



City Seeks to Drop Beach Curfew

By SUE PASCOE
Editor



The City is proposing to drop the sunset-to-sunrise curfew at five beaches, including Will Rogers Beach.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

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The City of Los Angeles is planning to drop the current beach curfew (sunset to sundown) in five locations, and allow these beaches to remain open from midnight to 5 a.m.

Beaches selected include Will Rogers State Beach, just north of Temescal Canyon at Pacific Coast Highway; two locations in Venice; one in Playa del Rey and one at San Pedro.

A January 25 Negative Declaration from L.A. City Recreation and Parks (RAP) was filed to support that move and the City has already applied for a Coastal Development Permit.

Last October at a hearing about the proposed curfew removal, more than 2,600 residents opposed the action. But none of them were notified about the January 25 Declaration.

When Venice resident Lucy Han, president of Community Above Profit, learned of the Declaration, she asked the City why those who opposed the opening were not notified.

Revere Traffic Puts Children at Risk

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Everything we've been doing is going nowhere," Andrew Sacks, a resident of the neighborhood adjacent to Paul Revere Middle School, said in a phone call to the *News* on February 7. "Students are being hurt and there are no repercussions, no tickets for illegal parking."

Sacks recounted how the day before, a Revere parent parked in the driveway of a neighbor who lives a block from the school, which is located on Allenford Avenue (between Sunset and San Vicente).

The neighbor, unable to exit her driveway, came out and asked the parent to move. The parent refused and when the neighbor attempted to take a photo with her phone, the parent grabbed the phone and threw it. A police report was filed.

Sacks, a first alternate on the Pacific Palisades Community Council, invited the *News* to come and observe school dismissal to see the large number of people who park not only in front of fire hydrants and residential driveways, but also in posted "No Parking" spots along Allenford.

On February 8 and 9, the *News* counted more than 30 cars parked illegally, both days.

Even more disconcerting, some students were almost hit as they used the crosswalk or made dashes to get to illegally parked cars. Neighbors say that one student has already been hit this year and taken to the hospital.

Close to 2,000 students exit on or near Allenford, the only street that provides access to the front of the school (Sunset provides access on the north side of the campus at Mandeville Canyon).

On February 8, a male student was almost hit by a car. The driver, who did not

initially see him, swerved at the last minute to avoid him and narrowly missed hitting a second car that was parking illegally.

The next day was equally harrowing. The light turned green for the students to cross. As three stepped onto Allenford, focused on the walk signal, a car ran a red light, almost hitting them.

The *News* spoke to a babysitter who frequently picks up kids at the corner of Allenford and Brinkley. "I park down a few blocks and walk up," said the person, who did not wish to be identified. "There are lots

of spaces and if the kids have to walk, it's okay. I've never seen police ticketing."

Another babysitter, who also wished to remain anonymous, said that she saw the parking enforcement car that gives out tickets, but that the officer didn't ticket anyone.

We contacted longtime resident Andrew Wolfberg, who is second alternate on PPCC. He responded in a February 7 email:

"There is no justification for the parent to physically assault a neighbor for taking a picture of the parent's license plate. Also,

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Cars park in driveways and in the red, causing chaos during Revere school dismissal.

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Young Scientists Inspired by Everyday Life

By LAURA ABRUSCATO

Contributing Writer

Photos by Lesly Hall Photography

Real-world problems from everyday life gave students participating in the February 5 Palisades Elementary science fair lots of scientific questions to test out.

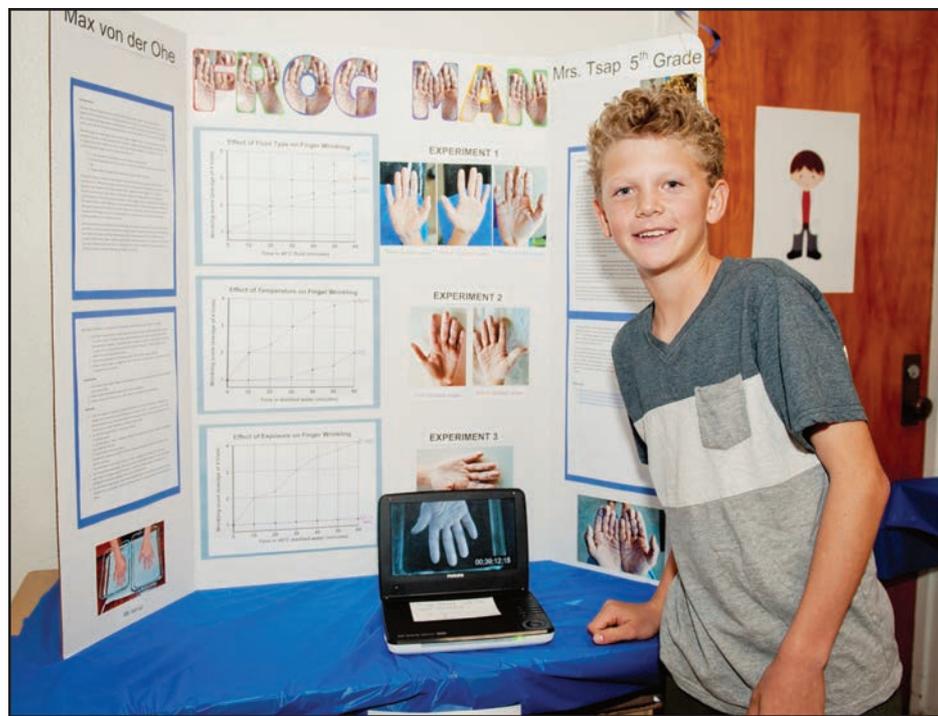
Popular projects for the 175 kindergartners through fifth graders included experiments involving sweet treats such as gummy bears, cookies, bubble gum and ice cream, and fun research involving slime and home-made volcanoes.

As scientists from UCLA and Cedars-Sinai visited every student project, the students explained their projects, while receiving a blue ribbon for participation. Only fifth graders were judged and had a chance to win prizes.

For Max von der Ohe, who finished in first place, his curiosity was piqued by his family's trips to Palm Springs: specifically, the amount of time he spent in the pool. "I'd go in for three hours and my hands would be super-wrinkly," said the fifth grader. "I wanted to know why."

Max dedicated two months to his project, testing the wrinkling of his hand in three different types of water (ocean water, isotonic water and distilled water), using different temperatures of water and putting part of his hand in and leaving his thumb out to see what would happen. After researching and coming to a conclusion, he made a colorful poster entitled "Frog Man."

For his effort and dedication, Max took first in the science fair, the annual event that fills the school's auditorium and cafeteria with colorful tri-fold displays explaining the hypothesis, experiment, results and conclusions of each project. He and the other winners received science kits.



Fifth grader Max von der Ohe's "Frog Man" took first place at the Palisades Elementary Science Fair.

Second-place finishers Dashiell Barrett and Colin Kraber, who both have dogs, were intrigued by an article that said dogs may lick their wounds because their saliva has antibacterial properties. They wanted to test this out with their project entitled "Prescription Pooch."

They collected bacteria from a phone, computer and TV remote that they then let grow in a petri dish. Colin's Goldendoodle then licked Q-tips with the bacteria on them. Their conclusion was that dog's saliva did not have antibacterial properties. For now, the boys are sticking to Neosporin for healing their wounds.

A runaway balloon got Cate Deiter and Caroline Quigley thinking about how far a balloon might travel. Their "Air-Powered Balloons" (which earned third place) flew not high in the sky, but across Cate's base-

ment.

The girls filled the test balloon with air but left it untied, attaching it to a straw on the fishing line they strung across the room.

Their experiment involved three different nozzles made from the barrel and tips of various pens which they placed on the end of the balloon in turn. They then removed the nozzles and measured how far the balloon made it across the room each time.

"I think it's special that none of this is graded or required. You can choose what you're curious about," said Christina von der Ohe, a professor in the life sciences department at Santa Monica College and co-chair of the science fair along with Kristy Morris and Shana Svendsen.

For Principal Gary Saunders, the science fair is a great example of the whole school using the four Cs: critical thinking, creative problem solving, communication and collaboration. "The classroom is the incubator and they are going beyond the classroom to try to solve problems," he said.

The criteria for the top projects included "How much did students themselves understand, how creative was their approach, how scientific was their approach and was their conclusion supported by data," said Morris, who has a Ph.D. in biological chemistry from UCLA. "The most important thing is participation and that the students have a positive experience."



Cate Deiter and Caroline Quigley took third place for their project, "Air-Powered Balloons."



Dr. Anna Hsu, UCLA, presented second-place ribbons to Dashiell Barrett and Colin Kraber for "Prescription Pooch."

Lion King Jr. Opens March 2

The Theatre Palisades Youth production of Disney's *The Lion King Jr.* will open on Friday, March 2 at 7 p.m. at the Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Rd.

The TPY cast includes 36 youth, 8 to 14 years old. The director is Lara Ganz and the music director is Caitlin Tortorici.

The musical is based on the Broadway production and the 1994 Disney animated film. It tells the story of the lion cub Simba as he struggles to accept the responsibilities of adulthood, and his destiny as king as he confronts his wicked Uncle Scar. Along the way, he encounters a colorful cast of char-

acters, including the lioness Nala, the charismatic meerkat Timon and the lovable warthog Pumbaa.

The Lion King Jr. features classic songs from the 1994 film such as "Hakuna Matata" and the Academy Award-winning "Can You Feel the Love Tonight?"

Performances will also take place on Saturdays, March 3 and March 10 at 5 p.m.; on Friday, March 9 at 7 p.m. and Sundays, March 4 and March 11 at 2 p.m.

General admission is \$15 per person. Call: (310) 454-1970 or visit: theatrepalisades.org/tickets.

Local Artist Jeanne Allen to Speak On February 27

Pacific Palisades artist Jeanne Allen will speak on “Color Field Contemporary Art: Including Richard Diebenkorn, Sam Francis and Helen Frankenthaler,” at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27, at the Women’s Club, 901 Haverford Ave.

Allen studied painting and drawing with Raymond Eastwood, sculpture with Eldon Tefft and Bernard Frazier and oil with Frederic Taubes at Philbrook. She also studied watercolor in various workshops, ceramics with Jane Heald and collage techniques with Jeanne Dunlap.

She and her husband, John Allen, had



Contemporary art by Jeanne Allen.

two sons, Keith and Roger. The family moved to Pacific Palisades in 1963, and Allen taught at University and Palisades High Schools and also at Revere Junior High.

Allen’s award-winning paintings and photographs have been shown by the Malibu Art Association, The Ebell Club and Allied Artists of the Santa Monica Mountains.

She has had several one-person shows at the Pacific Palisades Library community room; her current show is available for viewing through February 28.

Children’s Bureau to Host Event at Pier

The Angelic Auxiliary of Children’s Bureau will host its 16th Annual Carnival from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Santa Monica Pier on Sunday, March 4.

About 650 children and parents are expected to attend the event at Pacific Park to raise money for the Children’s Bureau, a nonprofit that specializes in child-abuse prevention and treatment.

“We are so proud that all of the funds raised at Carnival at the Pier will go toward helping the many families at Children’s Bureau,” said Palisadian Allison Massey, president of the Angelic Auxiliary. “Because of the exemplary work the organization does with providing at-risk families with the tools and resources needed to succeed, Children’s Bureau has become a national

model of child abuse prevention.”

Admission includes private use of the park, unlimited amusement-park rides, free parking, and game tickets. Pre-event ticket prices are \$90 for adults (ages 16 and up) and \$50 for kids (ages 3-15). Tickets will be more expensive at the door. To purchase tickets, visit: all4kids.org/carnival and watch for more details on Facebook.



Palisadians support Children’s Bureau.

Curfew

(Continued from Page 1)

The City, because of that failure, must now properly notify and also must refile, which it intends to do.

The 10-ft.-wide strip that would be opened at each of the five locations would allow access to the wet sand area next to the water.

RAP’s Environmental Supervisor Paul Davis, who wrote the Declaration, was contacted on February 16 and asked 1.) would bathrooms remain open; 2.) would the parking lot stay open; and 3.) would life-

guards be on duty in case someone wanted to take a 1 a.m. swim? No answer was received before Presidents’ Day weekend.

This latest action stems from a December 2015 lawsuit that challenged the City’s right to impose a nightly curfew on beaches.

The lawsuit, brought by Jataun Valentine and Francesca de la Rosa, alleged that the City had refused to obtain a Coastal Development Permit from the California Coastal Commission for the 1988 ordinance that closes 11 miles of coastline from midnight to 5 a.m.

The plaintiffs argued that the curfew law—LAMC 63.44(B)(14)(b)—was a development under California Public Re-

sources Code Section 30106 (a), and because of the Coastal Act it meant the City needed to obtain a Coastal Development Permit.

According to Lucy Han, State law says beaches are meant to be open to everybody 24/7, 365 days a year.

Pacific Palisades Community Council Vice President George Wolfberg said, “If the state is requiring it, then they should pay for the additional law enforcement.”

Even a City study stated there will be a “need for more police protection or emergency response services substantially beyond what is currently provided in the local community.”

Han said that if the current curfew is lifted, most probably there will be an increase in theft, drugs, noise and panhandling and that it would encourage overnight encampments. She said that LAPD Pacific Division Captain Setzer predicted that lifting the curfew would increase beach crime.

Residents who oppose removing the current curfew should send letters to County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and Councilman Mike Bonin, and also reach out to Coastal Commission Commissioners (Chuck Posner, chuck.posner@coastal.ca.gov) by 5 p.m. tonight, February 21, with objections so a public hearing will be held.

ELLEN McCORMICK

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Dog Park Has Location, \$500,000 Price Tag

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

First, there were cheers from more than 120 Pacific Palisades residents as it was announced that a possible dog park along Temescal Canyon Road was about halfway towards realization. Then, there were questions about the location, the required fundraising and the logistics needed to make it happen.

In a meeting at the Palisades Recreation Center on February 7, canine owners learned that when the dog park eventually opens, it will be the first one in Los Angeles not run by the City, but by the Pacific Palisades Dog Park Working Group, which has filed for nonprofit status.

The nonprofit might also have to hold a liability insurance policy, unless the City agrees to include the park under its umbrella for liability.

Members of the Working Group, including Lynn Hylen, Trevor Hylen, Lou Kamer, Leslie Campbell, Carol Ross and Susan Payne, explained the need for the dog park, the steps already taken and what remains to be done.

Aware of the community's 35-year campaign to establish a local dog park and 3,000 signatures on a petition supporting one, City Councilman Mike Bonin introduced a January 17, 2017 motion to provide Pacific



Palisades dog owners are seeking a dog park for these pets.

Photo: Grove Pashley

Palisades a dog-park site. The task force was formed and began meeting last June.

Eleven sites were investigated as possibilities, including the once-proposed Occidental oil-drilling site off PCH near Potrero, sites along Temescal Canyon Park, Simon Meadow, Temescal Gateway State Park, the vacant DWP-owned property off Marquez Avenue, the old Bernheimer Gardens location, the fire road at the top of Lachman Lane, undeveloped land on Sunset adjacent to the Highlands Plaza, Will Rogers State Beach, and park areas in the Highlands and

at Will Rogers.

The task force agreed that the ¾-acre of land just north of PCH along Temescal Canyon Road (by the playground and food trucks) was the best choice because the City would donate the land for a park. (The 33,000-sq.-ft. parcel is about the size of the dog park at Santa Monica Airport Park.)

"There is basically no [City] money for a park," said Lynn Hylen, who noted that fortunately the donated property already has bathrooms nearby, and water.

The eventual dog park will have two

fenced areas—one for large dogs and one for small dogs, with wood chips and decomposed granite on the ground. (Grass or "dog turf" would be economically unfeasible.)

"We looked at noise, parking and safety," Lou Kamer said, explaining how the site was decided. "Parking isn't really a problem. You can bring dogs, kids and don't have to leave the Palisades—and an added benefit is the food trucks are there."

The proposed hours are sunrise to sunset, and there will be a self-locking automatic gate.

First, of course, the Working Committee must now raise about \$500,000 to make the dog park a reality.

Without City funding, an estimated \$399,000 is needed for grading, to build the fences, put in benches around the trees, install the fountains for the dogs and establish the ground cover. Hylen noted that the committee would not be required to use City contractors to do the work.

"The price may seem high, but the new Westwood Dog Park cost \$750,000 and included hills for the dogs to climb, something that this dog park won't initially have," Hylen said.

An additional \$100,000 is needed to create an endowment for maintenance, since the City would not be responsible for the park's operation.

If the eventual construction cost is
(Continued on Page 10)

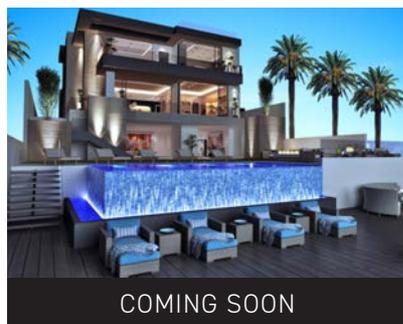


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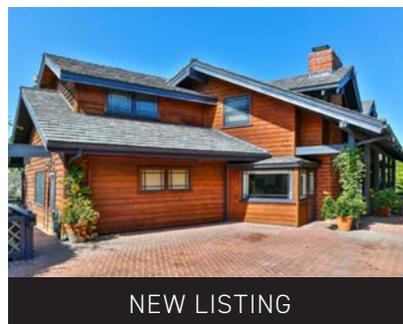


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Heard About Town

Loss of Affordable Housing

I hear our politicians speaking about building affordable housing, but I read that L.A. lost 1,824 units of affordable rentals under the Ellis Act. That act allows landlords to evict tenants so they can either turn the apartments into condos or demolish the building. This is one of the main reasons for the increasing homeless crisis in L.A. How does Councilman Bonin answer this?

(Editor's note: The News contacted Bonin's office and spokesperson David Graham-Caso wrote: "It is important to note that the Ellis Act is a STATE law and the City wants to change it to better protect tenants. Councilmember Bonin has proposed repealing and amending it and has sponsored or co-sponsored resolutions of support for legislation to amend it and make it easier to protect affordable housing.")

Alcohol at Movie Theater

It's easy for underaged kids to get an alcoholic drink at certain movie theaters. Ask someone older sitting in your row if they will go get you a drink and you'll pay them a few bucks. They go purchase one and leave it in a seat next to you. They make a few bucks—good deal for them.

(Editor's note: We doubt that Palisades moviegoers will want to go to all that hassle just to earn a few dollars, while also breaking the law.)

'Just Asking,' Says a Reader

Walking past the fast-developing colossus along Swarthmore, Sunset and Monument, I wonder, "Will they have their own zip code?"

Genesis Open Is Fun

I love the golf tournament at the Riviera every February [the Genesis Open]. You get to walk around this beautiful course, watch professional athletes, have a drink and eat some food. Since I don't have money to join the Riviera, it's an opportunity to pretend I'm a member, just so fun!! (And I don't even like golf that much.)

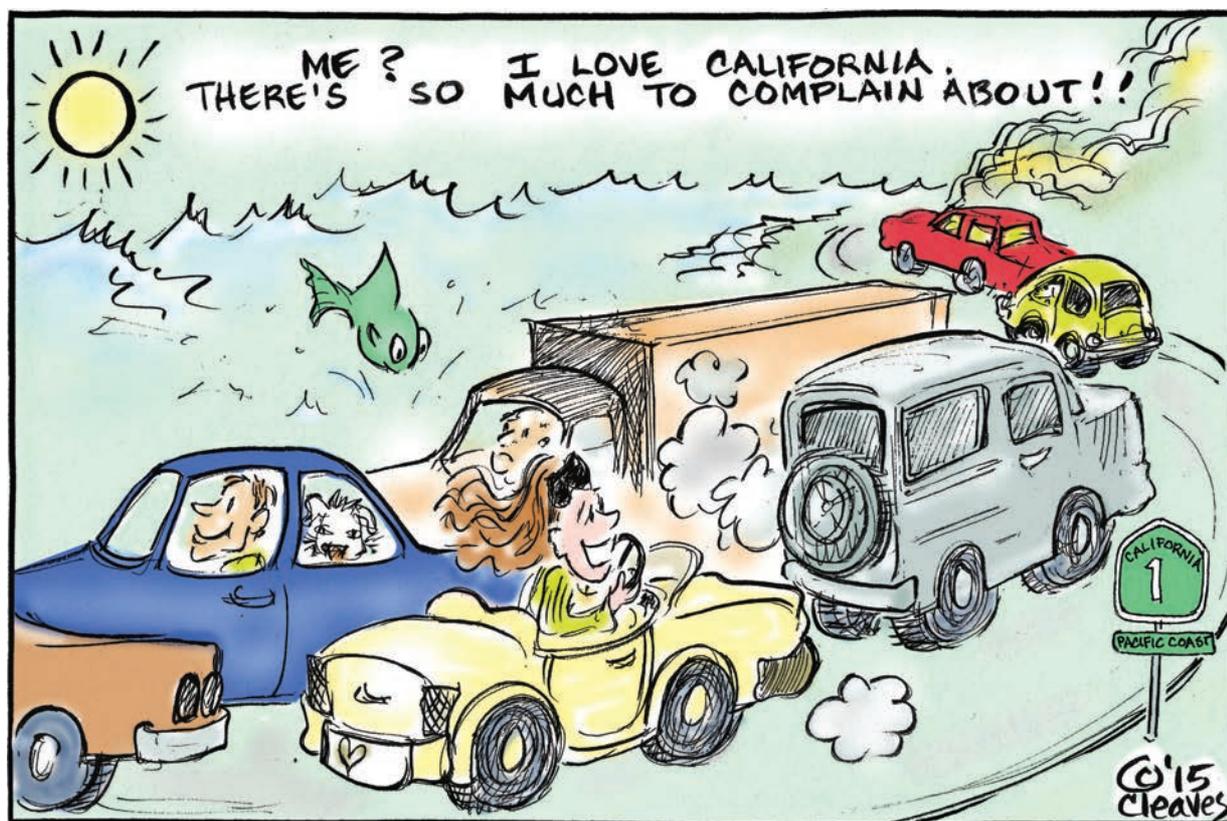
Free Gates Security App

I signed up for the free Gates Security app and most often a notification will come on if there's an accident in Pacific Palisades or if there's a fire. You can also click to get notifications in Malibu—which are often helpful because of numerous accidents on PCH. This app is nice to have when you wonder what the sirens are about.

Paper License Plates

I've noticed that most new cars seem to have their paper license plates for months. Is it because the state is so far behind that it can't send new license plates, or because the owner doesn't want his car to be identified in case he sideswipes another car?

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

L.A. County Fees Higher than IRS

By ERIC and JOSHUA PREVEN
Special to the Palisades News

Those who didn't pay the second installment of their L.A. County property taxes on time—the deadline was February 1—have until April 10, when at the stroke of 5:01pm, a ten percent penalty will snap shut on them like a trap. (Payments postmarked April 10 are OK.)

In L.A. County, property taxes can be paid with a credit or debit card, and many Angelenos for various reasons make use of that option, however fraught with costs and hidden risks it can sometimes be.

L.A. County is not responsible for those risks and costs, but it is responsible for the fact that Angelenos who pay their property taxes with a credit or debit card are getting a lousy deal on processing fees.

The debit card situation is particularly bad. If you pay a \$6,000 tax bill to the County of Los Angeles using a debit card, you will get charged a processing fee of \$135.

If you pay a \$6,000 tax bill to the Internal Revenue Service using a debit card, you will get charged a processing fee of at most \$2.59.

That means the County's processing fee is fifty-two times higher than that of the IRS.

The spread widens as the size of the tax bill goes up. On a payment of ten thousand dollars, the County rate becomes eighty-seven times higher than its federal counterpart.

Neither the County nor the IRS keep any of the processing fees charged. Those go to third-party payment processors.

The devil is in the details of which payment processor is contracted with and on what terms.

L.A. County has contracted with just one payment processor: Fidelity National Information Services (FIS), which charges a debit card fee equal to 2.25% of the tax payment.

By contrast, the IRS has contracted with three payment processors—all of which charge a flat debit card fee of less than \$2.60.

If the IRS can negotiate its payment processors down to a low flat fee, why can't L.A. County get the same deal from FIS?

FIS is a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla. In 2017 it earned \$1.31 billion . . . an increase of 78% over the previous year.

Slightly less egregious than FIS' debit card fees are its credit card fees. Angelenos using a credit card to pay property taxes get charged by FIS a fee equal to 2.25% of their tax bill. None of the IRS-approved payment processors charges more than 2%.

L.A. County's credit card fee is 4% higher than that of Ventura County, and it's a 7% increase over last year's rate.

The increase was not voted on by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors. It just popped up one day in an announcement on the website of the County Treasurer and Tax Collector.

No rationale for the rate hike is given. The announcement states only that the increase is "primarily driven by the online third-party payment processor." That processor, to refresh your memory, keeps all of the fees it charges.

Time to renegotiate.

In June, Eric Preven and Joshua Preven won the L.A. Press Club Award for Online Political Commentary. They can be followed on Twitter @PrevenReport or reached by email at ThePrevenReport@gmail.com.

Thought to Ponder

"The saddest summary of a life contains three descriptions: could have, might have, and should have."

— Louis E. Boone

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VIEWPOINT

'#Me Too' Should Focus on Predators

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Back a few decades, I had to fend off advances from college professors, including one who wanted to serenade me when I was in an isolated classroom on work study, one who pulled me on his lap so we could see “eye to eye,” and one who tried to hold a Friday class at a bar until I discovered I was the only student invited.

Okay, all a bit sticky, as I tried not to hurt feelings while I made sure my grades didn't drop, and more importantly, working to ensure I was never in that position again.

Looking back, I now know these experiences prepared me perfectly for doing stand-up comedy on the road. I had to deal with club owners who were notorious for welcoming back “agreeable” women, fellow comics (because most were men and just trying to get laid), and then stars, who were used to having women throw themselves at them—and “What's the matter with you?” when I didn't.

Another challenge: staying in comedy condos and hoping to get a room that had a door with a lock on it, which really paid off in Nashville when the headliner left after the Saturday night show. Someone from the club passed a key to the front door to a “friend.” Luckily, after trying to break into my room, he continued drinking and passed out in the hallway, so I could sneak out in the morning. (This was before cell phones.)

These on-the-road experiences were followed by my attempts to join three television writing shows, but with two of them I was told “We have our woman writer,” and on the last, I apparently sealed my own fate when the host said something about a woman's breasts, and what he'd like to do, and I rolled my eyes.

As you might guess, I am glad that the Harvey Weinstens of the world are finally being outed and ousted, but there is a distinct difference between the man who tried to break down the condo door and a man who grabbed me on New Year's Eve and tried to give me a kiss (he missed, because I ducked my head).

There is a distinct difference between a predator and hopeful guys who pursue women. Somewhere in the primal brain, the man hopes to make contact and bed her. Men are genetically wired to reproduce, leaving women to care for the young, because after all, we haul them around inside us for the first nine months.

However, I am tired of reading news stories about women who complain about a guy who tried to kiss them. Really, you can't turn your head, you can't say “No”?

If a woman is invited to someone's hotel room for business, doesn't she ask herself, “Exactly what kind of business is done in a hotel room?” And can't she say “No”?

And if a woman goes to bed with someone because she's drunk and then regrets it the next day, she shouldn't accuse the guy of rape. She made a decision, and she should take responsibility for what she allowed to

happen—and stop drinking when she's out with men.

I am tired of women always claiming that they are victims.

The news and social-media focus should try to avoid the faux victims and focus on the sexual predators and the true victims, such as the preteen and teen gymnasts who were sexually abused by Larry Nassar, a doctor who was supposed to be helping them.

If women want to be treated equally, then they have to be smart, and stand up for themselves.

Now, it's said that men are becoming increasingly wary about working with women for fear of being accused of sexual harassment. Some men say they no longer want to mentor women because they're afraid something innocently done, such as a pat on a back or an encouraging hug, could be misconstrued, and they will become embroiled in a lawsuit.

This brings to mind the fable about the little shepherd boy who cried “Wolf! The wolf is chasing the sheep!” The villagers came to help the boy, but when they arrived there was no wolf and people told the boy, “Don't cry ‘wolf’ when there is no wolf.”

The boy repeated the cry, the villagers came and once again warned the boy. The third time there was really a wolf, but when the boy cried for help, no one came.

A kiss or a hug may be unwanted, but it is not sexual assault, and it's time we distinguish between the two. We need to do this not only for our daughters, but also for our sons.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Donating to Youth and Government

My name is Thomas Schramm; you may know me as the son of Wendy Greuel and Dean Schramm. Currently, I am a freshman in high school and this year I have had the amazing opportunity to take part in a program called Youth and Government.

We serve as the youth version of our California State government and get to work in the actual Capitol building in Sacramento! The program is run through the California YMCA and focuses on helping participants further their leadership skills. This is a life-changing experience, as it provides kids with a second family, a safe place to share ideas, and a community in which public policy is always discussed.

We have 4,000 delegates within the program from all across the State of California, but the problem is that not everyone comes from a family with the financial resources to allow them to take part.

There are countless delegates who need YOUR support to take part in this amazing program. I'm asking you today to give another delegate the same wonderful opportunities I've been given, and DONATE. All the funds you give go directly to scholarships. To donate, go to: annualcampaign.calymca.org/site/TR?px=1002934&fr_id=1060&pg=personal.

Thomas Schramm

(Editor's note: About 127 students from the Palisades-Malibu YMCA attended the Youth Government program this past weekend.)

Regarding Jack Allen's Viewpoint (“Why SB 827 Is Bad Legislation”)

Thank you for this chance to share my views. As I see it, the housing crisis is twofold. One part is due to the overregulation you alluded to. My solution is to get rid of the “necessary charges, fees, and/or assessments” so new housing can be more affordable.

I'd even go a step further and suggest we get rid of a slew of regulations that prevent people from building affordable housing in places like Topanga and Malibu. I know it means increasing density, and I don't like it either, but that's the way it is.

One thing we ought to do is analyze how much the foreign cash market has affected our housing crisis. I suspect it is a significant cause of squeezing the middle class out of the marketplace.

It is simply not fair to continue the way we are going, and to stop building housing won't stop homelessness. As things are, locals are competing with a global market for limited housing. And it is only possible for the people who make the most money, to become homeowners here and live the American Dream. Is this what we want? A city of wealthy haves and less wealthy have-nots? This land belongs to all of us, and we need to share because the inequality is becoming ugly.

Jane Pannor

Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation

How heartwarming to read about two of our grantees in the News! The Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation recently donated a Yamaha keyboard piano lab to Homeboy Industries, and we've been supporting health education and outreach at the Westside Family Health Center for many years.

Thank you for telling Palisadians about these very fine folks who do so much to help others. We are proud to carry on the charitable legacy of Miss Ella Fitzgerald; her charitable foundation is located in the Palisades. Learn more about Ella at www.facebook.com/ellafitzgerald.

Fran Morris-Rosman

Homeless Need Clothes, Please

On a recent morning, a friend and I distributed 60 donated tee shirts at The People Concern in Santa Monica.

We handed them out on a one-to-one basis so that every person got the size he or she wanted. Several people did not have any tops or tees, including one young, thin woman. A man who was wearing black and white jeans—but no top—was thrilled with the matching black tee shirt that we were able to provide.

If you have practical clothes cluttering your closet, you can donate them through the Palisades Chamber of Commerce, 15330 Antioch St., for the really needy homeless. You will be doing a good deed.

Ella Zarky, Volunteer



The trees and vegetation were removed below 712 and 724 Hampden Place, leaving the slope susceptible to mud slides during the rainy season.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

Hampden Place Construction Halted

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Construction on two houses on Hampden Place, a street on the edge of Potrero Canyon, was halted on January 17.

“Los Angeles Building and Safety (LADBS) issued an Order to Comply notice to stop all work at 712 and 724 Hampden Place due to the project not having an approved

erosion-control plan and not having erosion control mitigating measures in place as required,” according to a January 30 email sent to the *News* by LADBS Chief Inspector Luke Zamperini.

Located off Swarthmore, one-way Hampden loops from just south of Village School, overlooks Patterson Place homes and Potrero Canyon, and returns to Swarthmore.

Property owner Ali Pourmola had removed all of the trees and vegetation from

the lots in late November. But once Pacific Palisades had its first significant rainfall on January 8 and 9, neighbors complained that no measures had been taken to prevent the hillside from sliding.

A letter from the legal firm Berding/Weil, which represents the Palisades Valley Homeowners Association (Patterson Place), was also sent to Pourmola on January 17: “We have been asked to contact you regarding trespass and damage to the Associa-

tion’s Common Area, which includes portions of Lot 13, Tract No. 41265, which is located adjacent to your property.

“Cease and desist any construction or tree removal activity on your lot until measures have been taken to adequately protect adjacent properties” and “ensure that the trees proposed to be removed are within the property boundary of your lot and not lot 13.”

(Continued on Page 9)



Dr. Max Moncayo

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Dr. Max Moncayo is a board certified oral and maxillofacial surgeon and a board certified dental anesthesiologist, who is dedicated to providing extraordinary, personalized care to all of his patients. A distinguished, fifteen-year United States Navy veteran and surgeon, he is also the only oral surgeon with a full-time practice in Pacific Palisades.

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Hampden

(Continued from Page 8)

This is not the first time construction was halted on this project. Last October 20, U.S. Fish & Wildlife was asked to investigate whether owls and hawks that nested in the massive trees on Pourmola's property were protected.

In a letter to residents on November 14, Pourmola's lawyer Lindsey Tabaian wrote: "We have diligently investigated the wildlife-related claims that were recently raised. This investigation confirms that there are no protected species which reside on either of these lots, and further that the proposed construction will not have any unlawful impacts on, or disturbance or displacement of, federally or state-listed protected species or wildlife."

In that same letter, Tabaian wrote: "An approved Erosion Control Plan will be in place throughout the rainy season and will be approved by LADBS inspectors."

Initially, Pourmola, who is listed as president of Total Infusion Care, Inc., received building permits from LADBS in 2015 for one-story dwellings with attached two-car garages. Construction never began, and the permits were revoked in August 2017, but replaced with permits for two-story dwellings.

According to Building and Safety's Zamperini, one home, at 712 Hampden Place, is permitted for 4,279 sq. ft with a 420-sq.-ft. attached garage, and the second at 724 is permitted for 7,485 sq. ft. with a 400-sq.-ft.

garage. Both projects are permitted for swimming pools.

Before work could begin, neighbors contacted the City of L.A. about a haul route that was required because the total dirt to be excavated was more than 1,000 cubic yards (699 cubic yards for 712 Hampden and 958 for 724 Hampden).

Pourmola's hired expediter, Steven Somers, told his client that the L.A. Department of Building and Safety determined that a haul route would be required. One way to avoid a hearing and haul route approval (which generally take about nine months) would be to sell the property.

Subsequently, Pourmola gave one of the lots to Fahad Vakil.

At an October meeting arranged by Councilman Mike Bonin's District Director Debbie Dyner-Harris, neighbors met architect Brian Biglin, builder Albert Mikaelian (Echogreen), Somers, Vakil and Lindsey Tabaian. Pourmola was absent.

During the meeting, neighbors argued that there should have been a haul-route hearing because trucks would go by Village School and possibly Palisades Elementary or Seven Arrows (on La Cruz), none of which were informed about the project.

The neighbors felt that Pourmola had circumvented a needed haul-route hearing and spoke about the potential slide danger on hillside property above homes on Patterson Place. They also said the size of the proposed houses was out of character with the neighborhood.



USC Chamber Singers

USC Choirs to Perform at St. Matthew's

Two choirs from USC's Thornton School of Music will perform at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 2 at St. Matthew's Church, 1031 Bienvenida Ave.

Under the direction of Christian Grases, the 51-member Concert Choir will showcase music from renaissance England, turn-of-the-century Paris and 20th-century America. The program will include works by American Norman Dello Joio on a text of Walt Whitman, Debussy's impressionistic "Beau Soir," music of 16th-century English composer Thomas Tomkins, "Ya Eres Mia" by Lauridsen and newer works by Daniel Elder and Paul John Rudoi.

The Concert Choir has performed at Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Segerstrom Center for the Arts and at the 2015 National Conference of the National Collegiate Choral Organization in Portland.

The 25-member USC Chamber Singers, under the direction of Jo-Michael Scheibe, received the 2015 American Prize in Choral Music and have performed on many occasions for American Choral Directors Association conferences and conventions.

In 2014, the Chamber Singers were one of only 25 choirs invited to the World Symposium on Choral Music in Seoul, Korea.

Along with music by Polish, Latvian and Estonian composers, the Chamber Singers will present "Odysseus and the Sirens" by Z. Randall Stroope, "True Colors" by Los Angeles composer Matthew Brown, and "All of Us" from *Considering Matthew Shepard* by Craig Johnson.

Admission is \$35 and discounted season passes are available. Visit: MusicGuildOnline.org or call: (310) 573-7422.

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Dog Park

(Continued from Page 5)

\$399,000 or less, the Dog Park nonprofit could receive a L.A. City exemption from having to secure a Coastal Development Permit.

The next step in the process is to obtain final approval from the L.A. Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners.

This Board utilizes a task force group to make sure that all projects that come before the board have been vetted. The Palisades dog park has been placed on the March 7 RAP Task Force agenda to see if there are any other requirements that need to be satisfied. If the Working Group gets the go-ahead, its members will develop plans for maintenance and funding.

Once that is done, the dog park members will meet with Rec and Parks Partnerships for approval, and if that is secured the project will finally go in front of the RAP Commissioners.

Audience questions were fielded. One woman wanted to know how high the fences would be, citing fears of coyotes in lower Temescal Canyon. Another audience member suggested putting coyote rollers at the top of the fence.

"Is it possible to get a small parking area?" one person asked, worried that during the summer, beach-goers take up almost all the parking spaces along both sides of



Residents met at the Recreation Center to discuss a Palisades dog park.

Temescal Canyon Road.

"To add parking would require a DOT (Department of Transportation) study and we would need handicapped access," Lynn Hylan said. "If parking is an issue we can do something later."

Another question revolved around safety. "If you're going down Temescal, would you do a U-turn near the bottom or would you have to go down Chautauqua and then make two right turns and come back up Temescal?"

"We will discourage U-turns," Hylan said. "My concern is that people will park across the road and that they and their dogs will run to the other side," an audience member said. "I'm worried that someone will get hurt. Could a crosswalk be put in?"

A resident who lives in the nearby Palisades Bowl Mobile Home Park responded that it took three years to get the crosswalk that goes across PCH to the beach.

Many people who do not want to pay for parking at Will Rogers Beach try to find free parking along Temescal. (According to the presentation, there are 160 spaces from PCH up to Bowdoin on the northbound side of Temescal.) On hot summer days, beach parking goes halfway up the canyon.

Additionally, between 7:30 and 8 a.m. and 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. on school days, traffic backs up halfway in the canyon as nearly 3,000 students either enter or leave Palisades High School.

"What entity will oversee aggressive dogs and who will pick up the dog poop?" somebody asked.

"It will have to be managed by volun-

teers," said Hylan, who acknowledged that the \$100,000 maintenance fund has to be raised for that purpose.

She was asked if dog walkers [with more than two dogs] would be allowed to use the park. "This site is not safe to unload a bunch of dogs," Hylan said.

Then, perhaps the most interesting question of the evening. "Are our dogs really going to be alive when this park opens?"

"That reminds me of Potrero," said Hylan, referencing the City park that has been under construction for nearly three decades and was supposed to open in 2017, but whose completion is now scheduled for 2020.

"My dog is six," she said, "and I'm going to say yes."

Visit: palisadesdogpark.org

Woman's Club Seeks New Members

The annual new member campaign is under way for the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club, featuring an open house reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 18 at the Clubhouse, 901 Haverford Ave.

The Woman's Club has been a vital organization since 1925, thanks to a membership that is committed to the philanthropic efforts that make a difference in the Pacific Palisades community.

Additionally, members connect with fellow members to make longstanding friendships. Women of all ages and from all walks of life are sought for the club, and membership is a multi-generational cross-section of the community.

The annual Holiday Home Tour in November is the PPWC's primary fundraising event. With those proceeds, a Grant Giveaway Night is held; recipients include local schools and numerous nonprofits.

Other sponsored community events include the popular 90th Birthday Party in June, a free flu clinic for seniors and the Halloween window-painting contest.

If you or a friend would like to meet members, please call Roberta Donohue at (310) 454-9012 and join everyone at the open house reception on March 18.

Community Safety Meeting To Target Crime, Fire Issues

The Pacific Palisades Community Council will sponsor a community safety meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, in Mercer Hall at Palisades High School. Admission is free.

The focus will be on crime in Pacific Palisades—especially ways to deter burglars and thieves—and on fire safety. With the recent wildfires and the Montecito mud slides, there will be a presentation on emergency management and preparation.

Presenting and answering questions will be LAPD and LAFD officers, L.A. City officials, and representatives from local security companies.

Contact: info@pacpalicc.org.

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Library 'Friends' Have a New Leader

By BILL BRUNS
Palisades News Advisor

After 10 years as treasurer and 12 years as president, Alice Inglis has retired from her leadership role at the Friends of the Palisades Library nonprofit organization, which donates more than \$75,000 annually to the branch library on Alma Real.

"It was a pleasure being president," Inglis said at a Friends luncheon in her honor at Modo Mio in January. "I had a wonderful board, and I never had a complaint about anybody, though I guess some of them were late at times."

In her quiet way, Alice was insistent about starting the quarterly board meetings at 7 p.m. sharp.

Laura Schneider, a former *L.A. Times* business executive who succeeded Inglis last October, said "Those who have known Alice longest will tell you that she is knowledgeable, fair, flexible and concise—all of which made her a respected and beloved president."

Senior Librarian Mary Hopf, who has worked in the Palisades branch since 2010, spoke on behalf of her staff. "We just loved Alice, and it was wonderful working with her. She was our liaison with the community, and she made such a nice impact on people on behalf of the library. If things came up, if people had a question about something, she would handle it; she was honest and was great at making quick decisions."

On behalf of the Friends, Wendy Edlen presented an orchid and a crystal gavel to Inglis, along with a note that said, "We are very grateful for people like you."

In 1972, Inglis and her husband Bill moved to Pacific Palisades from Washington, D.C., where he had worked for the Peace Corps. "We came out with Katherine, age 7, and baby Billy, age 3 months," Alice told the *News* after the luncheon. "I have always loved reading and consequently, libraries," and this led to her eventual volunteer role with the Friends.

"My husband died in 2015, after 53 years of marriage," Alice said, "so I am getting used to changes and new experiences, which I



Outgoing Friends of the Library president Alice Inglis (left) and her successor, Laura Schneider.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

hope keep on coming. I am definitely open to new volunteer experiences."

Her daughter Katherine now lives in Santa Monica with husband Tim; they have two daughters in college. She also has a gift store (Goods), on Ocean Park Boulevard. Billy, now a swim coach, lives with his wife Alyse and three children in Olympia, Washington.

After graduating from UC Berkeley, Schneider earned a master's degree in journalism at Northwestern and then went to work at Gannett.

"I ultimately moved to L.A. in order to work for the *Los Angeles Times*," she said. "I 'retired' from my job as Marketing Director when my first son, Luke, was born in 2002."

Schneider and her husband Tim, who owned a publishing company that merged with Northstar Travel Group in 2017 (he's currently serving as founder and chairman of its Sports Division), met on a blind date in 2000 and married in 2001.

"We lived in Santa Monica until Luke was just over a year old," Schneider said. "We wanted him to grow up in a small-town, friendly environment, and Pacific Palisades

fit the bill perfectly. In 2004 we bought a house here but, much to my frustration, we couldn't move in right away. I was anxious to become a Palisadian, so Luke and I would drive up from Santa Monica just to visit the library, listen to a 'Grandma' or 'Grandpa'

read a story, do a few puzzles and leave with a big stack of books."

The Schneiders lived just a half-block off the parade route in the Huntington, and when Luke was only 4, he began operating a lemonade stand on the Fourth of July, with all proceeds going to the library.

"In recent years," Laura said, "Luke's been joined by his younger brother, Jack (a fifth grader at Palisades Elementary), in his endeavors. Last year, with a little help from mom and dad, the boys were able to donate \$250 to the library."

Schneider joined the Friends board in 2009, and when she led her first meeting last October, she said: "The library is a special place. This [serving as president] is a way to give back that is meaningful to the community. I can't fill Alice's shoes, but I will do my best."

The Friends organization raises money throughout the year with parking-lot book sales, the library bookstore, and membership donations. The proceeds are used to buy new books and audiovisual materials for the library, pay for office equipment and furnishings, support landscaping and building maintenance, and underwrite various library programs for all age groups. The Friends also provide assistance to inner-city libraries.

PaliHi's Virtual Enterprise Club Wins, Needs Support

The CTE Business Pathway Course Virtual Enterprise International Class at Palisades High has scored high in local- and state-level competitions.

The team placed second at the L.A. Tradeshow in Pasadena on February 13. Sophomore Dava Hand was a gold medal winner in elevator pitch and senior Zade Batal won a gold medal in the video commercial competition.

At the state competition in Bakersfield in January, seniors Allen and Dylan Nobel each won gold medals for salesmanship and Batal placed second in video commer-

cial. Senior Manuel Feregrino won the State Business Challenge.

The PaliHi students plan to attend the national competition in New York City April 16-18. Students are raising funds for transportation and accommodations and will hold a showcase from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 27, in Mercer Hall.

The local community is invited to attend and to offer support by purchasing one of the products: School Brew or Moda Apparel.

View the commercial: [youtube.com/watch?v=z8Ehe_LDpX8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8Ehe_LDpX8&feature=youtu.be)

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Revere

(Continued from Page 1)

another neighbor reported having problems with someone in the same (similar) car very recently.

“Many neighbors are not bothered because they are not home when the blocking takes place, but I completely understand the frustration of neighbors who can’t pull into or out of their driveway because some person decides to block the neighbor’s driveway for ‘just a few minutes,’” Wolfberg wrote. “There are some parents who are actually parking IN our driveways.

“We had a neighbor ask someone to move their car and the parent got threatening and told the neighbor not to complain because the parent now knows where the neighbor lives!” Wolfberg said, noting that while the traffic problem may only exist for an hour or so each school day, it is a problem that affects everyone in the community.

“School traffic makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to respond to emergencies in Mandeville and the Palisades Riviera and for ambulances to transport patients to Saint John’s or Santa Monica UCLA,” said Wolfberg, who noted that LAUSD takes no responsibility and is immune from a Conditional Use Permit.

He praised Revere’s principal. “We are very fortunate to have a dedicated professional like Tom Iannucci, but his hands are tied and there is little that he can do to

punish parents who are doing bad things.”

Could more traffic enforcement be sent to Revere?

“It is my understanding that LADOT does not typically issue citations if the driver of the car is still in the vehicle that is illegally parked,” Wolfberg said. “The DOT officer typically asks the person to move their car and the person moves. Also, LADOT does not issue tickets for blocking a driveway unless the owner of the home asks for the person to be issued a ticket.”

According to Councilman Mike Bonin’s spokesperson David Graham-Caso, who responded in a February 13 email, “We have been in contact with the school’s principal, and we have alerted LAPD’s West Traffic Division (officers have been dispatched to patrol and issue citations to people parking illegally). This enforcement has already proven helpful, and we will continue to do what we can to ensure it is a priority.”

Graham-Caso was asked how kids’ safety could be made a priority.

“We are working with the Department of Transportation to have the crosswalk at the south/east side of the Brinkley and Allenford intersection removed,” he said, noting that the plans have been drawn and approved and the project is funded. “We have asked LADOT to schedule a crew to complete the work as soon as possible” but “LADOT has a long backlog of important safety projects to complete, and this work will be done as soon as a crew is available.”

By return email, the *News* asked when the date might be, but no answer was given

by press time.

Generally, middle schools are not staffed with crossing guards. “Back in 2014, Councilmember Bonin fought for funding for the LADOT crossing guard program, which after being decimated by cuts in previous budget cycles, had only about 330 guards for the entire city,” Graham-Caso wrote. He added that LADOT has started hiring guards again and the number is at 470 guards.

The *News* asked, “What would it take to get a crossing guard at Allenford?”

“The process to request a guard involves

LAUSD submitting a request to LADOT for a guard to be placed near a school, and I am glad you have copied Allison Holdorff from School Board Member [Nick] Melvoin’s office on your email, as they play a central role in the answer to your question,” Graham-Caso wrote.

And as the *News* watched cars double park next to illegally parked cars and kids trying to cross the busy street, Andrew Sacks said: “This is a public safety issue that no one wants to care about. It’s just dumb luck that no one has been killed.”

Success Becomes Her Networking March 1

Local entrepreneurs Dana Goldstein of Serendipity Floral Design and Jordan Catapano of This Girl Walks Into a Bar have launched a local women’s networking group—Success Becomes Her.

The next meeting is 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, at the Palisades Library community room. Experienced, beginning and aspiring entrepreneurs are welcome. No RSVP required.

Goldstein and Catapano are both members of the Palisades Chamber of Commerce and are eager to meet and to connect other like-minded women who are interested in business.

The first meeting was held early this

month with informal networking and then transitioned into a moderated panel with local entrepreneurs Jaimie Geller, owner of Jaimie Geller Jewelry on Antioch, Patricia Grossman, owner of Kumon Math and Reading Center of Pacific Palisades, and Kim Kedeshian, owner of K Bakery on Sunset.

The March meeting will include speakers Courtney Ettus, CMO at Greenfly, Inc., and Charlene Minx, intellectual property attorney at Minx Law. The discussion will focus on each business owner’s inspiration for starting a business.

Goldstein and Catapano will moderate. Email: SuccessBecomesHer@Gmail.com.

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Nextdoor: Neighborhood Forum or Great Way to Secure Advertising?

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Co-founded in 2011 by Sarah Leary, Nirav Tolia, Prakash Jnakiraman and David Wiesen, Nextdoor bills itself as the “private social network for neighborhoods.” It offers a free web platform on which members can post a wide variety of messages to people who live in their neighborhood.

But by collecting names and actual addresses, which are required in order to register on the site, Nextdoor members become targets for advertisers across the country.

In an April 2017 *Adweek* story (“Why Nextdoor Believes It Can Be Social Media’s Next \$1 Billion Advertising Machine”), CEO Tolia said: “These are in-feed ads, the same way you’d find ads on Facebook or Instagram or Twitter. But they are unique in that you can target by DMA [designated marketing area], by zip code, by neighborhood, by physical address. None of those other platforms can target by physical address.”

A more recent story in *Adweek* (August 7) noted that “Nextdoor aims to make \$1 billion annually in advertising, by allowing agents and brokers to create official business pages on the seven-year-old company’s platform to enhance their personal brands locally.

“It’s an opportunity for real estate agents to sponsor a dedicated section where they can connect and build relationships with neighbors,” Nextdoor CEO Nirav Tolia told CNBC.”

The January 25 Nextdoor Palisades began with Sponsored Posts for Home Chef and Match.com and three Real Estate list-



ings for a local realtor. Other advertisers have included other realtors, Urban Sitter and 7-Eleven.

While the bottom line for this website might be money, and it works well as a site to find lost pets, seek service providers and sell household goods, Nextdoor has been encountering problems trying to police various postings for accuracy and fairness.

The magazine *In These Times* wrote in August (“No, Silicon Valley Billionaires Are Not Racial Justice Warriors”) that Nextdoor starting drawing complaints about racial profiling in 2015.

One “Oakland neighborhood reported ‘sketchy’ men, including an ‘African American guy,’ who were guilty of ‘lingering.’ One neighbor suggested calling the police.

“A woman named Meredith Ahlberg recognized them—she’d invited them to her house for a party and given them the wrong address. ‘Since signing up for the app in 2012, Ahlberg has repeatedly seen black people in the neighborhood described as ‘suspicious’ characters,” said writer Pen-darvis Harshaw.”

Sam Levin of the *East Bay Express* wrote

in an October 2015 story (“Racial Profiling via Nextdoor.com”) that James and sister Emma Fisher and his parents are not just worried about hurtful stares from neighbors or passersby, but “Over the last two years, their neighborhood has become overrun with racial profiling—but not by police, rather by mostly white residents incorrectly assuming that people of color who are walking, driving, hanging out, or living in the neighborhood are criminal suspects . . . with the click of a mouse.”

On Reviewopedia, a January 4 Nextdoor review by “Sam” said: “Let me tell you how bad it’s gotten . . . the police departments, schools, cities, local clubs and organizations won’t even use it anymore. It’s become a snake pit . . . where bullies and trolls quickly run off the good people . . . leaving a sh*t pile of bullies and trolls left in the Nextdoor trenches and then they start turning on each other and it becomes a horrible disaster worthy of morbid curiosity.”

Residents in the Palisades Highlands who used Nextdoor to comment, pro and con, about the proposed senior assisted-living center might agree with that assessment.



Optimist Club Grant Applications Available

The Pacific Palisades Optimist Club, whose motto is “Friend of Youth” and whose goal is “Bring Out the Best in Kids,” will once again make annual grants to youth organizations based in the Palisades or those that provide services that benefit children in the community.

Grants may be used to fund a specific event, for equipment, a facility or service, and must be spent this year.

Grants are awarded on the basis of various criteria, including the impact on youth in Pacific Palisades, the number of youths affected by the program, the effectiveness of the program and the program’s likely longevity.

Applications are available at the Chamber of Commerce office on Antioch Street or by emailing Grant Committee Chair Jody Margulies at JodyMargulies@me.com.

Applications must be completed and returned by March 31. Awards will be made in May. Additional required information is available on the application.

Since 1987, the Optimists have partnered with the Palisades Will Rogers 10K Race Foundation (also known as the Ridge Runners) on the Fourth of July. Club members register runners the day of the race, provide water at stations and hand out t-shirts after the race. After expenses are paid, the money from registration fees goes to the Optimists and pays for the grants.

Homeowners Feel Held Hostage by Taxes

By MICHAEL EDLEN
Special to the Palisades News

Each month, my team and I provide complimentary local home value estimates for nearly a dozen homeowners.

Many of these owners just want a rough idea of value as part of their overall financial picture for future plans. Others are simply curious what their home might be worth now. However, at least a few are seriously considering selling their homes, so they can move closer to family or buy a place that will be easier to live in and maintain.

After reviewing various alternatives and different courses of action, I am often told that their decision is to not sell the property

because of the tax consequences.

These owners decide they would rather continue living in a home that is no longer suitable for them, primarily to avoid paying taxes of approximately 25 percent of the capital gains that would be due in the following tax year.

The decision to not sell is often related to their desire to retain as much after-tax equity in the home for their children to inherit, which would then give the heirs a “stepped-up” basis for capital gains purposes in the future.

One consequence of this decision is they may have nearly all of their financial net worth tied up in that property and see few options for ways to free up some of that value to provide liquidity to cover increas-

ing daily expenses and “luxuries” like travel. Some people have told me that they feel “house rich” and everything else poor.

Whenever possible, I like to point out alternative solutions to doing a “reverse mortgage” or to taking no action when a time comes that cash is needed.

I also suggest that many owners in this situation do the math and consider that over the last five years, their home value has probably increased by 40 percent, an amount greater than the probable taxes that might be due if they were to sell their property.

The current tax codes allow for an exemption of \$250,000-\$500,000 against the capital gains from selling a home, and most people are aware that the tax rate for capital

gains is lower than it once was, but could increase in the future.

It is unfortunate how often a decision is made based primarily on tax consequences rather than financial needs or personal lifestyle preferences, since there are other ways to view and approach the various factors involved.

That being said, it is always wise to consult with one’s tax advisor to better understand all of the issues that may pertain to the family’s specific situation.

Michael Edlen is ranked as one of the top agents in the country and has provided counseling to nearly 2,000 owners. Call: (310) 230-7373 or email michael@michaeledlen.com.

Aiding the Mentally Ill Homeless

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

It seems that everyone knows Timmy, a Pacific Palisades homeless man in a wheelchair, who often screamed obscenities, sometimes used the public sidewalk as a bathroom and, when lucid, spoke of his heart condition and his hatred of some minorities.

Although the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness (PPTFH) repeatedly offered him help to get off the street, he refused. (He is now living on his enabler's driveway in the Huntington Palisades.)

Or how about "Pretty Blonde," who lived on the bluffs of Pacific Palisades? She muttered incoherently, her head was filled with lice, and even though her family wanted to help, they were almost stymied when a law-enforcement official said she did not meet the criteria of gravely disabled.

The *Daily News* reported in "Leaders Aim to Amend Law to Help 'Gravely Disabled' Homeless" on January 31, "The 80-pound homeless woman who lives on Skid Row has cancer. She has been stabbed three times."

The story pointed out that even though she's been diagnosed with a mental illness and doesn't know she's suffering, she has the right to refuse medical help.

The current law prevents anyone, even a doctor, from helping these people. They have the right to be homeless and they have a right to refuse medical help even if they don't understand fully their own medical or mental health condition.

The PPTFH addressed this question "Severely Mentally Ill Homeless: What to Do?" on January 29. In the past two years, the local Task Force has successfully placed 75 percent of the homeless people in some sort of housing.

The remaining 25 percent of the Palisades chronically homeless have proved difficult to provide with housing.

Dr. Emily DeFraités of the Veterans Health Administration and Brittney Weissman, executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness L.A. County Council, addressed about 40 people gathered in the Palisades Library community room about mental illness among the homeless.

"We are working to change the policy," Weissman said, "to help families where there is mental illness." She explained that her organization helps a wide range of people from those who have a family member who is just starting to exhibit symptoms of mental illness to those who are dealing with someone with full-blown symptoms.

DeFraités, who received her training at Bellevue, then worked with homeless street teams (including those on Skid Row), moved to the VA two years ago. "I'm a recovering-oriented therapist," she said. "I want to figure out how to get them well, so they can live their best life."

Weissman added, "We need to treat be-



One of the service-resistant homeless has chosen to live on the streets of Pacific Palisades. A local enabler has moved the homeless man to his driveway.

fore tragedy. Right now it's backwards. Tragedy has to strike before we treat."

In order to be committed for mental health treatment, the person has to be deemed 1.) danger to self; 2.) danger to others; and 3.) gravely disabled.

The women noted that the first two categories rarely bring someone in for help, because "people who are serious about committing suicide won't talk about it; and the same is true about those who plan to hurt someone else."

The third category, gravely disabled, can be subjective.

Defined as "a condition in which a person, as a result of a mental-health disorder, is unable to provide for his or her basic personal needs for food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment where the lack of failure of such treatment may result in sub-

"I want to figure out how to get them well, so they can live their best life."

— Dr. Emily DeFraités

stantial physical harm or death."

The problem? A cardboard box could be viewed as shelter, going through garbage could be described as seeking food, and even if someone has an ulcerated lesion, is covered in lice and sitting in feces, they might not be considered gravely disabled.

The women join a long list of health care providers who are pushing for two additional words "medical treatment" to be added the definition of gravely disabled, "as a result of a mental health disorder, is unable to provide for his or her medical treatment . . ."

They say by adding medical treatment to the description, it would allow doctors, so-

cial workers and family the right to give a mentally ill person medical care.

"On Skid Row, I'm amazed at the number of women who have a primary psychosis. One of the women I saw had graduated from Brown," DeFraités said, noting that if that person could be put on the right medicine, in about five weeks she could be func-

tioning and reconnecting with society.

She explained that those on substance-induced psychosis needed to receive different treatment and that it was important for a psychiatrist to be among those on the streets evaluating the homeless. (PPTFH has a psychiatrist who sometimes accompanies its social workers.)

Weissman added that sometimes a mentally ill homeless person commits a crime, for example taking food from a store. "It could be really traumatic for them to be taken away in handcuffs," she said. "If someone has a broken leg, we don't call the police. We need to rethink how we deal with treatment. We need to put money back into mental health."

According to NAMI, one in 25 adults in the U.S. experiences a serious mental illness in a given year. An estimated 26 percent of homeless adults staying in shelters live with serious mental illness, and an estimated 46 percent live with severe mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

Serious mental illness cost American \$193.2 billion in lost earnings per year, and about 20 percent of state prisoners and 21 percent of local jail prisoners have a recent history of a mental health condition.

According to the Mental Illness Policy Organization, of the 246,317 prisoners in

(Continued on Page 15)

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Homeless

(Continued from Page 14)

jail in California 39,411 are seriously mentally ill.

There are also repeat medical expenses. Paramedics often take the same homeless individuals to emergency rooms again and again.

Malcolm Gladwell wrote an article (“Million-Dollar Murray,” *The New Yorker* February 13, 2006) that two policemen, Patrick O’Brien and Steve Johns, spent 15 years picking up a homeless man, Murray, who often ended up in an emergency room.

“When O’Brien and Johns began tracking hospital bills of chronic inebriates including substance-abuse-treatment costs, doctors’ fees and other expenses, they realized Murray ran up a bill as large as anyone in the state. O’Brien concluded, ‘It costs us one million dollars to not do something about Murray.’”

Local health officials, including Weissman and DeFraithe, argue that we need to offer the mentally ill homeless medical help.

They spoke at a L.A. County Board of Supervisors hearing the next day on the subject. The Board voted 4 to 1 on January 30 to sponsor legislation that would allow law enforcement and medical teams to determine if an individual is gravely disabled.

L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger said, “Allowing the most vulnerable to lan-

guish and even die on the streets without a lifeline to medical care is inhumane.”

L.A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl was the sole dissenting voice because she said she worried about self-autonomy and

civil rights.

During the hearing, Kuehl cited forced sterilization in prisons, as well as LGBTQ youth who had been placed in mental institutions (civil rights violations) and her

reason for not voting with the board.

At the January 29 Palisades meeting, Weissman said, “It’s complicated—it’s against wanting to make sure that people are not dying with their ‘rights on.’”

Local Democrats Induct New President

The Pacific Palisades Democratic Club held its annual meeting on January 28 at the Woman’s Club. More than 200 local members were on hand to watch as President Melissa Grant passed the gavel to Erika Feresten.

After more than six years leading the club, Grant was honored at the meeting by elected officials State Senator Ben Allen, Assemblymember Richard Bloom, City Councilman Mike Bonin and Country Supervisor Sheila Kuehl.

Grant summarized her accomplishments as president, which included establishing election headquarters in Santa Monica 2012 and 2016, hosting the club’s tribute to retiring U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer and taking an active role in various “get-out-the-vote” campaigns.

“This has been a big part of my life,” Grant said, “and it will continue.” She hopes to lead an action team to flip red seats to blue and take back Congress.

Kuehl quipped, “There’s nothing better to be than the past president of anything.”

Each elected official, starting with Kuehl, gave a brief overview of legislation they are



Councilman Mike Bonin, State Senator Ben Allen and Assemblyman Richard Bloom presented certificates of appreciation and accomplishment to outgoing Democratic Club President Melissa Grant.

working on in 2018 and then took questions from the audience.

Feresten, the club’s new president, is a political leadership coach, the co-host on

“Jeff’s World” on America’s Talk channel and was a pledged delegate for Bernie Sanders from California CD 33 in 2016.

—SUE PASCOE

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Watson Wins 2018 Genesis Open



Bubba Watson shot a final round 69 to win the Genesis Open by two strokes on Sunday at the Riviera Country Club. Thousands lined the 18th hole as Watson claimed his third win at the historic course with a 12-under 272.

Although Patrick Cantlay (former UCLA player), Kevin Na, Tony Finau, Scott Stallings and Phil Michelson were all in the hunt, with Na and Finau finishing 10 under, Watson held steady.

Perhaps the shot that clinched it for Watson came on the par-3 14th hole, when he holed his bunker shot for a birdie. He also birdied the par-5 17th.

Winning for the first time in nearly two years on the PGA circuit, Watson earned \$1,295,000 and moved up to No. 4 in the world.

Defending champion and world No. 1 Dustin Johnson tied for 16th at four under.

Bubba Watson captures his third win at the Riviera.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

Spectators Get Up Close in Pro-Am

Photos by BART BARTHOLOMEW

With Tiger Woods returning to the Riviera for the first time in 12 years, crowds broke records at the Genesis Open on Thursday and Friday. Thousands of fans followed Tiger, Dustin Johnson, Bubba Watson, Phil Michelson and other favorite pros around the course.

But if one really wanted to see his/her favorite golfer up close, the traditional Pro-Am event on Wednesday was the way to go.

"Normally, I don't come to this event," said Hawthorne resident John Morrison, who was standing along the fairway on the second hole waiting for Tiger to hit his second shot. "But my buddy [Art Brinkley] is up from Arkansas and he is the biggest Tiger Woods fan. We were within five feet of him on the first hole."

Brinkley said he's been following Tiger since the golfer was only about four years old. "I said back then, if he keeps playing, he'll be great," Brinkley said. "[Today] I was so close to him you could almost touch him."

Morrison said he was a Phil Mickelson fan, and promised to return for next year's Pro-Am because "It's not crowded."

The Pro-Am pairs a professional golfer with three amateurs, and if Pacific Palisades residents want to know how they can participate, they can ask former honorary mayor Sugar Ray Leonard, who played with



Jordan Spieth was all smiles on Wednesday.

pro Wesley Bryan this year, or they can visit the Genesis website. Actor Mark Wahlberg was paired with Woods on Wednesday.

On the fourth hole (called the toughest par 3 in the country by the great Ben Hogan), Shawn Domi and Josh Baker were having an 8 a.m. beer as they waited for Woods to come to the tee. "How many times will you get to see Tiger?" Baker asked, noting they were also excited to see the course and had heard the crowds wouldn't be so bad on Wednesday.



Tiger Woods concentrates on his putt.

Dave Osman, vice president and brokerage manager for the Santa Barbara Region brokerages of Sotheby's International Realty, had been a member of the Riviera for 22 years before moving from the Palisades. "I'm watching Dusty," he said. "He's the No. 1 player in the world."

There were only a half-dozen people around the ropes when Dustin Johnson's group came through, and rewarded them by scoring birdie.

"I go play golf in the afternoon after



Sugar Ray Leonard and golfing partner Wesley Bryan.

watching them [pros]," Osman said, "and I find I play better."

Max Dorsch and Steve O'Neil were making their first visit to the Pro-Am. "I usually go on Thursday or Friday," Dorsch said. "This is a different experience. The golfers are loose and relaxed and chatting with everyone in the galley. This is more fun."

"This is the first Pro-Am I've ever been to," O'Neil said. "It's everything that Max said. It's a lighter vibe."

—SUE PASCOE



Younger children can play soccer at the YMCA.

Photo: Lesly Hall Photography

YMCA Spring Registration Underway

Early registration is underway for spring sports at the Palisades-Malibu YMCA, and those who sign up before March 2 can save \$20. All sports are co-ed. Contact Oscar Rodriguez at OscarRodriguez@ymcaLa.org or call (310) 454-5591.

T-Ball is available for 3-4 and 5-6-year-old children. Game dates will be April 7 to June 2 at Simon Meadow in Temescal Gateway Park.

Jr. Clippers is basketball for 3-4 and 5-

to 7-year-old children. Practice and scheduled games will be held on Saturdays at the Palisades High School gym.

Soccer for 3-4-year-old children will be held Tuesdays at 4 p.m. and 5-6-year-olds will be the same day at 5 p.m. at Simon Meadow and will run from April 10 to May 29.

Flag Football Mini Camp will be held Thursdays at 4 p.m. for 5-6-year olds and at 5 p.m. for 7- to 9-year olds. The camp will run from April 12 to May 31.

Chautauqua Crash Proves Deadly

According to the Los Angeles Fire Department, a fatal car crash occurred in the 500 block of Chautauqua Boulevard on February 13 around 6:30 p.m.

A Ferrari, traveling southbound, hit two other cars, and rolled over before coming to stop in a light pole. The L.A. County Coroner's office confirmed that the car was driven by Palisades resident Mark Gibello, 71.

PGA Golfer Bill Haas, who was the passenger in the Ferrari, was taken to the hospital, as was the 50-year-old female driving the BMW.

A third vehicle, a Toyota SUV, driven by actor Luke Wilson, was clipped by the Ferrari, but Wilson was not taken to the hospital. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

On February 14, the PGA released the following statement "Last night in Pacific Palisades, California, Bill Haas was involved in a serious car accident in which the driver—a member of the family with whom Haas and his family were staying for the Genesis Open—was killed. While Bill escaped serious injuries and has been released from the hospital, he is understandably

shaken up and—more importantly—his deepest condolences go out to the host family during this tragic and difficult time.

"Bill will withdraw from the Genesis Open and plans to head home to Greenville to recover. He appreciates the support of friends, family and the golf world as a whole, and he has asked for privacy as he processes what has happened."

According to a subsequent PGA report "Haas Escapes Serious Injury after Fatal Car Crash," Haas was scheduled to tee off at 8:10 for the Pro-Am portion of the Genesis Tournament on February 14 and was replaced by golfer Ryan Moore.

The story reported that "Bill's father Jay Haas told the Golf Channel that his son was 'very fortunate' to avoid serious harm. Jay Haas added that Bill did not suffer any broken bones but has pain and swelling in his leg.

Gibello, who would have been 72 on March 10, was the executive vice president and director of TCW Asset Management Company from 1988 to 2013. TCW is a global asset management firm founded in 1971 and based in Los Angeles.

PaliHi Grad Williams to Play Football in Nebraska

The Santa Monica College (SMC) Athletics Department announced on February 7 that two Corsair football team members, Marvin Williams and Riku Kitamura, signed scholarship papers to complete their college careers at Chadron State College, NCAA Division II.

Williams, 6'4" and 300 pounds, and Kitamura will play on the defensive line for Chadron State in Nebraska under Head Coach Jay Long. Notable CSC professional football players include Danny Woodhead of the Baltimore Ravens and retired Buffalo/Green Bay great Don Beebe.

Williams, a defensive lineman, played football at Palisades High School before finishing his associate of arts degree in liberal arts at SMC.

"I am extremely proud of my time here at Santa Monica," Williams said. "My parents met at SMC and it was exciting to come here and earn my degree. I cannot wait until I get to Chadron to begin my career as an Eagle."

"Riku and Marv excelled for our team both on and off the field," said SMC Head Coach Kelly Ledwith. "I could not be happier for these two young men and the journey they are about to begin."



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Boys and Girls Soccer Teams Advance

Girls Beat Taft, Advance to Quarterfinals

In the girls soccer City Section Division 1 playoffs, the Palisades Dolphins were seeded third and earned a first-round bye. El Camino Real, which Pali played to a 0-0 tie in January, was ranked No. 1. Sotomayer earned the second seed and Granada Hills was fourth.

The Dolphins, who were 14-2-2 overall and 12-0 in Western League action, defeated Taft in the second round, 2-0, on February 16.

"Taft is a tough team to beat," said Pali Head Coach Christian Chambers, who felt that his girls seemed nervous in the first half. "Taft's goalkeeper was phenomenal and made it difficult for us to put it in the box."

Sophomore Sadie Holt, Pali's leading scorer with 17 goals this season, scored the first goal in the 52nd minute.

"India (Holland) got the assist," Chambers said about the senior defender. "She took a good touch to put it back in and



Sadie Holt scores as Nicole Paul looks to assist.

Photo: Kim Holland

the goalkeeper couldn't hold onto it. Sadie just put it in."

Senior midfielder Annette Segreto scored an insurance goal in the 56th minute—"her

first goal of the season," Chambers said.

The Dolphins were missing two starters for this game because of the YMCA Youth and Government conference in Sacra-

mento, but everyone should be back for the quarterfinal game against 6th-seed Chatsworth this Thursday at 3 p.m. at the Stadium by the Sea.

Boys Reach Quarterfinals

The Palisades High boys soccer prospects were uncertain as the City Section Division 1 playoffs got underway last week.

Head Coach Dave Suarez told the *News* on February 14 that eight of his starters were not available for the playoff opener against Granada Hills the next day. Two were attending a conference in Sacramento, one had the flu, another was healing from a broken foot, one had blisters and another was recovering from a concussion, which meant that two junior varsity players were bumped up to varsity.

"We actually fit our seed now," said Suarez, whose Dolphins were seeded ninth. "We've been good all year, but the University game killed us as far as seeding."

During the season, the Dolphins were 15-2-2 overall and 9-1-2 in the Western League, losing only to University while tying Hamilton twice.

"We'll be taking care of business tomorrow," said Suarez, even though his team had to go on the road to play eighth-seeded Granada Hills.

In an inspired performance, Pali won 2-1 in overtime. Jackson Page put the Dolphins on the board in the 21st minute, but Granada Hills tied the game in the second half.

Finally, Luis Hernandez scored the game-winning goal in the second 10-minute overtime.

The win propelled Palisades into the quarterfinals against top-seeded El Camino today (February 21) at El Camino.



(Left to right) Head Coach David Suarez, J.V. Coach Marvin Lemus and Assistant Coach Rob Hockley talk strategy with JV player Shane Thompson before playoffs.

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Girls Water Polo Reach Finals with Dramatic Win

After his girls water polo team routed Los Angeles (34-0) and Kennedy (17-8) in the opening rounds of the City Section playoffs, Palisades Head Coach Kirk Lazaruk knew the real playoffs were about to begin.

Lazaruk said that the semi-final game against Granada Hills last Friday might be the toughest of the season, and he was right. But his No. 1 seeded Dolphins won a nail-biter that wasn't decided until the end of the second overtime period.

With Charlyze Samperio scoring for Pali, the score was tied 1-1 after the first quarter. The defenses continued to dominate in the second quarter, with neither team scoring. In the third quarter, Sammy Stahl and Leighanne Estabrook each scored, but Granada Hills roared back with three goals.

Estabrook tied the game, 4-4, with 3:17 left. The Highlanders regained the lead, but Syd-

ney Brouwer made a shot, and then Granada Hills went ahead again with 2:19 left. With only a second left, Estabrook somehow found the net to send the game into overtime.

Ally Stahl scored in the first three-minute overtime period, and Estabrook scored in the second overtime period to give the Dolphins a dramatic 8-6 victory.

"It's so amazing," Estabrook said. "We came into this game knowing the other team was a powerhouse, but we played Pali ball."

The Dolphins, who lost in last year's City finals to Eagle Rock will play them in the City finals this Friday at Valley College.

"I'm damn proud of my girls," Lazaruk said. "They did a great job. This had to be one of the tougher games in PaliHi water polo—for either boys or girls." He said that the win came because he sought out tough games and tough tournaments for his team.

Pali was 18-5 overall and 8-0 in league.



Elena Saab (6) blocks, so that Sydney Brouwer (17) can score.

Photo: Jonas Sautter

PaliHi Wrestlers Qualified For State at Sectionals

Four Palisades High School wrestlers took first in their weight class on Saturday, February 17, at the City Sectionals at the Roybal Learning Center.

Aaron Galef (132 pounds), Jake Carpenter (152), Chance Chapman (160) and Hamzah Al-Saudi (195) will advance to the state meet that will be held in Bakersfield March

2-3. (Only the top qualifier advances.)

This will be Al-Saudi's third time competing at State and a first time for junior Galef and seniors Carpenter and Chapman.

Birmingham won the Boy's City Championship with 278.50, San Fernando was second with 256.50 and Palisades was third with 179.

On the girls side, San Fernando was first and the Dolphins, with only three wrestlers, Lilly Topputo (130 pounds), Ashley Osorio (131 pounds) and Savanah Newell (170 pounds), placed 14 with 21 points.

Head coach Aldo Juliano wrote in an

email to the *News* on February 16, "We're off to a great start. Lilly is in the semi's and Ashley is in consolations." This was the first year of wrestling for the three girls. PaliHi's previous woman wrestler, Kaila Osorio, graduated last year.

Basketball: PaliHi Boys Beat Dorsey To Advance, Girls Lose to Cleveland

BOYS:

PaliHi's ninth-seeded boys basketball team defeated eighth-seeded Dorsey, 70-63, in the first round of the City Section Division 1 playoffs on February 16 to reach the quarterfinals against top-ranked View Point.

Nick Kerkorian was the high scorer for the Dolphins with 25 points.

The Dolphins are 9-18 overall and were 4-8 in the tough Western League (featuring Venice, Fairfax and Westchester), finishing fifth. View Park, which is 21-7 overall and was 10-2 in league, will host the Dolphins at 7 p.m. this Saturday.

View Park and Palisades both lost to Santa

Monica in December, and View Park also beat Dorsey at the end of January, 63-59.

Dolphins Coach Donzell Hayes has a young team, with only six seniors on the 16-man roster.

GIRLS:

Palisades made a first-round exit from the Division I tournament, losing to eighth-seeded Cleveland, 31-26, on February 14.

It was a tough season for first-year coach Danielle Foley, who started from scratch with underclassmen, most of whom had never played varsity. Overall the team was 9-17 and 2-10 in league.

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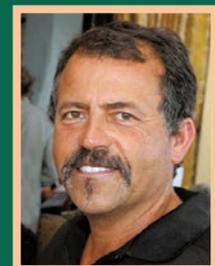
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Cape Cod Today, Hopefully Tomorrow

Story and Photos by
PETER GWILLIM KREITLER
Special to the Palisades News

This past summer was my 75th consecutive year to visit the place where I gained my love of creation and cut my environmental teeth.

Cape Cod is a man-made island, created by the dredging of the Cape Cod Canal in the 1930s. The Cape is attached to the Massachusetts coast by a railroad bridge and two vehicle bridges. From the canal it is roughly 35 miles east to Chatham, then north 30 miles to Provincetown; the Cape is essentially a 120-mile-long beach. Heavy industry has yet to arrive, though the warning signs of the breakdown of a fragile ecosystem increase yearly. I have watched the gradual degradation over my lifetime.

However, one July morning last summer, the signs of hope emerged in, of all places, the local CVS pharmacy in Harwich Port. Three eager young people were leaving the store wearing their newly acquired sweat-shirts and carrying armfuls of beach paraphernalia. I asked their grandma, Barbara Duncan, if I could take their picture and their smiles made my summer: three siblings all wearing Cape Cod proudly.

A few days earlier I had met with the head of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Harwich, and the former and current executive directors of the Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod. Their news was discouraging. Sea-level rise is affecting the Cape and, as Bob Prescott of the Wellfleet Bay Audubon Sanctuary remarked, they have had to move a wetland walking trail twice in the last five years.

Trash in the ocean, especially plastics, is not just a Pacific gyre phenomenon, but reality for Cape Cod and the entire planet



Classic Herreshof 12's at rest in Wychmere Harbor on Cape Cod.

as our waste plagues all of humanity. Pollution from fossil-fuel engines is increasingly both a land and sea problem; even far from industrial areas like the Cape, the long-term degradation grows.

During my summers on the Cape, which have included a visit to the same home since 1942, I have witnessed the disappearance of four types of shellfish, contamination of bluefish with PCBs, invasive species of jellyfish and seaweed, and medical waste on our beaches.

The last remaining tidal wetland on the south shore was taken essentially by eminent domain in 1966. Former pristine Cape beaches are now covered with codium seaweed that arrived via the hulls of Japanese fishing trawlers in the 1980s. This year we had an invasion of hundreds of thousands of spider crabs, most likely from the warming of the seas.

Population growth on the Cape and the necessary septic and leaching systems, along with a continuing building boom, has overshadowed and outpaced the preservation organizations and their stalwart leaders and volunteers; yet not all is bad news.

Cape Cod is my environmental benchmark. What happens here is like watching

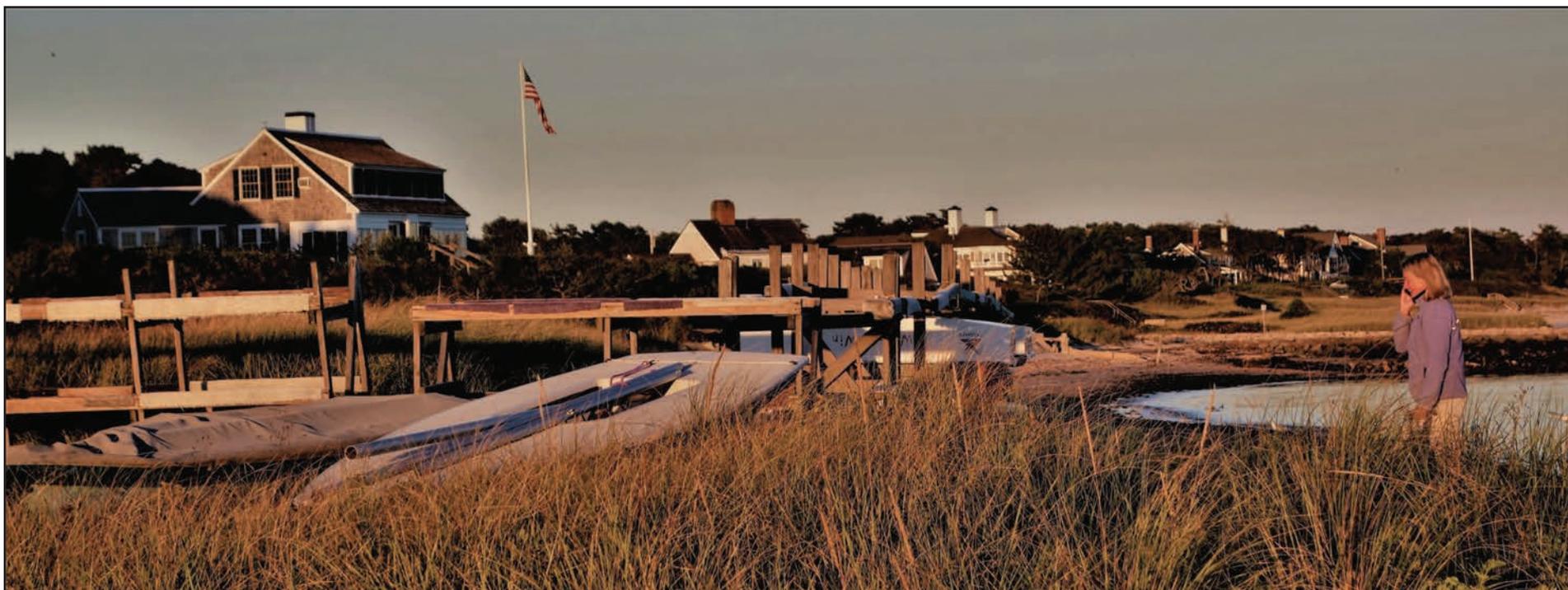
(Continued on Page 21)



Stone Horse yacht club committee boat explaining the days race course.



Humpback whales feeding 10 miles off Chatham, Cape Cod. Gulls waiting for scraps.



The Kreitler family home with its American flag (left) and Katy Kreitler (right) at the end of the day on Nantucket Sound. The flag pole was installed in 1938 by Peter Kreitler's grandfather.

Cape Cod

(Continued from Page 20)

the canary in the coal mine. The Center for Coastal Studies, the Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary, APCC and local conservation organizations in each town are working cooperatively to preserve this mecca for summer vacationers from all over the country who come to enjoy the sailing, kite boarding, fishing, swimming, cycling, kayaking and a myriad of other cherished activities. They are invaluable to our long-term enjoyment of Cape Cod.

In addition, because of a “shifting baseline,” tourists and residents alike who have not had a long view of history here still marvel at the beauty of Cape Cod, as do I when we see whales feeding, or the osprey fishing, or the seals chasing menhaden.

Though compromised by fertilizer and septic run-off, the quahogs, steamers and Chatham or Wellfleet oysters are still plentiful, as are lobsters and scallops that still appear at George’s or the Chatham fish market, though the price has gone from 25 cents a pound to the current \$10 a pound for lobsters during my lifetime. (When I last checked, the lobster meat alone was \$44.50 a pound.)

On the flip side, the offloading of cod and haddock at the town fish piers is not as regular, and skate and dogfish, species almost at the bottom of the ocean food chain, are creating revenue for more and more fishermen because they are plentiful.

Yet fishermen and advocates for clean oceans and sustainable fisheries are cooperating at a higher level each year, and striped bass, blues and tuna draw fishermen from all over the world to the waters off Cape Cod.

Watching a fisherman weigh a 500-pound blue-fin tuna at Wychmere Harbor’s town landing is exciting and sobering simultaneously. Blue-fin are flash frozen, flown to Japan and prepared for sushi bars where every bite is an hour’s pay for many.

Alas, the spawning blue-fin that come to maturity off Brazil are endangered. We never order toro (blue-fin belly) or blue-fin at our favorite sushi bar. Avoiding fish that are endangered and knowing the difference is one way we can help sustain fisheries. Our personal choices do matter.

When Cape waters are still, the reflections are magical, and when the brisk prevailing southwest winds appear, sailing and windsurfing (or kite-boarding) are exciting for all ages. Each year, the Stone Horse Yacht Club hosts a 130-fleet Opti regatta and the sailors come from all over New



Young sailors checking their Opti’s before the big race.

England (ages 6-13) to compete. In their minds, the regatta is their own America’s Cup and the event is a highlight of the summer for those of us who get to watch.

Unfortunately, when I watch the environmental changes over time, the signs are telling: All of us must remind ourselves and our friends not to leave our trash, including cigarette butts, straws and any-and-all plastics anywhere in nature.

In addition, Cape Cod beaches are being routinely closed because of great white shark sightings. No, my wife Katy and I have never seen a great white, but approximately 20 have been tagged off Chatham, and are monitored closely. These indicator species have only recently come to the Cape—another sign of changing times.

The good news is that young people like Charley, Sheila and Lucy—the kids I photographed at CVS—are being taught by their parents and grandparents to respect the nature of Cape Cod.

Thankfully it is becoming a more common practice to go out of our way to protect the people and places that we love. Con-

scious tourism is on the rise, but we all must become advocates for the pristine waters and sands as they continue to slip through our fingers and when gone are gone forever.

Whether on the beaches of Cape Cod, Lake Michigan, the Keys of Florida, or the shores of California, visit and celebrate, but leave only footprints and take away only memories.



Barbara Duncan’s grandchildren Charley, Sheila and Lucy. Looking to their future, this is why pristine waters of the earth must be preserved.

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Kenneth Turan 'Predicts' the Oscars

By BILL BRUNS and SUE PASCOE

L.A. Times film critic Kenneth Turan made his annual appearance at the Pacific Palisades Optimist Club meeting on February 6 to talk about the March 4 Oscars ceremony. The book author and Palisadian addressed a packed house at Aldersgate.

"You will never hear me say, 'This will win because of best performance,'" Turan said. "Everyone's idea of what is the best performance is different, and favorite doesn't mean winner. There are upsets every year."

He explained how members of numerous crafts inside the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences academy select the nominees, such as for film editing, costume design and special effects, but then the entire Academy votes for each of the 24 awards.



Kenneth Turan

He also noted that following the 2016 Oscars (dubbed #OscarsSoWhite), the Academy vowed to double its female and minority membership by 2020, while also skewing younger.

With the changing demographics of the Academy, Turan said, it might be more difficult to predict what typically will win an Oscar. His selections are not necessarily based on what he felt was the best film/actor/actress, but rather predicting what he thinks 8,000-plus Academy members will choose.

Despite his warning not to let one's heart color who to select in the office pool, Turan is pulling for *The Shape of Water* to win Best Picture honors.

"The favorite has to be *Shape*" he said, noting that it received 13 nominations, including seven of the eight technical nominations, which means "it has support from both sides of the Academy." But, he cautioned, "Looking at the history of the Oscars, the film that has the most nominations hasn't always won best picture."

"I'm hoping it will be *The Shape of Water*," Turan said. "It's a magical film, beautifully made," by director Guillermo del Toro.

The film is a fantasy tale of a woman who

falls in love with a fish-man creature captured in South America in the 1950s. One Optimist asked if the fallout about the story idea being stolen might hurt its chances.

"Most people do not believe the story was stolen," Turan said. "Guillermo said it was inspired by the *Creature from the Black Lagoon*. He remembers wondering as a child when he saw the film, 'Why does the creature never get the girl?'"

Another Optimist asked about the chances that *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* might win Best Picture. "I like it; I gave it a positive review," Turan said. "But it's a film that has split people, and the director didn't receive a nomination. Those films [where the director is not nominated] generally don't win."

The Best Actor category includes five top-notch performances, Turan said, but he believes Gary Oldman (who plays Winston Churchill in *The Darkest Hour*) will win because "every so often the Academy uses this category to give a 'lifetime achievement' award."

In the Best Supporting Actor category, "Sam Rockwell does a great job [in *Three Billboards*]; he's the favorite," Turan said, "but Woody Harrelson is in the same film, and they could divide the vote, leaving Christopher Plummer [*All the Money in the World*] to sneak in."

"Best Actress may be the strongest category, and is a toss-up," Turan said. "Frances [McDormand, in *Three Billboards*] has won before and is an actress the Academy likes, but Sally Hawkins [*Shape of Water*] is terrific."

Turan said that Best Supporting Actress could go to either Laurie Metcalf [*Lady Bird*], "who is highly respected," or to Allison Janney [*I, Tonya*], the word-of-mouth favorite.

He predicted that Guillermo del Toro will win the Oscar for Best Director, and the popular *Coco* will capture Best Animated Feature Film honors.

For Adapted Screenplay, Turan predicts that 89-year-old James Ivory (*Call Me by Your Name*) will win—"the Academy likes to support someone who's still working at that age"—and for Original Screenplay he favors writer/director Greta Gerwig for *Lady Bird*, a movie he called "original, moving and unexpected."

"I've seen enough of the unhappy teenager, coming-of-age films that I would never have to see another," Turan said. "But this was so exceptionally well-done that I really liked it."

In the Best Foreign Film Category, "the one I really liked was *Foxtrot*, and I'm sad that it wasn't nominated," Turan said. "It's a very glum list" that includes *Loveless*—"a sad title for a sad film"—and *Body and Soul*, an Hungarian film about two workers in a slaughterhouse who discover they are having the same dream every night. "I don't think it's going to win, but it's a really fine film."

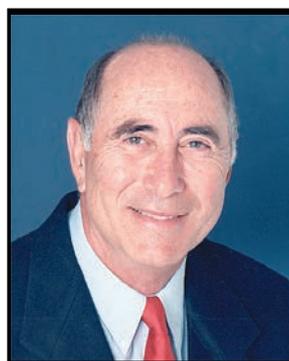
Before he left, Turan warned the Optimists that favorites often shift right up until the time votes are cast, and that early favorites don't always end up winning Oscars.

(Editor's note: Kenneth Turan is also a film critic for National Public Radio's Morning Edition as well as the director of the Los Angeles Times Book Prizes. A graduate of Swarthmore College and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, he teaches film reviewing and non-fiction writing at USC. His most recent book is *Not to Be Missed: Fifty-Four Favorites From a Lifetime of Film*.)

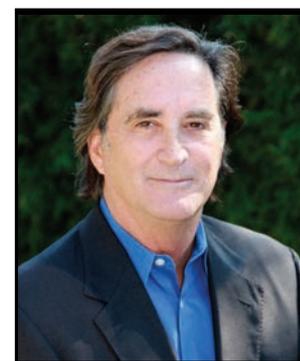


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Sports Program Aids Mentors, Players

By SARAH STOCKMAN
Staff Writer

If you grew up in Pacific Palisades, chances are you played on one of the many local sports teams.

Palisadian Wade Clement certainly did and credits them with shaping him into who he is today. "Sports was probably the most influential in my life besides my parents," he told the *News*.

Clement, 24, grew up playing PPBA baseball, AYSO and club soccer, as well as competing in gymnastics. He attended elementary school in Santa Monica and Harvard-Westlake for middle and high schools.

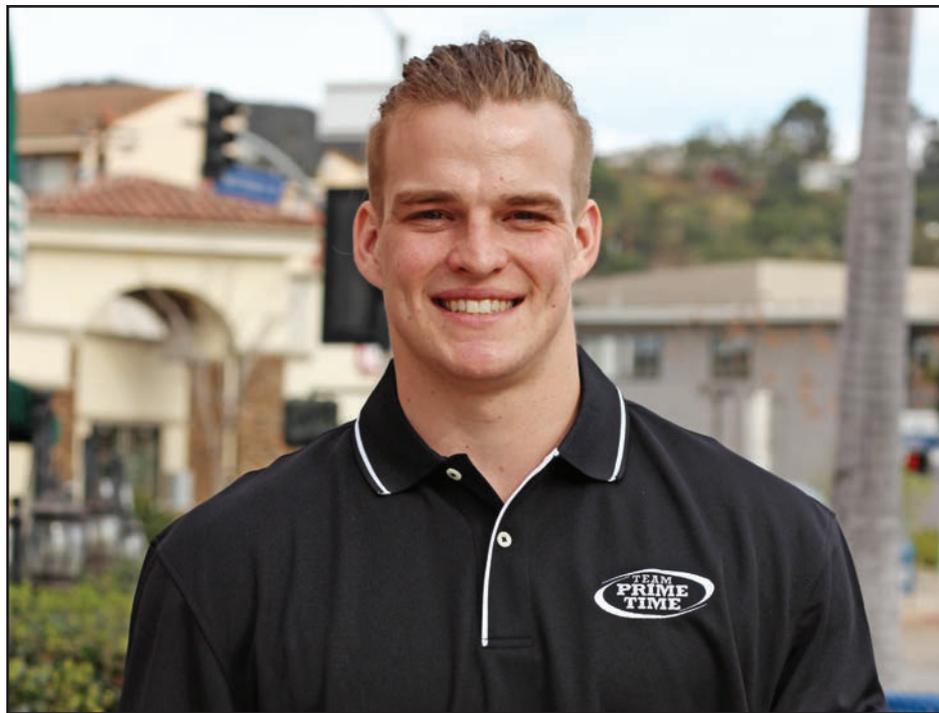
As a goalie for Harvard-Westlake's soccer team, he was told by one of his coaches he should play at the collegiate level. Clement took his advice and ended up at Duke University, where he played Division-I soccer while also majoring in cultural anthropology.

"[Sports] teams have been the most important part of my life," said Clement, who noted that his closest friends and mentors came from playing on teams.

After graduating in 2016, Clement spent six months traveling through Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand. When he returned, he started looking for a job.

"I knew I wanted to work in sports and community outreach," he said, so he began searching prospective companies, one of which was Prime Time Games. "I went in for 10 minutes to get some information and it turned into a job interview."

Prime Time Games is a nonprofit started in 2012 by Santa Monica resident Peter Straus. The program aims "to provide intervention programs for at-risk children from low-income areas of Los Angeles that combine academics, athletics and leadership training," according to its mission statement.



Wade Clement helps run a high school sports program that pairs a student (coach) with an athlete (a student with developmental challenges).

Photo: Matt Stockman

Clement serves as program manager for the high school league, which pairs mostly low-income students (coaches) with their developmentally challenged classmates (athletes). Many of the peer coaches come from the varsity teams at their respective schools.

The coaches and athletes meet after school and play together as part of a larger team. "After school is the most volatile time of the day," Clement said. "This program takes them [the students] out of that situation."

His job is to establish new programs, order equipment and create and implement training, among other things. "It's a lot of work, but it's so important," he said.

Prime Time Games staggers sports seasons so they don't conflict with the varsity players' schedules. "When they teach their own sport, it shifts their perspective," Clement said, noting that 70% of the students (coaches) stay for four seasons. "They say, 'I don't want to let my athletes down.'"

The rules of each sport have been modified so that the coach and athlete can play

at the same time. "We changed the rules so each of the pairs plays a position," Clement explained. "When watching games, you can really see the students working together as pairs."

Each program can support up to 32 students, who comprise one or two coed teams. They spend five weeks practicing soccer, basketball or football once a week and playing one game a week against another Prime Time Games team. The season culminates in a championship game.

"Thirty-two kids per team is so that we make sure everyone has an opportunity to participate," Clement said. "[However,] at the end of the day, money is a factor."

When Prime Time Games first starts at a school, the cost is \$7,500 to cover uniforms, equipment, transportation and the salary of the head coach. After the first season it's \$5,000 per school.

"[It costs] between \$150 to \$200 per kid to give them an opportunity to represent their school in sports at no cost to their high school," Clement said.

Prime Time Games is currently at seven Title I schools in Los Angeles County, including Venice, University, Fairfax, Hamil-

ton, Los Angeles, Culver City and Dorsey High Schools. (A Title I school is classified by the government as having at least one half of its students on free or reduced lunch plans.) This semester the program is expanding to include 15 additional schools, including San Fernando, Atleta and Compton High Schools.

The students are very proud to be part of the program. "They wear their Prime Time jerseys off campus," Clement said. Fierce rivalries between schools are mollified by the students' mutual association with Prime Time.

Eighty-five percent of Team Prime Time students go on to secondary school, which is well above the national average of 77.5 percent for low-income students (according to the U.S. Department of Education).

"We put kids in positions of leadership because they are coaching kids with special needs," Clement said. "The students find purpose in school, so their grades improve."

Clement lives with his parents Jude, who works for UBS Financial Services, and Dan, the founder of College Bound Today, a nonprofit that helps low-income students get to college. His younger brother, Sam, writes and produces music.

Visit: teamprimetime.org

Woman's Club Seeks Items for Rummage Sale

The Pacific Palisades Woman's Club is accepting donations in good condition for its annual rummage sale from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Thursdays, March 1 and 8, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Fridays, March 2 and 9, at the clubhouse on Haverford Avenue.

Time to clean out your closets, drawers and garages and put unused objects towards a charitable cause. Proceeds from the sale will support the philanthropic efforts of the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club and the PPWC Clubhouse restoration.

The giant rummage sale will be held at the clubhouse from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 10.

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Koski Works Sundance Festival

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

When Dominique Koski decided to attend the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) three years ago, she had no way of predicting that she would be selected to work as an intern covering the prestigious 2018 Sundance Film Festival.

The opportunity to work for The Wrap News, a digital organization that covers entertainment and media, came through the university.

"I work in the SCAD Casting Office under former head of CBS Primetime Casting and now SCAD's Dean of the School of Entertainment Arts, Andra Reeve-Rabb," said Koski, a Pacific Palisades resident. "I have worked with her on multiple different projects such as *The Buzz* and a short film we recently shot in Hong Kong.

"Dean Reeve-Rabb has been an amazing mentor to me, and she is just one of the many fantastic industry professionals I get to work with at SCAD on a daily basis," Koski said, noting that the recommendation for the Sundance internship in January came from the dean.

Last October, Koski flew to Los Angeles to attend The Grill conference (hosted by The Wrap News) with SCAD's Chair of Film and Television, D.W. Moffett, "also a performing arts professor at SCAD and an award-winning actor and director," Koski said.

This led to the Sundance opportunity for Koski, who graduated from Palisades High in 2015. "Sundance was an amazing experience," she told the *News* in a January 28 email, "and I absolutely loved working with The Wrap team!"

Koski said the company hosted panels and networking events throughout the first weekend, which were both interesting and insightful. She felt that Sundance was actually a lot like her experience at college because at "both places artists get together to discuss, create and share their work."

"Dominique is an extraordinary talent. Her tenacity and industry focus make her the perfect 'Wonder Woman' of SCAD's School

of Entertainment Arts," said Reeve-Rabb. "In one quarter Dominique directed the latest episode of our Emmy award-winning sitcom *The Buzz*, produced a film shot on our Hong Kong campus, interned at Sundance Film Festival and worked for the Savannah Film Festival, all while also working in our very own casting office. And she's only a junior!"

At SCAD, Koski said, students are given preparation for professional creative careers through performance opportunities and networking. The university "hosts major signature events throughout the year, such as the SCAD Savannah Film Festival and SCAD aTV Fest." The film festival is "the largest university-run film festival in the nation."

During those events, master classes, panels and screenings with industry leaders are specifically held for students. "In the past year, I have had master classes with Richard Gere, Selma Hayek and Robert Pattinson," Koski said.

As part of her college experience, the junior is working on the student-produced Emmy Award-winning sitcom, *The Buzz*.

"We currently have two four-camera sitcoms—the only university and student-produced sitcoms in the nation to use multiple cameras," said Koski, who also works in the casting office, which connects performing-arts students to professional projects shooting in Georgia. It is the only casting office in the country connected to a university.

According to Film L.A., Georgia is now the No. 1 filming location in the world.

"All of these opportunities I have had at SCAD have prepared me to go into the industry knowing that I have real-world experience," Koski said.

She is the daughter of Corrine Bourdeau, who does marketing for independent films, and Andy Koski, a partner in a CPA firm that manages intellectual property. Her younger sister Michaela attends PaliHi.

Koski discovered SCAD through a friend, who had taught a course on visual effects at the college. While on a tour of the college, Koski met Reeve-Rabb and other faculty members. "I instantly knew I had to be part of SCAD," she said.



Dominique Koski (far left) acts in *The Buzz*, a student-produced sitcom at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia. Photo courtesy of Savannah College of Art and Design

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Newspapers Connect in Civilized Fashion

By BOB VICKREY
Special to the Palisades News

Columnist Chris Erskine of the *Los Angeles Times* has become a trusted friend in recent years, although we've never actually met.

Reading his funny and gentle family-themed columns has become an addictive habit for me as I sip my morning coffee. Some people like sugar and cream with their morning brew, but I prefer a daily dose of "Erskine" with my coffee.

Before Chris, there were Al and Jim—better known in Southern California as the late *L.A. Times'* columnists Al Martinez and Jim Murray. Those talented writers always helped connect me with the world-at-large with their personal and humane reflections about daily life.

Yes, I'm probably out of step these days with most folks, as Americans readers have slowly abandoned the traditional print version of the news and have opted for online access to the happenings of the day.

In fact, when a young friend of mine catches me with my head buried in the sports section, she loves to tease me with her familiar refrain, "So, I see you're once again catching up on *yesterday's* news."

Let's face it, these days most people get their information from television cable news and—to a lesser extent—network news, whose influence has diminished dramatically in recent decades.

But social media, principally Facebook,



Bob Vickrey delights in his daily newspaper.

Photo: Barry Stein

has become the major source of news and information for more and more Americans—and you wonder why the country is in such turmoil?

As I sit in my local café at breakfast each morning, I notice that I'm usually the only person in the restaurant reading a newspaper. Most of the other customers are "reading" their phones instead.

My love of newspapers began at an early age. When I was a young boy, I raced down the driveway each Sunday morning for our copy of the *Houston Chronicle*, so I could retrieve the "funny papers" and then listen to my favorite comic strips being read on the radio.

I loved reading the sports section about my favorite college and professional football teams and then calling friends to share the stories with them. The habit became a communal experience during school days as we boys quizzed one another on sports trivia, while displaying a game of one-upmanship as to who was most informed about the news of the day.

All these fond memories make it even sadder to acknowledge what we have witnessed in recent years regarding the shrinking number of daily newspapers across the country. Digital technology has taken an un-

forgiving toll on all varieties of print media. Newsroom staffs have been slashed due to decreasing advertising revenue, which has resulted in steadily declining page counts.

My own early interest in newspapers led me to pursue a career in journalism, but I soon learned that becoming a good reporter required a commitment far greater than I had first imagined.

My college journalism professor demanded such dedication in pursuit of accuracy and definitive facts on each assignment that I still hold the profession in much higher regard than those leading the current wave of cynicism and doubt that exists regarding the profession.

Those same skeptics obviously never met my Baylor journalism professor David McHam, who spent 54 years at four different universities training committed writers who eventually became award-winning reporters, editors, and columnists for prominent newspapers across the country.

In time, my own fondness for the written word landed me in the book publishing business after a very short stint as a newspaper reporter. I never truly believed that I had the "right stuff" to be an outstanding, hard-nosed reporter.

After an almost forty-year "detour" in

publishing, I found my way back in recent years to writing columns for several newspapers. But most of my contributions are intended to entertain, and hopefully lighten the daily load for readers. I've decided to leave the heavy lifting to more serious journalists.

Here's hoping that we never forget the important role newspapers still play today—whether in print or digital form—in informing us about vital issues that affect our everyday lives.

Through the years, newspapers have contributed in elevating the quality of our lives by informing and entertaining us and reminding us of our common connections and fundamental humanity.

I'm certainly not dismissing the importance of the emergence of the digital world, but for many of us, enjoying the tactile experience of holding the printed word in hand is still a fond habit that never seems to grow old.

Laugh if you will, but when I wake up tomorrow, I'll be racing down my driveway to retrieve my newspaper just like that young boy of long ago.

Okay, maybe "racing" might be an overstatement these days. "Strolling" is actually closer to the truth. But either way, I'm counting on that paper being there for many years to come.

Bob Vickrey is a longtime Palisadian who is a regular contributor to the News. He also writes for the Houston Chronicle and the Waco Tribune-Herald.

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