

# DID YOU KNOW

By Curt Curtiss

That Spring Time comes at different times of the year in the Sierra Mountains? Several months ago, it was spring time in the valley. The wild flowers were blooming. On Sat., July 28, Raedean Kiesz (Past Exalted Ruler, Westchester Elks) and Curt Curtiss (Venice American Legion Post 177) drove up US 395, past Bishop, past the turnoff to Yosemite, past Lee Vining, past Mono Lake to the summit. You turn west to Virginia Lakes. The picture shows the stream running into the lake is coming from under a snow bank about ten feet deep. The temperature was a balmy 52 degrees. That is not very warm for the end of July, but snow melts fast. Virginia Lake is over 10,000 feet elevation.



Photos by Raedean Kiesz - Inlet to Virginia Lake showing the ten foot snow bank. Wildflowers 500 yards from the lake

feet elevation. In special warm and sunny places it was almost solid color. The stems are very short, (a couple of inches) as the growing season is very short. The snow melts, the sun warms the ground a little bit. And last years seed sprouts, a short stem a couple of leaves push through the dirt. A flower forms and seeds fall to the ground. Remember first snow can come at any time after the first of September.

For more information contact Curt at [curt7880@aol.com](mailto:curt7880@aol.com).

The wild flowers started at about 8,000

## Fourteen-Year-Old El Camino College Student Makes the Grade

Avery Marshall spent the summer the same way as many other 14-year-olds – playing basketball, swimming at the YMCA, and participating in a golf camp.

But unlike most youngsters his age, Avery also took a summer course at El Camino College.

At age 14, Avery is among the youngest students to enroll at the Torrance-area college. His first classes were English and elementary geometry this past spring, followed by a classical literature course during the summer. Avery is a Torrance homeschooled student who decided to enroll at El Camino College to get an early start on college.

So far, he has been enjoying his time at ECC and feels comfortable in the classroom and overall campus environment. He said that although professors and students might be surprised to see someone his age in class, no one has really asked him about it.


“I think teachers like having me in class, I participate and I do the work,” he said. “I think the concern is not with my age. It is all about my performance; they want to be sure I can do the work. I do interact with my classmates, and for the first couple of days they prob-



ably see my age. By the end of the semester, the age goes away and they see what I can do.”

Avery has no problem proving he can handle college-level academics – he has a 4.0 and has been described not only as an exceptional student, but also a polite, energetic, and kind person.


“Avery loves studying math but also is quick to share information about books he may be reading, or science concepts he has learned,” said Professor Susie Tummers, who taught Avery’s geometry course this past spring. “He attaches cross-curricular concepts together at a level that far surpasses his age. His ability to make these connections clearly illustrates the depth of his knowledge.”



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**2011 SUMMER SCHEDULE**

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)**




**Lawndale Educational Center**  
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M-Th 8:00AM – 1:15P  
ESL Beg. Literacy (Level 0/1)  
ESL Beg. High (Level 2)  
ESL Inter. Low (Level 3)  
ESL Adv. Low (Level 4/5)

**St. Margaret's Center**  
10217 S. Inglewood Ave., Lennox 90304  
M M-Th 8:30AM – 1:45PM  
ESL Multi-Level

**CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)**

**Lawndale Educational Center**  
4953 Marine Ave., Lawndale 90260


**Construction Worker Pre-Apprenticeship**  
M-Th 8:00AM – 10:15AM



**Medical Assisting**  
M-Th 8:00AM – 10:30AM  
M-Th 10:45AM – 1:15PM

**St. Margaret's Center**  
10217 S. Inglewood Ave., Lennox 90304

**Computer Lab.**  
M-Th 10:30AM – 1:15PM



**HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (HSD)/GED/CAHSEE/ABE**

**Lawndale Educational Center**  
4953 Marine Ave., Lawndale 90260


**High School Diploma**  
E2020/Paper Contract/GED  
M-Th 8:00AM – 10:30AM (Room 21)  
M-Th 10:45AM – 1:15PM (Room 21)

**E2020**  
M-Th 8:00AM – 10:30AM (Room 6 & 7)  
M-Th 10:45AM – 1:15PM (Room 6 & 7)

**ABE/New Century/CAHSEE**  
M-Th 10:45AM – 1:15PM (Room 25)

**Hawthorne High School**  
4859 W. El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne 90250

**High School Diploma**  
E2020  
M-Th 8:00AM – 10:30AM (Room 4-1B)  
M-Th 10:45AM – 1:15PM (Room 4-1B)



“He is also willing to help and work with fellow classmates; numerous times in class, he would reach out to those who sat nearby to confer and discuss concepts being taught. He has a true sense of the idea of ‘giving back’ and has suggested to me that he might want to tutor geometry so that he could help some of the students who struggle with the topics.”

Avery plans to earn an associate degree in economics and math by the time he is 16 and then transfer to the University of California at Berkeley to study political science.

“My interests are really eclectic, eventually I would like to earn a law degree,” he said. “I especially like Constitutional law because the Constitution affects our everyday life and studying that is exciting.”

Avery is a longtime library volunteer, is dedicated to his family, and also enjoys soccer, basketball, and golf.

“My husband and I are proud of all our kids,” said Avery’s mother, Sage Marshall. “We are not surprised to see him doing well in school. We just

assume everyone is capable of excellence. And to us, that simply means doing your best.”

Avery is looking forward to the fall semester at El Camino College and is well acclimated to college life, even as he works on his class schedule and finds frustrating moments with the drop/add system. He would also like to join some clubs this fall and get more involved with campus life.

“I am really enjoying my experience at El Camino College,” he said. “When I go to classes, I don’t feel young, I just feel like I’m part of the class. I have great teachers and the students seem really nice. I just love going to class every morning.”

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**7:30 p.m. at the Methodist Church, 540 Main St. (at Mariposa), El Segundo.**

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