Official Concern Explodes Over Rancho LPG After Florida Blast

Waxman, Lieu, Hahn Press For Action on Rancho LPG

By Paul Rosenberg, Senior Editor

A series of oil and chemical product explosions, which began in San Bruno in October 2010, combined with local activism focused on the dangers of the Rancho LPG facility has finally produced an outpouring of official concern.

Elected officials recently raised their voices after explosions rocked the Blue Rhino LPG plant in Tavares, a town northwest of Orlando, Fla., sending flames up to 200 feet into the air and launching thousands of 20-pound propane canisters into the air.


When Councilman Joe Buscaino won the special election to fill Councilwoman turned Congresswoman Janice Hahn’s seat, progressives in San Pedro and other parts of the district were concerned that he would operate as little more than a San Pedro boy with a million-watt smile.

There was concern that he would serve only San Pedro interests and that the brand of progressivism would be only skin deep.

A year-and-a-half later, Buscaino was able to cruise into a full term in office. He may not have fully convinced progressives of his progressive credentials—he doesn’t have enough of a record at this point to make a determination—but he has been able to firmly establish that he’s committed to serving the entire district.

He did so by seeking out host families in the Watts’ public housing to spend the night, just to get a feel of a neighborhood. Was it a publicity stunt? Perhaps. But it sent a powerful message.

During his inaugural speech for his first full term he’s said, “My affection for Watts is very real.”

He really put his money where his mouth was.

When he said, “I want you to know that I’m your brother and we are family, and I’m committed to serving the residents of Watts in the way that they deserve,” it’s hard not to believe him.

Indeed, Buscaino ran down the list of good news and items of progress throughout the district.

When Councilman Joe Buscaino won the special election to fill Councilwoman turned Congresswoman Janice Hahn’s seat, progressives in San Pedro and other parts of the district were concerned that he would operate as little more than a San Pedro boy with a million-watt smile.

There was concern that he would serve only San Pedro interests and that the brand of progressivism would be only skin deep.

A year-and-a-half later, Buscaino was able to cruise into a full term in office. He may not have fully convinced progressives of his progressive credentials—he doesn’t have enough of a record at this point to make a determination—but he has been able to firmly establish that he’s committed to serving the entire district.

He did so by seeking out host families in the Watts’ public housing to spend the night, just to get a feel of a neighborhood. Was it a publicity stunt? Perhaps. But it sent a powerful message.

During his inaugural speech for his first full term he’s said, “My affection for Watts is very real.”

He really put his money where his mouth was.

When he said, “I want you to know that I’m your brother and we are family, and I’m committed to serving the residents of Watts in the way that they deserve,” it’s hard not to believe him.

Indeed, Buscaino ran down the list of good news and items of progress throughout the district.

When Councilman Joe Buscaino won the special election to fill Councilwoman turned Congresswoman Janice Hahn’s seat, progressives in San Pedro and other parts of the district were concerned that he would operate as little more than a San Pedro boy with a million-watt smile.

There was concern that he would serve only San Pedro interests and that the brand of progressivism would be only skin deep.

A year-and-a-half later, Buscaino was able to cruise into a full term in office. He may not have fully convinced progressives of his progressive credentials—he doesn’t have enough of a record at this point to make a determination—but he has been able to firmly establish that he’s committed to serving the entire district.

He did so by seeking out host families in the Watts’ public housing to spend the night, just to get a feel of a neighborhood. Was it a publicity stunt? Perhaps. But it sent a powerful message.

During his inaugural speech for his first full term he’s said, “My affection for Watts is very real.”

He really put his money where his mouth was.

When he said, “I want you to know that I’m your brother and we are family, and I’m committed to serving the residents of Watts in the way that they deserve,” it’s hard not to believe him.

Indeed, Buscaino ran down the list of good news and items of progress throughout the district.

When Councilman Joe Buscaino won the special election to fill Councilwoman turned Congresswoman Janice Hahn’s seat, progressives in San Pedro and other parts of the district were concerned that he would operate as little more than a San Pedro boy with a million-watt smile.

There was concern that he would serve only San Pedro interests and that the brand of progressivism would be only skin deep.

A year-and-a-half later, Buscaino was able to cruise into a full term in office. He may not have fully convinced progressives of his progressive credentials—he doesn’t have enough of a record at this point to make a determination—but he has been able to firmly establish that he’s committed to serving the entire district.

He did so by seeking out host families in the Watts’ public housing to spend the night, just to get a feel of a neighborhood. Was it a publicity stunt? Perhaps. But it sent a powerful message.

During his inaugural speech for his first full term he’s said, “My affection for Watts is very real.”

He really put his money where his mouth was.

When he said, “I want you to know that I’m your brother and we are family, and I’m committed to serving the residents of Watts in the way that they deserve,” it’s hard not to believe him.

Indeed, Buscaino ran down the list of good news and items of progress throughout the district.
CAR SHOW BY THE SEA 2013

Sun., Aug. 25 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Point Fermin Park, San Pedro
Live Music! Food Vendors! Free Admission!
www.CarShowByTheSea.com

Community-based Advertising Opportunities that people TRUST.
Call us about how we can help promote your non-profit event: (310) 519-1442
HARBOR AREA
Committed to independent journalism in the Greater LA/LB Harbor Area for more than 30 years

Center Helps Develop More than Boxing Skills

By Joseph Baroud, Editorial Intern

Circling a square boxing ring with someone trying to punch your lights out to be a fearsome thing. Professional boxers must use that fear to transcend his normal abilities. At least that’s what 1984 boxing gold medalist, Henry Tillman believes.

“The fear is actually adrenaline and it keeps your edge,” said Tillman. “That’s what keeps you sharp.”

Tillman believes insights from boxing can be applied to life outside of the ring. He opened a gym this past July to guide and train local youth in boxing—a sport that gave him the drive and discipline he needed to succeed growing up in Watts, Los Angeles.

“It got me off [of] the streets. It gave me a purpose, something to look forward to,” Tillman said. “It gave me respect. For the first time in my life, I was doing something people respect.”

Tillman recalled having to fight a lot in order to survive his youth—it was like a road without a finish line. It wasn’t until he began his boxing career at the age of 22 that got the direction he needed.

“Boxing is a very disciplined sport, a very humbling sport,” Tillman noted. He’s seen young men who consider themselves the “Billy Bad Asses” of their neighborhood walk through a boxing gym and think they could fight.

“I said, man, it’s a whole different league. You’ve been hitting dudes that have been high off [of] blunts (marijuana), and drinking 40 ounce [bottles of beer] but then you’re going to hit a guy that’s going to hit you back that trains.

“It’ll humble you to the point you realize, ‘I’m not the baddest guy on earth.’”

Beside the disciplined and humbling characteristics Tillman aims to instill equality and respect. He is teaching his students that every man is just that, a man.

“It is important to take a unique approach when focusing on each individual and their regimen. Be respectful, good attitude, treat everybody the same, you know different, but the same... and then we go accordingly [by] personality.”

Tillman hopes to drill determination into his students.

“Never, ever, quit.” Tillman said. “Once you quit, it’s done, you lost, in anything, in life. Period. It all boils down to how bad you want it.”

Tillman believes his approach may be the answer to what he states, “The fear is actually adrenaline and it keeps your edge,” said Tillman. “That’s what keeps you sharp.”


South Bay Family Healthcare celebrates National Health Center Week, Aug. 11 through 17, with free screenings and information at several locations including Carson High School. Services include: anemia and vision tests, body mass index screenings, blood pressure checks, diabetes finger sticks and Affordable Care Act information. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aug. 15.

HARBOR AREA
Committed to independent journalism in the Greater LA/LB Harbor Area for more than 30 years

Center Helps Develop More than Boxing Skills

By Joseph Baroud, Editorial Intern

Circling a square boxing ring with someone trying to punch your lights out to be a fearsome thing. Professional boxers must use that fear to transcend his normal abilities. At least that’s what 1984 boxing gold medalist, Henry Tillman believes.

“The fear is actually adrenaline and it keeps your edge,” said Tillman. “That’s what keeps you sharp.”

Tillman believes insights from boxing can be applied to life outside of the ring. He opened a gym this past July to guide and train local youth in boxing—a sport that gave him the drive and discipline he needed to succeed growing up in Watts, Los Angeles.

“It got me off [of] the streets. It gave me a purpose, something to look forward to,” Tillman said. “It gave me respect. For the first time in my life, I was doing something people respect.”

Tillman recalled having to fight a lot in order to survive his youth—it was like a road without a finish line. It wasn’t until he began his boxing career at the age of 22 that got the direction he needed.

“Boxing is a very disciplined sport, a very humbling sport,” Tillman noted. He’s seen young men who consider themselves the “Billy Bad Asses” of their neighborhood walk through a boxing gym and think they could fight.

“I said, man, it’s a whole different league. You’ve been hitting dudes that have been high off [of] blunts (marijuana), and drinking 40 ounce [bottles of beer] but then you’re going to hit a guy that’s going to hit you back that trains.

“It’ll humble you to the point you realize, ‘I’m not the baddest guy on earth.’”

Beside the disciplined and humbling characteristics Tillman aims to instill equality and respect. He is teaching his students that every man is just that, a man.

“It is important to take a unique approach when focusing on each individual and their regimen. Be respectful, good attitude, treat everybody the same, you know different, but the same... and then we go accordingly [by] personality.”

Tillman hopes to drill determination into his students.

“Never, ever, quit.” Tillman said. “Once you quit, it’s done, you lost, in anything, in life. Period. It all boils down to how bad you want it.”

Tillman doesn’t believe that boxing is for everyone. Those who enter the sport usually endure countless hours of training and preparation.

“You [have to] learn to relax under pressure and still do what you were trained to do.” Tillman said.

Tillman is hopeful and expressed gratitude to the community for allowing him to share his knowledge and give back to the community.

“You’re all welcome here to the gym and I wish I could just be of service.” Tillman said. “Especially to get the youth involved. That’s what I’m here for.”


South Bay Family Healthcare celebrates National Health Center Week, Aug. 11 through 17, with free screenings and information at several locations including Carson High School. Services include: anemia and vision tests, body mass index screenings, blood pressure checks, diabetes finger sticks and Affordable Care Act information. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aug. 15.

HARBOR AREA
Committed to independent journalism in the Greater LA/LB Harbor Area for more than 30 years

Center Helps Develop More than Boxing Skills

By Joseph Baroud, Editorial Intern

Circling a square boxing ring with someone trying to punch your lights out to be a fearsome thing. Professional boxers must use that fear to transcend his normal abilities. At least that’s what 1984 boxing gold medalist, Henry Tillman believes.

“The fear is actually adrenaline and it keeps your edge,” said Tillman. “That’s what keeps you sharp.”

Tillman believes insights from boxing can be applied to life outside of the ring. He opened a gym this past July to guide and train local youth in boxing—a sport that gave him the drive and discipline he needed to succeed growing up in Watts, Los Angeles.

“It got me off [of] the streets. It gave me a purpose, something to look forward to,” Tillman said. “It gave me respect. For the first time in my life, I was doing something people respect.”

Tillman recalled having to fight a lot in order to survive his youth—it was like a road without a finish line. It wasn’t until he began his boxing career at the age of 22 that got the direction he needed.

“Boxing is a very disciplined sport, a very humbling sport,” Tillman noted. He’s seen young men who consider themselves the “Billy Bad Asses” of their neighborhood walk through a boxing gym and think they could fight.

“I said, man, it’s a whole different league. You’ve been hitting dudes that have been high off [of] blunts (marijuana), and drinking 40 ounce [bottles of beer] but then you’re going to hit a guy that’s going to hit you back that trains.

“It’ll humble you to the point you realize, ‘I’m not the baddest guy on earth.’”

Beside the disciplined and humbling characteristics Tillman aims to instill equality and respect. He is teaching his students that every man is just that, a man.

“It is important to take a unique approach when focusing on each individual and their regimen. Be respectful, good attitude, treat everybody the same, you know different, but the same... and then we go accordingly [by] personality.”

Tillman hopes to drill determination into his students.

“Never, ever, quit.” Tillman said. “Once you quit, it’s done, you lost, in anything, in life. Period. It all boils down to how bad you want it.”

Tillman doesn’t believe that boxing is for everyone. Those who enter the sport usually endure countless hours of training and preparation.

“You [have to] learn to relax under pressure and still do what you were trained to do.” Tillman said.

Tillman is hopeful and expressed gratitude to the community for allowing him to share his knowledge and give back to the community.

“You’re all welcome here to the gym and I wish I could just be of service.” Tillman said. “Especially to get the youth involved. That’s what I’m here for.”


South Bay Family Healthcare celebrates National Health Center Week, Aug. 11 through 17, with free screenings and information at several locations including Carson High School. Services include: anemia and vision tests, body mass index screenings, blood pressure checks, diabetes finger sticks and Affordable Care Act information. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aug. 15.
CARSON City Limits

Council Votes Carousel Emergency
By Lyn Jensen, Carson Reporter

During a special meeting on July 29, the Carson City Council took what the Mayor Jim Dear, called an “unprecedented” action regarding the Carousel housing tract. They voted unanimously to declare the existence of an emergency with a 4-0 vote. Council member Mike Gipson was absent.

Carousel was first identified as a toxic site in 2008 but cleanup hasn’t been done. The site’s homeowners must continue to live with hazardous chemicals or else abandon their homes. Carousel’s 285 single-family homes were built in the 1960s over a former Shell tank farm.

Tests recently confirmed that the site contains high levels of methane gas, and benzene that exceeds the California Human Health Screening Level. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, a state agency, is currently considering whether to approve Shell’s site-specific cleanup goal report.

The council’s resolution declares, “an emergency in the vicinity of the Carousel tract neighborhood due to the persistence of explosive methane gas, carcinogenic benzene and other chemicals of concern, and issuing such findings or orders as are authorized by law.”

The city is now requesting that Gov. Jerry Brown and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors address and mitigate the declared emergency. The city is also demanding that Attorney General Kamala Harris and the board forces Shell to fully comply with the water board’s cleanup and abatement order.

The council’s vote drew considerable attention from at least five television news crews. Two Carousel residents made comments to the local ABC station. Resident Kathy Post, said, “We want out, that’s all we want. Buy our houses out.”

A separate issue involves what to do with the property after cleanup. At a public meeting on July 18, Carson’s Parks and Recreation commissioner Rick Pulido advocated turning the decontaminated site into a public park.

Long Beach Revisits its Housing Element
By Zammá Ávila, Assistant Editor

Tongratha Veng has a master’s degree in business administration and works as an interpreter and translator.

And yet, he lives in a one-bedroom apartment that he shares with three people.

“I’m not a lazy person; I’m a hard worker,” said Veng, who earns about $1,000 to $1,200 per month. “But I don’t know what to do because could not make enough money to support myself for a one room.”

He is not alone.

About 130,000 people had to choose whether to pay for rent, food or medical expenses each month in Long Beach, according to a local database citing statistics for 2012.

Long Beach Community Data Base, an information site provided by a group of academics that use U.S. Census data, found that about half of Long Beach renters spent more than 35 percent of their income on housing. The federal government defines affordable housing as housing that costs no more than 30 percent of income.

While the number of residents has grown exponentially, the city has fallen behind on meeting the demands for affordable housing. This is especially true at a time when the minimum wage does not match the cost of housing. If you want to live in downtown Long Beach, you might have to pay more than $1,500 per month, requiring you to earn at least $29.09 an hour.

“When you pay that much on your rent, you don’t have the fiscal stability to move to another apartment, let alone, another city or community,” said Patrick Moreno, a Long Beach resident.

Housing Long Beach estimates that about 20,000 families in the city live in overcrowded homes and that 67 percent of low-income—earning less than $25,000 per year—renters spend more than half of their income on housing.

“The housing we have is not compatible with the jobs that we have,” said Kerry Gallagher, executive director of Housing Long Beach, a local advocacy group. The Southern California Association of Governments requires that Long Beach show that its housing plan has adequate sites for the development of affordable housing, the ability to produce 4,009 affordable units by 2021. Otherwise, it must rezone and adopt housing policies to level the playing field.

On June 20, the Long Beach Planning Commission hosted a study session to consider a draft-housing element, a plan required for all cities and counties by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. The plan, which must be updated every 8 years, is a road map in preparation for future growth in the city.

The Draft Plan

In the draft housing element plan, staff recommends preserving financial assistance to low income residents and preservation of housing vouchers, loan and grant programs and single-room occupancy opportunities.

The draft housing element promotes using funding sources such as Section 8 assistance. The City of Long Beach also has an ordinance that provides a right of first refusal for tenants who are displaced due to condominium conversions.

Other programs include the Continuum of Care program for homeless people, rental and security deposit assistance, rental assistance for veterans, project-based vouchers to provide transitional housing for youth aging out of the foster system, home rehabilitation loans and rebates, neighborhood improvement services and affordable housing development assistance.

Buscaino Makes an Impression

starting from communities south to north, including the selection of the LA Waterfront Alliance to renovate Ports O’Call Village, the building of the Southern California International Gateway off-rail dock facility (it is supposed to create 22,000 jobs region-wide); completion of the $22 million Harbor Sports complex in Wilmington; and the $110 million Machado Lake project in Harbor City, which has been touted as an effort to improve water quality while making the area a destination point.

In Watts, violent crimes are down by 60 percent in the past two years. Drive-by shootings are almost a thing of the past. Buscaino cited other Watts success stories, such as the 100 percent graduation rate and matriculation rate into college of Verbum Dei High School for the past six years—a Catholic all male high school funded by grants, private donations and tuition. In case you’re wondering, the school only enrolls economically disadvantaged students. Buscaino spoke of working with the new mayor to adapt and export that model throughout the city.

Buscaino also highlighted four Markham Middle School students, who won a national engineering competition this past year for their design of a prosthetic arm. These are success stories for which he can’t exactly take credit. They are something on which he can build. The conversion of the Jordan Downs public housing into a mixed-use home development, the connecting of Century Boulevard to Alameda corridor, the improvements to the Watt towers campus and the 109th Street pool, and the possibility of an economically vibrant community connected to the Harbor by the Alameda Corridor are present success stories.

Before Buscaino took the oath of office, Rep. Janice Hahn noted that the skills and attributes of a senior lead officer is what’s needed in an effective city council member.

“If there’s a problem, they want them to be problems solvers,” Hahn said. “They want them to show up at their community meetings, their neighborhood council meetings and their neighborhood watch meetings.”

During his speech, he reiterated a challenge he delivered when he was first elected: When you judge me by performance as a council member, judge me by what I accomplish here in Watts.”

We have been watching and will continue to watch.
Manning Found Guilty

... classified documents. Brig. Gen. Robert Carr, a senior counter-intelligence officer who headed the Information Review Task Force, testified that they had uncovered no specific examples of anyone who had lost his or her life in reprisals that followed the publication of the disclosures on the Internet.

Carr, who investigated the impact of WikiLeaks disclosures on behalf of the Defense Department, said he didn’t have a specific example.

Supported outside and inside Fort Meade have been wearing black t-shirts with the word “truth” printed on them, after being banned from wearing shirts with pictures of Manning’s face on them. In response to the change, Lind made them turn the “truth” t-shirts inside out. Lind eventually allowed them to wear the shirts normally, probably after recognizing the obvious irony of the situation.

Army Pfc. Bradley Manning (center) is escorted outside of a courthouse in Fort Meade, Md.

from p. 5

LB Housing

The draft housing element also is encouraging the adaptive reuse of commercial and industrial buildings for housing, housing trust funds and home ownership assistance.

Housing Long Beach submitted a white paper in support of the Housing Element, plus a few suggestions of their own, including:

- The city commit local sources of funding for housing development, such as boomerang funds, which resulted from the closure of its redevelopment agency.
- New fees on new hotel, retail, restaurant and office developments.
- Creation of a rent escrow account program that would allow tenants residing in substandard homes to pay their rent or reduced rent to the city until their homes are repaired.
- The irony of the situation.

Stay current with news, announcements and community events at http://tinyurl.com/rln-news-announcements

For three years, Housing Long Beach advocated for a mixed-income housing ordinance, right of first refusal, a hiring ordinance so that 40 percent of the jobs created from construction would go to local people and 10 percent would go to low-income Long Beach residents, and a commercial fee on new development and retail that would go to local people and 10 percent would go to the affordable housing trust fund.

Housing Long Beach did not secure any of those benefits for the downtown plan in January 2012. One of the things the city said is that they should not consider these types of issues on a project-by-project basis; they should consider them on a citywide basis.

“We have heard the narrative change,” said Susanne Browne, senior lawyer of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. “The most important things in life are hard to win.”

City staff sent the draft housing element to the state Housing and Community Development Department. Staff is in the process of incorporating public and state comments into the document. A public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 5 to discuss the draft housing element again.

Written comments will be considered up to 10 working days prior to the presentation. The public will have an opportunity to comment at the Sept. 5 Planning Commission presentation. If approved, the Long Beach City Council will have a go at it by Oct. 1. The Housing Element must be submitted to the state by Oct. 15. Final certification will then be obtained at the end of that process.

To view the draft housing element presented to the Planning Commission on June 20, visit www.tinyurl.com/housingelementdraft

To read about the Housing Long Beach’s campaign visit www.tinyurl.com/housinglbcampaign

To view the discussion at the June 20 Planning Commission study session visit www.tinyurl.com/lbplanningcommissionstudy
Rancho Concerns Rise After Florida Blast

calling attention to serious inconsistencies between Department of Homeland Security and Environmental Protection Agency evaluations. State Sen. Ted Lieu wrote to State Fire Marshal Chief Tonya Hoover, to request “an investigation and risk analysis of the Rancho LPG facility,” citing a number of urgent questions for which local activists have long sought answers.

Waxman cited community concerns, “that the tanks are simply too close to homes and schools” and said that, “the root cause of the problem may be deficiencies in the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) administered by [Department of Homeland Security].” He said that CFATS, “seems to be a ‘failing’ program.”

The issues Lieu asked to be investigated included:

- Should massive butane and propane tanks be located near homes, businesses, and schools? If not, how far away from densely populated areas should such a facility be located?
- If the butane or propane tanks at Rancho LPG exploded, what is the worst case scenario?
- What level earthquake could the Rancho LPG facility withstand without an explosion or other major catastrophe?
- What happens if an earthquake beyond the level of which Rancho LPG could withstand were to occur?
- How susceptible is Rancho LPG to a terrorist attack?
- What type of insurance and in what amount, does Rancho LPG carry, if any?

Then on Aug. 1, President Barack Obama issued an executive order on improving chemical facility safety and security, responding to investigations following the West, Texas explosion. The order, which does not cover petroleum facilities, nonetheless signals some increased level of federal concern. It also calls for improved coordination with state and local partners as well as enhanced federal agency coordination and modernization of “policies, regulations, and standards.”

Sen. Barbara Boxer, who conducted the Senate investigation into the West, Texas explosion, praised Obama for taking action.

Also on Aug. 1, Rep. Janice Hahn, newly appointed to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials, called for a public safety field hearing — her first official act as a subcommittee member — on Rancho LPG in a letter to the subcommittee chair and ranking member. She wrote that she was “concerned that existing regulation and existing law is not enough to protect the families and school children in my community who live in the shadow of this potential fireball.”

The official activity began July 31, when Rep. Henry Waxman, the top Democrat on the Energy and Commerce Committee, who now represents part of San Pedro, sent a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

Waxman cited a number of concerns from community leaders in Rancho Palos Verdes, including, “unexplained flaring … without proper notification; mitigation measures [that] have not been performed … to prevent an accident or terrorist attack;” and the larger concern, “that the tanks are simply too close to homes and schools, given the possibility of a large-scale explosion.”

He then proceeded to explain how his staff had become aware of significant discrepancies between the EPA’s approach (as evidenced in its March 14 enforcement action) and that of the Department of Homeland Security, which is responsible for protecting against terrorist or criminal acts.

Regarding that enforcement action, Waxman noted. Rancho was cited for failure to share the facility’s emergency response plan with first responders who would have a role in responding to a release at the facility, failure to assess risks in its rail storage area, and a failure to properly plan for seismic events. Essentially, the EPA said that Rancho is not prepared for an earthquake or accident.

Yet, Waxman noted, “While EPA has taken action to protect the community from deficiencies in the Rancho facility’s preparedness, DHS found no significant or disqualifying problems at Rancho,” adding that “An official of the Department told my staff that the facility had just undergone a “successful CFATS inspection.”

“Most of the information DHS relied upon was self-reported by the facility,” Waxman went on to say. “And when the inspectors went to the facility to conduct the inspections, their verification efforts were minimal.”

Waxman then zeroed in on Department of Homeland Security’s willingness to simply take Rancho at its word on matters where EPA had found Rancho’s claims to be false. First was Department of Homeland Security’s “verification” that the emergency response plan, “had been communicated to local emergency responders” based merely on an interview with an off-site Rancho official. Second was the Department of Homeland Security’s “verification” that Rancho employees had been trained for emergency response, based on that same interview and on training records. In both cases, the EPA checked with employees and found that Rancho’s claims were false.

In reporting on the latest flurry of attention, KCAL-TV was also far too trusting of Rancho, said retired oil industry consultant Connie Rutter—a leading community critic of the facility.

Rancho’s statements were “at best, misleading,” Rutter said.

KCAL concluded its report by saying, “A spokesperson also said the facility has been audited dozens of times just in the last year and no major violation was found.”

But this flies directly in the face of the substantial enforcement action by EPA, which could involve dozens of dollars of fines per day.

“As far as violations of...
Back to the Future
Newspapers, Business Districts and Street Fairs
James Preston Allen, Publisher

Just when the motto, “print is dead” is being repeated daily like a mantra chanted by the Hari Krishnas of the iWorld, Amazon’s Jeff Bezos, a digital world icon, buys the Los Angeles Times for a mere $250 million. The New York Times, through the sale of the Boston Globe by John W. Henry the owner of the Boston Red Sox for a paltry $70 million. Henry is one of those hedge fund billionaires. And even closer to home, the O.C. Register is planning to launch a new daily paper called the Long Beach Register to fill the vacuous hole of irrelevancy left by Media News Group’s, Press Telegram.

So, what more can one say? Suddenly real newspapers, with real reporters, printed on real paper are hot properties just when their advertising values have hit a new low. We have the Billionaire Boys Club buying up print publications like some foreclosed properties at fire-sale prices. What does this say about the relevancy of hard copy news? Something that I’ve been saying for the last decade, while everyone’s been fidgeting with their new mobile devices, dreaming of a new digital age free of paper. However, I do have a particular bias in this, don’t I?

Now, I don’t wish to demean the significance of digital communications. I use them daily and rely on them as much or even more than the average reader. What is lost in the hype and exuberance of this new technology is that in this, the richest nation in the world, there is still some 40 percent of the people who do not have access to broadband internet and there are still some 7,000 weekly newspapers nationwide who still prosper relying on them as much or even more than the average reader. What is lost in the hype and exuberance of a new digital age free of paper. However, I do have a particular bias in this, don’t I?

“Back to the future” street fair did accomplish one core objective: It filled some, though not all, of our better restaurants and bars until closing time for one glorious weekend and brought some needed foot traffic to streets that, in better days, have seen thousands of workers flow through its avenues. What has been lost and still not found in all of this is the basis for a new vibrant local economy. Like many small business districts across this land, this one has to compete with both the global and digital business models. And what’s frustrating to those who live and work here is that we get to witness the impact of hundreds of billions of dollars of imports arriving annually right in front of us.

When we learn how to replace the 35,000 locally-based jobs we lost during the 1980s by the very fact that communities and business districts need to have a newspaper that communicates to everyone, not just a few. Communities like ours thrive because there’s a newspaper that hosts the public’s conversation on political issues, public policy and community events and is open to both the pauper and the prince. A newspaper that understands its place as a placeholder for public debate, is one that resists complacency through favoritism or cronyism.

Business districts all across this nation are challenged by the same problems that San Pedrans are here. We are not exceptional. The Great Recession has hit Main Street harder and lasted longer than anyone wishes to admit. The small entrepreneur knows this better than any banker or politician.

Yet, the business leaders in these districts react in seemingly old fashion ways. The recent street fair celebrating San Pedro’s 125th anniversary held on 6th Street, Aug. 3 and 4, being one example of good intentions recycling old solutions. I’ve seen this street fair in at least three—if not four—incarnations in the past 30 years. Branding-wise, it was confusing as to what it was celebrating or where it was being held or exactly what 125 years this celebration represented. As far as content, it could have been held in any part of Los Angeles County. In other words, there was not much that made this event particularly unique to the character or the Historic Waterfront Arts District. Where were the artists, actors and performers of our culturally rich community? Plenty of good tribute bands from all over the place, but was Mike Watt, a nationally known local musician invited to perform? I felt like how one local commented, “Is this all we have after 125 years?”

This “back to the future” street fair did accomplish one core objective: It filled some, though not all, of our better restaurants and bars until closing time for one glorious weekend and brought some needed foot traffic to streets that, in better days, have seen thousands of workers flow through its avenues. What has been lost and still not found in all of this is the basis for a new vibrant local economy. Like many small business districts across this land, this one has to compete with both the global and digital business models. And what’s frustrating to those who live and work here is that we get to witness the impact of hundreds of billions of dollars of imports arriving annually right in front of us.

When we learn how to replace the 35,000 locally-based jobs we lost during the 1980s by the very fact that communities and business districts need to have a newspaper that communicates to everyone, not just a few. Communities like ours thrive because

---

Pursuit of a New Happiness for the 21st Century Harbor Area

By June Burlingame Smith

The Los Angeles Harbor Community has a gap to fill between what it is and what it is to become. The question is, what is the path to this vibrant, safe and successful community? How do we move from a 19th century model for building and governing our towns to one that provides for the 21st century changes shaping our futures?

The economic problems that the Harbor Area face are not unique to it; they are symptomatic of many small communities across the nation that have lost some or all of their industrial or manufacturing bases. But we are fortunate in the Los Angeles Port area in that even though the fishing and shipbuilding jobs are no longer helping us grow, we still have a strong, vibrant workforce driven by the economic needs of the region and country. We have the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to service those needs and city councils that work hard to assure economic success. Many other communities across America, like the famous rust-belt, which includes Detroit, have not been so fortunate.

Additionally, we have labor unions fighting to keep their workforce viable and to provide them with decent living wages and benefits, and we have community activists, both environmental and economic, who continue to struggle to bring voices together for the common good.

Recently, several political changes have also informed how the community can come together to deliberate what the Harbor Area should become: the formation of neighborhood councils; the election of a new city councilman; the election of a new mayor and new (well, fairly new) congresswoman. Unfortunately, we have lost one of the more effective avenues for bringing community consensus, the Port Community Advisory Committee and to date there is no plan by the new mayor to replace its functions. This leaves a hole in an otherwise positive nexus of dialogues that enable the Harbor community to rationally explore issues and options and it will be up to these entities to find consensus on Harbor Area goals.

Some of these goals are: the revitalization of the downtown business district in San Pedro; the redevelopment of Ports O’Call Village; the continuation of improving the Wilmington Waterfront; and the elimination of the most dangerous threat to economic and public safety in our area: removal of the Liquid Petroleum Gas tanks at N. Gaffey Street and Westmont Avenue.

History tells us that timing in politics, as in love and work, is crucial for success. Very recent catastrophic events have finally moved local politicians to seriously consider not only the local impact of a full blowout from these butane and propane tanks holding millions of gallons of volatile gas, but also to consider the effect on the continued on following page

---
Response to RLN’s call for “New Civil Rights Movement”

Never missing an opportunity to blame racism as the source of today’s ills, Random Lengths News ran a cover declaring that a new Civil Rights Movement must rise up in response to the “unjust” Zimmerman verdict. Following twelve days of deliberation, a jury of six white men, exonerating Zimmerman, an Angol-Hispanic immigrant, was a just verdict.

Instead of heeding the irrelevant civil rights race-baiters like Al Sharpton, who lies blantly, or Jesse Jackson, whose urge to merge and need to screech has diminished his integrity, we should consider what Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. would say about the Zimmerman verdict, and today’s status of African-Americans. First, Dr. King would remind voters that in previous decades, most white people were never indicted, let alone convicted and incarcerated for willfully killing black people. Back then, white lynching mobs would pere for cameras following their savage murders of black people, brazenly smiling because they knew that no white jury would convict them.

Then King would recall the trial of the “Scotssboro Boys,” in which a white judge set aside a corrupt guilty verdict, knowing full well that the nine young African-American men did not rape a white woman of dubious reputation and loose morals. A white lawyer defended the nine defendants, and shortly after black men began serving on Alabama juries. Perhaps King would then remind everyone about the tragic slaughter of fifteen-year-old Emmett Till, a forerunner of young Trayvon Martin, who was killed by white supremacists in Mississippi for whistling at a white woman. Fifty years later, prosecutors filed charges and indicted the men who killed that child. He would talk about OJ Simpson, a wealthy African-American athlete tried for murder, yet not convicted.

As has been said many times, “justice in America comes to those who can afford it.” Go see for yourself any county court house in this state, go look at who is in our prisons and then tell me how many rich people end up there. And it’s not because rich white folks don’t commit major crimes, hell Wall Street is full of them! California has the highest rate of incarceration of any place on earth and one does have to ask, why is that? The percentage of minorities higher in our prisons than it is in our general population?

James Preston Allen, Publisher

Save Williams’ Bookstore

I’m in pain, as I am sure that you are, about the pending demise of our 104-year-old (the oldest in L.A.) Williams’ Bookstore. Surely, there is a way to save it. Ironically, there may be a way through “partnering up” with the very business model that is now forcing its closure—Online book sales.

While discussing the matter with my daughter Noel, who conducts her own eCommerce business from Paris, France, she referred me to the following website: www.abebooks.com/docs/B ooksellerCentralNews-used.shtml It seems that local bookstores can “partner up” with Amazon, utilizing their vast marketing and distribution network, but providing a specialized section for books which only local bookstores can purchase.

Williams’ trades in old, classic comic books, for instance. That’s a “hot market” these days. If Williams’ were to “partner up” with AbeBooks does on the above-referenced website, who knows what income might be generated?

If this gets your business-creative juices flowing as it does mine, pass it on.

Way to Go, Joe

Congrats to Councilman Joe Buscaino for an outstanding swearing in ceremony last Saturday.

Joe made history by holding his oath of office in the harbor area, where he moves with grace, charm and humility. Joe made history again by making the Som.And of course, Herman Cain ran Godfather’s Pizza, and we have black leaders in our courts and in our statehouses, including Deval Patrick of Massachusetts. We even have a black President (even though his policies have put more black people “in the back of the bus” than any white President).

Instead of crying about racism and victimization, King would say: “We have come a long way!”

Arthur Christopher Schaper

Torrence

Pursuit of Happiness

from previous page

security of the port and hence the nation itself.

The time is right for our local communities to finally be heard and to engage with the more powerful state and federal communities to overcome all the arguments telling us why the task can’t be moved. Mother Nature is speaking regularly and loudly by giving us a series of disasters—from Texas to Montreal to Florida. And, since man is a political animal, as well as sometimes a rational one, alarm bells that have been ringing for more than 40 years are not only continuing to sound, but ears that matter are finally being opened to their sound.

Fresh political faces should mean fresh starts, not blind repetition of policies that stagnate innovation or impose new hardships. And, since our elected officials are sworn to represent the total community, not just special re-election interests, it is up to the community to inform them as to what we want, what we need and when we need it.

In a recent address at the Chautauqua Institute in New York, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy made a strong distinction between the American Bill of Rights championing freedom and the pursuit of happiness and the French Revolution that championed liberty. The American approach is Lockian, not Greek, in that we are born in a state of freedom and not given it. It is our right. But other societies, including the Ancient Greeks, believed that everyone was held free to the community, not to individual liberties.

Why is this important? Because in 21st century America, we have to figure out how to manage the individual right to the “Pursuit of Happiness” with the communal “right to happiness.” Thomas Jefferson gave us this phrase that dominates American spirit and politics, but we are continuously trying to figure out just exactly what the pursuit of happiness means and how to achieve it.

Just maybe, with good will, more hard work and diligence, the Harbor Area will blend individual pursuits of happiness in a way that creates the happiness and safety of the community. We can start by moving the LPG tanks to a safer geographic area.

Jane Burlingame Smith is the former co-chairwoman of the Port Community Advisory Committee

"November 21, 1820 • For sale 310-519-1442 • www.lg91.com• 9/11 blind"
Connie Rice
Your 16-column-inch profile of Connie Rice’s career and autobiography does justice to a remarkable woman and great force for good in Los Angeles.

Still I have a feeling something’s missing, a way she somehow figures in current events—maybe even a little controversy. It’s hovering at the edge of my consciousness...

Damn.

Nope, I can’t remember. Maybe you can.

Egomet Bonmot
Dear Mr. Bonmot,
I don’t think I came close to doing “justice” to Connie Rice’s career in my article. Even using the word justice in this regard actually seems odd. But thank you for your kind thoughts and support.

James Preston Allen, Publisher

Officials Concerned Over Rancho

existing laws, the facility has certainly been non-compliant,” Rutter said.

Even beyond the EPA, “There have been numerous violations of AQMD rules,” Rutters noted.

What’s more, inspections by the Los Angeles Fire Department and CalOSHA have been spotty at best.

“CalOSHA had never inspected the facility before last year, but did so after our citizen group contacted them,” Rutter said. “They found no violations, but the inspection report indicated that the inspector wasn’t sure what to look for.”

The real problem though is that even a perfect inspection record wouldn’t mean much in terms of public safety. “LPG is so dangerous, that with the best of intentions, and the best technology it can’t be made safe,” Rutter said, a point she has made repeatedly over the past year-and-a-half.

“LPG (butane and propane) are gases at ambient temperatures, but are liquefied by pressure (propane) or refrigeration (butane),” she explained.

“When the pressure is released or the temperature rises, which would happen if there is a release, LPG will turn to a vapor very quickly and form a vapor explosion, followed by a fiery explosion if there is a source of ignition.”

Sen. Ted Lieu to California Fire Marshal on Rancho LPG

Dear Chief Hoover:
I represent the 28th Senate District, which includes San Pedro and Rancho Palos Verdes. There have been longstanding concerns raised by constituents and government officials regarding the safety of a liquid bulk storage facility located at 2110 North Gaffey Street in San Pedro. Owned and operated by Rancho LPG Holdings LLC, this facility stores more than 25 million gallons of hazardous material, including butane in two large 40-year-old tanks and propane in other tanks. The tanks are located across a street from homes, businesses, and schools.

The recent explosions at the Blue Rhino propane plant in Tavares, Florida on July 29th show the potentially catastrophic dangers of large butane and propane tanks. Such tanks should not be located near densely populated areas.

In light of the recent propane explosions in Florida—and past explosions in Kansas, Texas, and other places—I am writing to respectfully request that the Office of the State Fire Marshal conduct an investigation and risk analysis of the Rancho LPG facility. After the Rancho LPG facility was permitted, a Los Angeles Times article stated at the time that an adequate safety and risk analysis was not conducted. I am also informed the amount of explosive propane at this facility is 50 times more than the Blue Rhino facility in Tavares, Florida. I am also informed that butane is as hazardous, if not more hazardous, than propane. Some of the issues I would like your office to investigate include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Should massive butane and propane tanks be located near homes, businesses, and schools? If not, how far away from densely populated areas should such a facility be located?

2. If the butane or propane tanks at Rancho LPG exploded, what is the worst case scenario?

3. What level earthquake could the Rancho LPG facility withstand without an explosion or other major catastrophe? What happens if an earthquake beyond the level of which Rancho LPG could withstand were to occur?

4. How susceptible is Rancho LPG to a terrorist attack?

5. What happens if the butane or propane tanks start leaking?

6. What type of insurance, and in what amount, does Rancho LPG carry, if any?

7. What recommendations, if any, are there that could make the facility safer?

8. Would relocating the facility to a further away location prevent loss of life or property should explosions or other catastrophic events occur at the Rancho LPG facility? As you know, butane and propane accidents have occurred in other locations and have resulted in deaths, injuries, and significant property damage. Last October, a propane company in Kansas relocated its facility after a deadly explosion killed a worker and destroyed homes. In 1987, a butane explosion at a chemical plant in Texas killed three people and blew out windows in buildings six miles away. Butane and propane explosions have also occurred around the world, causing deaths and property damage.

Rancho LPG has already committed a series of environmental violations. The federal Environmental Protection Agency is handling those issues. I am requesting your office to address the safety, risk, and fire issues involved with having massive butane and propane tanks located near densely populated areas in San Pedro and Rancho Palos Verdes.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I am also happy to meet with you to discuss this issue. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (310) 381-6891.

Sincerely,

Sen. Ted Lieu
28th District
Despite the advances of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality movement, I’ve found that the valuation of transgendered lives still has a long way to go.

A transgender activist in the documentary film, *Trans*, noted that in many cases transgender people aren’t just murdered, they are mutilated, stabbed a 1,000 times, and set on fire, not necessarily in that order.

Filmmaker Chris Arnold has been traveling the country, screening his documentary, *Trans*, with the hope of drawing attention to a film that aims to demystify what it means to be transgender.

*Trans* follows several story arcs that include 7-year-old Danaan Tyler, a male-to-female transgender child who knew who she was at 2 years of age; Cris, a transgender male who broke the news to his lesbian girlfriend that he was not a lesbian; Pam and Erica, two transgender women in their mid 50s undergoing reassignment surgery; and, of course, the story of Navy Flight Surgeon Dr. Christine McGinn, a transgender woman and her lesbian wife who struggled to conceive and deliver a baby together.

Arnold explained that he and his team shot footage for more than two years. He noted that a number of the interviews they conducted wound up on the cutting room floor. The first six-months of shooting was spent following McGinn and her career.

“She’s somebody who has dedicated her entire life to the transgender community,” Arnold explained. “[She] understands better than anybody what the issues are in the transgender world. So we got a real first-hand education from her about exactly where the problems and how the transgender community is perceived by society in general.”

In fact, it was McGinn who invited Arnold and his producer partner, Dr. Mark Schoen, to make this film. McGinn’s profile as a transgender activist took off after she told her story on *Oprah* in 2009. Network television executives started pitching her to do a documentary on her life.

“I felt that what this story was about, was not only about the courage of Danaan, this little child, her wisdom of being able to understand before anyone else what her real condition was,” Arnold explained. “But I also thought that the most important story was that of her parents.

“There are so many parents out there in similar circumstances and really have no idea what to do about it. If it were to happen to you, it’s kind of the last thing you would think about.”

Cris’ story is one of the story arcs featured in *Trans*. The film followed him as he copes with his (female to male) transgender identity. File Photo
Chili is one of those down home dishes you can eat anytime of the year. It is also the one dish in the American culinary lexicon for which everyone has a special recipe—hence the reason why I enlisted Lori Lynn Stokoe Hirsch to submit one of her chili recipes for this edition.

When I was growing up, my mom prepared a pot of chili in the fall with a special blend of beans, beef, and some combination of herbs and spices. It never felt like we made the transition from summer to fall until she filled the house with the homemade chili scent.

On this Labor Day, the Queen Mary will be hosting its first Delicious Chili & Brewfest where there will be a Chili Cook-off and celebration of local breweries. Chefs interested in participating in the chili cook-off can obtain more information and submit to compete in the event online at queenmary.com.

McGee began his life in competitive chili as a judge in the International Chili Society for two years before he began entering competitions himself. McGee won a number of competitions, building up to a People’s Choice victory at the 2011 World’s Championship Chili Cookoff.

Dyer is this year’s first place winner for his world-class pork and green chile has placed second three times in the red chili championship, losing once in a tie-breaker vote. He placed easily in reach of the winner’s circle this year by advancing to the finals table for all three ICS cook-off categories: red chili, chili verde and salsa.

Delicious Chili & Brewfest is just one of the many special events planned at the Queen Mary over the Labor Day holiday weekend. The festivities begin with the Art Deco Festival, celebrating the opulence of “The Great Gatsby” era, Aug. 30 through Sept. 2. Shoreline Jam music festival follows with Pepper, Tomorrows Bad Seeds and more artists performing on Aug. 31. The Delicious Chili & Brewfest will then premier on Sept. 1. More information and tickets for events at the Queen Mary can be found on queenmary.com

General admission tickets for Delicious Chili & Brewfest start at just $10. VIP experiences are available beginning at $39 and include early VIP admission, a souvenir mug, live tasting tickets and access to a VIP lounge.

Delicious will also offer live entertainment and a family friendly Kid’s Country where the little ones can keep busy with obstacle courses, a bounce house, games, face painting and much more. The deadline for entering the cookoff competition is Aug. 15. Look for the application on the Queen Mary’s website.
Not Your Standard Chili

Column & Photo by: Lori Lynn Hirsch Stokoe, Guest Columnist

What food did Elizabeth Taylor have shipped to her while filming Cleopatra on the set in Rome?

Ten quarts of chili. Yes, chili from West Hollywood. When she could pretty much order up anything she fancied, she chose the humble bowl of chili. That spicy stew with a history that goes back to the American Southwest frontier days has endless variations. Based on geography, legend, personal taste and availability of ingredients, recipes for chili vary widely but the passion for this beloved dish does not.

Quite possibly more flavorful than beef, and perhaps a bit sweeter, I use ground bison as the meat in this chili recipe. At the turn of the 20th century, bison were on the brink of extinction. Theodore Roosevelt and others formed the meat industry successfully marketed bison, that the North American population reached more than a half-million. Lower in fat and cholesterol, higher in protein and iron than beef, bison is raised without antibiotics or hormones. Blend tomato paste with one cup of hot beef stock. Add this mixture to the vegetables.

Meanwhile, sauté green pepper and onion in a bit of olive oil. When almost tender, add jalapeño and garlic and cook for a few more minutes. Place this mixture in the heavy-bottomed pot. Add diced tomato, parsley, paprika, chili powder, salt, and cumin. Blend tomato paste with one cup of hot beef stock. Add this mixture to the vegetables.

Heat a splash of olive oil in the sauté pan. Add ground bison, broken up into bite-sized pieces. Cook until browned. Add bison to the vegetable mixture. Finally, add beans, mix it all together, taking care not to break up the beans. Simmer over low heat for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Taste and adjust the salt. Ladle chili into bowls and top with a poached egg. Finish with a sprinkling of chopped parsley.

My recipe was loosely adapted from the Chasen’s Recipe, that famous chili that was shipped Elizabeth Taylor in Italy back in 1962.

INGREDIENTS:
1/2 pound dry cranberry beans (about 1 cup)
1 (14.5-ounce) can diced tomatoes with juice
olive oil for sautéing
1 medium green bell pepper, diced
1 medium onion, diced
1 jalapeño chopped
4 cloves garlic, minced
1/4 cup parsley, chopped (reserve some for garnish)
1 cup beef stock
4 tablespoons tomato paste
1 pound ground bison
1 tablespoon smoked paprika
1 tablespoon chili de arbol powder
1 teaspoon salt, plus more to taste
1 teaspoon cumin seeds, dry-toasted
1 teaspoon ground cumin
poached eggs

METHOD:
Place rinsed, picked-over cranberry beans in a heavy-bottomed pot. Cover with water. Boil for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand, covered for one hour. Drain and rinse beans. Place soaked beans back in the pot and cover with water 2 inches above the beans. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer covered for one hour or until the beans are tender taking care not to overcook. Drain beans.

Heat a splash of olive oil in the sauté pan. Add ground bison, broken up into bite-sized pieces. Cook until browned. Add bison to the vegetable mixture. Finally, add beans, mix it all together, taking care not to break up the beans. Simmer over low heat for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Taste and adjust the salt. Ladle chili into bowls and top with a poached egg. Finish with a sprinkling of chopped parsley.

Lori Lynn Hirsch Stokoe blogs about food, wine, and entertaining at Taste With The Eyes [http://www.tastewiththeeyes.com] and tweets as tasteblog at [https://twitter.com/tasteblog].

Calendar continued on page 14.
**AUGUST 11**

Superman’s Men of Steel  
Superman’s Men of Steel is at Alvas Showroom, 2 p.m. Aug. 11. Nine men will be rocking the guitar with various types of music. Don’t miss these accomplished guitarists on a shared stage. The cover charge is $22.

**Details:**  
(800) 403-3447; www.alvasshowroom.com  
Venue: Alvas Showroom  
Location: 1417 W. 8th St., San Pedro

**AUGUST 17**

Bruce Badat Quintet: A Tribute to Paul Desmond  
Alvas Showroom is hosting the Bruce Badat Quintet’s tribute to Paul Desmond, 8 p.m. Aug. 17. This five-member band is known for its jazz, the alto sax, guitar, piano, bass and drums. The cover charge is $20.

**Details:**  
(800) 403-3447; www.alvasshowroom.com  
Venue: Alvas Showroom  
Location: 1417 W. 8th St., San Pedro

**August 9 – 22, 2013**

cover charge is $20.

**ABOVE ALL ELSE**

the alto sax, guitar, piano, bass and drums. The Quintet’s tribute to Paul Desmond, 8 p.m. Aug. 17.

**Details:**  
(800) 403-3447; www.alvasshowroom.com  
Venue: Alvas Showroom  
Location: 1417 W. 8th St., San Pedro

**AUGUST 18**

Staples Community/Family  
**Roll out the red carpet for the Library’s Community/Family program with special events and activities for all ages.**

**Details:**  
(310) 625-7779; www.lapl.org  
Venue: San Pedro Library  
Location: 931 S. Gaffey St., San Pedro
Film composer Hans Zimmer wanted to make a truly American soundtrack for a truly American archetype in the film The Man of Steel.

To accomplish this feat, he used recruited steel guitar players. An instrument that is more closely associated with country and Hawaiian music, the steel guitar’s unique qualities make it truly an American instrument. Zimmer referred to the steel guitar, “As the most American of instruments.”

The noted pedal steel player and teacher of the instrument, John McClung, is producing two pedal steel guitar shows at Alvas on Aug. 11. One of the many highlights of his career is his time with Tex-Mex country star Freddie Fender, writer and performer of the song “Before The Next Teardrop Falls.”

McClung noted that Zimmer used the steel guitar orchestra with the intention of creating particular sounds and moods during certain sequences in the film.

“They recorded all of us, some notes and some intervals and some stuff like that, and then he actually took some samples and put them on his keyboard and in his composition he pulls up some tones that we created,” said steel guitar player John McClung.

McClung said the group will do a small demo of what they did for the film and play YouTube clips of Hans talking about using steel guitars orchestra to create some new tones and sounds for the film.

Marty Rifken, one of those featured in the upcoming show at Alvas, corroborated McClung’s account.

“On the last days of our recording” said Rifken. “I came in and was doing solos for the film.”

The pedal steel guitar originated in Hawaii in the late 19th and early 20th century. Played horizontally, the pedal steel guitar has multiple necks with eight or more strings connected to the pedals of the instrument, allowing the feet to adjust pitch of the sound as the chord is played by plucking the strings with thumb, index and middle fingers.

McClung explained that the entire show will be about showing off the versatility of the instrument, playing more than just Hawaiian and country music. With nine players playing, each will have 13 minute sets to turn out the house playing blues, rock, jazz, classical music and other genres.

“The guys get to do the songs they want to do. And I encourage everybody to use as wide a genre selection as they could. So it’s not just country. I really want to get that across, because too many people like pigeonhole pedal steel as country,” McClung explained.

“it is a musical instrument that can play anything. There are pedal steel players that play jazz. There is Doug Livingston who will do nothing but play solo classical pieces by [Johann Sebastian] Bach,” McClung said.

McClung noted that every player performing is amazing. He took special note of Bob “Boo” Bernstein who has played with a plethora of Latin music artists.

There will be rhythm session artists, or rather pedal steel players will be soloing and serving as a backup band since many of them are multi-instrumentalists. What you will experience on Sunday is a musical adventure with the finest collection of pedal steel players in the world. The first show is sold out and the tickets are going fast for the second show.

Bios of Steel Pedal Guitar Players

Chas Smith is an artist (metal sculptor and welder), and inventor. He’s also a studio musician on film and television, working with producers and writers like T. Bone Burnett, John Williams and Zimmer. He won an Academy Award for technical achievement.

JayDee Maness is a legend after playing for more than 45 years with artists such as Buck Owens and The Bryds’ seminal album Sweetheart of the Rodeo. He has also performed with Barry Manilow, The Carpenters, and was a part of Vince Gill’s touring band.

Skip Edwards is a renowned multi-instrumentalist, playing pedal steel and a master keyboardist.

Rick Schmidt is another force of nature, playing pedal steel and non-pedal steel instruments, guitar, mili guitar and keys. Playing genres from country, rock, blues, stage and television.

Marty Rifken is a multi-string player with credits working with Springsteen (six albums) Tom Petty, and has recorded over 1,500 songs for artists like Smokey Robinson, Hal David Band has toured with “The Boss” Bruce Springsteen, and Glen Campbell, as well as working in film and television.

Bob “Boo” Bernstein played with a massive list of country, roots rock and Latin artists: Freddy Fender, Dwight Yokum, Michelle Shocked, Joan Sebastian (part of her touring band) Vicente Fernandez and the late Jeni Riveria.

Pete Freiberger is an all around player who has worked with everyone from Barbara Streisand to Delbert McClinton, and has turned his energy to the steel guitar.

Doug Livingston grew up with no country and for 20 years, was a pianist before turning his talents toward the steel guitar. He has played in dozens of TV shows like Simon & Simon, Mad Men, with rocker Glen Frey, and singer Randy Newman.

Maria Martinez, author, educator and columnist for Modern Drummer Magazine, will be the percussionist for the Alvas show.

On bass for the show at Alvas is George Keller, who has a number of commercials, film, and television credits. He and his wife Irene Lauren have appeared on Nightline discussing online music marketing.

Calendart continued on page 14.
Eugene Daub Goes from Washington DC to the Sunset Strip

by: Andrea Serna, Arts and Culture Writer

San Pedro is home to an impressive collection of artists.

Many local artists have received international acclaim and exhibit their art in some of the finest galleries and museums across the world. Daub, originally from Philadelphia, was introduced to his wife Ann on a blind date and the couple decided to make their home in San Pedro.

Only one of our local artists has a work of art in the statutory hall of the U.S. Congress. This year, Congress commissioned a statue and for the first time the statue of an African-American woman was installed.

Eugene Daub knows that his statue of Rosa Parks in Washington, D.C. will be his most celebrated work. Within the past 30 years Daub has designed and created many public art commissions for the U.S. government, private foundations, universities and corporations and has exhibited in the British Museum and the Smithsonian Institute, among other locations. His previous commissions include Harvey Milk, young Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson. The artist has built his reputation on classically styled figurative works. His accomplishments have been recognized through numerous awards in full figure, monumental and bas relief sculpture. He serves on the board of the National Sculpture Society and has taught sculpture around the country for several years.

But Daub has concealed another side to his artistic tendencies. The artist spent 10 years as an art director in the era of Mad Men. His background in graphic arts fostered a taste for contemporary art.

Perhaps the success of the Rosa Parks commission has allowed him the freedom to explore his other side and entertain current popular culture.

Jazz vocalist, Dwight Trible, performed with a quartet of musicians who are at the vanguard of Los Angeles jazz scene. The members included John Beasley on piano, Miguel Atwood Ferguson on viola, Trevor Ware on upright bass, and Paul Legaspi on drums.

The Charles Owens Quartet opened the show and The Mayungo Jackson All Star Lineup closed it. It was a thrill to see that four of the young players in this sextet were University of Southern California jazz students.

It was Trible’s idea to host the festival. As a protege of jazz greats, Billy Higgins, Horace Tapscott, and poet Kamau Daaoud, Trible inherited the flame to carry on the legacy of the World Stage. Trible says the World Stage is why we have a Leimert Park.

“These people have given so much to me,” Trible said. “I felt blessed that I was worthy of their time and wisdom. Instinctively they knew one day it may come down to me.”

The late jazz drummer Billy Higgins and Kamau Daaoud co-founded the World Stage in 1989 for the purpose of creating a place for artists and musicians to meet, rehearse and share work in the community. It is now a Leimert Park-based arts institution that offers seven days of programs in both jazz and writing workshops. There is no paid staff. Everything is done on a volunteer basis. Trible was recently asked to take the helm of the World Stage by its board of directors and deal with the crisis.

After the 1992 Los Angeles Rebellion, Leimert Park’s growth as a center for African-American arts and culture mirrored the growth of other arts districts around Los Angeles, from Old Town Pasadena to Venice, and from Downtown Los Angeles to San Pedro. It was venues such as the World Stage and the Kaos Network (which fostered a thriving underground hip hop scene) that gave Leimert park the cultural cache that it enjoys today.

“We are in financial crisis for various reasons,” explained Datcher about the dilemma the venue is in. “In part because of the economy, in part, because of the downturn of this neighborhood, there is less foot traffic here. As a result, our clientele is shrinking. Our clientele have their particular financial difficulties as well. So as a result, that spanning effect, like the spider web, has been catching us. And now we’re caught.”

For more than 10 years, Leimert Park has been World Stage continued on page 17.
TRANS

Most parents with gender-conforming children would probably view the Tyler story as an instance of parents capitulating to the child in the parent-child relationship. They would be outraged particularly because Tyler’s parents planned on preparing Danaan for gender reassignment surgery when she became of age and still wanted it.

“The youngest age that trans surgery has been performed is 16,” Arnold explained to correct a potential misunderstanding. “They’ll move in that direction if she still feels the same way when she’s 16, which I’m sure she will. When she turns 11, they will start with hormone blockers so that her testosterone levels don’t start taking her down the wrong road before she’s able to start on her transitioning.”

Arnold noted that his film, and the Tyler segment in particular, has drawn more than one parent to stand up and tell him that their lives and the lives of their children had been changed.

What many viewers outside of the transgender community may miss when first watching the film, is that Tyler was treated simply as a disciplinary problem. Arnold explained that he went to a number of psychologists and therapists. Initially, she was treated simply as a disciplinary problem.

Arnold explained that he went to a number of counselors who did not understand from the start that the patient was transgender. Arnold said he intentionally chose not to go further down that road of inquiry in the film because he didn’t think it was his job to pique these health professionals.

TRANS addresses the faith community with the inclusion of Rev. Dr. Michael Holland, who forcefully pushes back against those that say, “God makes no mistakes.” and articulated the perspective that gender reassignment surgery as being no different from separating Siamese twins or repairing a cleft palate.

Arnold believes that Rev. Holland, as pastor of the progressive, gay-friendly Church of the Foothills in Orange County, gave the film faith-driven credibility.

“When we had the opportunity to get Rev. Mike out in Orange County on board, I jumped at that opportunity,” Arnold explained. “I constantly heard this phrase, ‘God does not make mistakes.’ That is really a club which the religious right [beat]… in fact, many religious people who think that transgender people are making a decision about lifestyle based on their sexual needs. That’s the kind of disinformation that is out there.”

The story arc of Chloe drives a class analysis to gender reassignment surgery, though after speaking with Arnold, I couldn’t shake the impression that it was unintentional.

“Chloe was so intimidated with coming out of the closet that it literally scared her to death,” Arnold explained in response, to my suggestion that her suicide was in part due to not having the resources to live where she wanted and how she wanted.

“The prospect of coming out as trans is a lot scarier than coming out as gay, as you well understand,” Arnold noted.

Arnold ventured to say that most trans people don’t have the money for surgery, but still live perfectly fine lives without surgery.

“Many trans men, for example, would have top surgery but would not have bottom surgery, because bottom surgery for trans men is not where bottom surgery for women is. It’s just a cosmetic sort of thing and it cost five times as much as what surgery for trans women is. There are a lot of choices once you’re out of the closet. There’s nobody that’s going to tell you, ‘you need surgery.’ That’s a very personal decision that you may or may not want to make,” Arnold explained.

I wasn’t fully satisfied with the answer, but TRANS was not intended to deal with every problem. After watching TRANS and speaking with Arnold, there is still much ground to cover.

The film is going to be screened at the Pacific Unitarian Church on Aug. 23 at 7 p.m. A panel discussion will follow. Parking is free. Admission is free, but donations to go toward Pacific Unitarian Church’s Social Justice Ministry and the Center of Long Beach teen transgender program would be accepted.

Details: www.transhemovie.com (323) 638-9328
Venue: Pacific Unitarian Church
Location: 5621 Montemalaga Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes

The World Stage

In the meantime, Tribe and other World Stage alumni are going to host a major benefit concert on Aug. 18 and execute other initiatives until a long term survival of the venue is secured.

Details: (323) 293-2451
Venue: The World Stage
Location: 4344 Degnan Blvd., Los Angeles
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS FILINGS

from previous page

Clerk, except as provided in Subdi-
vision (b) of Section 1790, where it
expires 40 days after any change in
the facts set forth in the statement
pursuant to subsection 17913 other
than a change in the residence ad-
dress of a registered owner. A New
Fictitious Business Statement must be
filed before the expiration. The fil-
ing of this statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state of a
Fictitious Business Name in violation of
the rights of another under Federal, State, or
common law (See Section 14411 et. Seq.,
Business and Professions Code). Amended (New Filing): 07/17/13, 08/01/13
Fictitious Business Name

File No. 201311398
The following person(s) is (are)
doing business as: Built Strong Con-
struction. 1249 W. 14th Street,
San Pedro, CA 90731. County of Los Angeles. Registered owner(s) Brian Armstrong, 1249 W. 14th Street, San Pedro, CA 90731. This business is conducted by an indi-
vidual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true
and correct, is guilty of a crime.). S/ Francisco Lopez. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on June 14, 2013. Notice- In accordance with Subdi-
vision (b) of Section 1790, where it
expires 40 days after any change in
the facts set forth in the statement
pursuant to subsection 17913 other
than a change in the residence ad-
dress of a registered owner. A New
Fictitious Business Statement must be
filed before the expiration. The fil-
ing of this statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state of a
Fictitious Business Name in violation of
the rights of another under Federal, State, or
common law (See Section 14411 et. Seq.,
Business and Professions Code). Amended (New Filing): 07/17/13, 08/01/13
Fictitious Business Name

File No. 201316707
The following person(s) is (are)
doing business as: Land’s End Prop-
erties. 2515 S. Western Ave,
Sue 15, County of Los Angeles. Registered owner(s) R. Clinton Miller, 1373 W. 7th Street, San Pedro, CA 90731. This business is conducted by an individual. A New Fictitious Business Statement must be filed before the expiration. The fil-
ing of this statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state of a
Fictitious Business Name in violation of
the rights of another under Federal, State, or
common law (See Section 14411 et. Seq.,
Business and Professions Code). Amended (New Filing): 07/17/13, 08/01/13
Fictitious Business Name

File No. 201313587
The following person(s) is (are)
doing business as: Original Con-
crete Stone. 383 W 12th St., San
Pedro CA 90731. County of Los
Angeles. Registered owner(s) Kasey Alexander Diaz, 791 W. 29th Street, San Pedro, CA 90731. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in
this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true
and correct, is guilty of a crime.). S/ R. Clinton Miller, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on May 30, 2013. Notice- In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Business
Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 1790, where it expires 40 days after any change in
the facts set forth in the statement
pursuant to subsection 17913 other
than a change in the residence ad-
dress of a registered owner. A New
Fictitious Business Statement must be
filed before the expiration. The fil-
ing of this statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state of a
Fictitious Business Name in violation of
the rights of another under Federal, State, or
common law (See Section 14411 et. Seq.,
Business and Professions Code). Amended (New Filing): 07/17/13, 08/01/13
Fictitious Business Name

File No. 201311825
The following person(s) is (are)
doing business as: Rain Gutter
System, Inc. 3167 W. 12th St.,
Wilmington, CA 90744. County of
Los Angeles. Registered owner(s) Francisco Lopez, 1110 W. D St. #1, Wilmington, CA, 90744. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in
this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true
and correct, is guilty of a crime.). S/ Francisco Lopez. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on June 29, 2013. Notice- In accordance with Subdi-
vision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Business Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 1790, where it expires 40 days after any change in
the facts set forth in the statement
pursuant to subsection 17913 other
than a change in the residence ad-
dress of a registered owner. A New
Fictitious Business Statement must be
filed before the expiration. The fil-
ing of this statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state of a
Fictitious Business Name in violation of
the rights of another under Federal, State, or
common law (See Section 14411 et. Seq.,
Business and Professions Code). Amended (New Filing): 07/17/13, 08/01/13
Fictitious Business Name

File No. 201312385
The following person(s) is (are)
doing business as: Point Ferrim
Marine. 2016 W. 12th St., San
Pedro, Ca 90731. County of Los
Angeles. Registered owner(s) Daniel Meza, 2275 W. 25th Street #88, San Pedro, CA 90731. Registered owner(s) Francisco Lopez, 1110 W. D St. #1, Wilmington, CA, 90744. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in
this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true
and correct, is guilty of a crime.). Body DS/ Beth Hurewitz, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on June 29, 2013. Notice- In accordance with Subdi-
vision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Business Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 1790, where it expires 40 days after any change in
the facts set forth in the statement
pursuant to subsection 17913 other
than a change in the residence ad-
dress of a registered owner. A New
Fictitious Business Statement must be
filed before the expiration. The fil-
ing of this statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state of a
Fictitious Business Name in violation of
the rights of another under Federal, State, or
common law (See Section 14411 et. Seq.,
Business and Professions Code). Amended (New Filing): 07/17/13, 08/01/13
Fictitious Business Name

File No. 201312421
The following person(s) is (are)
doing business as: Soutler. 510 Shepard St., San Pedro, CA90731. County of Los Angeles. Registered owner(s) Andrew Jonathan Soto, 510 Shepard St., San Pedro, CA 90731. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true
and correct, is guilty of a crime.). S/ Andrew Jonathan Soto. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Ange-
les on July 5, 2013. Notice- In accordance with Subdi-
vision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Business Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 1790, where it expires 40 days after any change in
the facts set forth in the statement
pursuant to subsection 17913 other
than a change in the residence ad-
dress of a registered owner. A New
Fictitious Business Statement must be filed before the expiration. The fil-
ing of this statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state of a
Fictitious Business Name in violation of
the rights of another under Federal, State, or
common law (See Section 14411 et. Seq.,
Business and Professions Code). Amended (New Filing): 07/17/13, 08/01/13