

Penguin

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as a Chicago guy, he was only hopping on Air Force One because the Windy City was involved. Staging an Olympics in America is good for America, period. End of story.

The folks from Brazil were ecstatic about snaring the Games, and good for them. Said President Liz Ignacio Lola de Silva: "I confess to you that if I died now, my life has been worthwhile." Lola was still breathing when he continued: "Be sure of this. Rio's Olympics will be full of the passion, happiness and creativity of the Brazilian people."

Now if they can just work on a few of those nasty problems involving crime and the occasional white powder overindulgence, things should work out just fine. They have

six or so years to figure it out, right?

Speaking of figure it out, did I miss something with the David Letterman mea culpa last Thursday night? Some sleazoid was trying to blackmail the not-so-funny (to me) left winger. Was kinda busy over the weekend myself trying to avoid potential lawsuits, but is it true that the 62-year-old geezer had to admit to having sex, before he was married, with women who worked for him? Quit laughing, folks. It is deplorable that that kind of thing occurs, anywhere, anytime. And I am sure that the late-night southpaw will think twice before making fun of Sarah Palin's kids, or Governor Edwards, or Governor Sanford, or... •

Vultures

from page 10

loan servicer. Responding to those letters is your best bet for saving your house.

--Don't transfer title or sell your house to a "foreclosure rescuer." Beware! This is a scam to convince homeowners they can stay in the home as renters and buy their home back later. It might also be part of a fraudulent bankruptcy filing. Either way, a scammer can then evict the victim and take the home;

--Don't pay your mortgage payments to anyone other than your lender or loan servicer. Mortgage consultants often keep the money for themselves.

--Never sign any documents without

reading them first. Many homeowners think that they are signing documents for a loan modification or for a new loan to pay off the mortgage on which they are behind. Later, they discover that they actually transferred ownership of their home to someone who is now trying to evict them.

"If I knew then what I know now, my wife would be a lot happier with me," said Hernandez. But also, he added, government officials share a lot of the blame for the troubled real estate environment. "The government," he said, "should have taken the lead and avoided all this a long time ago." •

Letters

from page 3

helping in the booth. You were a big help to us Tim, you were great encouraging the kids to give it a try and then spending all your money trying to dunk every cop who sat in the tank, with some success, I might add. Retired MBPD Sergeant Bill Matson was with us all day Saturday and Sunday, and on Sunday his son, Officer Mike Matson, Hawthorne PD joined us for the day. Thank you Bill and Mike you were lifesavers. Also, Sally Rendler and Julie Dahlgren joined us to help out and were enjoying themselves so much that they went way beyond their time. Thanks ladies you made it a lot of fun for everyone. Cindy Schaben seemed to be having a great time helping and entertaining the public, always with a big smile and a pleasant greeting. Thanks Cindy, you're the best. Officer Stephanie Martin and her daughter Allie were unbelievable. Stephanie, you have an amazing daughter. Allie is nine years old and incredible when it comes to smaller children. She came in, assessed the situation and took charge of all the kids, showing them how to throw the ball, the best place to stand and just constantly giving them encouragement and cheering for them when they dunked a cop. Allie, you are quite an impressive young lady, thank you so much for your help. Also, thank you to Allie's Auntie Danielle Paulson, Stephanie's sister, you were a big help to us selling the t-shirts, thanks for all your time and help. We have another Dunkee that gave his time also as a volunteer, Detective Joe Aiello. Thanks Joe you were a great crowd pleaser, you really got the kids going. My twin sister, Bernie Barnes, was like a kid herself out there helping everyone try to dunk a cop. As a former Physical Education teacher, she was showing the little ones how to correctly throw the ball, many of them took to the lesson and were successful in dunking a cop. Thanks

Bern, you were a great help. And then came "Robo Cop", Dave Caveney, thanks for all your help Dave, always the crowd pleaser. The kids were in awe of your muscles. Our police volunteer, Bruce Eddy and his lovely wife Cathy did two hours in the booth and arrived just in the nick of time. Thanks so much for all your help. Capt. Derrick Abell wandered into Dunk Tank Village to help us close the show, with his hardy laugh and big smile. Thanks Derrick as always, you're the man.

A big thank you to Jennifer Borys for supplying the softballs, we couldn't have dunk anyone without having something to throw, although, at times, I wanted to throw Vinnie at the target. Just a little humor there Vinnie, keep smiling. I think all in all we had a very successful weekend, I had a great time and I think everyone else did also. Thanks again to everyone for all your help and support.

The Manhattan Beach Police Officers Association who gave their support by financing the dunk tank and the purchase of the t-shirts. Thank you so much for your constant support.

Also, let us not forget Manhattan Beach Police Officer - Retired, Craig Tranbarger who designed the logo on the t-shirts for the second year in a row. Thank you Craig, your talent is awe inspiring.

I thanked Office Stephanie Martin for her hard work at the Dunk Booth however; I didn't thank her for making the incredible poster board with pictures and information about Jeff Goodrich. She also made one for the Corn Booth. You can always count on Stephanie for her support, talent and unending ability to come up with great ideas. Thank you Stephanie, you are amazing, just like your daughter.

If I've forgotten to thank anyone please forgive me and let me know. See you next year.
Bernadette Gradney - MBPD •

Boy Scouts

from page 5

on the seeds, and do all of that so they're going to sit at tables and chairs--they're not going to be climbing all over the float with older guys."

While large companies are able to pour money into the construction and publicity of their floats, the Scouts are seeking donations. People wishing to donate have the opportunity to buy special patches or \$5 flower vials that will have their name on the float during the parade. "This is a grassroots sort of a thing," Tauber said.

"We're looking to everybody in the community to give us anything they want to donate because we don't want to take away from scouting programs."

Christopher Bickel, 16, of Troop 849 is just days away from becoming an Eagle Scout, and plans to march in the parade. A Boy Scout of six years, Bickel said he's

excited to help celebrate the BSA's 100th anniversary. "I just think it shows really a great commitment of the people that are part of the organization that they really want to experience something as important and influential as Boy Scouts," Bickel said. "It's really a testament to how strong the organization is and how it influences people, and I know it's really affected me."

Bickel added the parade will be a great opportunity for Scouts to not only offer a glimpse of the scouting experience, but to show that it is still relevant. "I think that they're letting people know that even after all of these years, this organization isn't old fashioned; it evolves with time."

People interesting in donating to the float effort may e-mail Rick Reeley, at reeley@troop849.org, or Michael Tauber, at mtauber@troop849.org. •

City Council

from front page

and talked to some of the seniors who were there and they approved of the work and they showed their gratitude," Cohen said. "It looks absolutely beautiful."

Employee Recognitions

Council members and staff welcomed the newest members of the police and fire departments.

Police Chief Rod Uyeda introduced Dawn Winston, the Department's new records technician and matron. Winston has a Bachelors of Science Degree and Masters in Public Policy and Administration from Cal State Long Beach. "She has to occasionally search the few women who make their way into our jail system...it's not one of the more pleasant jobs," Uyeda said. "Her background was about as clean as a background as I've ever seen."

Uyeda introduced the Department's newest Police Sergeant, Ron Walker, who was hired in 1998. He's worked as a member of the SWAT team, a driving instructor and detective. "A front line supervisor is one of

the most important ranks of the organization because he watches the patrol officers and all of the field officers while I'm at home," Uyeda said.

Fire Chief Scott Ferguson welcomed James Falls and James Craig, both of whom are firefighters and paramedics. Falls worked as a firefighter in his hometown of El Segundo and volunteered overseas in India as Tsunami relief worker. Craig has worked in the Ventura County Fire Department, The California Department of Forestry and San Luis Obispo County Fire. Ferguson said Manhattan Beach's selection process is very competitive and requires more skill than most Departments in the County. "For you ladies out there, [James Craig] is single, but not available, as I hear it," Ferguson said.

David Freeman

The Council chambers fell silent at the end of the meeting for a moment in remembrance of Dave Freeman, who for more than 30 years played tuba in the Hyperion Outfall Serenaders band. He passed away September 23. •



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