No Doubt, There’s Drought

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, seen here with city and state officials, said California’s water system is in a “crisis.”

BY JOSEPH SERNA
Staff Writer

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger toured the Long Beach Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project Monday, a chance for the governor to spotlight California’s water crisis.

Though Long Beach’s water system works well with the state’s, “this system only works as long as we have water,” Schwarzenegger said. “And that’s the problem that we have—we have a lack of water.”

Schwarzenegger is calling on lawmakers to pass $5.9 billion in bonds for his comprehensive water plan that will provide additional water storage, create a conservation and efficiency measure, repair the delta and lead to developing a modern conveyance system to reliably supply water to California’s growing population and $32 billion agricultural industry.

see WATER page 15

CarMax plans delayed, Hyundai on the way

BY NICK DIAMANTIDES
Special to the Signal Tribune

Plans to develop a CarMax automobile dealership in Signal Hill are moving forward slowly, but a Hyundai dealership is likely to come to town soon. To enable that to happen, during its Tuesday meeting, the Signal Hill City Council approved relocating the Police Department headquarters to a Walnut Avenue site.

As the acting Signal Hill Redevelopment Agency (RDA) board, the council first considered a staff recommendation to extend the disposition and development agreement (DDA) with CarMax for an additional 180 days. For decades, various oil production and recycling facilities occupied much of the 6.1-acre site on Spring Street and contaminated the soil.

The problem is that CarMax’s environmental consultant disagrees with the city’s consultant as to the level of soil remediation required. The city is requesting the State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHAA) to resolve the dispute.

City audit finds Long Beach Police Department on right track

BY JOSEPH SERNA
Staff Writer

In November 2006, the Long Beach city auditor’s office tapped Public Financial Management (PFM) to assess the Police Department and recommend ways to improve its efficiency and fiscal conservancy. Last week, City Auditor Laura Doud announced the report’s conclusions.

“We have a really solid Police Department,” Doud told the City Council at their July 17 meeting.

Unlike a scathing report against the former city auditor’s office made public earlier this year, PFM’s findings showed the Police Department was doing most things right. The company was left to only suggest some general rearrangements and policy changes.

PFM suggested the department expand its civilianization efforts—replacing sworn officers with qualified civilian personnel—to increase the number of officers on patrol.

The report found 23 positions that could be potentially filled by trained personnel, including areas in community relations, information technology and management of criminal investigations.

On line with the entire report, PFM’s civilianization recommendation simply outlines areas the department could address. If and how they choose to implement any of the suggestions is up to the department in conjunction with Long Beach Police Officers Association and city management.

“Several of these recommendations are what I call ‘front-loaded,’” said acting Chief of Police Robert Luna. “You need more money up front to make them work.”

However, that statement is not a critique Luna is raising with the report, rather a fact that the city is going to have to address when trying to turn these suggestions into action.

“None of these initiatives are unique to the Police Department. There’s nothing here we can do by ourselves,” said Braden Phillips, the administration bureau chief. “This is not a unique action item for just the Police Department. There’s going to be a large collaborative effort on each of these initiatives that will involve multiple departments.”

Within the civilianization initiative, see AUDIT page 14
EMBROIDERERS’ GUILD OF AMERICA
The Long Beach chapter of the Embroiderers’ Guild of America will meet at St. Gregory Episcopal Church, located at 6201 East Willow Street in Long Beach, Friday, July 27. Sue Lieberman, the guiding light behind the doll club at Piecemakers, will be talking about dolls, embroidery, embellishing and other good things. She will bring lots of samples with her. The social hour begins at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting/program will begin at 11:30 a.m. The chapter meets the fourth Friday of each month. Guests are welcome and are requested to pay a $2 donation. For information, contact Vicki at (562) 421-6975.

SH GOLF TOURNAMENT
The Fifth Annual Signal Hill Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament, Awards Banquet and Members Mixer will take place Friday, July 27, at the Los Amigos Country Club, located at 7295 Quill Drive in Downey. Check-in begins at 10:30 a.m., shotgun start is at noon. The awards banquet will take place at 6 p.m. Tickets are $150 per player to help build a foursome and include green fees, cart and dinner. For more information, call (562) 424-6489.

CONCERTS IN THE GROVE
The Alumni Association at Cal State Long Beach (CSULB) is presenting its 31st season of the Concerts in the Grove series with four performances at the Hollywood Bowl-type atmosphere of the campus’ Soroptimist House terrace. The gates open at 6 p.m. for concertgoers who wish to bring a picnic supper prior to the 7:30 p.m. program under the stars. Admission for all concerts is $30. Ramfunkshus is a seven-piece group that will get down with dance favorites including Motown, classic rock and disco Saturday, July 28. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the CSULB Alumni Relations Office at (562) 985-5252.

ELKS’ BREAKFAST
The Bellflower/Long Beach Elks Lodge No. 888, 16426 Bellflower Boulevard, in Bellflower, invites the public Sunday, July 29, to enjoy their menu of eggs, bacon, sausage, hashed-browned potatoes, biscuits with gravy, Belgian waffles, assorted fruits, coffee and orange juice. Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to noon. The price is $5 per person. For more information, call (562) 866-3027 or (562) 866-2003.

RANCHO LIVING HISTORY TOURS
Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site, located at 4600 Virginia Road in Long Beach, is inviting the public to explore the 163-year-old adobe house with “visitors from the past” who will step forward in time and share their stories about ranch life and work. These living history tours will take guests on a tour of the realms between 1840 and 1940. Free guided tours will be offered Saturday, July 29 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (562) 570-1755.

FOLBA MEETING
The Friends of Long Beach Animals (FOLBA) invites the public Thursday, August 2, to meet some fascinating animals such as Matilda the Wallaby and Monty the Savannah monitors at Wardlow Park Community Center, located at Stanbridge Avenue. All the animals that will be presented have been rescued and now travel to teach about the wonders of nature. The gathering will also serve as a membership meeting and annual elections will take place. The social with refreshments starts at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. For more information, call (562) 570-PETS.

CANDIDATES FORUM
A candidates forum for the 37th Congressional District candidates is invited. For more information, call Martin Luther King Avenue in Long Beach. The forum will take place from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 5, at the California Recreation Center, located at 1550 Martin Luther King Avenue in Long Beach. The forum will be moderated by the Long Beach Branch NAACP. All candidates are invited. For more information, contact Naomi Rainey at (562) 856-7586.

CROCHET N’ CHAT
Members of the Crochet Guild of Long Beach will be presenting a workshop from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 12, in the patio area of the Marketplace Shopping Center at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Westminster. The group will be making lap robes, walker tote bags, and slippers for Long Beach Memorial’s Hospice Center. Materials provided at no charge and guests are welcome. For more information, contact Peggy Baxter at (562) 494-9798.
Surfing Beyond Disabilities: Inspirational surfer speaks at Aquarium

Through his zest for life, motivational speaking, and the Life Rolls On Foundation that he created, surfer Jesse Billauer inspires people to live life to the fullest despite any obstacles they may face. Watch video clips about Billauer, meet him, and hear him speak about his inspirational life and passion for surfing at the Aquarium of the Pacific on Tuesday, August 7 at 7 p.m.

As a boy, Jesse Billauer was a star athlete, excelling in baseball, soccer, and floor hockey. He began surfing at the age of 9 and, by 11, Billauer was surfing competitively.

As his talents grew, he was featured in magazines and had secured sponsors. Billauer reached the international level of surfing, with competitions in Hawaii, Tahiti, Indonesia, Mexico, and Costa Rica. By the mid ’90s, Surfer magazine had named him one of the Top 100 up-and-coming surfers of the world.

But that all ended on March 25, 1996. Billauer was surfing at Zuma Beach in California and was pushed headfirst into the shallow sandbar, fracturing his neck and severing his spinal cord.

At the age of 17, he became a low-level quadriplegic with limited use of his arms and legs. Billauer was told by doctors that he would never surf again, but that did not stop him. Adapting his surfing technique and equipment to the reality of his current condition, he continues to ride waves and help others to ride too.

Billauer will speak at the Aquarium of the Pacific’s Honda Theater located at 100 Aquarium Way.

Admission is $7 per person, $4 for aquarium members, and free for students with reservations and ID. For more information, call (562) 590-3100 or visit www.aquariumofpacific.org.

FOSHCA sends out final call to local artists to participate in Show and Sell

Last call for local artists to apply for the Friends of Signal Hill Cultural Arts (FOSHCA) “Show-and-Sell” taking place October 13 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Community Center in Signal Hill.

Artists and crafters will be invited to show their wares, and sell selected items. Deadline to apply is August 1. Anyone wishing more information can call Show-and-Sell at (562) 989-7370 and leave a message.

Show-and-Sell is a perfect venue for artists and art lovers alike to savor a variety of great Southern California talent.

Admission will be free to the public, and hors d’oeuvres and wine will be available. Local artists and vendors will be chosen to participate in this inaugural cultural event. Application forms for artist consideration will be available soon and announcement of the selection of artists will be made in September.

Friends of Signal Hill Cultural Arts (FOSHCA), was established in 1996 as a non-profit corporation and serves as the fund-raising committee responsible for securing donations for cultural arts programs such as: public mural projects, family art workshops, artist of the quarter exhibitions, scholarships, and concerts in the park summer series.

The Friends of the Signal Hill Library encourage people to engrave their name, a special date, the memory of a loved one, or other tribute at the Hilltop Park name plaza.

The engraver will be out in August to inscribe the bricks. So the public has until Tuesday, July 31, to submit their order and leave their mark in history.

The tax-deductible contributions will help support the Signal Hill Library and its programs. Bricks start at $50 for one line of engraving, $75 for two lines, and $100 for three lines. For additional information or to request an order form, contact the Library by calling (562) 989-7324.
When I was a girl, I was in love with going to the movies. So was my friend Becky. On the weekends we would try to talk our parents into driving us to the Crest, Towne or Rivoli Theatres—or, if they were unavailable, or unwilling, we took advantage of our trusty bus company. I remember our tries to get them to see “Woodstock” at a downtown movie house—we were refused because we were too young. Ironically, we had recently been allowed to see adult-themed films such as “Not With My Wife You Don’t!” “Up the Down Staircase” and “The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie.” We didn’t understand the contradictions—but chalked it up to adults being weird.

Back then we couldn’t learn about our favorite stars from tabloids—instead we relied on movie magazines like Photoplay. They were so very tame compared to today’s standards. We also lacked television reporting of movie-type gossip. The only real television gossip I remember was reporting by a woman named Rona Barrett. Ooh, I thought she was so lucky to be in on the happenings of the movie stars—however I recall thinking she was a bit mean.

Nowadays we are bombarded with the most intimate details of the lives of television and movie stars—not to mention politicians and sports figures. It sickens me to see how much our society seems to thrive on the personal tragedies of others. Do we eat it up because it is what we crave? Chicken or egg? Nature or nurture?

Do the celebrities themselves see negative publicity as better than no publicity? Do they feel indestructible, above the law, or maybe some just been so sheltered and catered to that they cannot make rational and logical decisions for themselves?

Our younger generation may believe that the deterioration and self-destruction of those idolized is unique to this generation. However I recall thinking she was a bit mean.

While in the hospital, every time a doctor or nurse approached me, I kept on telling them about being at the workshop... I am constantly telling other people the importance of using car seats and seat belts appropriately."

The class Sanchez attended was part of a SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. project funded by California Kids’ Plates. Californians can support injury prevention programs by ordering a special license plate with one of four unique symbols (heart, plus, hand, or star). To order a California Kids’ Plate license plate or learn more about the program, go to www.kidsplates.org or call 800-HEY-KIDS.

For more information about using safety seats and safety belts correctly, go to www.carseat.org.

Ingrid Sanchez got the best possible reward for taking the time to learn about driving children safely—her own baby survived a severe crash without being injured.

Preparing to open a family daycare business, Sanchez found out about a child passenger safety workshop being presented by SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. at the Center for Community and Family Services in Carson on June 2. Although 3-month-old Jehú always rode in a rear-facing safety seat in the back seat, as required by California law, her mother learned she was making several serious errors, which the instructors helped her fix.

Just a month later, on July 1, the family was driving on Interstate 99 when they had a blowout. The car rolled three times before it finally stopped. Unable to see the baby in the back seat, Sanchez’s husband quickly unfastened his safety belt and climbed out the window. After frantically looking through their belongings, which had been thrown all over the road, he went back to the car and started moving pillows and blankets until he saw a tiny foot moving.

According to Sanchez, “Jehú was smiling like nothing had happened. My husband and I were severely injured, with cuts, scratches, and bleeding...but Jehú did not have a single scratch, not even a mark from the harness. The class Sanchez attended was part of a SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. project funded by California Kids’ Plates. Californians can support injury prevention programs by ordering a special license plate with one of four unique symbols (heart, plus, hand, or star). To order a California Kids’ Plate license plate or learn more about the program, go to www.kidsplates.org or call 800-HEY-KIDS. For more information about using safety seats and safety belts correctly, go to www.carseat.org.

Transport Children Safely

1. All children ride in the back seat!
2. If there is no back seat in the vehicle or the back seat is full, never put an infant in front of an active air bag.
3. A safety belt is needed for every adult and child (with or without a safety seat) in the car.
4. Read the manufacturer’s instruction manual and follow it exactly.
5. If there is only one child in the car, put her in the center rear, if possible to do so correctly.
6. Use a rear-facing seat as long as possible (until one year at minimum, recommended up to 18-24 months). Make sure the seat is labeled for use up to 30-35 lbs.
7. Use a safety seat with a harness as long as possible (at least until age 3-4 and approximately 40 lbs.)
8. Install the safety seat securely. Check: correct belt location, no slack in belt, belt locks, push test (less than 1/2" sideways or toward front of car).
9. Secure the child in the harness snugly. Check: pinch test (if you can pinch a fold in the strap, it is too loose).
10. If the child is too big for a safety seat with a harness, use a booster unless the child can pass the 5-Step Test.
11. Proper fit of safety belt (with or without booster): Lap belt touches thighs, shoulder belt touches shoulder and chest. Keep it snug.
12. If only a lap belt is available, it is better than nothing. However, boosters cannot be used without a shoulder belt.

Mom learns personal lesson after taking safety class

Submitted by SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.
For those of you who are not away on vacation, I sure hope that you have marked your calendars for this Saturday’s Second Annual Bricky Knolls Dragster Expo & Car Show.

The event hours are 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. this year with the grand finale firing of all 12 vintage dragsters at 7:30 p.m. This is a spectacular visual if the sun sets in time!

We are very proud to have Toyota serve as our presenting sponsor this year. The Toyota commitment to the racing world is second to none and we thank them for their significant contribution.

Our diamond sponsor, Cosworth, who provides the racing engines for all of the Champ Car Series, will be there to display their newest technologies.

Champ Car Series, will be there to display their newest technologies. A great model kit company, Monogram, has seen the work of auto designer, Tom Daniel. Tom will be here to display some of his art related to the racing world and to share stories with the best of them.

Tom has been a friend for over 30 years and I am so appreciative of his sharing one of his pieces for our event program this year. This particular painting holds special meaning to me since it is one of my late husband, Gary Gabelich, when he ran at Lions Drag Strip in the 1960s.

So, wrap up the chores early, grab the family and come join us for a day of fun for all.

The first fire-up session for the dragsters will be held at 3:30 p.m. Round two at 5:30 p.m. (match race between Mayor Foster and Councilmember Gabelich) and the Grand Finale at 7:30 p.m.

For your calendars, August 25th.

By Rae Gabelich, Long Beach 8th District Council Member

Communiqué from Rae

The 5th Council District is searching for residents and organizations that make exceptional contributions to our community.

You can honor these contributions with a nomination for the annual 5th Council District Good Neighbor Awards. During the 5th District Good Neighbor Festival and Picnic on Sept. 23, Councilmember Gerrie Schipske will be honoring the ongoing efforts of those who make a difference since September is National Good Neighbor Month.

“The Good Neighbor Awards are my way of thanking the residents and organizations who are committed to improving the quality of life in our 5th Council District,” Schipske said.

Nominations may be recommended by a family member, friend or neighbor who wishes to recognize someone who has enhanced the neighborhood by doing a good deal or providing a community service.

To submit a nomination follow the link online at: www.longbeach.gov/district5 or obtain a form from Schipske’s neighborhood office.

The application should be completed along with a description of no more than 300 words describing what the nominee has done that makes them a candidate for the Good Neighbor Award. Eligible nominations for the 2006-2007 year must be submitted to Councilmember Schipske’s office no later than Aug. 10. Nominees are sought in three categories: youth, adult and organizations which have made significant contributions to our neighborhoods in 2006-2007. Their actions must go beyond the scope of citizen responsibilities.

Finalists will be selected from the pool of nominated candidates. These winners will receive their award at the Good Neighbor Festival and Picnic on Sept. 23 at El Donato Park, 2800 Stubbeaker Road.

For more information, contact Schipske’s field office at (562) 570-3102.

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Wrigley holds Summer Fest

More than 350 people attended the first of what organizers hope will be an annual event sponsored by the Wrigley Association—Wrigley Summer Fest 2007 last Friday in Veterans Park.

The Wrigley Association partnered with the Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation & Marine to host some events leading up to the popular Movies in the Park night.

Wrigley Association Board Member P.G. Herman put in many days of work to organize the event. Herman and other Wrigley members solicited more than $6,000 worth of goods and services from businesses and groups, most of them within Wrigley Village.

Several other groups, including the neighborhood advisory group, Better Balance for Long Beach, the 6th & 7th District council offices, LBPD (including their popular K-9 unit), Fire Fighters Association Local 372, CPAC, and The Wrigley Moms all participated and helped with the event.

There were free hot dogs, snacks, drinks and popsicles for everyone. A number of items were put into the free drawing, including tickets to the aquarium and gift certificates to many local businesses.

Parks, Recreation & Marine ran games for the kids throughout the event, including bounce houses and face painting. Councilmember Dee Andrews was in attendance for most of the event and addressed the crowd briefly.

The Wrigley Association is a neighborhood organization dedicated to improving the lives of residents in the Wrigley area of Long Beach. The general meetings take place on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Veteran’s Park Social Hall, 101 East 28th Street. (If the first Monday is a holiday, the meeting will be held on the second Monday of the month). Child care and parking are free.

For information, visit the Wrigley Association online at www.neighborhoodlink.com/longbch/wrigley.

Neighborhood groups, city departments and local businesses had booths to greet Wrigley residents.

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CA LIC# 19160145

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Introduction to Yoga

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Free Breast Health Presentation

Call to Register

Sunday, 8/19 • 1:30pm

FreeSpiritYoga.com/classschedule

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Free Your Spirit Yoga.com

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Awards recognize First Fridays, others

Councilmember Rae Gabelich (8th District) recognized community members Tuesday that have significantly contributed to the District.

One of the longstanding complaints about the Bixby Knolls business district was that there was nothing to do at night, Gabelich recalled. On Tuesday, she credited the people behind “First Fridays” with changing that view.

“What started small has blossomed into one of the best new things in Long Beach,” she said. The event, the first Friday of every month at Chroma Glass, has drawn participation by more than a dozen neighboring businesses.

Also honored were Joe Valles and Paul Gutierrez (inset), two longtime community activists. They’ve contributed changes to city policy and volunteered for public parades and events.

“I am grateful to have them as residents, as friends, as neighbors,” Gabelich said.

Communiqué continued from page 5

9 will be our next town hall meeting to be held at Barton School on Del Amo Boulevard and Orange Avenue. Come learn how to identify, communicate and protect each one of our neighborhoods.

“Gangs & Graffiti in Our Community” with presentations by Chief Luna, Tom Reeves our city prosecutor, and a highlight of the evening will be a presentation by the Gangs and Violent Crime Detail.

Stay Involved! Rae
The Signal Hill Police Department and the Sultans Car Club will join forces to host the 17th Annual Signal Hill Car Show from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, July 29 at Signal Hill Park. The event is Signal Hill's biggest fundraiser of the year.

The yearly classic car show is a great family affair that is enjoyed under the cool shade of the park. Show quality cars and trucks from 1975 and earlier will be featured. Awards will be presented in various categories at 2 p.m. Johnny Rocket and the V-Twins will provide musical entertainment.

Along with the cars and entertainment, there will also be vendors, food, raffles and information booths by different community groups. Families will also have the opportunity to purchase, build and race their own pine wood derby car.

Money from the event will benefit Signal Hill youth programs. The Signal Hill Police Department will have its new Mobile Command Post on display and an information booth for job opportunities with the police department.

To enter a car in the show, pick up a registration for in the lobby of the Signal Hill Police Department or call (562) 869-4202. For vendor information, call (562) 708-0789.

The streets of Bixby Knolls in Long Beach will come alive again with the roar of vintage top-fuel dragsters on Saturday, July 28 at the Bixby Knolls Dragster Expo and Car Show presented by Toyota.

Evoking the era of the legendary Lions Drag Strip in Long Beach, the dragsters will fire up their engines, creating a thrill of power, the smell of the nitro fuel, and spine-tingling sounds from the cackling of these 3,000-horsepower racing machines.

The Bixby Knolls Dragster Expo and Car Show is free to the public and takes place Saturday, July 28 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Atlantic Avenue between Carson Street and San Antonio Drive in Long Beach.


The Bixby Knolls Dragster Expo and Car Show will also feature more than 150 classic cars and street rods on display, as well as many specialty and show cars. Live music will be provided throughout the day by the band Party Jones, and the street will also feature kids’ activities, retail and food booths and a beer garden.

The event is produced by the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association in cooperation with the office of Long Beach 8th District Councilwoman Rae Gabelich. The Professional Dragster Association is producing the dragster expo. Toyota is the presenting sponsor, and Cosworth is the event’s diamond sponsor.

Net proceeds from the event will benefit the Long Beach Special Olympics program.
Like many Long Beach natives, Richard Heath was greatly influenced by the Lion’s Drag Strip during the 1950s and 1960s. As a teenager, Heath spent many Saturday nights huddled amidst the clouds of nitro fumes and the roaring engines of Lion’s dragster racers. “There’s a lot of interest [in drag racing] in this town because the Lions Drag Strip affected a lot of people’s lives,” Heath said.

Heath was so influenced that decades later he is still entrenched in the sport. Heath is the publisher and editor-in-chief of Full Throttle News, a magazine produced in Signal Hill that is devoted to the world of nostalgia, sportsmen and grassroots drag racing.

The magazine’s staff travels to race events throughout the country to get the publication into the hands of fans. Full Throttle News also has a loyal subscription base of international readers from across the United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Like most independent publications, the magazine started with humble beginnings. When its first issue premiered in April 1994, it was little more than a collection of black-and-white photos and news tidbits covering the local drag racing scene. It was passed out free of charge to fans gathered at an event at the Brotherhood Raceway in the Los Angeles Harbor.

Readers appreciated the retro look and feel of the magazine and were enthusiastic about editors/fans who were committed to producing a product dedicated to their passion for the sport. “The nostalgia thing just wasn’t getting any really good press. That was our niche market because nobody else was covering it,” Heath said. “The people who saw the first issue just went nuts. They just couldn’t believe it.”

Although Heath took a five-year hiatus from publishing the magazine in 2000 to tour exhibition runs throughout the country with a racecar, Full Throttle News returned with a new polished look in March 2005. The magazine now publishes in full color and reports on events nationwide. One thing, however, hasn’t changed about the magazine; its editors are still fans. “Everybody that’s involved with the magazine has something to do with drag racing,” Heath said. “We do it for the love of the sport.”

This weekend, Full Throttle News will be covering the annual Bixby Knolls Dragster Expo and Car Show from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, July 28 on Atlantic Avenue, Cackle Fest—as the event has come to be known—will showcase a variety of dragsters. In addition to reporting on the event, Full Throttle News will have a booth available at the show where fans can meet and greet the editors of the magazine, as well as purchase copies of the latest issue.

Also available for sale at the booth will be “History of the Lions Drag Strip, Part I.” The DVD is the first in a series that documents the drag strip’s history and legacy. “People ask me why I’m into the whole drag racing thing,” Heath said. “Well, I like the cars, I like the sound, but mainly it’s the people that you meet. That’s what I really like about it. That’s what makes it all worth it.”

For more information about Full Throttle News, visit www.FullThrottleNews.com or contact Richard Heath at (562) 424-7227.
Saturday, July 28, 2007
2:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Cacklefest • Food • Beer Garden • Door Prizes
Live Music • People’s Choice Awards
More Info: www.BixbyKnollsInfo.com
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25 year old Gladstone’s Chef Charlie Hamilton was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. On July 19th, he had surgery at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Orange. The surgery went well, but he’s not out of the woods yet. All donations are needed and requested to help this kind, talented young man through his time in need.

Please submit all donations to:
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Long Beach 90802

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Long Beach, CA 90803

of mail donations to:
Gladstone’s Long Beach Corporate Offices
ATTN: Charlie Hamilton Foundation
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Long Beach, CA 90802

A Little Taste Of Paradise

LONG BEACH: Atlantic & Carson, PCH & Ximeno, Ocean & Magnolia, Spring & Los Coyotes Diagonal
SIGNAL HILL: Willow & Cherry
Coming Soon to Second Street in Belmont Shore!
First, may I alert you to the spelling—Beau Jest, not Beau Geste as in the adventure novel about life in the French Foreign Legion. In fact the clever title turns out to be quite apt and itself worthy of a few chuckles.

Playhouse veteran director Elaine Herman directs this enchanting comedy all about boyfriends and controlling parents and good-girl daughters who can’t seem to self-actualize and fully grow up. I can relate, especially since playwright James Sherman focuses his play on a young Jewish woman and her clichéd Jewish family.

If Sarah Goldman’s (Debra Wade) efforts to conceal her gentle boyfriend Chris (Rob Kerr) from her parents by hiring a stand-in (David Tracq) from an escort service aren’t enough to shock our sensibilities, then surely the play’s stereotypical reformed Jewish Passover scenario is enough to tickle them.

When Sarah’s dad Abe (Manny Siegall) attempted to rush through the Passover Hagada to get to the gefilte fish, I thought for a moment that I was at my own family’s seder, or that of our close friends, the Friedman’s. It doesn’t matter; these evenings are all the same. A veritable tug-o’-war pits the shameless who just want to eat against the ceremony purists who intend to skip no steps. Boy, did playwright Sherman ever get it right.

Wade has been adorable in everything I’ve seen her in, and this is no exception. Don’t get me wrong; we want to struggle her character for her way over-the-top allegiance to her parents, but she is earnest and fun and perfect for this role.

Escort Bob, renamed David for Sarah’s charade, and introduced to the family as no less than a doctor (of course), arises admirably to the occasion. A sometime actor, he draws on his past experience in a production of Fiddler on the Roof to win over Sarah’s family with his knowledge of “Jewish” prayer. He handles the family’s medical questions a bit precariously but apparently well enough. The family winds up adoring him. The thing is, so does Sarah.

Sarah’s mother Miriam (Ruth Siegall) whines her way through every family get-together, always judging, and never failing to remind Sarah to heat the kugel in the oven and not the microwave. (What happened here? My mom always insists I use the microwave—’it’s so much easier and doesn’t heat up the house’—whatever.)

Brother Joel (Tony Cicchetti), a therapist by occupation, senses something is amiss and attempts to help. Portraying the only truly serious character, Cicchetti gives an excellent performance that goes a long way toward keeping the play from becoming too farcical. All of the relationships are perfectly executed in this entertaining production. Sarah and Chris come across like oil and water—they just don’t belong together. We see it clearly, even if they don’t. In contrast, Sarah and “David” are an obvious match from the start. There is a big problem, though. “David” is not Jewish. So Sarah finds herself in the same situation that she started with. Uh oh.

Come see how it all turns out. At the very least, you’ll laugh our load during the family dinner scenes in which the actors will remind you of every older Jewish couple you’ve ever known. What is even more probable is that you will adore the romance, suspense and nuttiness of this beautifully written and well-presented comedy.

Beau Jest continues at the Long Beach Playhouse Studio Theatre through August 18.

General admission tickets are $22; $20 for seniors. Student tickets are $12 with valid student ID and are available for Friday and Saturday performances. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., with Sunday matinees on July 22, August 5 and 12 at 2 p.m.

Call (562) 494-1014 for reservations and information. Tickets are also available online at www.lbph.com.
Art gallery Hijacks LB with group show of vinyl toys

DDR Projects opens its doors Friday, Aug. 3, with an opening-night party for the group-show “Hijacked: Because Homage is Just Another Word for Stealing.”

DDR Projects is a brand new gallery that specializes in affordable works from both up-and-coming artists, as well as established artisans and innovators from around the world.

“Hijacked” features more than 50 artists who have customized a vinyl toy figure called “Skumbo.” This figure designed by Tristan Eaton and manufactured by urban toy giant Kidrobot didn’t sell well. So DDR Projects began buying up the dead stock and sent them out to artists, designers, illustrators and animators who turned the originally plain figures into extraordinary one-of-a-kind pieces.

Artists include Emek, Elizabeth Berdann, Doktor A, Matt Connelly, Kathie Olivas, David Krys, Jeremyville, Peskimo, Kenn Munk, Tri-clops and others.

Customizing vinyl toys is a natural offshoot of the urban toy or designer toy movement, which began in 1997 when Hong Kong artist and designer Michael Lau showed up at a toy convention with a handful of reconstructed GI Joes and collectible toys. Vinyl toys have never been the same since, as this movement has developed its own sub-culture with its heroes, rivalries and unlimited potential for growth.

“Hijacked” will continue into September, and the gallery will be open Wednesday through Sunday. The gallery is located at 1532 East Broadway in Long Beach.

For more information, contact John Geldbach by calling (562) 590-9030 or via email at john@ddrprojects.com.
 LB City Auditor Laura Doud looks back on first year

BY JOSEPH SERNA
Staff Writer

Laura Doud’s office has an amazing view. Walking past people behind windows or sitting in their cubicles, you finally approach the double doors into her office. Any visitor’s eyes will immediately dart left, to the eighth floor panoramic view of downtown Long Beach, to the public below and the ocean beyond. For anyone else, the view is simply picturesque, but for Doud, it serves a different purpose. “It keeps me focused on the people I serve,” she said.

Doud reports directly to the police department and acting City Manager Tony Batts (the former police chief). Recommendations from PFM’s auditor are due at 90 days, six months and one year from the Tuesday meeting.

“PFM also focused on technology and fine enforcement adjustments to generate revenue and, more importantly, Doud said, put more officers on patrol, which was the main objective of PFM’s audit.”

“We’ll look at all [the recommendations] and whichever ones require just rolling up your sleeves and working to implement, we’ll do first,” Luna said.

Unanimously approved at the Council meeting, the recommendations will now be reviewed by the Police Department and acting City Manager Tony Batts (the former police chief). Recommendations from PFM’s auditor are due at 90 days, six months and one year from the Tuesday meeting.

“We’ll look at all [the recommendations] and whichever ones require just rolling up your sleeves and working to implement, we’ll do first,” Luna said.

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“The recommendation for Long Beach residents. A year into her four-year term, Doud has shown her constituents results. Doud reorganized the office she won in the April 2006 election after a scathing third-party audit outlined a number of shortcomings her predecessor left behind. “I was sort of disappointed in the leadership,” she said in an April 2007 interview. Among the changes to what the report regards as ‘a lack of quality control,’ Doud has reintroduced peer-reviews of her office every three years, something that was inexplicably absent during the former auditor’s tenure.

With changes to record keeping and more adherence to office policies, Doud and her staff began to play catch-up with city auditor work. In her first year, Doud’s office successfully navigated their way through the bankruptcy mess of the “Queen Mary situation” as she calls it, and completed an audit of the Police Department. The Police Department takes up roughly 50 percent of Long Beach’s general fund, with about $12 million of that going toward overtime. Suggestions from the third-party company her office hired aims to reduce that amount.

Reports for the Long Beach Museum of Art and the Public Works department are due in the coming months.

Outside of a rebuttal from the former city auditor, Doud’s audits have received nothing but open ears and a willingness to communicate. “I’m not the ‘goth’ type of style,” Doud said. “Our office is more collaborative.”
“Right now, the California water system is extremely vulnerable,” the governor said. The state has not added onto the current water system in more than three decades, yet the population has grown from 20 million to 37 million and is expected to reach 60 million within the next 40 years.

“We must solve the water crisis and the problem not only for the next few years, but we must solve it for the next 20, 30, or 40 years,” he said. “I know that we can find a way. We must bring everyone together to get this done.”

The governor’s Long Beach visit highlighted how the city is ahead of the curve, but still impacted by California’s record drought.

On top of a desalinization plant, current conservation measures, there is the $8 million facility the governor toured Monday.

The facility utilizes conjunctive use groundwater storage—aquifer storage—by allowing Long Beach to store surface water underground during wet years to be used when the city has inadequate rainfall in other years. It provides Long Beach with an additional 17,000 acre-feet of local water storage capacity.

“All these things together help this city prepare for years like we have now,” said Mayor Bob Foster.

The governor’s plan calls for $4.5 billion to develop additional surface and groundwater storage, $1 billion to restoring the Delta, including a new conveyance system and $250 million for restoration projects at the Klamath, San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers and the Salton Sea project.

California communities would also receive $200 million in grants to help conserve water.
Focus On Business

Nino’s celebrates 49 years of food, family, friends

As longtime residents, business owners and community supporters, Vince and Inge Cristiano and their grown children Nino, Mike and Carina have always believed in the power of small businesses when it comes to building strong communities. The Cristianos maintain that small businesses are the key to providing a neighborhood with a sense of personality and cultural diversity as well as to strengthen community ties.

So when the Cristianos, the family that owns the Bixby Knolls landmark establishment Nino’s Italian Restaurant, sat down to decide how they would commemorate the restaurant’s 49th anniversary, which happens Tuesday, July 31, it only made sense to do so in a way that is in keeping with Nino’s tradition of community service.

On Monday, Aug. 13, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Nino’s Italian Restaurant will host a reception for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) so that other business owners can have an opportunity to meet and greet. The mixer is also a welcome party for the SBDC, which recently moved its office to Bixby Knolls.

“We couldn’t be more proud of our city and the wonderful friends we have made over the years by working together on community projects as volunteers,” said Carina Cristiano Leoni, who grew up in the restaurant. She took her first steps in the restaurant as a toddler, had regular customers help her with math homework as a child and even met her future husband there as an adult.

“We wanted to share our gratitude with others by sharing our celebration and recognizing others. This is a fantastic city and community,” she said. Throughout the years, Nino’s has hosted everything from first dates and anniversaries to corporate lunches.

The restaurant serves authentic Italian cuisine such as homemade lasagna, chicken cacciatore, eggplant parmesan, antipasto salad and classic pizza—dishes that have become like home-cooked meals to generations of repeat customers.

Vince and Inge Cristiano will commemorate the 49th Anniversary of Nino’s Restaurant July 31. (Inset) Nino’s hosts a Martini Bar and live music as part of First Fridays in Bixby Knolls each month.

Nino’s also offers full catering services, banquet rooms and a full bar with a martini emphasis.

Nino’s Italian Restaurant is located at 3853 Atlantic Avenue in Bixby Knolls. For information, call (562) 427-1003.

Gaslamp, Gladstone’s to host fundraiser for ailing employee’s recovery from cancer

The Gaslamp Restaurant and Bar has teamed up with the folks from Gladstone’s Long Beach to help a team member in need. Charlie Hamilton, 25, a chef at Gladstone’s Restaurant, was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. After months of severe headaches, Hamilton went to the clinic to receive treatment for what he thought was a migraine, only to find out that it was much more. After doctors determined that the culprit was a golf-ball-sized tumor, he was scheduled for immediate surgery. Although the surgery went well, Hamilton still has a difficult recovery to face.

Join patrons at the Gaslamp, 6251 East Pacific Coast Highway in Long Beach, for an evening of support for Chef Charlie Tuesday, July 31. Proceeds from food and drink specials, as well as a silent auction, will go to the Charlie Hamilton Foundation. Doors open at 5 p.m. and live music begins at 8 p.m.

For those who would like to help but cannot attend the event, donations can be made by mailing checks to either Gladstone’s Long Beach, 330 South Pine Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802. Checks should be made payable to the Charlie Hamilton Foundation.

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Planning Commission of the City ofSignal Hill will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 21, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber located at City Hall, 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill, California, to review:

**A REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO CONSTRUCT A 27,866 SQUARE FOOT INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE FACILITY INCLUDING 46 PARKING STALLS ON A VACANT LOT AT 2445 PALM DRIVE IN THE LI, LIGHT-INDUSTRIAL, ZONING DISTRICT (not adjacent any)**

Applicant: Howard CDM for B.J.H. Leasing Inc.

An INITIAL STUDY HAS BEEN PREPARED for the subject project and has evaluated the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the project during construction and operation of the warehouse building. The site is not listed under Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code. The initial study indicates there are potential adverse environmental impacts associated with the project including changes in traffic patterns and an increase in storm water runoff.

A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION HAS BEEN PREPARED for the subject project. The Mitigated Negative Declaration, as well as the mitigation measures and materials relevant to the proposed project may be inspected by the public between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, in the Community Development Department at City Hall.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are hereby invited to attend this public hearing to present written information, express their opinions, or otherwise present evidence on the above matter. If you wish to be included on the list of those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing as described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the City prior to or at the public hearing. Written comments or concerns may be submitted to the Community Development Department prior to or at the public hearing.

THE FILE CONTAINING MATERIAL relevant to the proposed project may be inspected by the public between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and on Fridays until 4:30 p.m. in the Community Development Department located at City Hall.

FURTHER INFORMATION on this item may be obtained at the City of Signal Hill Development Services Department located at 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill, California, or by calling Reina Schaitel, Assistant Planner at (562) 989-7341 or by email reina.richardson@cityofsignalhill.org.

Second Chaney
Planning Manager

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that the Council of the City of Huntington Park, California, will receive sealed bids, until the hour of 2:00 p.m. Monday, August 6, 2007, at the Office of the City Clerk for the purchase of several vehicles by the Mechanical Division for departmental usage. Intended vehicles shall meet specific requirements laid on the Bid Proposal Form. Quantity and types of vehicles are as follows:

Item Qty. Types
A 2 2007 Honda Hybrid Sedans In Line, 2 cylinder, 2 door sedan as per provided specifications or equal.
B 1 2007 Chevrolet 3500 H.D. 2WD Reg. Cab 161.5 WB Utility Truck as per provided specifications or equal.
C 1 2007/08 Aspen Patch Truck as per provided specifications or equal.
D 1 2007/08 Ford Taurus, 4 door sedan, 6 speed at V.6.3 Liter as per provided specifications or equal.
E 1 2007/08 Dodge Charger RWD, 4 door with customer preferred package 29.A.S. 7 Liter Multi-deployment engine (222 Police Package) or equal as per provided specifications.

All proposals shall be marked “Bid Proposal M-109” and shall be mailed or delivered to the City Clerk at the City Clerk’s Office at City Hall, 6550 Miles Avenue, no later than 2:00 p.m. on the date of the bid opening. All bid packages shall be received shall be examined, declared and referred by the City Clerk and City Attorneys and the Mechanical Division for recommendation to the City Council at the next regular Council Meeting.

Proposal forms and instructions to bidders can be obtained at the Office of Field Services, City Maintenance Yard, 6600 Bisell Street, Huntington Park, California 90255, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

No Ball will be called unless it is made on the official proposal form furnished by the City and made in accordance with the provisions of this notice and Instructions to Bidders. Bidders can be on either single items or individual items.

If an error is discovered prior to the time for opening of bids, which affects the validity of the Bid Proposal Form, the City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the form or manner of any bad proposal or the bidding process.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Council of the City of Huntington Park, California, will receive sealed proposals at the above-mentioned time and date.

The City of Huntington Park reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularities or irregularities in the form or manner of any bad proposal or the bidding process.
Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the publication of the Notice of Sale is $805,759.66. It is possible amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the oblig-
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