

## Saving

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Avoid "retail therapy." Before hitting the mall, shop your own closet for "had-to-have" outfits still on their original hangers. Check your pantry for duplicate products as well.

Save energy. Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for tips on reducing home energy consumption and to learn about relevant rebates and tax credits.

Drive your car an extra couple of years – you'll save thousands of dollars on depre-

ciation and reduce your insurance premium.

For additional savings strategies, as well as links to other helpful sites, visit America Saves ([www.americasaves.org](http://www.americasaves.org)). Another good resource is Practical Money Skills for Life, Visa Inc.'s free personal financial management program ([www.practicalmoneyskills.com](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com)), where you'll find a comprehensive guide to saving, budgeting and much more. •

## Penguin

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on the next required test. Guess my heart wasn't really in it. I was hoping to coach baseball, which I had done as a walk-on at Mira Costa High for five years, and teach a little History or English. Actually was offered, mid-semester, a gig with Serra High in Gardena. Out of the blue. Think that the students have may run roughshod over a well-meaning teacher, so they were looking for someone, anyone. Now!

Shockingly, I chickened out, returning to do whatever it was I was doing at the time. The road not taken... Too late to look into being a teacher now? Lots of layoffs during this recession, but somewhere down the line, the hiring will commence, right?

But back to the Kennedy clan. *CNN* basically stopped covering whatever else passed for news after TK passed. As they should

have. And you readers out there who think that I am a lib-loving Kennedy-ite, yearning for the return of "Camelot," well, you can keep thinking whatever you want.

And yeah, I was around when Kennedy basically escaped scot-free after he was involved in, some say caused, the death of young Mary Jo Kopechne in the Chapquiddick drowning of 1969. My view is that Kennedy, son of privilege, should have been locked up for a while.

Maybe for a good while. Sent to the big house. But, guess what, today as in '69, the golden rule seems to apply. He who has the gold, bootlegger's gold at that, rules. Get over it.

All right, I am sure that many, many important things occurred last week in the political arena. Which can all be addressed down the road. Goodbye, Mr. Kennedy... •

## City Council

from front page

others. Possible scenarios included reversing the flow of traffic, allowing traffic to flow in both directions, and building exit ramps on either 36th Street or Rosecrans Avenue.

The costs could be anywhere from \$10,000 for reversing the flow of traffic, to more than \$2 million to extend the parking lot exit to Rosecrans, Zandvliet said. Several residents told the Council they were disappointed with the traffic problems but were unhappy with costly alternatives presented by the engineer. "If we have no money, why are we doing this, why do we have this study?" Pat Perkins of 45th street wondered. "...I think it's irresponsible for you to have taken this out to a study."

John Golden, who lives near the parking lot on 36th Street, said his day begins at 4:45 a.m. when L.A. County vehicles start to show up, and doesn't end until after nine at night. "You have all of their support trucks, you have a Coca-Cola truck because he has to fill those things down there, the people who have to clean and supply the bathrooms...there's trucks in and out of there all day long," Golden said. "Now that's just the county. Now we have the lifeguards..." Golden added that he was unhappy with the idea of putting an exit on 36th Street, saying it would bring more traffic.

Councilmember Richard Montgomery said there is nowhere for the City to go with Zandvliet's alternatives because it has no money and would likely be unable to get any from the State of California, given the latter's current financial condition. "Even if we liked the top two plans and said, 'These are great, everyone loves them, here we go,' it all starts with the money," Montgomery said. "The idea for me even to talk much more about it and get everybody excited one way or the other, it's like until we get a dollar to spend on these, we're wasting everybody's time."

### Council Recognition

Dr. Wanda Austin was recognized by the Council as President and Chief Executive Officer of The Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo. The federally funded research and development center employs 4,000 people and supports national security, civil and com-

mercial space programs. Mayor Portia Cohen said that before becoming President and CEO, Austin worked in a variety of capacities, including managing the company's Military Satellite Communications Division. Most recently, Austin served on President Obama's Review of U.S. Human Space Flight Plans, also known as the Augustine Commission. "It is an honor for me ...to present to her on behalf of the City of Manhattan Beach this certificate of recognition for all of your achievements and your contributions, not only to our local economy and community, but to our nation at large," said Cohen.

Cohen spoke about some of Dr. Austin's many awards and accomplishments, including receiving the Air Force Scroll of Achievement and the 2009 Black Engineer of the Year Award. Dr. Austin was elected into the National Academy of Engineers, and in 2007 she was inducted into the Women and Technology Hall of Fame. She has a doctorate in systems engineering from USC. "I want to say thank you very much for this recognition," Austin said. "It is really something that warms the heart when you are recognized by the folks in your own backyard...I just really enjoy being able to live in this community."

The Council also thanked members of the P.S. I Love You Foundation for hosting a day at the beach for nearly 300 children from local shelters and foster homes on July 25. Many of the kids had never been to the beach before. "We had more than 200 community volunteers, so we had an almost a one-on-one mentoring program," Cohen said.

Founder and President Patricia Jones thanked the volunteers, explaining how the event started with 10 adults and 15 kids, and that her organization works with 600 to 1,000 at-risk children a year in underserved communities.

Jones told the Council about a letter she received from a shelter that participated in the event. A week after the day at the beach, the shelter staff had a meeting with a family that was moving into a new home.

The older boy asked staff members to guess what they thought he was going to be when he grew up," Jones said. "After several incorrect guesses, he announced, 'When I grow up, I want to be trained to be a P.S. I Love You Volunteer.'" •

## Pigskin

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with Plaxico Burress looking at two years in the slammer, and Amani Toomer hooking up with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Contention runs deep in the East, and the team that can finish 5-1 in divisional tussles will have the upper hand. Wow, sounds like I know my stuff, doesn't it?

In the South, the defending titlists, the Carolina Panthers, are at the top of a very tough division. They had a 12-win regular season in '08, but turtled in their home playoff game against the Cards, losing 33-13. And the game wasn't even that close.

Jake Delhomme, who racked up a miserable six turnovers in the Arizona playoff

debacle, is back to guide the offense, which should feature standout wide receiver, Pro Bowler Steve Smith. Smith had to sit out the first two games of last season, suspended by Coach John Fox for stupidly punching then-teammate Ken Lucas in the grill. The Panthers need 16 regular-season games from Smith, who stretches the field for stud running back DeAngelo Williams, who broke out last season, leading the NFL with 20 TDs.

That's it for now. Trust me, the rest of the teams in the NFC will get their share of ink this season in this fine publication. Deserved or not.

## Opinion

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to job growth, economic recovery, and debt growth have been incredibly inaccurate. There can be no comfort in reliance on his judgment.

We may disagree on Obama's motivations for pursuing these goals, but the facts are beyond dispute. Let's for discussion purposes, ascribe the highest motives to Obama's actions. The danger then, lies in the question of what a less noble successor may do with such power. History has shown us repeatedly that it is unwise to surrender individual freedoms involving such broad and deep aspects of our society to any monopoly, bearing in mind that the Federal Government is an unchal-

lenged and unchallengeable monopoly. In the words of Nobel Prize winning economist Milton Friedman, "Concentrated power is not rendered harmless by the good intentions of those who create it."

In a free market, when a competitor errs, he pays a severe price in the marketplace. But when a monopolistic government errs, it is free to continue its disastrous course. George Washington himself warned that "Government is not reason. It is not eloquence... It is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and fearful master."

I hope you and I have found common ground. •

## Frankly

from page 6

answer that she gave me. Cuz that didn't apply when Mom misplaced something. Someone had to have taken it, moved it. That is what she always said. And Mom knows best, so help me Robert Young!

Anyway, lost something recently, or so I thought, and guess what? Found it right where I left it. Mom always knows best, folks.

Speaking of losing it, whassup with Manny Ramirez? He seems to be a little "off" as your Dodgers enter the final throes of the regular season. Sure, the Blue Crew should be able to stave off the pesky Rockies and Giants with or without jolts from the bat of Man-Ram, but can they beat the Phillies or the Cardinals in the first round of the NL playoffs with a neutered Ramirez at the plate?

His act on defense and apparent indifference to playing left field energetically, is starting to wear thin on many Dodger fans. Ramirez was lambasted recently in the local papers by the "Letters to the Editor" crowd, who seemed ready to give up on the outfielder who they were nominating for sainthood earlier. Even after he had been fingered, twice, for

being a steroid cheat.

Dodger manager Joe Torre has expressed some mild concern. "Right now, he is a little out of whack," Torre said. Course, Ramirez could bounce back with a two-homer, five-RBI game, and all would again be rosy in Mannywood. To be continued...

And in Halo-land down South, the Angels made a nice acquisition of a starting pitcher, one who has already beaten the dreaded Boston Red Sox twice this season. In Fenway Park. Lefty Scott Kazmir was acquired from the Tampa Bay Rays for three prospects. Kazmir will slide into the starting rotation after John Lackey and Jered Weaver, and could be a key player in October when the Angels will again be pitted against the BoSox.

Finally, Sister Laura complained that she was *not* the winner of the Rockhead Award at the conclusion of our recent camping trip. She claims it was awarded, very late the final night of the excursion, to some Hawaiian member of the Plotnik clan. Okay, Laura. There you go. Anything to keep the peace in the family. •

**SIGN UP FOR FREE AMBER ALERTS ON YOUR CELL PHONE.** What could be worse than that feeling of dread when, for a few seconds, you lose sight of your child? Imagine if your child were actually taken. Go to [wirelessamberalerts.org](http://wirelessamberalerts.org). Sign up today. Then when an AMBER Alert is issued in the areas you've chosen, you'll receive a free text message. If you spot the vehicle, the suspect or the child described in the Alert, call 911. If your phone is wireless, you're no longer helpless.

A child is calling for help.

