Christmas evening instead of running all over the place.

My favorite story at Christmastime is *The Gift of the Magi*, published in 1906, and



Donna Duperron

written by O. Henry. I think I read it in the third grade and it made a huge impression on me. And of course, Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* in the mid 1800s and the story is still as fresh and poignant as if it were written today.



Irene Barlough

grandparents. As I recall, my mom loved that Christmas and still says it was one of her favorites because she just stayed home taking care of Tommy. I asked Tommy about that and he told me, "I remember that, that was when mom and I stayed home when I had the mumps and we watched Christmas with the King Family. It was the best Christmas ever!" Okay, now I wonder why we all didn't

To make this Christmas special, I suggest doing something memorable. Giving to someone in need, sharing with family your time and love, and sharing with someone who has little. As a country, the United States gives more money to charity than any other in the entire world. Continue to help those in need and as Tiny Tim said, "God bless us, every one." Merry Christmas! •



Dr. Jeffrey and Gary Barlough



# Sugar Cookie Bars



*Prep time: 15 minutes  
Cook time: 25 minutes*

## Ingredients

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 teaspoon Simply Organic vanilla extract

### Frosting

- 1/3 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1/2 teaspoon Simply Organic almond extract
- Sliced almonds

## Preparation

Lightly grease a 9x13-inch baking pan. Line with parchment paper so the paper overhangs the edges. In a large bowl, stir the flour with the baking powder and salt; set aside. In a separate bowl, beat the butter with the sugar until fluffy. Beat in the egg, egg yolk and vanilla. Slowly add the flour mixture until fully incorporated. Press mixture into bottom of prepared pan. Chill for 30 minutes and preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until set in the center and edges are lightly golden. Cool completely before frosting.

### Frosting

Using an electric mixer, whip butter until light and fluffy. Beat in powdered sugar, milk and almond extract on low speed until smooth. Spread over cooled cookie bars. Sprinkle with almonds. Cut into 32 pieces. •

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# Job Killers

from front page

is the envy of the world is that people... believe that if they have talent and they work hard, good things will happen in California; most of our lives that has been true, that is now under challenge," commented Davis during his address. He went on to cite a dismal statistic that California ranks 46th in the Nation in the time it takes for a new project to be approved, with the average wait time being 17 years for transportation projects. In response to the delay, the former Governor added, "It means that your son and your daughter have a better chance at getting a job in 45 other states than California. . . . We cannot afford to wait 17 years for new jobs to come online."

In addition to over-regulation keeping jobs out of the state, panelists agreed that there are many high-paying jobs in the region's economy that are going unfilled. California employers continue to report a "skills gap" between workforce supply and demand. An alarming set of statistics were given regarding income disparities and education achievement between the Bay area and Southern California. The median Bay area household income is over \$80K; more than \$20k higher than that of the SCAG region. 43% of Bay area residents are reported to have a bachelor's degree or higher compared to only 29% of the SCAG population. The SCAG has prioritized workforce devel-

opment as a key component to bring families living below the poverty line into the middle-class. The SCAG presented its "Regional Action Plan on Poverty" that entails closing the workforce skills gap through improvement of K-14 education, reformation of adult education, and expanded apprenticeships. Key to the plan's implementation will be establishing deliberate pathways to employment opportunities through utilization of public funds like the California Career Pathways Trust and the newly implemented Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that was signed into law this past July by President Obama.

California policymakers began introducing new legislation for 2015 starting December 1 and will continue to launch hundreds of bills up until the February 27th deadline for new bills to be

introduced. The Legislature will be slightly more balanced in 2015 with neither party possessing a supermajority stronghold. It will be interesting to see if the former Governor's advice is taken seriously with a legitimate proposal to ban job killers for five years. There are certainly ample issues for the new class of Legislators to address; keeping an economic perspective when doing so should be taken seriously.

The Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) prioritizes policy analysis centered on economic impacts of legislation. The Chamber encourages Torrance residents interested in viewing public policy from an economic perspective to monitor the Chamber's website for current reports from the area's business community. Information can be found at [www.TorranceChamber.com](http://www.TorranceChamber.com).

# City Council

from front page

use of this surplus property as a field but TAB can only do so much," Hurst said. "This is a city alleyway so it is out of the hands of TAB so I look at the city to solve the problem of the traffic and the people speeding in these alleys."

Riviera Little League Board Member John Merriman used his time to speak to reach out to the city for direction on how to address the traffic safety issue.

"We have been very grateful to be in a partnership with the city and we have hopefully

been good neighbors with the community around us for 50 years," Merriman said. "The only question or concern that I have is that parking and traffic has not been identified as a concern Lago Seco [Park] for Riviera so we will look to the city council and staff for some guidance on how we put that report together. That is my question on how we would do that since that has not come up in the past." As of press time on Tuesday, Dec. 23, the council has not voted on this issue. Vote is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 24. •

# Drama

from page 2

Harbaugh goes to Michigan or goes to a team like the Oakland Raiders; only time will tell. After their 35-38 loss to the San Diego Chargers last Saturday night to make it four losses in a row for the team, all that's left for Harbaugh now is a date with the division rival Arizona Cardinals. From the Stanford Cardinal to the Arizona Cardinals, it almost

fits together like bookends for Harbaugh. Now only time will tell whether he has it in him to keep his superior winning record as a head football coach alive. Only time will tell if the 49ers can quickly get back to their winning ways. One thing, however, has indeed become clear. The two will no longer be taking that voyage together. •

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## WEEKLY CROSSWORD See Answers Next Week

Dear Johns

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20					21								
22					23			24					
25					26	27	28			29	30	31	32
				33	34				35				
36	37	38						39	40				
41							42						
43					44	45					46	47	48
					49				50	51	52		
53	54	55	56					57	58		59		
60									61				
62												64	
65													67

### Across

- Noggin
- End
- Fishhook feature
- Petri dish filler
- Matter of debate
- \_\_\_ O's (Post cereal)
- Pioneer planter of note
- Biscotto flavoring
- In vain
- Fireplace feature
- Albanian coin
- The Greatest
- Participant
- Fishing spot
- Fish dish
- Often-missed humor
- March composer
- Sight parts
- Sentences
- Clique
- Harbingers
- Banquet
- Sean \_\_\_ Lennon
- Sana' a native
- Inflectional morphology
- Furze
- G men leader

### Down

- Kind of party
- Relating to great pain
- Baba ghanouj ingredient
- Surrealist Max
- Home improvement network
- Brother of Jacob
- Some slitherers
- Mississippi city where Elvis was born
- "Catch 22" author
- Chief
- Trojan ally, in the "Iliad"
- Fishing rod attachment
- Soul mate
- Society column abbr.
- Cry of mock horror
- Mascara site
- Phi follower
- Diacritical mark
- Major-leaguers

- Promise to pay
- Printer's widths
- Carpet, Scandinavian
- Fly in the ointment
- Kind of driver
- Something to believe in
- Wine container
- Seeds, in a way
- Nester
- Elementary particle
- Nosegay
- Anxious
- Golden Horde member
- Waitress, for one
- Invisible
- Capital on the Missouri
- Horatian work
- Bigheadedness
- Fraternal fellow
- Like some doors
- Traffic marker
- Hack
- Getaway spots
- Low-\_\_\_
- Thus
- Chop

### Last Week's Answers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
M	O	R	A	G	E	G	E	R	E	V				
P	L	A	C	A	T	A	N	D	M	O	U	S	E	
A	L	L	A	H	S	A	L	A	D	S				
L	E	A	S	T	S	T	A	N	D	S	B	Y		
A	D	S	I	O	N	E	M	S	S	E	R	A		
W	I	L	D	G	O	O	S	E	C	H	A	S	E	S
E	R	I	E											
V	A	S	A	P	R	D	D	T	V	E				
E	N	T	A	I	L	E	D	S	H	R	I	V	E	
E	R	R	A	T	A									
M	O	N	K	E	Y	I	N	G	A	R	O	U	N	D
E	V	E	R	U	N	O	U	T	F	A	C	E		
W	A	R	S	P	A	G	O	L	E	D				

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

### SUDOKU Medium

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

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.



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# We're Moving!

During the month of December, Herald Publications is moving to a new location. **Our new address is 500 Center St., El Segundo, CA 90245.**

**Please note:** there may be times during the month of December when our phones will not be working. You can still contact us via email. See our staff box for email addresses to suit your needs.



*Thank you for your patience and please come visit us at our new location!*



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## Traveling Tribune in Nevada



Newlyweds Judy and Farrest Stephens sneak a smooch while checking out the Torrance Tribune in Las Vegas, NV. They were wed on September 8, 2014.

# Real Estate

## Timeless or Trendy? This Year, Achieve Both in Your Home Décor

(BPT) - Are you looking for ways to update your home this new year? With so many fresh interior ideas available, it can be difficult to balance current design trends with classic styles for a look that is both of-the-moment and everlasting. Follow these guidelines to find a way to blend now and forever for a look you will love today and tomorrow.

### FOCUS ON THE FOUNDATION

As you are laying the groundwork in your kitchen, bath or bedroom, the key is to keep it timeless. Flooring, cabinetry, lighting and fixtures should possess clean, traditional lines and classic finishes.

If it's time to do a complete overhaul of your home, you may be tempted to invest in the latest and greatest in materials and furniture offerings, but sometimes the simplest of tweaks can bring your existing pieces up to date. For example, your sofa may have great structure, but could use a bit of reupholstering. Or perhaps your oak kitchen cabinets are an ageless shape, but could be transformed by painting them a fresh color and swapping out the hardware.

Much like a smart wardrobe, as long as you have the basics, minor updates can be

made throughout the years by adding small touches in the form of accessories, paint, new hardware and other alterations.

### INCORPORATE COLOR

Taking a classic space and transforming it when you have an itch to try something new is done easily with paint. For 165 years, Pratt & Lambert Paints has been synonymous with recognizing the shifts and nuances of home style and design. In the true fashion of merging timeless with trendy, the brand has recently released its 2015 Color Trends Forecast, called Origins, which goes full circle from essential neutrals to progressive pops of color.

Consider spicing up your kitchen with colors from the Cadence palette. The collection focuses on co-mingling of cultures, and what better place to feature these hues than the room where flavors from all over the world

are literally coming together on a daily basis? Pratt & Lambert colors Baby Carrot (8-11) and Vibrant Red (4-12) can make a statement throughout the entire space, or just on an accent wall near a breakfast nook.

Many people seek to transform their current

bath into a soothing, spa-like retreat. To capture that feeling, paint walls and even ceilings the cool or deep bold colors of water - much like those included in the Chronicles trend that speak to hues straight from the depths of the ocean. Look to the Pratt & Lambert

shades Blue Zircon (23-13), Glacial (27-2) and the Color of the Year, Noir (24-16).

A bedroom is a place for rest - a calm, down-to-earth haven. Pratt & Lambert's two trend palettes, Elemental and Terra, are the perfect pick for the place in which you recharge. Interior designer and Pratt & Lambert Style & Design Guild member Laura Kirar recom-

mends shades Tobacco (33-19) and Feather Gray (32-37) from the Elemental palette. They are sure to provide many nights of peaceful slumber. Include the harmonious hues of the Terra palette, Rye (12-26) and Zinc (14-20), for a natural, relaxed vibe.

### A DASH OF DETAIL

Now with a solid foundation and freshly painted walls, move to the decorations that will truly transform your home. Remember - small pieces can make a grand statement, so pick and choose how you will incorporate trendy accessories like table lamps, hand towels, planters, window coverings, pillows, throws or table settings. If you want to go bold with hues or graphic prints, now is your chance to infuse colors in small doses. That'll make it easy and more cost-effective to swap out or mix and match accessories in the future.

Whether you want to take small steps to refresh the look of your home or want to tackle larger renovation projects, by following these steadfast ideas, it's easy to stay on trend while paying tribute to classic design. You can have the best of both worlds for timeless decor that can easily transition with you through the years. •



**Roger Hart**  
310-781-2000  
BRE# 00625505



2420 W. Carson St. #120  
Torrance, CA 90501

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