

Penguin

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lawyers are scurrying around, trying to come up with a strategy to spare the murderer his due. His mouthpieces are claiming that Muhammad is mentally ill. Probably is. Any dirt bag who would lie in wait and shoot down innocent folks who were just trying to put a little fuel in their car doesn't deserve one iota of leniency. Next!

Fellow Californians, ready for another round of Governor Moonbeam? With San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom abandoning his far-fetched bid for the Democratic nomination in next year's race for the governorship, state Attorney General Jerry Brown is the only major Demo bidding for the prize.

The primary won't be held for seven months, but Newsom bowed out, citing family responsibilities as well as his duties serving the fine people in the City by the Bay, making sure that S.F. remains a Sanctuary City for all, working hard for all of the salient issues so dear to the hearts of the same sex marriage supporters.

But what sells in No Cal didn't seem to resonate in the rest of the state, so Newsom, 42, folded up his campaign tent. Leaving the 71-year-old Brown, who ran the state from 1975 to 1983, as the only credible candidate on the left side of the playing field. Though Brown hasn't officially become a candidate. And he doesn't really have to take that step at this time cuz he is the only Demo being currently considered who has the cash, the experience and the name recognition factor.

Wouldn't it be ironic if the Demos, the self-proclaimed party of new ideas, new this, new that, turned to a 70-plus-year-old white

male as their standard bearer as they try to send one of their own to Sacramento after the 2010 election?

The Newsom announcement will send the political pundits spinning in circles, with names like Senator Dianne Feinstein and L.A. Mayor Tony V. probably resurfacing. But it appears highly unlikely that the incredibly dark-haired Feinstein will make another run at the governorship; she seems pretty ensconced in Washington D.C. as a senior shaker and mover, while Tony V. would face many of the same problems that plagued the Newsom campaign. He would be a parochial candidate, with little name recognition or probable traction with voters north of El Lay. And while the veteran politico Feinstein could probably crank up the fundraising machinery and rake in some bucks, a Tony V. campaign would have a virtually impossible time raising the \$15 mil or so needed to fight the inevitability of a Brown nomination.

On the Republican side, from all I can gather, the party of Reagan has a couple of very, very, well-heeled folks fighting for the nomination. Meg Whitman is one of the viable contenders; she used to be the CEO of a little business called eBay. She probably has a few bucks available to back her run for office. And Steve Poizner is currently the state Insurance Commissioner. Mr. Poizner, according to some semi-reliable research, has a net worth near \$1 billion smackers. So he's got the cache to be in it for the long haul.

Can see it now. Ex-Governor Moonbeam vs. possible-Governor Megabucks. And the winner is?? •

Rotary

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communities, support special kids through KEEN (Kids Enjoying Exercise Now), and will personally take two to three hours of any day to drive and then hand out picture dictionaries to countless school children in areas where this is their first and only book," said President Jan.

Rotary does what it can to support other non-profits as well, such as the Salvation Army through the Meals on Wheels program, the Sandpipers, South Bay Literacy, Tri-County High School and the 186th Street School, to name a few organizations. Public safety personnel also receive their due via the club's Police and Fire Awards that acknowledge the brave men and women who put themselves on the line daily to protect local citizens.

As if all this wasn't enough, the Manhattan Beach club is also strongly committed to Rotary International projects. Local club members have over the years participated in Rotary International's world-renowned and almost completely successful efforts to eradicate polio, visiting foreign countries to assist doctors with corrective surgeries at locales ranging from India to Columbia. Rotary Club of Manhattan Beach continues to welcome donations in the quest for a polio-free world.

Other notable International projects include aiding in retinal replacements, flying equipment into areas in Mexico through LIGA and the Flying Doctors, lending funds to citizens of the world led through International Director Donn Ennis's Micro Loan initiative, and bringing water wells to Africa. District trips on the slate for next year include excursions to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. And as we went to press, several local Rotarians were part of an entourage on their way to Ensenada, Mexico ready to swing hammers and tote lumber to help construct a new orphanage at Casa Hogar.

Though all of the above may seem daunting, especially in today's hectic times, it's all in a day's work for Rotary. "Rotarians constantly give, give, give... locally, regionally, globally," explained Membership Chair Jim Hunter. "Rotary is a way of life, and here's a secret: What we Rotarians really

love most is a good, old-fashioned, roll-up-your-sleeves, get-your-hands-in-the-dirt, make-a-difference-in-someone's-life quality of life service project."

Even volunteer-a-holics need a little downtime to let loose and it's no different for local Rotarians, who look to their weekly meetings as a way to enjoy a tasty breakfast, schmooze, experience true fellowship and learn a few interesting things along the way. Scheduled every Monday at 7:15 a.m. at the Manhattan Beach Marriott, Rotary meetings in Manhattan Beach frequently feature top-flight guest speakers, ranging from former Los Angeles County District Attorney-turned-photographer Gil Garcetti to Laker reporter and AM 710 sports talk personality John Ireland. "I couldn't have been more impressed with this group," Ireland commented. "They asked better questions about the Lakers than the people who call my radio show. I just hope the team works, plays, watches and listens as well as the Rotary does." Earlier in October, the group also had the opportunity to get in touch with its roots, as three of the members conducted a "History of the Manhattan Beach Rotary Club" presentation complete with vintage photos documenting 59 years of service.

Meanwhile, the club continues to grow, as membership numbers recently hit the century mark. Though only four months into her term, President Jan is already looking towards next May, when Rotary Club of Manhattan Beach holds its annual "Magic in Giving" fundraiser. "We're raising our funds for Roger Cox, our next president," she said. "One-hundred percent of the funds raised will be spent on our charitable work. How great is it to know that you're giving to the largest 501-C3 in the world while your Rotarians in Manhattan Beach continue to maximize your gift, adding the extra elbow grease to stretch your donation and then spending it right here in our own backyard."

Rotary is a not-for-profit organization. Membership and meeting attendance are by invitation-only. For more information about Rotary Club of Manhattan Beach, log onto www.mbrotoary.org.

Council

from front page

services to serve businesses in the current economic climate. "We ultimately decided that this was a prudent reallocation to help them through this very difficult time," Tell said. "...The Chamber realized that this is something that they ultimately need to fund themselves."

In the fiscal year 2008-2009, the Council gave \$196,000 to the Chamber, which used the money to fund everything from lobbying trips to Sacramento to holiday fireworks at the pier. The Chamber plans to use this year's \$50,000 to promote its popular Women in Business Conference, local economic development, outreach to the Downtown and North Manhattan business associations.

Councilmember Richard Montgomery, who also serves on the Finance Subcommittee, said Manhattan Beach is one of the few cities in the state that finances its chamber. He hopes the funds will enable the Chamber evolve into an organization that will be able to fund itself. "You step back and realize what we asked out other non-profit groups to do--all of them took a cut," Montgomery said. "I think the focus was to keep them focused on that life support number...we're helping you in the short term and two years down the road, you will be a stand-alone group."

Chamber President Helen Duncan thanked the Council for its financial support but also for its participation in Chamber functions. She said she hopes the two bodies will continue to work together. "I hope that even three years from now if we're not getting one dime from the City, we're still partners," Duncan said.

Parking Meters

The Council unanimously approved a pilot program to install "new technology" parking machines in the upper and lower pier parking lots for an eight-month trial period beginning in January, and to extend the hours of the lots an extra two hours until 10 p.m.

The trial period is intended to help staff evaluate the new technology and decide whether to phase out the older meters and begin installing the newer ones as funding becomes available. Signage will inform drivers of the trial period and provide information for residents to contact staff and provide feedback. "We hope this trial will give us the data we need to make a long term decision," Moe said.

The City will spend \$600,000 on machines built by two different companies that it will buy at a discounted rate. The machines will be powered by solar and take payment by money, credit and debit cards, "cash cards" and

cell phone. Staff will be able to remotely set rates, monitor payment, "zero out" remaining time on meters once vehicles vacate stalls, and alert parking enforcement officers of expired meters.

Two types of systems will be installed in the lots. One machine will resemble a parking meter and stand next to each space, while the other parking system will involve a "multi-space" machine designed to serve several numbered parking spaces.

Moe said both types of meters could eventually be installed throughout the city, perhaps with multi-space meters in parks and single space meters on streets. "To the extent that we will hopefully raise rates in the near future if this technology looks like it's taking off, we could afford to pay for these citywide," Moe said.

Senior Survey

Council members discussed the results of an older adults survey with residents, staff and members of the Senior Advisory Committee. The survey was intended to give staff a better understanding of the transportation needs of older adults and for them to receive feedback regarding seniors' recreational activities.

The survey, distributed in March, targeted 4,825 adults but only drew a six percent response (286 surveys). Montgomery expressed disappointment at the rate of return. "Ninety-four of the eligible people didn't respond for whatever reason," he said. "The idea that we would take six percent of the responses back and [give it] weight to me is an error on our part."

Freddie Segal-Gidan of the Senior Advisory Committee acknowledged that the survey was not scientific, saying it is a sampling of people who are probably already using senior programs.

"It doesn't answer your question about the people who have not utilized City programs and could benefit from City programs," Segal-Gidan said. "If the City had wanted to get a true survey of the older adults, it should have done a door to door or telephone survey."

From the survey, staff concluded that effective outreach to seniors should incorporate focus groups and direct mailing, and that residents between the ages of 55 and 65 should be included in the planning and development of new programs and services.

An analysis of the survey also determined that staff should "develop action plans to encourage greater volunteerism in future activities and that exercise or fitness programs should target seniors who live alone." •

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