

# El Segundo Herald

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## Weekend Weather Forecast

### Friday

Sunny

78°



### Saturday

Mostly Sunny

76°



### Sunday

Sunny

76°



## Champions



Catcher Alec Zeman with a homerun over center field to bring in Jake Palmer and Billy Brasher. Provided by Laura Ruedas

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## Lundquists, El Camino College Issue \$1.5 Million Challenge

By Brian Simon

When it comes to education, Melanie Lundquist pulls no punches. The other half of the well-known South Bay philanthropic couple (her husband Richard is President of the El Segundo-based Continental Development Corporation and Chair of the El Segundo Educational Foundation) that in 2007 pledged \$50 million to Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, Lundquist is calling on both corporate and individual help to raise \$1 million for El Camino College plus another \$500,000 to be spread amongst the other community colleges in the state.

El Camino's \$1.5 million goal is one component of an ambitious and historic program devised by the Bernard Osher Foundation, which made a \$25 million gift to the California Community College system last year to fund scholarships throughout the state. The Osher Foundation, named after the billionaire philanthropist who was a founding director of World Savings, issued a challenge that if the 110 state community colleges could raise a cumulative \$50 million by June 2011, it would provide an additional \$25 million in matching funds to up the grand total of scholarship monies to a crisp \$100 million.

To launch the ambitious effort, the Lundquists, El Camino College President Thomas M. Fallo, and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa will host a reception today from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at The Atrium at Continental Park. To spread the word and get people in the door, over 2,000 invitations went out to elected officials, El Camino College current supporters, business owners and corporate leaders from all over the South Bay. "I don't want to leave one red penny on the table," said Melanie Lundquist. "It will be a disgrace and a shame if we do not meet this challenge."

This year, El Camino College received \$20,000 from the Osher Foundation's initial donation and used the funds to hand out 20 scholarships (\$1,000 per) to deserving students. Under the new matching program, the school will theoretically be able to hand out 97 scholarships per year in perpetuity. "The monies raised statewide under this program will remain an asset of each individual college, but will be pooled together in an investment fund with interest earnings from the endowment funding the \$1,000 scholarships without ever touching the principal," explained El Camino College Foundation Executive Director Katie Gleason.

The money will certainly come in handy for attendees of the Torrance-based campus that serves eight South Bay cities including El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach and Torrance. More than half of El Camino College's students are on some form of financial aid. "Scholarships often mean the difference between attending full-time or not," said Gleason. "Many have to juggle a job or family responsibilities."

On that note, the Osher Foundation reached out to the most financially needy students with its original \$25 million gift. Future

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## City Council: Early Retirees Could Provide Windfall for City

By Brian Simon

In hopes of saving the City as much as \$319,000 in personnel costs in the next year alone, the El Segundo City Council on Tuesday night approved a deal to offer early retirement incentives to eligible non-public safety employees who are below the department head level. To qualify, the individuals have to be in the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) for a minimum of five years and be at least 50 years old. Human Resources Director Bob Hyland said staff identified 19 viable candidates, of which nine are likely to retire—though

nothing is set in stone. The City won't have to fill four of those nine positions as part of a hiring freeze, thereby resulting in the hefty cost savings. However, the exact amount of that savings will be based on who officially decides to retire and which positions remain vacant. Noting that this is strictly a voluntary program, Mayor Kelly McDowell said those who want to take retirement with a pension along with it can do so and "it will begin to save the City money basically from day one."

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