

El Segundo Herald

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Weekend Weather Forecast

Friday

Sunny

77°



Saturday

Sunny

76°



Sunday

Mostly Sunny

71°



Oohrah! Herald in Afghanistan



Cpl Brian Campeau and the Marines from HMLA-169, with the El Segundo Herald at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan. OOHRAH! This unit is due to return to the states sometime in October, 2009. Top row: Ssgt Bradley Kirby, Cpl Lance Hartland, Cpl Rene Ramos, Lcpl David Mc Connell, Cpl Brian Campeau, Sgt Brian Samarripa, Lcpl Christopher Kilgore, Cpl Robert Liebmann, Lcpl Travis Chidley, Cpl Kevin Gebuza, Sgt Larry Smith. Middle row: Cwo3 Matthew Himes, Ssgt Jesse Ching, Sgt Ray Reyna, Lcpl Matthew Panella, Lcpl Richard Mason, Lcpl Raheem Maliki, Pvt Richard McGoldrick, Sgt Pedro Reyes, Sgt Brian Breslin, Lcpl Jacob Williard, Gysgt Andre Duplessis, Gysgt Seth Duffel, Msgrt McBride Bottom Row: Gysgt Steven Medina, Cpl Eric Beckner, Lcpl Bryan Bauer, Cpl Andrew Roman, Lcpl Veronica Ortega, Lcpl Jonathon Capatelli, Cpl Renato Nanay, Sgt Cleveland Smith.

Latest Tweaks to Filming Ordinance May Help Local Schools

By Brian Simon

Another set of proposed changes to El Segundo's filming ordinance could help local schools realize sorely needed additional revenues. During a special meeting last Thursday, the El Segundo City Council agreed in principle on more than a dozen revisions to the current document, including a provision to increase the maximum filming days that can impact surrounding homes from 20 to 25 per calendar year. That number is still significantly lower than the 40-day goal sought by school officials, who have been unable to schedule film shoots at El Segundo High School since running out of the 20 allotted days back in April. The recently renovated 1927 campus is the most popular filming site in the city.

While unwilling to add filming days in deference to resident concerns, Councilmember Carl Jacobson came up with a plan designed to allow virtually unlimited filming at the high school without any impacts to residents. "An area in the center of the high school quad is not within 300, 275, 250 feet of residents," said Jacobson, who thought production crews could move their vehicles, equipment and generators there. To facilitate this, the Council voted to allow unlimited non-impact filming days and to change the residential non-impact zone to anything outside of a 275-foot radius surrounding any filming location. The previous radius was 300 feet. To qualify as non-impact, light, sound, smell and vibration must be imperceptible to properties surrounding the site. "I think that's a really helpful amendment," said Mayor Kelly McDowell of the new radius. "It would permit the high school to conduct filming without limitation because there would be no residences within the 275 feet."

In another significant revision, the City will be able to hire its own onsite film monitor (paid for by the production companies) to enforce the ordinance and, if necessary, shut down production if there are egregious violations. "It's a proactive approach that if a problem occurs, they can alleviate it," said Councilmember Bill Fisher. Once the monitor is in place, residents who have any complaints or concerns will be able call a central phone number that will be forwarded to the monitor's cell phone.

Other changes to the ordinance include shutting down filming at 9 p.m. in residential

impact zones but giving production companies until 10 p.m. on their final "rollout" day to leave the area; allowing non-impact filming on weekends; reviewing how residents are informed about upcoming filming to make sure there is no invasion of privacy when notices are dropped off; and not counting still photography as a filming day unless it involves equipment, vehicles or personnel that could create a noticeable impact. In a question of semantics, the Council also changed the term "impact zone" to "proximity zone" since there may be situations where residents

El Segundo Schools Score Higher on API Testing

By Brian Simon

All El Segundo Unified School District campuses increased their scores on the 2009 Academic Performance Index (API) as a result of their spring 2009 STAR test scores, according to results released last week. The four participating schools also again ranked in the state's top percentile, while each easily exceeded the state's benchmark goal of 800. El Segundo schools have already achieved their target goals and need only maintain levels above 800.

On a district level, El Segundo Unified surged 15 points compared to 2008, increasing its score from 862 to 877. El Segundo High School registered the

largest individual jump, with a 22-point increase from 839 to 861. Richmond Street Elementary School broke the 900-point barrier by moving up 15 points from 894 to 909. Center Street Elementary School rose 10 points from 883 to 893 2008, while El Segundo Middle School finished three points higher at 884. "We're very pleased and excited about the academic progress our students have demonstrated on these scores," said Superintendent Dr. Geoff Yantz, who called the District's success a collaborative effort that included the dedication of teachers, staff, PTA members and the general community in

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