



Joggling for Best Seating



Thousands thronged to the Riviera County Club to watch the top PGA golfers in the world play. Fans are allowed to cross the 18th Fairway after golfers have made their second hit. PGA pros and caddies are headed to the green.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

PPBA's Annual Pancake Breakfast

If the weather is snowy on the East Coast, it can only mean one thing: that's right—it's time for the Pacific Palisades Baseball Association's Pancake Breakfast.

For a mere \$5, less than the cost of a venti mocha latte, residents can enjoy a complete breakfast of pancakes, sausages, orange juice and coffee at the 64th annual breakfast, which will be held from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 12.

This year's event is co-chaired by Liz Denham and Rene Rodman, and they have promised a limited amount of chocolate-chip pancakes to early arrivals. The National Anthem will be sung by Palisades Elementary fifth grader Annabelle Grandy, whose brother Teddy is a Red Sox Pinto.

Support the community's young baseball players by buying breakfast tickets. The youth who sells the most tickets could win the chance to be a batboy at a Pepperdine game, private training with Baseball Central or the Westside Baseball School, a \$100 Benton's gift certificate or a Wilson glove, donated by Steve Gambale of the Southern California Rays.

The 23 uniform sponsors this year are: Palisades Patrol, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 283, Sue Kohl—Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, Joy Stowell Designs, Optimist Club, Palisadian-Post, Dr. Richard Jacobson, Ronny's Market, Bay Club Palisades, Movies in the Park, Palisades Garden Café, US Bank, StorQuest Self Storage, Gerry Blanck's Martial Arts, Bentons Sports Shop, Amalfi Estates, Village 76, Sotheby's International Realty, Kay 'N Dave's, Norris Hardware, Barney's Beanery, Pacific Palisades Medical Group and The Yogurt Shoppe.

Vote Delayed on Caruso Project

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The mitigated negative declaration (MND) for Caruso Affiliated's Palisades Village Project on Swarthmore/Sunset was released on February 18. A link to the 472-page document and 5,424-paged appendix is available on the *Palisades News* website (palisadesnews.com) and Facebook.

The MND is a "short" document that describes the proposed project, presents findings related to environmental conditions, includes a copy of the Initial Study which documents the reasons to support the findings, and includes mitigation measures, if any.

At its February 25 meeting, attended by developer Rick Caruso, the Pacific Palisades Community Council addressed a report by its special subcommittee, which had studied the MND, including the traffic report, and found it was substantiated.

The Council then proposed three motions that it would send to the L.A. City

Planning Commission, approving the following land-use entitlements as requested by the applicant: 1.) a new North Swarthmore Subarea and a zone change for the current parking lot to include commercial buildings; 2.) support the adoption of the MND about traffic, which states there will be no substantial increase that cannot be mitigated. The motion would also create a new Village Project committee to be established by Councilman Mike Bonin to address issues during construction and project operations; and 3.) approving the applicant's request to receive public land—the 20-ft.-wide alley that extends from Swarthmore to Monument, a lane of Sunset Boulevard (next to the Mobil Station) and the 20-ft.-wide public park between Mobil and the former US Bank building—in exchange for funds to improve off-site improvements that could include street furniture, street signs, lampposts and sidewalk treatments (on Sunset from La Cruz to Via de la Paz).

Sharon Shapiro, Councilman Bonin's field deputy, was asked if the councilman had heard from constituents about the project.

"Yes, the majority of the people who have contacted our planning staff and the councilman directly support the project," Shapiro said, but noted that possible traffic problems generated by the project was the most mentioned negative issue.

Historical Society representative Dick Wullinger, according to his right in the PPCC bylaws, asked that a vote be delayed on all three motions until the next meeting so that he could tell his board about the pros and cons of the MND-related motions and it could vote regarding these motions or abstain.

A Council board member queried Wullinger about why a delay was necessary, since there have been so many meetings about the Caruso project. Wullinger explained that he knew the public was going to be at this meeting and he wanted to explain to his board what was said.

The earliest the Community Council can now vote on its three motions is the March 10 meeting. The MND comment deadline is March 9.

"As a result of the Historical Society's action, the community will have no voice on the matter of the MND unless the PPCC Executive Committee, acting for the Board as authorized by the PPCC bylaws, takes action on Motion number two prior to the deadline," Spitz explained.

Members of the public were allowed to speak for one minute on each motion.

Most said they supported the project, wanted it to go ahead, and complimented Rick Caruso on his willingness to meet with

(Continued on Page 8)



In addition to volunteering as the baseball commission for PPBA, Bob Benton also volunteered as a walking marshal for the Northern Trust Open. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

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PaliHi's *Clybourne Park* Hits a Wow!

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Edgy, smart and provocative, *Clybourne Park* is laugh-out loud funny—while examining racism in America. When playwright Bruce Norris won the Pulitzer Prize in 2011, the committee described the play as “a powerful work whose memorable characters speak in witty and perceptive ways to America’s sometimes toxic struggle with race and class consciousness.”

I would urge residents to go *Clybourne Park* at Palisades High School. Not only is the play one of the cleverest ways I’ve seen of tackling race issues, the actors are top-notch. But, parents should be warned, this is not a play suitable for young children.

There are jokes in both acts and comedic timing, which the actors nail, is especially important when the subject is one that people “tiptoe” around.

The first act takes place in the white mid-



Campbell Healy, Cadence Henry, Harrison Larkins, Natasha Bure and Lauryn Hall perform in a home in Chicago in 1959.

Photo: Will Higgins

dle-class Chicago neighborhood in 1959. Bev and Russ are selling their home to a black family. They receive a visit from their local clergyman, Jim, and neighbor Karl and his deaf pregnant wife Betsy.

The visitors plead with the couple to reconsider because they worry property values will fall if black residents move in.

Harrison Larkins as Karl was sensational in his heated arguments trying to convince

Russ to reconsider. Almost ethereal was Natasha Bure as Bev and equally as tormented was her husband Russ (Max Vau-pen), who finally kicks everyone out of the house to end Act I.

Fifty years later, a white couple, Steve and Lindsay (Finn Snyder and Molly Mittlebach) have purchased the home with plans to raze it and build a McMansion. The couple has to meet with a black couple, Lena (Amindi Frost) and Kevin (Enzo Alexander) who represent the housing board.

The actors are sharp and the pacing perfect. As the couple’s lawyer Kathy (Lucie Hodgson), is blithely unaware of her smugness, and Hodgson captures her perfectly.

A show this well done has to have a strong director. Former actress Nancy Cassaro-Fracchiolla, who now teaches drama at the high school, has hit this one out of the park.

The show is at 7 p.m. March 3, 4 and 5 in Mercer Hall. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults.

Dahl’s Story Is Family Fun

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

If you have a family and want your children to be exposed to live theater, the Theatre Palisades Youth’s Production of *Roald Dahl’s James and the Giant Peach*, Jr. is the perfect place to start. The musical is based on the 1961 children’s novel. This is an absolutely delightful show.

My Palisades neighbor, wife and three elementary-aged boys pronounced this a good show, particularly liking the earthworm character. After the show, I saw the “ladybug” actress at Kay ‘n Dave’s. Two of my neighbors’ kids were in the show—and excellent performers. But, that’s the point of youth Community Theater—one gets to be close to the stars.

The 22-member cast is talented, mak-

ing it hard to single out any one performer. Co-directors Dorothy Dillingham Blue and Lara Ganz completely rotate the cast with each performance, except for two roles: Sponge (Kerry Cooper) and Spiker (Riley Stoler), who are hysterical.

Ladahlord (Hudson Janow and Chelsea Trotti) is a mysterious character who serves as an emcee, overseeing James’ journey.

James (Isabella Dixon and Rachel Grossman) has lost his parents and is given to his Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker, who turn him into a slave.

When James is sent to chop down a peach tree, he discovers a potion that grows a giant peach with human-sized insects inside. When the peach rolls into the ocean, the five are forced to navigate the ocean.

The musical director is D.J. Brady. Co-produced by Jody Crabtree and April



Left to right: Gwyneth Seelinger, Anika Vishwanath, Chelsea Trotti (Ladahlord), Keely O’Sullivan and Sierra Sugarman perform in *James and the Giant Peach*, Jr.

O’Sullivan, there are three shows remaining: March 4 (7:30), March 5 (5 p.m.) and March 6 (2 p.m.) at Pierson Playhouse,

941 Temescal Canyon Rd.. Tickets are \$15. Call: (310) 454-1970 or visit: theatrepalisades.com.



Yale’s all-female jazz a capella group, Proof.

Proof Will Sing at Atria Park

Proof, Yale’s all-female jazz a capella group, will entertain residents of Atria Park at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 13 in the facility at 15441 Sunset Blvd. (across from Gelson’s). The community is invited, but please RSVP to (310) 573-9545.

The student-run and self-funded organization has been performing for more than 40 years. Members have traveled all over the world from Texas to India; a former Palisades resident, Catherine Wang, is a member of the group.

Wang, who swam on the YMCA swim team and attended Harvard-Westlake, took a gap year before going to Yale. She is majoring in computer science and psychology, and will graduate this spring. You can hear

Wang sing a solo, “All That Jazz” with Proof on YouTube.

The group was formed in 1975, six years after women were first admitted to Yale, focusing on jazz and swing. In recent years, they’ve expanded their repertoire, presenting a more diverse selection of pieces. Since its founding, Proof has produced several successful albums.

The group’s name, Proof, comes from an excerpt from Cervantes’ *Don Quixote*, “the proof of the pudding is in the tasting.” Given the male-dominated a cappella world of Yale in 1975, the founding members of Proof had to prove themselves as musicians. The name urged people not to dismiss Proof before they heard the women sing.

Visit: yale.edu/proof.

Prop. K and Temescal Park Home Invasion: Helicopters Circle

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Since 1996, Los Angeles residents have paid an annual property tax assessment for Proposition K, raising \$25 million annually for acquisition, improvement, construction and maintenance of City parks, recreation facilities, and other projects.

Temescal Canyon Park, the 36-acre property that borders Temescal Canyon Road, was to receive some of those funds, specifically to replace wood picnic tables and rotted pergolas that were more than 30 years old.

A total of \$250,000 in Prop. K funding was allocated for the project. In preparation, 53 picnic tables and eight pergolas were removed in 2007.

Today, there are six picnic tables and one pergola.

Neil Drucker, program manager for Prop. K in the Bureau of Engineering, and Department of Recreation and Parks Superintendent Cathie Santo Domingo helped explain what happened to \$250,000 in taxpayer money.

They told the *News* that \$65,000 of that money went for permits, plans, staff and other City costs, leaving \$185,000 to be spent on construction and materials. Just under \$126,750 was spent to build a pergola and to repair and reconstruct eroded



Eight pergolas were torn down along Temescal Canyon Road and only one was rebuilt.

areas of the picnic grounds.

“Two-ft.-deep ‘swales’ formed due to water erosion,” Drucker said, noting that the area was graded, filled with new decomposed granite and compacted. Additional erosion-control measures were installed to address and prevent future erosion.

“This left DGS (Department of General Services) with a residual amount of \$58,250, which upon final acceptance of the project by the Recreation and Parks board (October 2011), was returned to the Prop. K general funds,” Drucker said.

Maria Ramos, the Prop. K City Administrative Officer, said the unspent funds (\$58,250) from the Temescal project were transferred back to the Prop. K Competitive Grant account.

The six picnic tables, which cost about \$3,500 apiece (\$21,000), were not paid for by Prop. K funding, but rather came from funding from Rec and Parks.

On February 19, Santo Domingo emailed the *News*: “I just heard back from our maintenance staff. We can install additional picnic tables.”

On February 19, at 8:30 p.m. two suspects gained entry into the rear of a house off Brooktree, in the 14400 block of Sunset Boulevard.

The housekeeper was awakened during the intrusion and was told to stay in her room with a blanket over her head. The suspects (a 25- to 30-year-old black male, 5’8” 160 pounds, and a second male, 5’5” also 25 to 30 years old) stole cash and jewelry from the location.

While the suspects were in the house, the homeowners returned home. As the husband parked the car in the garage, the wife approached the front door. She was knocked on the head with a crowbar: suspects fled the location.

LAPD was called and searched the area with helicopters and canine units for more than two hours. LAPD reported that trace scents led canine officers to Rustic Creek.



Less than two hours earlier, a home on Toyopa Drive had an alarm activation. No one was home at the time. Palisades Patrol officers responded within two minutes and found that a rear window had been forced open. LAPD responded and cleared the house and found it was an attempted burglary.

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PaliHi Votes to Add Management

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

On Feb. 16, Palisades Charter High School's board voted to hire both an administrator and a grant coordinator next school year.

Amy Nguyen, the school's director of human resources, said that PaliHi's current crop of administrators was overburdened by its workload. Principal Pam Magee and the school's seven other administrators oversee more than 300 staff members, including 125 faculty, 22 substitutes, 69 classified staff, and 105 coaches, plus other employees, including lifeguards, security workers and student tutors. Nguyen said that the California Education Code recommends seven administrators per 100 staff.

The current ratio of administrators to staff at PaliHi is inadvisable, Nguyen stated. She recommended both reassigning duties so that the workload of the administrators was more evenly distributed as well as rehiring one administrator, since one position, the director of instruction, wasn't refilled after the budget crisis of 2010-11.

In addition, the executive director/principal position used to be divided between two people and is now filled by one, Nguyen said. The faculty who were let go

during the budget crisis have since been rehired, and additional faculty have also been added.

Nguyen further recommended adding a grant and development coordinator to work on increased funding options for the school. Later in the meeting, Magee discussed a potential grant opportunity worth more than \$300,000. The school has been moved to Phase Two with this Career Technical Education Incentive Grant, which would come from \$9 billion in federal funds.

The board voted 6-2 with one abstention to pass Nguyen's recommendation that the two requested positions be filled for the 2016-17 school year. Dissenters Alex Shuhgalter, a teacher, and Marcia Haskin, a former principal and community board representative, advocated more discussion of the issue, especially with faculty and the budget committee, before approval.

"In the spirit of collaboration," Haskin said, the board should have "more inclusivity with something as important as changing the structure of management."

Board member Allison Holdorff Polhill said the vote was necessary from a procedural standpoint to allow the budget committee to consider the financial demands of adding the positions. "I don't believe it's

the cart before the horse," Polhill said.

In addition, the board heard about ways the school was endeavoring to help underrepresented students. For example, students who will be the first in their families to attend college now have a program that allows their parents to learn how to assist them through high school to achieve their goals, according to teacher Myrna Cervantes.

This multi-weekend course for parents helps teach them about the college process, including the requirements of California universities. After the program was enacted several years ago, the number of minority students who enrolled in AP and honors class increased. In addition, grades and test scores improved, Cervantes said.

Cervantes also described recently bringing a group of students from the PaliHi Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers club to the University of Maryland for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) workshops. She and several of the students, including one who had never flown in an airplane before, reported to the board about how inspiring the trip had been.

"I want to thank you for giving our underrepresented students this experience," said Cervantes of the trip, which was half-underwritten by the PaliHi Booster Club. "We are transforming the lives of our students."

Cervantes also discussed mandatory fitness tests, which she said were being disproportionately failed by Latina and African American female students. The school recently discovered this issue, and they are looking at ways to address this deficit as part of the school's effort to enhance achievement and inclusion throughout all campus programs.

Free Movie Will Screen at Library

The Palisades Branch Library will host its monthly movie at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 12, in the community room, 861 Alma Real. The movie is free to residents. It is rated R and has a running time of 122 minutes.

Based on the life of Steve Jobs, this 2015 movie earned Kate Winslet an Oscar nomination for Best Actress in a Supporting Role. In the film, the trials and triumphs of a modern-day genius, the late CEO of Apple, Inc., are examined. The question explored is: Can a great man be a good man?

The film was written by Aaron Sorkin and directed by Danny Boyle.



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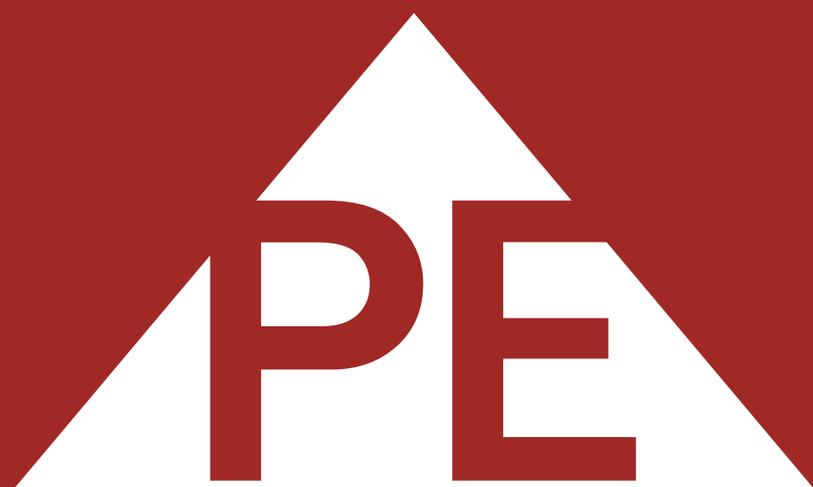
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Heard About Town

L. A. Marathon

They held the L.A. Marathon on February 14 and the winners ran the 26.2-mile distance in under two hours and half. That's faster than you can drive during rush hour from Dodger Stadium to Santa Monica.

Another Caruso Name

My suggestion for the "new" village: how about we call it "The Village." Why change tradition?

Well Wishes for Lois

If you are a City National Bank customer, you know that Lois Globnik is retiring after decades of service. I don't remember her whole story, but I know she was in charge of opening all new City National branches and, eventually settled here. She's looking forward to traveling and "seeing more of life before she can't." I wish her well. She has been a great woman in our community.

Gelson's Wine Tasting

Paying for groceries at Gelson's, I noticed a little card promoting the store's new wine tasting. The table was tucked away in the flowers section and I hadn't noticed the setup going in. I went over and they offered me a sip of the red and then the white. I really liked the white and it was on sale. This is really a good idea and I hope they keep doing it. Letting you try a wine before you buy it is nice.

PaliHi Fundraiser

I just found out I can bid on silent auction items for the PaliHi fundraiser and that it's open to all residents even if you don't have a kid there. There are Dodger dugout tickets and tickets for *The Voice*. The auction closes tomorrow, so get some last-minute great items—and support a public school. Visit: palihigh.org/auction.

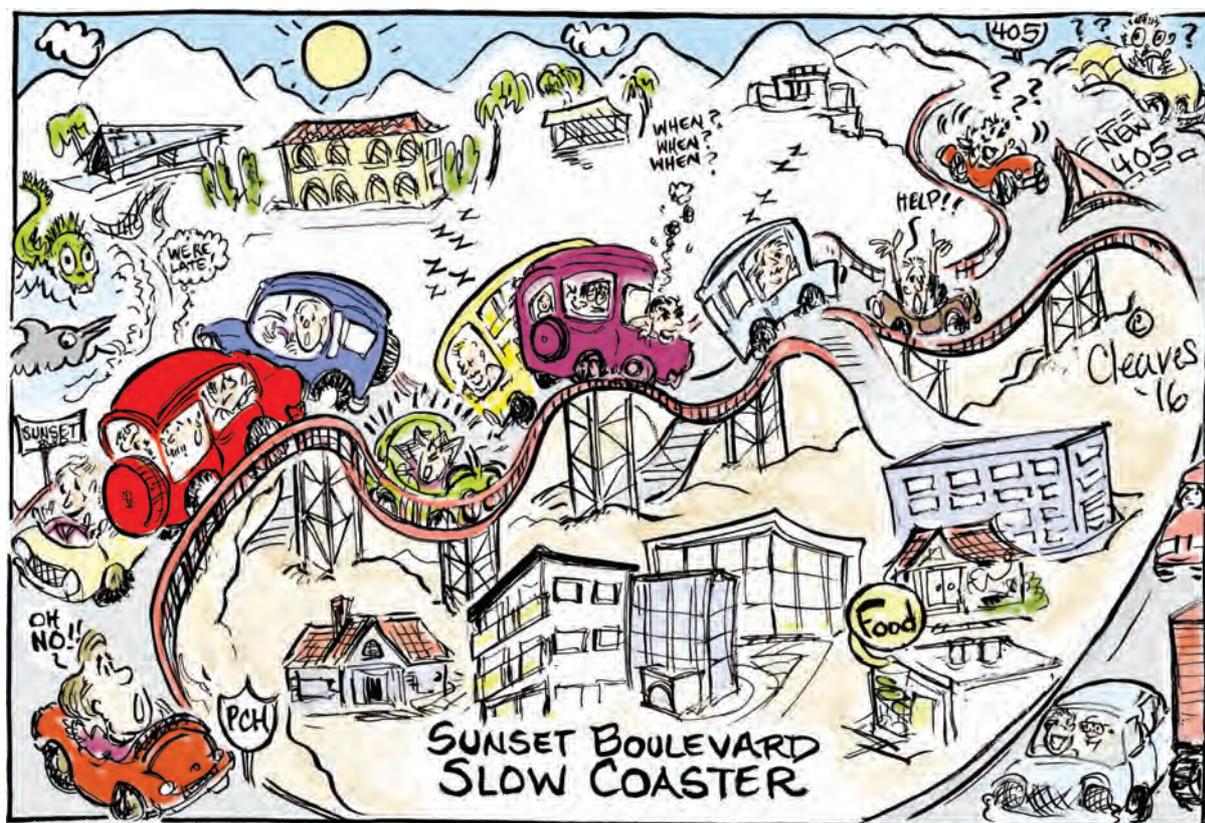
What Happened to Address?

I read Grace Hiney's reviews every week and sometimes will try a new restaurant based on what she says. But last week the restaurant review didn't contain the address or the telephone number. What happened?

(Editor's note: It was our error and we instantly corrected it on Facebook and the News website (palisadesnews.com). The address and phone number for Il Piccolo Verde is 140 S. Barrington Pl., Brentwood Village. Call (310) 472-4939. See the ad on p. 22)

If you'd like to share something you've "heard about town," please email it to spascoe@palisadesnews.com

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

Caruso's Project: Trust But Verify

By MARK GRINBLATT

We should be excited about a Palisades Village development that promises wider sidewalks, dozens of new stores (plus a theater, a market, and many restaurants), no traffic impact, adequate underground parking for patrons, and off-site employee parking. But there is this old Russian proverb, "Trust but verify," popularized by Ronald Reagan, the only U.S. President to live in Pacific Palisades. Shouldn't we verify that the developer's promises will be kept?

After all, the developer asks for many special concessions: Among these, allowing retail stores on a lot zoned for parking, changing the alley behind Pearl Dragon to two-way while swerving the alley so it becomes an extension of Bashford, and allowing development on about a quarter-acre of public land. The public land "gift" being sought could be what makes 200 more parking spaces possible at minimal construction cost—and at \$10/day generates \$22 million for the developer over 30 years.

Caruso's mitigated negative declaration (MND), a required filing, represents the developer's proof he will make good on the promises of no adverse impact. Unless Palisadians write to the City Planning Department by March 9, complaints that traffic, parking, or other issues have not been properly addressed will become irrelevant.

The MND's "proof" that 470 spaces are enough? A statement that the parking is adequate per rules . . . but zero details on calculations, parking fees, or treatment of employees. "No traffic" impact comes from a study concluding that morning traffic will be less with the project than without it, and basi-

cally will be unchanged in the late afternoon.

Do Palisadians care that the calculations come from assuming only an added 60,000 square feet of space rather than the full 116,000 being built, or that it is assumed that there will be less traffic from new restaurant patrons than before the project? And despite the power outages we experience, and DWP's failed search for new substations, the MND claims DWP assures Caruso that the existing Palisades grid can supply the project without any effect on us. Who at DWP said that?

To meet the pedestrian-friendly requirement, the MND claims that Swarthmore's lane loss will create wider sidewalks and calm traffic. But experts say wide one-way streets speed up traffic. And Swarthmore overall will be wider by 12 feet (due to angled parking), not narrower. This cuts the sidewalk in front of non-Caruso stores, and unless the Caruso stores each have more than 6-ft. setbacks, their sidewalks will narrow. The setback commitment in the MND? Just 2 feet.

Finally, it seems as if all employees enjoy free parking at Ralphs, the library, the park and on residential streets. Caruso's employees are encouraged to ride-share, but the MND doesn't say whether or how much they will be charged to park in the Caruso lot. So trust, but verify.

(Editor's note: Mark Grinblatt is the Japan Alumni Chair in international finance at the UCLA Anderson School of Management, where he has been on the faculty since 1981. Currently, he also is Senior Associate Dean and director of the UCLA Anderson Ph.D. program. He received his master's, advanced postgraduate and doctoral degrees from Yale University. He is a former president of the Western Finance Association.)

Thought to Ponder

"Let's not be narrow, nasty and negative."

— T. S. Eliot

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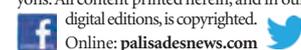
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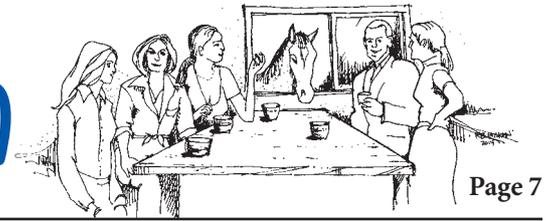
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VIEWPOINT

Releasing School Records Is Unnecessary

When did the rights of a few become more important than the rights of many?

If your child attends or attended public school in Pacific Palisades any time from 2008 until the present, his/her school records will be turned over to two special-needs advocacy groups, Morgan Hill Concerned Parents Association and the Concerned Parents Association (CPA).

As a parent of three children who attended Palisades Elementary, Paul Revere Middle School and Palisades High School, I'm appalled that my kids' records, which includes home addresses and other personal information, will be given to these nonprofits.

My kids' progress reports, behavior and disciplinary information, special-education evaluations and records pertaining to health, mental health and medical information are private, and not to be shared with strangers.

But a ruling by United States Federal Judge Kimberly Mueller for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California in January regarding a 2012 lawsuit that alleges that educational agencies have failed to accommodate children with disabilities in compliance with federal law has left school districts no choice.

LAUSD must comply with the law and turn over all student records. Statewide, it is estimated that 10 million records will be given to these two groups.

On the CPA website, it is explained that data is needed

from all students so that "our statisticians can perform meaningful statistical sampling. They need data points so that they can pull a representative sample of the California student population. The statisticians will pull a random, statistically significant sample of student data and perform statistical analysis on that sample only, so that they can look at metrics, such as whether a disproportionate number of certain ethnicities receive certain services."

Further, the nonprofits note that they have received countless calls from parents all over the state about the treatment received by special-needs kids, which led them to spearhead this movement. They say the California Department of Education's allegations that the complaints are isolated cases is false, which is why they need to analyze the data.

They explain they need information about all children since 2008 because "Our statisticians need information to show that the examples are not random." Don't my kids have rights to privacy? Well, yes they do. Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act there are federal laws protecting the privacy of students. The state ensures compliance with a vast database, but the nonprofits will have access to this information under the ruling.

Judge Mueller's order addressed security concerns by barring distribution of the data outside the parties involved and ordering that the group "return or destroy"

the data as soon as the analysis is completed. Still, there is no way to ensure against a data breach or hacking.

At the risk of getting numerous angry letters, first let's be clear that we support all students' right to an education. But is this court case the best way to help a special-needs student that the parents believe wasn't treated fairly? By seeking the records from 10 million kids?

With that many records, how will these advocacy groups ensure a fair statistical sampling, and how will this data support a hypothesis? According to Ernest Rutherford, a British physicist who became known as the father of nuclear physics, "If your experiment needs a statistician, you need a better experiment."

There's one area that all kids have in common. In a "free" public education system, there is no guarantee that you will get the best teacher for your kid. There is no guarantee that the teacher will even teach or interact with your kid. There is absolutely no guarantee that even if you complain to the principal about the teacher that something will change for your kid. Been there, done that.

Parents, guardians and former students (now over the age of 18) have until April 1 to register their objection to the disclosure by submitting a request to the court, either in a letter to the court or by printing out and mailing a special form. Visit: cde.ca.gov/morganhillcase.

—SUE PASCOE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Substation Facts Should Be Known

The *Palisades News* article on pole-top distribution stations [February 3] mentioned a petition circling around town urging DWP to build a new substation on its property next to Marquez Charter Elementary, I assume in response to outages mentioned in the piece.

I hope whichever (unnamed) person originated the petition provided full information to anyone thinking of signing. It seems highly unlikely, given that the person manning the table at the farmers market, when quizzed, casually refuted established and widely available facts about the site's unsuitability from the DWP's own reports.

Especially given that the cause of the main recent outage was a fire at a substation, it would be stooping very low to propose that the solution is to situate a substation on land that a.) has been deemed fatally flawed geologically by the LADWP itself, b.) is in a high-fire risk zone, c.) is next to a public elementary school serving a large daily population (600+) of young children and teachers, and d.) is in a residential zone with limited emergency-vehicle access.

One doesn't have to be a pessimist to know that this is a really terrible idea. This is why the LAUSD board passed resolutions opposing the placement, and the community task force (appointed jointly by LADWP, then-Councilmember Rosendahl (with input from the Pacific Palisades Community Council leadership and LAUSD) voted the Marquez site as "unacceptable to the community." A well-attended community meeting at Palisades High School saw comment cards support that finding.

If they knew all these facts, I hope potential petition signatories would agree that people should be petitioning

to protect such vital institutions as the schools educating our children/future citizens rather than petitioning to disadvantage and imperil them.

Richard Shepherd

Wants the Caruso Project, Now

I have been lucky to live in Pacific Palisades for 24 years in the same house. My family and I live closer to the Caruso project than anyone else and we can't be more excited for the upgrade. I remember when Swarthmore was a thriving street, filled with a wonderful selection of retail shops and restaurants. Now, Swarthmore is a ghost village—a street in decline for too long.

Most of the 27,000 people living here are so excited and grateful for what Rick Caruso plans to bring to Swarthmore. There is a small minority that wants to find fault with every aspect of the plan. What the minority doesn't realize is that if they continue to get in the way we may lose the best thing to happen to this community. Caruso's design matches the desires of the majority of residents. It was the thousands of residents that provided input on the design that he has proposed and matches the desires of the community. The DRB does not represent the desire of most Palisadians.

What if the prior owners had sold the property to the other bidder from overseas instead of Caruso? There would probably be no input from Pacific Palisades community members at all. One day construction crews would show up and months later we would have a development that was twice as big as what Caruso is proposing. We would be outraged. So let's all be grateful

for what we have. Nothing will ever satisfy everyone, but remember our priorities and that we are very lucky to have Rick Caruso.

My family and I can't wait to see construction start. Please, no more delays. Please join me in supporting Rick and his team to move this project forward.

Mary Kinzelberg

(Editor's note: The Design Review Board plays a vital role in our town. If the Swarthmore property had been purchased by a developer who tried to build a massive mall, residents would be pleading with the DRB to provide a defense.)

Keep Pacific Palisades Special

The Palisades is a special place. We are so fortunate to live in this quiet enclave of LA, nestled between pristine beaches and mountains.

We are also unique because unlike other commercial areas, there is only one thoroughfare. Traffic on Sunset clogs during certain hours, even now, with Swarthmore empty.

Caruso Affiliated has done an amazing job of painting their project in an idyllic light, with happy shoppers strolling leisurely through an uncrowded village with plentiful parking.

They do not include images of stalled traffic creeping along Sunset as people from other areas come to our neighborhood for their entertainment. They don't

(Continued on Page 8)

Palisades News welcomes all letters, which may be emailed to letters@palisadesnews.com. Please include a name, address and telephone number so we may reach you. Letters do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the Palisades News.

Caruso

(Continued from Page 1)

members of the community—and traffic was one of the most mentioned problems.

An audience member pointed out the MND was recently released and wondered how many people had read the document and the appendices. A smattering of hands went up.

But the frustration for many, such as Linda Andrews, a registered civil engineer, was the traffic analysis. She tried to explain her issues, but was cut off after a minute. Which led other members of the audience to question the limited speaking time.

Council President Chris Spitz said they had to consider all three motions and the library closed at 9 p.m., which was why each member of the public had one minute.

Andrews later told the *News* that she had read the traffic study in the MND and found that three nearby intersections were not included: Swarthmore and Antioch,

Via de la Paz and Albright and Via de la Paz and Antioch.

“We need a valid traffic study by a company such as Fehr and Peers before we can approve or disapprove any mitigated negative declaration report,” Andrews said. The traffic study was conducted by The Mobility Group in Irvine. Andrews also noted that all of the traffic counts used in the study, including L.A. City’s were taken on early dismissal school days or days when some schools were closed.

“I don’t see how anyone with a straight face can say we will not have more traffic,” said Kat Smith, who also urged an independent traffic study.

Said PPCC’s David Kaplan, who chaired the committee that studied Caruso’s project: “In the report it was not suggested there will be no increased traffic, but rather that it can be mitigated.”

UCLA business professor Mark Grinblatt questioned the idea of giving public land to Caruso, referring Caruso’s request

for the three land donations of about 15,000 sq. ft., cited above.

Caruso explained that if he is given an easement on a public right-of-way, it reverts back to private use. “It has no functional value,” he said.

In that motion, the Council wanted an unspecified amount of money from Caruso to pay for improvements on neighboring streets.

PPCC member Richard Cohen commented that he felt it wasn’t right for Caruso to pay for improvements in front of other businesses. “It doesn’t work for me to [have Caruso] fix up other people’s properties.”

“I’m happy to be a good neighbor,” Caruso said. “The cost of sitting on this property is greater than helping with a fund.”

After the meeting, Shapiro was asked if a member of the City’s planning department could address the community on the traffic aspects, which remain one of the biggest points of contention. She said she would try to facilitate that.

Plato Society to Discuss Justice

The Plato Society of Los Angeles will present “And Justice for All??” at its 2016 Milhaupt Symposium from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, March 5, at the Skirball Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd.

Discussed will center on why does the United States have five percent of the world’s population, but 25 percent of the world’s prisoners? One in 99 adults is living behind bars in the United States, and the country’s prison population has risen 700 percent since 1970.

Speakers include L.A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, City Attorney Mike Feuer, UCLA law professor Devon Carbado, Loyola Law School Associate Dean Alexandra Natapoff and Rachel Meeropol, attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights, New York.

Tickets are \$25, which includes lunch. Parking is free. Visit: ThePlatoSociety.org, click on March 5 Milhaupt or call (310) 443-7676.

Letters

(Continued from Page 7)

discuss quality of air issues created by increased traffic, light pollution impact, or traffic moving into residential streets to skirt a clogged Sunset. Their video doesn’t include honking horns, bleating carting trucks, or inebriated groups leaving bars late at night.

The suggestion that doubling the number of stores,

adding a grocer and a five-plex will have zero traffic impact defies logic and insults the intelligence.

We all want a revitalized village. But not at the cost of gridlock. We welcome a project appropriate in spirit and scale to the landscape of our neighborhood. We respectfully propose: 1.) An independent traffic study; 2.) Scaling back the new shopping area to no more than 25 percent above the current shopping area; 3.) Green space to cover the entire current Monument Street parking lot, versus the proposed green; 4.) Three parking levels to accommo-

date employees, shoppers, moviegoers and diners; and 5.) Scaled-down height, keeping single stories, with the two-story structures located only at Swarthmore corners.

If changes aren’t made to scale this project back to adjust to our unique constricted traffic conditions, the character of our quiet village will be forever changed, and for generations to come, we will be cursing ourselves, our politicians and planners for not ensuring that our quality of life isn’t sacrificed to oversized development.

Kat Smith

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Kickoff for New PaliHi Arts Complex

The Palisades High School Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) committee is having its first fundraising event from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Friday, March 11 in Mercer Hall. The PaliHi jazz band, the dance team and a classical vocalist will entertain. Refreshments will be served. The event is free and the community is invited.

Retired PaliHi theater teacher Victoria Francis said the proposed new complex "will include a state-of-the-arts theatre, a black-box theatre, new and larger classrooms for all the arts including vocal and instrumental music, the visual arts, a dance studio and a film and media center."

Francis noted that for more than 50 years the school has produced talented actors, such as Forest Whitaker, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Adam Shankman, as well as producer/director JJ Abrams and screenwriter Scott Alexander.

"However, many of the arts facilities have been less than adequate," Francis said. "An old-fashioned multi-purpose room has sustained many theatre, music and dance productions, where many other schools have wonderful theatres."

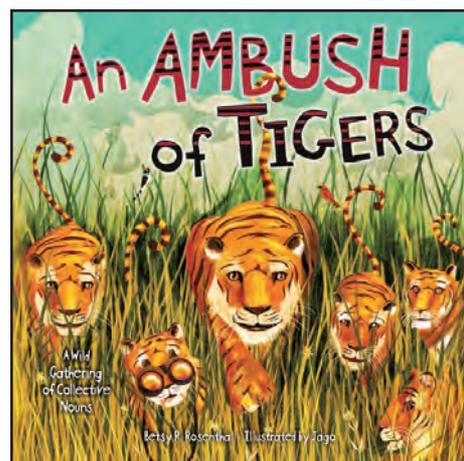
The new complex could also be used for visiting artists or other community needs.

Marquez Elementary Will Host Book Festival March 5

The Marquez Experience is a three-part, PTA-sponsored festival planned for this school year. The second of the three events will be a Festival of Books from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, at the school on Marquez Avenue.

More than 20 authors will be on hand for readings and autographs. Admission is free and the event is open to the community.

Included authors are Palisadian Betsy Rosenthal, who has written *Looking for Me* and *An Ambush of Tigers: A Wild Gathering of Nouns*, which was named one of the "Notable Children's Books of 2016" by the



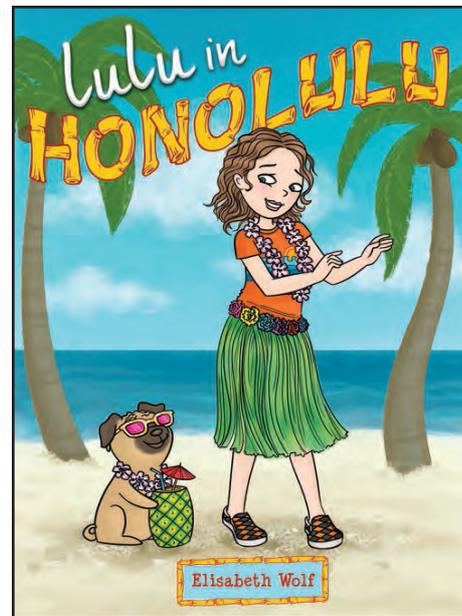
American Library Association. Rosenthal's children attended Marquez.

Two other Palisadian authors, Stefani Sherwin (*Noodle & Nugget—A Tale of Two Kittens*) and Elisabeth Wolf (*Lulu in La La Land* and *Lulu in Honolulu*), will also be available to chat with students.

Another Palisades resident, Amanda Stein, was the advisor for funny, yet poignant stories about issues that teens face with body awareness, healthy choices and weight loss. The book *Shape Up or Bite Me!* by Judy Eberhardt.

Books from David Barneda (*Pirates vs. Cowboys* and *The Tickle Monster Is Coming!*), Scott Bly (*Smasher*), Julia Gibson (*Copper Magic*) and EJ Altbacker (*Shark Wars* and six additional books in the series about a shark named Gray, a large reef shark who has to follow his heart, save his friends and rule the ocean by finding his destiny) will also be featured.

Additional authors include Rene Colato Lainez, Elise Allen, Michael Mullin, Angela Myron, Alva Sachs and A.J. Cosmo (*I Don't Want to Go to School* and *The Monster That Ate My Socks*), Nathaniel Minier, Beth Navarro, Lynelle Kerstine Woolley, Lucy Ravitch, Joshua Hauke (*Mustaches, Mon-*



sters & Other Hairy Situations), Laura Peisner, Anne McGee (middle-grade historical fiction), Arnold Rudnick and Taneeka Bourgeois-daSilva.

A film festival was held by the Marquez PTA in October and on April 2, just in time for Earth Day. The Marquez Experience will center on sustainable living, pollinators and the planet.

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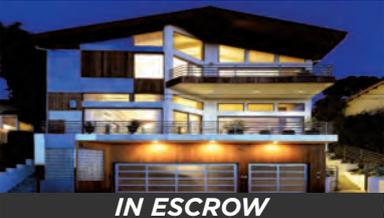
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Davis Takes Companies to Next Level

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Longtime Palisadian Chuck Davis met Josef Gorowitz on his first day at work.

Davis was a new venture partner in Technology Crossover Ventures (TCV), which manages more than \$10 billion in funds invested in various companies, including Facebook, Netflix and Zillow.

Gorowitz was seeking an investor for his company, Prodege/Swagbucks. The meeting was fortuitous. The two exchanged email addresses and began getting together occasionally for lunch. Two years later, in 2013, Davis became the chief executive officer of Gorowitz's company.

Gorowitz "is the best," said Davis, 55, who also continues his work at TCV. "He sees things that I don't. He's so young and entrepreneurial. He says the same about me, because I've seen the process of scaling these companies so many times."

Davis specializes in scaling, which entails paring a business down and prioritizing its most dynamic operations. "I take the baton from the founder and work with him to scale the company, because that's my strength. The founder's strength is creation, but I help scale the business."

Over the years, Davis, who grew up in Westport, Connecticut, has improved the performance of a number of companies, including BizRate and Fandango. He started his career in publishing before moving from



Palisadian Chuck Davis with his wife Jan and daughter at the Entrepreneur of the Year award, which he won in 2004, but now serves as a judge.

New York to Los Angeles in 1996. He became Disney's first president of e-commerce and successfully launched Disneystore.com, Disneyvacations.com and ESPNstore.com. Then he became president and CEO of Bizrate, a comparison shopping site then called Shopzilla.

His first year there "coincided with the March 2000 stock market pullback of over 50 percent," Davis said. BizRate had "five layoffs before it found its sweet spot, and then it took off and became a very success-

ful company. There were difficult moments before there were very bright moments."

In 2004, Davis earned an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award for the Los Angeles area for his work at BizRate, and the following year, BizRate was acquired by the E.W. Scripps Company for \$569 million.

Gorowitz also earned an Entrepreneur of the Year award for Los Angeles in 2014, and Davis has become a regular competition judge, although he recused himself the year Gorowitz was nominated, so that his friend



Many Palisadians might recognize Davis as a soccer referee for AYSO Region 69, where he was also a coach for many years.

could fairly compete.

Davis has other friends who have moved with him from Bizrate to Fandango to Prodege/Swagbucks. Four of Prodege/Swagbucks' senior people are part of this crew. "I'm beholden to this group of friends who know how to get it done," Davis said.

When the group moved to Fandango, luck was also a partner. Apple CEO Steve Jobs happened to choose Fandango, a moviegoer destination site, to be one of the initial four apps on the first iPhone, Davis said. Apple and Jobs "took a risk with a phone. They took a risk putting Fandango on it, and next thing you know, both were home runs."

With Prodege/Swagbucks, Davis helped focus the e-commerce company. "This business had many, many businesses as part of it," Davis said. "It almost had too many."

Swagbucks splits advertising revenue 50/50 with its members, Davis said. Members, who now number 18 million, will do their normal Internet activities via Swagbucks, such as searching the web and watching videos. Half of that accumulated ad revenue is then given back to the members via gift cards. Since 2008, \$120 million in gift cards have been given to members.

"Frankly each of these products I've gone to, I've gone to when it's below the radar, and they've become on the radar," Davis said. One of the big changes at Swagbucks involved moving it from a desktop to mobile platform.

Davis continues to use his expertise to help other rising entrepreneurs, not only via his role as a judge for the Entrepreneur of the Year awards, but also as an entrepreneur in residence at Harvard Business School, where he's working with various students to develop their startup ideas.

"The best companies have a mix of someone who has done it before and someone's who's fearless," Davis said. "That mix is very healthful."

Origins of Palisades Street Names

By MICHAEL EDLEN
Special to the Palisades News

(Editor's note: In 1990 Randy and Betty Lou Young published a limited edition book titled Street Names of Pacific Palisades & Other Tales. This short series of summaries of these names is based on that book.)

There were many other Pacific Palisades streets laid out in the 1920s around the current Village area, in addition to the Alphabet Streets and Christian Colleges sections above and below Sunset.

Monument led to Peace Hill, at a slight angle to Via de la Paz. The original intent was to have an impressive monument dedicated to peace and brotherhood. What was done instead on the hill was installation of a large cross, which for many years was the site of Easter sunrise service celebrations.

Most of the area above what is now Bestor was a 1923 subdivision called Chautau-

qua Heights. Most of the lots were spacious sites with open views, and designed to attract more affluent owners. Chautauqua was extended north, and kept narrow enough to preserve the natural environment.

Berea: Named after a Christian college in Kentucky established to provide low-cost education in Appalachia.

Goucher: Named for the founder of Goucher Women's College.

Gallaudet: Named for the founder of the first school for the deaf in Hartford, Connecticut. Many people don't know of this narrow, private road off Chautauqua near Carey.

Marinette: Was laid out in the 1950s and named for a queen of the Menominee Indian tribe in Wisconsin.

McKendree: Named for a Methodist bishop, and for McKendree College in Illinois. The eastern section was established in 1923, and the western portion was laid out in 1948.

Oracle: Named after the place where ancient Greeks and Romans consulted deities.

Paskenta: The short street off Chautauqua leading to Marinette, means "under the hill" in Indian.

Whitfield: Named for one of the co-founders of Methodism. He began outdoor revival meetings in North America and was very political in his approach. The western segment was constructed in 1948.

Charm Acres: This small development off Via de la Paz was built in 1941 by Eric Scudder, a civic-minded Palisadian.

Rimmer: This street runs along the western rim of Temescal Canyon, and was subdivided in 1947 by Reverend Harry Rimmer.

Michael Edlen has been ranked in the top one percent of all agents in the country with nearly \$2 billion in sales. He has tracked Pacific Palisades sales and historic events for 30 years. Call: (310) 230-7373 or email: michael@michaedlen.com.

JUMBLE SOLUTION

Jumbles: TEMPO NOVEL GLITCH TARIFF
Answer: The documentary about the history of sky-scrappers was — RIVETING

Tree-Trimming, Not Tree-Cutting

In response to a plea to the City to trim the overhanging eucalyptus trees along Sunset Boulevard between Chautauqua and Brooktree (February 18, "Eucalyptus on Sunset Need to Be Trimmed: City Warned"), a reader wrote to the *Palisades News*: "Be careful what you ask for."

This Palisades resident continued, "I have often asked the Department of Rec & Parks to trim trees in Rustic Canyon Park and along. We have been told each time, they do NOT trim trees, they only cut trees down."

"They said they do not have the budget for trimming trees and furthermore, trimming trees only means they will have to continue to trim trees in the future. Cutting down trees eliminates the need for trim-

ming or any liability for the city."

The reader cited the tree in front of Ralphs, which had a cracked limb that fell to the sidewalk, but the entire tree was removed in February. "I have even talked to the tree trimmers themselves on site who each time confirm the City has told them to only remove the entire tree, do not trim," the reader wrote.

The *News* contacted Councilman Mike Bonin's office about the City's tree-trimming policy. Bonin's press representative David Graham responded: "The Urban Forestry Department does have a limited budget and does often use contractors for tree-trimming work, but it is not true that they *only* cut entire trees down—Mike has

even joined the crew to help trim trees. I will ask both Urban Forestry, as well as Rec and Parks, to find out where this information is coming from."

In a February 26 email, Graham wrote, "I just heard back from the forestry division, and it was confirmed that no, they do not remove trees unless they absolutely have to (for example if a tree is a hazard to public safety). They maintain, trim and

grow trees throughout L.A., and have no idea where the report that they only cut trees down could be coming from."

In a prior communication, Graham said that Bonin had requested that the City's Urban Forestry Department include the eucalyptus trees on Sunset between Chautauqua and Brooktree in the next round of tree-trimming contracts.

BUSINESS NOTES

Temporary Location for Denton's

Denton Jewelers, a longtime fixture on Sunset, closed on February 13 and is temporarily located at Boca on Swarthmore Avenue. A Denton employee said there are plans to move the business to the second floor of the nearby Monument building.

Panda Express Closing Soon

If you like orange chicken, the last time you'll be able to buy it at the Palisades Panda Express (in the Clock Tower building at Sunset and Monument) will be March 31. The business has been located there for almost 20 years, but its current lease has run out. There are rumors a Chipotle will be opening in this space, but no lease has been signed, yet, according to sources at the February 24 Design Review Board meeting.

New Bank Coming to Town

Union Bank will be opening in the Clock Tower building on Sunset Boulevard (in the former Post Office space, next to Panda Express). At the latest DRB meeting, it was announced a lease had been signed.

Workshops at Gorus Yoga

Gorus Yoga, the only dedicated yoga studio in Pacific Palisades, offers workshops to all residents. Participants will have an opportunity to explore a topic of interest on a deeper level. On March 12 from 2 to 4 p.m., Yoga and Writing will be led by Bea Ammidown of The YogAbility Institute (\$45). On March 13, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., a Sound Vibrational Journey will be led by Guru Mitar Kaur (\$35).

Visit: goor.us or call: (310) 765-4871.

Rotary Club's Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament Is May 21

The third annual Rotary Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament will be held from 5 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, May 21, in Janes Hall at the Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church. Proceeds will benefit the Palisades-Malibu YMCA and the Rotary Club of Pacific Palisades Foundation.

The prize pool will be more than \$5,000. The initial buy-in is \$200 (includes dinner

and two drinks) and the maximum number of players is 100. The deadline is May 1.

Corporate sponsorship is also available and includes two tickets. Only one vocation per sponsorship is available, i.e., one lawyer, one realtor, etc. First-come, first-served.

Contact Pete Crosby at (310) 454-6387 or pcrosby@cgrmc.com; or Perry Akins at (310) 459-8551 or perry@perryakins.com.

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Home Zestimates Can Present Problems

By JANE ROFFIS FUJINAKA
Special to the Palisades News

I recently heard the CEO of Zillow, Spencer Rascoff, speak at a Harvard-Westlake Real Estate Network event. He's an impressive man; it was interesting to hear him speak about his accomplishments, his philosophy, and how he incorporates social media into the running of the company. I found it most interesting to hear what he had to say about Zestimates—the online values Zillow attaches to properties on its website.

During the talk a man who identified himself as a real estate agent brought up the issue of Zestimates, how he and every real estate agent he knows are forced to spend a lot of time explaining to clients why the values Zillow attaches to properties are rarely

accurate. Rascoff immediately acknowledged that Zestimates have a 7 to 14 percent margin of error, which he said is noted on the site. He also pointed out that educating buyers and sellers as to the actual value of a property is the real estate agent's job, not the job of Zillow.

Rascoff used WebMD as an analogy. His wife is a doctor, and he said part of her job is to correct misconceptions her patients have learned about their illnesses on sites like WebMD—just as correcting misconceptions regarding Zestimate values is the job of real estate agents.

This analogy is good, but there's an important difference between WebMD and Zillow: When someone looks up their health symptoms on a site like WebMD they read general factual descriptions of

symptoms which may or may not apply to them. When someone looks up the Zestimate of a home's value online, the Zestimate is specific to that home, which implies a higher level of accuracy.

Zestimates are created by computer algorithms gleaned from information gathered online. No one at Zillow goes out to every property listed to assess all the many factors which contribute to property values, such as the condition of the home, the layout, the light, the noise level, the neighborhood, etc. (That's what real estate agents do.)

These algorithms rely on data culled from multiple listing services and public records about each property and cannot distinguish, for example, between 10,000 square feet of flat land and 10,000 square feet of land that drops down the side of a cliff.

Homes which are priced too high usually sit on the market longer and become stale.

Sellers in most cases end up selling an overpriced home for less money than if the home had initially been priced correctly. Therefore, relying on statistically inaccurate Zestimates may lose homeowners money.

What is the value of a Zestimate? Zestimates are valuable to Zillow because they help draw more people to the site, which is the goal of every website, as Zillow's revenue comes from advertising dollars. Zestimates are a marketing gimmick, fun to check, but wrong to believe.

If you trust Zillow's Zestimate more than the analysis of your real estate agent, find a new agent, one whose judgement you can trust.

(Editor's note: Jane Fujinaka, a Realtor at Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, has been working in real estate for more than 13 years. She's a graduate of Palisades High School and Columbia College.)

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Bubba Watson wins the 2016 Northern Trust Open. His one-year-old daughter Dakota joined him on the 18th green, shortly before the trophy was awarded.

Bubba Watson Wins at Riviera

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Photos by Bart Bartholomew

Shortly after winning the Northern Trust Open on February 21, Bubba Watson was upstaged by his one-year-old adopted daughter. As he was being interviewed, Dakota toddled over to her daddy, who picked her up.

"I don't cry at winning the trophy anymore," Watson said. "The trophy is going to fade away. That's really not what's important in my life. It's about the family."

After the rain on Wednesday, the fairways at the Riviera were in perfect condition for the start of the prestigious tournament, which featured most of the top golfers in the world.

During a TV interview, Watson, 37, said

one of the reasons he likes playing the Riviera is, "I like courses that have a history." The 7,322-yard course was designed by George C. Thomas Jr. in 1927 and has hosted a U.S. Open and the PGA Championship.

Watson's greatest challenge on the final day came from Jason Kokrak and Aussie Adam Scott, who eventually tied for second at 14 under, one stroke behind.

Scott, 35, eagled the first hole on Sunday and was five under after six holes, but he bogeyed the 14th and 15th holes. Then he chipped in for a birdie on 18, forcing Watson to par the hole in order to earn the \$1,224,000 winner's check.

"A guy like Bubba is tough to beat," Scott said. "He's wearing the course out on the toughest day. I think he hit 15 greens."

Thirty-year-old Kokrak, who stands 6-4 and comes from northeast Ohio, had a two-

shot lead after 13 holes. But on the 15th, he three-putted for a bogey and Watson birdied the next two holes to seize the lead.

Dustin Johnson, 31, who has been called a Riviera bridesmaid after finishing second to Bubba Watson in 2014 and to James Hahn last year, led after 36 holes, and shot 68-69 on the weekend to finish fourth at 13 under. Hahn failed to make the cut this year.

Rory McIlroy, 26, ranked third in the world, played Riviera for the first time and was just two shots off the lead after 54 holes. He eagled the first hole on Sunday, but then bogeyed seven holes and tied for 20th. The Irishman told reporters, "This is definitely going to be regular for me on the schedule going forward. The golf course is great. Glad I played this year and I'll definitely be back."

Jordan Spieth, 22, the world's top-ranked player, shot 79 in the first round and failed to make the cut. He has called Riviera his

favorite course, but admitted that he has maybe played too many tournaments in too many locales this winter (Abu Dhabi, Shanghai, Hawaii and the Bahamas).



Adam Scott tied Jason Kokrak for second.



Jason Kokrak putts on the first hole in the final round on Sunday. He tied for second with Adam Scott.

Hole-in-One Pays Mortgage

During the Northern Trust Open on Saturday, Tyrone Van Aswegen, made a hole-in-one at the par-3 16th hole at Riviera Country Club. The following day, Ryan Moore also holed out on 16.

The Quicken Loans' Hole-In-One Sweepstakes awards one year's worth of mortgage payments to a randomly selected entrant for every ace during official PGA Tour events from the Waste Management Phoenix Open through the Tour Championship by Coca-Cola.

"I think that's awesome," Moore said. "When that came out a year or two ago, I thought it was a really cool that someone

got their mortgage paid. I'm just glad I could help out."

"Any time we can help someone pay off their bills, that's great, and I think Quicken Loans has done such a great thing in the market with that," Van Aswegen said.

Moore, 33, finished 10th with nine under. Van Aswegen, 34, tied for 20th with six under.

Fans can enter the sweepstakes by visiting www.pgatour.com/quickenloans. Previous participants in the Sweepstakes must re-register to be eligible in 2016. There have been 51 total winners since the Sweepstakes began in 2014, which equals 51 years' worth of mortgage payments.

College Star Plays with Pros

This was the second year that top college golfers were paired with a PGA Tour professional and two amateurs for a round at the Riviera on Monday, before the Northern Trust Open began.

The professional and the two amateurs (not the collegian) teamed up for a best-ball competition. This was won by the University of Texas, represented by the PGA's top-ranked player Jordan Spieth, with a score of 10-under 61. A donation of \$50,000 will be made to the university's golf program.

Chris Danielson, a senior at the University of Illinois, shot a 3-under 68, the low score of all the collegians, which earned him entry into the tournament.

"This was one of the cooler events I've had since I've been in college," said Daniel-

son, a three-time All-American. "To play in my first PGA event and have it be at Riviera, here at the Northern Trust Open, I am just grateful for the opportunity."

In a field of 144 golfers, Danielson made the cut on Friday with opening scores of 67-72. The native of Osceola, Wisconsin (population 2,568), shot a 73 in the third round and a 77 on Sunday to finish in a tie for 72nd.

This was the second year for the Showcase, an event founded by Tournament Director O.D. Vincent (a former coach at UCLA, Duke and Washington) and Northern Trust.

Last year, Will Zalatoris of Wake Forest qualified, but failed to make the 36-hole cut. This year he finished second in the Collegiate Showcase behind Danielson.



Dustin Johnson, chipping onto the 18th green, finished fourth.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

Hyundai to Replace Northern Trust as Sponsor

Northern Trust, which has sponsored the PGA tournament at the Riviera since 2008, will instead sponsor the FedEx Cup kickoff next year. The event will be renamed "The Northern Trust" and the rotation of courses—Glen Oaks Club in 2017, Ridgewood C.C. in 2018, Liberty National in 2019 and 2022, Plainfield in 2020 and Bethpage Black in 2021—will remain.

Hyundai Motor America, which is based in Fountain Valley, will be shifting its previous sponsorship from the Tournament of

Champions in Hawaii to the tournament in Pacific Palisades. Prior to Northern Trust, the tournament was sponsored for 21 years by Nissan.

"Considering that Hyundai Motor America is headquartered and heavily invested in the greater Los Angeles area, this is a perfect fit for Hyundai's long-term vision and goals as a tournament sponsor," said PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem. "Hyundai is a terrific partner that has actively promoted the Hyundai Tournament of Champions.

We look forward to helping with the transition to Riviera Country Club for 2017."

"During the past six years, we've continued to expand our relationship with the game of golf and there is no better tournament for us to be associated with," said Dave Zuchowski, president and CEO, Hyundai Motor America. "We can't wait to showcase Hyundai vehicles to the millions of Los Angeles golf fans and most importantly, continuing the event's long history of charitable activities."

Mourning Caddie Roth

Many fans may have noticed that players and caddies had small black ribbons on their caps. That was done to honor the memory of Chris Roth, caddie for Patrick Cantlay, who was struck by a car and killed in Newport Beach on February 13. Cantlay was not in the field at the Northern Trust Open.

One aspect of Hyundai's sponsorship of has been its work through Hyundai Hope on Wheels, a national nonprofit committed to helping kids fight cancer.

Say Goodbye To Nerve Pain!

Your nervous system is involved in everything your body does, from regulating your breathing to controlling your muscles and sensing heat and cold. Because your nerve system is so critical for your health, when things go wrong you may experience excruciating pain and/or some very strange symptoms.



There are three types of nerves in the body:

- 1. Autonomic nerves.** These nerves control the involuntary or partially voluntary activities of your body, including heart rate, blood pressure, and digestion.
- 2. Motor nerves.** These nerves control your movements and actions by passing information from your brain and spinal cord to your muscles.
- 3. Sensory nerves.** These nerves relay information from your skin and muscles back to your spinal cord and brain. The information is then processed to let you feel pain and other sensations.

What Are the Symptoms of Nerve Pain and Nerve Damage?

With nerve damage there can be a wide array of symptoms. Which ones you may have depends on the location and type of nerves that are affected.

Nerve damage may produce the following symptoms:

- Light-headedness
- Dizziness
- Constipation
- Weakness
- Muscle atrophy
- Twitching, also known as fasciculation
- Pain
- Sensitivity
- Numbness
- Tingling or prickling
- Burning

In some instances, people with nerve damage will have symptoms that indicate damage to two, or even three, different types of nerves. For instance, you might experience weakness and burning in your legs at the same time. This has made it very difficult to pinpoint disorders caused by nerve damage based on which nerve "should" cause what.

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Helfgott Hopes Kickstarter Can Fund 'Magic' Movie

By LAURIE ROSENTHAL
Staff Writer

The world of dog shows is often influenced by connections, money and politics. But there's also room for a surprise Rocky-type of ending.

In 1980, for example, the Westminster Dog Show in New York was turned upside down when an unheralded five-year-old dog named Innisfree Sierra Cinnar walked away with the top prize.

Fast forward several decades to Pacific Palisades, where longtime resident Daniel Helfgott and his wife, Janet Turner, started their own journey into dog shows when their now three-year-old Tibetan terrier, Kipling, was eight months old. The couple enjoyed the shows, the process and the camaraderie with the other participants. And Kipling liked winning, something that he did from the get-go.

"What surprised us the most," Helfgott told the News, "was how much the dogs enjoyed it. You have no clue when watching TV. Our dog actually looks forward to going to the shows."

Helfgott is a television writer-producer, and is always looking for good stories. His first job in television was as a supervising

film editor on *Candid Camera*, and he has since produced documentaries and docudramas. Two years ago, when he learned about Trish Kanzler and her Siberian husky, Cinnar, he knew there was tremendous potential for a film.

Kanzler's achievement was all the more remarkable considering Cinnar was a less favorable red color, and part of his ear was missing because a neighbor's dog bit it off only hours before a show in Virginia. Kanzler thought of skipping the show because of the ear injury, but her mother, Kathleen, who had been breeding and raising dogs for decades, including Cinnar and other Siberian Huskies, convinced her to go.

The ear turned out to be a non-issue, and when the duo eventually arrived at Westminster, Cinnar won Best of Breed, followed by Best of Group, and ultimately Best in Show. Helfgott describes it as a real David and Goliath story.

"They were up against the greatest dogs in the world, pro handlers, people with years and years of experience at Westminster," he said.

The event took place at Madison Square Garden, and Kanzler didn't even hear that she won; she only realized it when she looked up at the Jumbotron. Only 23 at the



Cinnar, with owner/handler Trish Kanzler, won many awards during his career, including Best in Show at Monterey's Del Monte Kennel Club and the famed Westminster Dog Show.

Photo: Patricia Kanzler

time, she remains the youngest handler to win Best in Show at Westminster, while Cinnar is still the only Siberian husky to have won the coveted award.

Helfgott is committed to bringing *A Little Magic: The Trish & Cinnar Story* to the screen. Unable to secure financing, he de-

cidated to create a Kickstarter campaign, which runs through March 20. The goal is to raise \$2 million. By press time, the campaign had raised nearly \$40,000.

Money was not plentiful in the Kanzler household. Unlike most participants at (Continued on Page 17)



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Helfgott

(Continued from Page 16)

Westminster, Kanzler didn't have money for ads, professional grooming, campaigning and the like. Unable to afford a handler, she became Cinnar's handler, once again going against the norm. To earn money for entry fees to Westminster and other shows, Kanzler worked as a handler's assistant.

"Cinnar was an unusual dog to show because of his red color," Helfgott said. "Nobody was showing reds. He was a bit of an underdog."

After winning at Westminster, Cinnar became a big celebrity, and traveled frequently with Kanzler, including overseas stops in Japan and Germany. His offspring became champions all over the world.

Despite the negative view some people have of breeders and dog-show participants, Helfgott insists their intentions are pure.

"They really want people to know how much they care about these dogs. Most people outside of the dog world don't understand that," he said.

"Breeders care so much about their dogs, they care which family they're going to live with, they want the dogs to be happy and they want people to know that they can always call the breeder if they have questions. Love, care, dedication—that's one of the things we want to show in the movie."

The filmmakers (including Helfgott's

wife Turner as one of the producers, and director Roger Young) have a lot of the dog-show world on their side, after convincing them that the movie was not going to be a *Best in Show*-type of sendup.

Kipling, who at 13 months old became Grand Champion at the Rio Hondo Kennel Club Dog Show in 2013, is currently taking a break from dog shows. He will be in *A Little Magic*, though his role is currently undefined.

Kanzler lives on a farm in upstate New York, where she still raises Siberian huskies at her Innisfree Kennels. Cinnar, who died on his birthday in 1981 because of a bee sting, will be portrayed in the movie by Kanzler's dogs, Reme and Pare, both descendants of Cinnar.

For more information, visit www.kickstarter.com/projects/1437791349/a-little-magic-the-trish-and-cinnar-story.

Palisades Optimist Club Seeks Grant Applicants

The Pacific Palisades Optimist Club is seeking applicants for its annual grant donations, given to youth organizations, schools and nonprofits based in Pacific Palisades.

The Optimists earn their grant funds by working with the Palisades Ridge Runners at the Palisades-Will Rogers 5/10K every Fourth of July. They register late entrants, hand out T-shirts and pass out water.

Grants may be used for funding of a specific event, for equipment, a facility or service, and must be spent this year. Grants are not given to organizations that request continuing financial support. The application must be received no later than March 31.

Send queries to grant committee chairman John Peterson or call (310) 454-9708 to receive an application and guidelines. Applications are also available at the Chamber of Commerce at 15330 Antioch St. They may be returned to the Chamber or mailed to Grants Committee Chairman, Optimist Club of Pacific Palisades, P.O. Box 211, Pacific Palisades 90272.

The 2014-15 recipients included the Palisades High wrestling team; Paul Revere; the PaliHi band; Movies in the Park; the Palisades Americanism Parade Association; the Palisades-Malibu YMCA; Boy Scouts; and the Pacific Palisades Baseball Association.

Orchid Auction Set March 15

The Malibu Orchid Society will hold its annual auction at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15 at the Woman's Club, 901 Haverford Ave. Proceeds from the auction allow the society to provide expert speakers on various orchid-related topics. Light refreshments will be served, all are welcome and attendance is free.

Orchids may be previewed at 6:30 p.m. Orchid expert Doug Overstreet will conduct the auction and also provide culture

tips on orchids from most of the important growers and hybridizers in Southern California as well as from some of the international vendors who exhibited at the recent Santa Barbara International Orchid Show.

The auction will also feature a miscellaneous plant table with non-orchid contributions that will include succulents, cacti and unusual plants from various donors, members and residents.

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Broad Creates Approachable Experience

By LIBBY MOTIKA
Palisades News Contributor
Photos by Bart Bartholomew

The Broad Museum, repository for Eli and Edythe Broad's contemporary-art collection, is a marvel of contradictions, demonstrating not only the precise vision of the founders, but also their goal to make the museum fully accessible to the public.

The contradiction begins at the entrance, where the lobby defies the preconceived idea of an art museum. Cloistered and spare, the first of the three floors offers no hints: none of the expected museum amenities, no information desk, no café, not even a visible gallery. Yet, the experience is not disconcerting—the visitor is in good hands and invited to proceed upstairs via the glass elevator or escalator.

Outside, a line of expectant visitors snakes along Grand Avenue waiting their turn. Because the number of museum-goers is purposely controlled, they enter a space where the energy is exciting, anticipatory, but not hectic.

Still uncertain as to what to expect, the visitor is guided up through the building, past a peek-a-boo window into the museum's collection storage vault, emerging finally into the skylit space of the third-floor main gallery—another contradiction to a traditional museum layout that arrays galleries outward from the main lobby.

The dimensions of the third-floor exhibition space are scaled to the size and command of the monumental paintings and sculpture. The column-free gallery—35,000 square feet—offers possibilities for displaying the Broads' deep concentration in artworks from the 1950s through the 1990s.

Arranged chronologically, the collection



Yayoi Kusama's Infinity Mirrored Room, 2013 exposes both the observed and the observer.



Visitors are invited to take photos, as shown here in the cellphone image of Jeff Koons' Tulips.

reflects the couple's particular interest and investment in Pop Art, including works by Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein, as well as numerous artists represented in depth, including Jean-Michel Basquiat and photographer Cindy Sherman, John Baldessari and sculptor Jeff Koons.

Opened only six months, the museum has beckoned crowds intrigued by Diller Scofidio + Renfro's daring veil-and-vault design and by the number of iconic pieces in the Broad collection. All that could lead to a confusing, overwhelming, intimidating experience, except for the biggest contradiction of all: the Broad feels comfortable, approachable and friendly.

This atmosphere is encouraged and supported by a new approach to museum navigation, information and security. Visitor Services Associates (VSA), stationed throughout the museum, are not only educated on the works in the collection and the more than 200 artists represented, but are also prepared to help visitors download and navigate mobile apps, reserve an upcoming program, or even suggest dining options.

"We wanted to do things differently," says Broad Director of Marketing and Communication Alex Capriotti of the VSA program, which has been attracting the attention of museums around the country interested in replicating the program. "The VSAs are first a security presence in galleries as well as being well versed in art, as docents. They move from gallery to gallery. They might be scheduled for the Basquiat gallery one day,

ticketing on another or working in the lobby on another."

While an art background is not required, applicants come from many different walks of life and seem to unite over sharing their enthusiasm and knowledge with the public. Among the 110 VSAs are students, artists, retired men and women.

The robust training includes study of the

history of the collection, visitor relations, safety, art content, architecture of the building and background on the collectors. VSAs supplement the online curriculum with slide presentations, video and audio clips and group visits, totaling 40-50 hours initially, with ongoing training updates.

The part-time job (the VSAs work four eight-hour days a week and receive compet-



Visitor Services Associate Jenna Bao points out specific cultural symbols in this detail from Takashi Murakami's In the Land of the Dead, Stepping on the Tail of a Rainbow, noting how the artist offsets Japan's catastrophes of Hiroshima and Fukushima with the elephant, a sign of peace and serenity.

itive pay) works well for practicing artists who like the flexibility, says Capriotti.

Dejah Spraggs is a Pasadena City College fine-arts student who hopes to attend Art-Center College of Design in the painting program. A curious, engaged young African-American, she says she resonated especially with the African-American artist Kara Walker, best known for her room-size tableaux of black cut-paper silhouettes.

Because the Broad collection features work by many living artists, Spraggs was excited to have met Walker, although she was so nervous all she could manage was a smile when Walker said, "Hi, how are you?"

All the VSAs are able to talk nimbly about the art and offer insights if visitors wish. Spraggs cites painter Cy Twombly, another of her favorite artists.

"Lots of people dismiss Twombly's work as childlike," she says. "It is because he knows how kids process and create art. He wanted to understand how as we become adults we 'undo' what we intuitively know. A lot of guests walk past his paintings, but I can relate to it because I am working on illustrating a children's book."

The VSAs are often met with perplexing questions. One visitor wanted to know why the concrete gallery floors have cracks in them. Another visitor wanted to know how much Jeff Koons' mirror-polished *Tulips* sculpture weighs. More than a ton.

Always happy to engage and involve guests, the VSAs maintain a friendly attitude in reminding the visitors of the rules. "Our



The Broad, built by philanthropists Eli and Edythe Broad on Grand Avenue, features the veil-and-vault design by Diller Scofidio + Renfro.

protocol on how to tell guests not to touch includes telling them why," Spraggs says. "We also talk about why we want to touch; as humans we have a need to touch things."

Different from other museums, The Broad does permit photography for personal use, but forbids selfie sticks, tripods and flash photography.

A number of VSAs have become friends. Lucas Lacamara, a recent Sarah Lawrence graduate currently building a portfolio for graduate-school applications, participated in a recent VSA exhibition at a studio in

Glassell Park. "Twenty-five of us contributed work, including mixed-media, sculpture, textile and a video piece with a sound component," he says.

Lacamara drew our attention to Keith Haring's acrylic *Red Room*, and discussed the use of the monochrome red and black as conveying "something sinister lying under the abstract patterning."

Katie Taylor, who has a B.A. from Cal State Long Beach in painting and drawing, is attracted to the hard-edge, color-field work of Ellsworth Kelly. "I am interested in color," she says of the various primary-color

canvases that hang on all four walls of the room. "If you spend a little more time looking, the experience draws you in and captivates you. The paintings activate the walls and change throughout the day as shadows shift the light."

The Broad's third-floor skylights have north-facing openings that allow indirect filtered natural light into the galleries.

Descending the central stairs to the first floor, visitors find galleries that focus on the collection's most recent work, dating from 2000, including Yayoi Kusama's *Infinity Mirrored Room, 2013*, a mirror-lined chamber housing a dazzling explosion of pins of LED lights.

In the large gallery toward the back of the first floor, VSA Jenna Bao offered some insights on Takashi Murakami's themes, which often reflect Japan's postwar reality and classic Japanese ways.

The VSA program looks to satisfy the Broads' goal to make the museum accessible to the general public. General admission is free, and there's no charge for reserving advance timed-tickets online. Tickets have entry times beginning every half hour.

Advance tickets are not required. An on-site ticketing line is available at the museum every day except Mondays, when the museum is closed. Admission for this line is first-come, first-served, based on availability. The wait time is 30 to 45 minutes on an average weekday, and 60 to 90 minutes on an average weekend. Visit thebroad.org for more information.



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Young Artist Competition Eclipse Quartet to Play St. Matthew's

Palisades Symphony is seeking students, in grades 1 through 12, who are able to perform a movement of a concerto with orchestra, to audition for monetary awards and the opportunity to play with the Palisades Symphony in concert on June 12.

The concerto performed must be from the standard repertoire, memorized and with orchestration readily available. Auditions are open to students residing in or attending a school located in Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Malibu, Topanga or Brentwood.

There are three categories, and former winners may not apply with the same instrument in the same grade level. In grades 1 through 6, first place will win \$100; grades 7

through 9, \$200; grades 10 through 12, \$200. The Alfred Newman Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000 and the Chamber Music Palisades Award for \$500 will also be awarded.

Auditions will be held on the afternoon of March 22 in Mercer Hall at Palisades High School.

Applicants should write their name, address, phone number, age, school and grade, a brief biographical sketch that includes musical training and teacher, and the name of the work the contestant will perform and send that information to Palisades Symphony, P.O. Box 214, Pacific Palisades. A \$10 application fee must be included. The deadline is March 16. Call (310) 454-8040.

The Eclipse Quartet will join flutist Susan Greenberg and pianist Delores Stevens in concert at 8 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, in the St. Matthew's sanctuary, 1031 Bienvenida Ave.

Quartet members were winners of the Aaron Copland Fund Grant for Music Recording and were former Artists in Residence at Mills College in Oakland and the historic artists' retreat Villa Aurora in Pacific Palisades.

The concert will include music by Schumann, Schulhoff and, in the spirit of the current series-long salute to women composers, Amy Beach. Each work will be discussed by KUSC's popular on-air announcer Alan

Chapman, who has been delighting audiences at these concerts since the Chamber Music Palisades series began in 1997.

CMP was founded by two professional musicians, both longtime residents of the Palisades. In addition to bringing to the Westside the familiar classic repertoire performed by outstanding musicians, CMP has commissioned and premiered more than 20 new works, primarily by local and regional musicians.

For tickets to the concert or a season brochure, call (310) 463-4388 or visit cmpalisades.org. Tickets are \$30 at the door; students with ID are admitted free.

Scholarships for Musicians

Annually, the Westside Committee of the Los Angeles Philharmonic awards scholarships varying from \$100 to \$500 to music students in grades 6 through 12.

Students must have studied at least three years on the instrument they play, perform a piece of classical music of three to five minutes, have a written recommendation from their teacher, live or attend school in Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Brentwood, Malibu or Topanga and be available to perform at a Committee meeting during the year.

All auditions will be in the afternoon on either March 21 or 22, starting with the youngest students. The exact time and location will be announced. Students must bring their own accompanist.

Students seeking the Philharmonic awards and also the Palisades Symphony awards must fill out different applications for the different awards, but need audition only once. The deadline for received applications is March 16.

Call (310) 454-8040 for an application.



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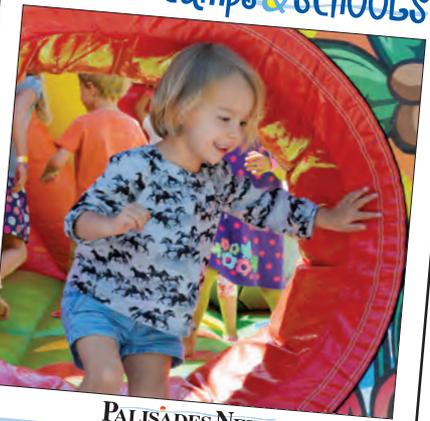


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Working on Solar Panels for PaliHi

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

The electrical, air conditioning and lighting systems at Palisades Charter High School have been gradually undergoing an overhaul, according to Dave Riccardi, the school's director of operations.

Prop 39 money, which is allocated to schools across the state to improve energy efficiency and expand green energy, has thus far funded much of the changes. The school has installed 795 fuel-efficient LED lights and placed solar film on all PaliHi and Temescal campus windows to reduce heat coming into the classrooms, Riccardi said. Los Angeles Unified School District also recently approved funding to install air conditioning in the gymnasium after measuring the heat in the building and determining that AC was needed.

"We start school earlier," said Riccardi, and so cooling has been problematic. Air conditioning has been installed in some classrooms and fans were used this school year, but "some of the rooms still would heat up."

Riccardi is also working to find funding for solar panels for the school, which would require more than the remaining Prop 39 funds, he estimated. Currently, the school uses solar power only for street lights in the



Instead of seagulls on the roofs of PaliHi, administrators would like to see solar panels.

faculty parking lot, but Riccardi would like to change that by first installing solar in the J Building, which has air conditioning and thus high power consumption.

LAUSD has so far declined to fund solar power at the school, although the district did spend \$140 million on solar power installations at 65 district sites, according to a letter Riccardi received from Sean Higbee, energy program manager at LAUSD.

In order to approve solar power installa-

tions at PaliHi, the school must first find a funding source and get the proposed alterations approved, according to Higbee. However, to get quotes from solar vendors to find out how much funding is necessary, the school must acquire interval data from the main DWP meters, Riccardi said. Higbee said that the interval data will only be supplied once funding is in place and the alterations are approved, creating a Catch 22.

There is still a possibility that District solar funding could be approved in the fu-

ture, according to Higbee. Ideally, Riccardi would like to reserve the school's Prop 39 funding for other projects.

"I'd love for the district to fund it directly and use the Prop 39 funding for other things," Riccardi said. "I don't think I have enough in Prop 39 to solar this entire school."

Thus far, Riccardi estimated that the school had received about \$210,000 from Prop 39, which first provided funding for the 2013-14 school year and will be a funding source for five years total. He estimated that PaliHi has spent about \$189,000 on various projects, including the 795 LED lights.

This type of lighting uses approximately 80 percent less electricity, according to Consumer Reports magazine.

In addition, Riccardi said the school had repaired walkway lanterns along the sidewalk to El Medio. "We also installed 686 occupancy sensors across the campus, repaired and replaced the old, antiquated defective parking lot lights with LEDs, [and] wired and installed 26 new timers to control the exterior building lights schedule."

Riccardi continued, "We also were able to repair electrical deficiencies that plagued some buildings on campus and completed a complete survey of the entire campus for estimated energy consumption/potential cost savings of the Prop 39 initiative. I also completed a balancing of the existing air delivery system in the gym complex and dialed in the air handlers for all of the classroom buildings that included service, repair, and cleaning to a cost of about \$225,000 over the last two years."

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Soleil has a lot of French charm, as well as giving diners a bit of French-Canadian food history by featuring dishes well known in Quebec City and Montreal. The reason for this is that the owner and chef, Luc R. Alarie, has history with both cities. He also is a very warm and welcoming host.

Sitting in the dining room with its nighttime sky (purple) dotted with stars and slivers of the moon, you are transformed.

Equally entrancing is the menu with its selection of small plates, soups, salads and pates along with a variety of entrees including lamb, steak, fish, duck, chicken and beef bourguignon.

My friend Barbara and I decided to share the Salade du Quebec as a starter. It was a winner with assorted greens tossed with dates, candied walnuts and bits of red apple—all topped with manchego cheese and a vibrant cider vinaigrette. For only \$10.95, it was a great way to start.

Prices here are moderate and while we nibbled on the salad we could not help but notice fellow diners enjoying the steamed mussels and French fries (\$19.95). Our dinner was on a Wednesday night, and the “All You Can Eat Wednesday Night Special” was the mussels. We observed a few diners getting two portions of them!

While the beef bourguignon sounded enticing, the filet of sole caught my interest (\$23.95). The fish had a



crisp parmesan topping that came with a delicious lemon sauce with capers.

Accompanying the generously-sized serving of fish were scalloped potatoes and carrots, zucchini and broccoli. Everything here is nicely seasoned.

Barbara thoroughly enjoyed the chicken mushroom crepe which came with the same vegetables, and the hard-to-resist crispy thin little French fries. The crepe was flavorful, and marvelously light (\$18.95).

One of the most intriguing dishes was the Owner’s Platter with salami, pate, and an assortment of cheeses served with cornichons, olives, crackers and French bread (\$12.95).

One of the Petit Plates served was a typical Quebec dish of a fondue of parmesan cheese served on a bed of greens (\$6.95). A second was the baked crab cake served on a bed of lettuce with tartar sauce (\$7.95).

Soleil also serves several pasta dishes such as the chicken-filled ravioli served with Cajun-style shrimp and topped with a garlic cream sauce (\$16.95)

For dessert we were served a French Canadian tart of brown sugar and molasses in a pie crust (\$6.95). It is a delight. They also offered us a small crème brulee topped with raspberries. With these treats I really needed my decaf coffee.

Dinner is served daily from 5 to 10 p.m. and brunch

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by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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(Answers on Page 11)

on weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Brunch features bottomless champagne and savory dishes such as smoked salmon benedict or crab benedict or quiche du jour. There are sweet dishes such as French crepes and French toast. Dishes vary in price from \$9 to \$16. Omelets and crepes are \$12.95. The savory dishes, omelets and crepes come with French fries and a mixed-green salad.

Beers, wines and cocktails are also moderately priced, and the service is first rate. Lunch is served from noon to 3:30 Tuesday through Friday (no Monday lunch) and dinner from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Luc R. Alarie’s neighboring little restaurant P’tit Soleil serves an unusual number of specialties from 3 to 10 p.m.

— GRACE HINEY

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Looking for something new, including perhaps a drink after midnight? I have found the perfect place in Brentwood, so you don’t have to trek into Beverly Hills or Hollywood.

In addition to offering tasty Italian food and late-night dining, Il Piccolo has two nights of entertainment. On Thursdays from 8 to 11, there’s delightful acoustic jazz with David Marcus on guitar and Jon Alvarez on bass.

Monday nights, from 10 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., a new karaoke show adds a zesty dimension. The host is “King of Late Night Karaoke,” DJ Gold Dust (aka Jeff Kantor), who offers disco to rock, and whatever else might fit your mood.

Best of all, the food at Il Piccolo is authentic Italian, and I might add, delicious. My friend and I sampled a variety of offerings, starting with the chopped salad of lettuce, tomatoes, avocado, black olives, garbanzo beans and mozzarella, tossed with the special house dressing, calamari fritti with a spicy marinara sauce, and breaded mozzarella sticks with a mild marinara sauce. The restaurant makes its own mozzarella, as well as its own breads.

This is one of the few Westside restaurants with an Italian pizza oven that makes pizza the way it was in the 1800s in Naples, using extremely high heat. The house-made burrata cheese pizza with tomato sauce, sea salt and basil was scrumptious—good to the last bite. They offer medium and large New York-style pizzas too, with a

variety of toppings, from the Hawaiian to the vegetarian.

Pastas include penne vodka with succulent shrimp in a light pink sauce, melanzane alla parmigiana (baked eggplant with melted mozzarella and light tomato sauce with spaghetti) that was so delicious, we took some home for the next day, and homemade spinach and ricotta cheese ravioli in a pink sauce that was also excellent. Next we sampled the veal saltimbocca, a veal cutlet topped with prosciutto, melted mozzarella, sage and light-brown buttered sauce, accompanied by green beans, carrots and broccoli that was excellent (and tasty the next day). Their extensive menu includes six shrimp and shellfish entrees as well as various side dishes. Their wide variety of tasty desserts includes homemade tiramisu, ricotta cheesecake, cannoli, gelato, sorbet, ice creams, and panna cotta.

Lunch specials are served from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is an extensive list of wines and beers, specially curated and stored to maintain their individual tastes. Owner Michael Schwartz, a commercial real estate broker and first-time restaurant owner who lives nearby, wanted to create a local place for casual and fine dining. Not surprisingly, Il Piccolo Verde has become a neighborhood favorite. Their late night Luna Verde menu is served from 10 p.m. to midnight. The restaurant offers take-out and catering, and delivers wine and beer, too.

— GRACE HINEY
Palisades News, February 17, 2016

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