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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTO

FANTASY 5
5, 7, 11, 15, 28

DAILY 3
Afternoon picks: 7, 5, 0
Evening picks: 7, 5, 5

DAILY DERBY
1st Place: 04, Big Ben
2nd Place: 09, Winning Spirit
3rd Place: 06, Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:47.40



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In April, choreographer Jenefer Davies Mansfield staged her "NASCAR Ballet" production at the Roanoke (Va.) Ballet Theatre, featuring 20 colorfully unitard-clad dancers, wearing corporate patches of the theater's sponsors, prancing and leaping around a banked-racetrack stage (to new-age music and the sounds of revving engines), "racing" but occasionally crashing into each other, to be rescued by other dancers who are the "pit crews." Mansfield was hoping for a big crossover audience of NASCAR fans gathered for a big race in nearby Martinsville. "In this business," she said, "you've got to take chances."



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Everybody should believe in something - I believe I'll have another drink."

- Anonymous



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Out with the old...



Carolyn Sackarison/Daily Press

Workers on Thursday tear down the old Pioneer Boulangerie Bakery on Main Street. The property, owned by developer Howard Jacobs was up for sale for \$27 million but was taken off the market last year. The property is approved for residential and commercial buildings.

CEPS may drop charter amendment

By Daily Press staff

After months of strategizing, combing neighborhoods for signatures and pushing their message in the local press, a powerful group of school parents announced Thursday it may drop its bid for an amendment to the city charter.

Leaders from the Community for Excellent Public Schools said they were heartened by a compromise reached Wednesday by school and city officials that would give the struggling school district at least \$6 million a year for the next five years.

The negotiations were made more urgent by the proposed charter amendment, which also would guarantee schools at least \$6 million a year. But it had more aggressive triggers to increase funding and would last indefinitely.

After negotiating the compromise with City Manager Susan McCarthy, schools superintendent John Deasy urged CEPS members to support the compromise and drop the charter amendment. He

said if the issue went to the polls, it threatened to alienate City Hall from the school district.

CEPS co-chair Shari Davis said her group held a special meeting at 9 p.m. Wednesday to discuss how to proceed. Though a prepared statement said CEPS would not "feel the need" to pursue the charter amendment if the school board and the City Council both approve the compromise, Davis declined to get into the details.

"It is appropriate to wait and see what the votes are," said Davis, adding the group would have more to say after Tuesday's council meeting. "We took into consideration that there was a great deal of effort that went into working out the details of the agreement. We took into consideration all the effort of the volunteers that worked so hard to help us collect those 15,000 signatures. We took into consideration what our mission is at CEPS — and we're proud that we were able to bring this issue to the forefront."

— John Wood



CITY HALL: DOLLARS & SENSE

A month-long series examining the Santa Monica City Hall finances

City Hall's 20 highest paid city workers

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Top employees here earned between \$155,000 and \$220,000 last year, and enjoyed 33 days of paid vacation — plus every other Friday off.

City Manager Susan McCarthy earned the most, taking home \$219,534 in salary and benefits, City Hall documents show. McCarthy was followed by Assistant City Attorney Joe Lawrence, who earned \$191,158 and topped his boss, City Attorney Marsha Moutrie, by \$3,689.

Eight other city attorneys, four police officers, two firemen and two department heads in City Hall also were among the 20 highest paid government workers in 2003. A police sergeant on that list earned \$64,763 in overtime alone, bringing his total wages to \$165,388.

Most, if not all, of the employees also received 33 days of paid vacation. Every City Hall employee gets 12 paid holidays on set dates and an additional 12 to 21 days of vacation time, depending on tenure. Nineteen of the top 20 earners are veteran workers who also are at the top end of their salary range, said Karen Bancroft, City Hall's director of human resources.

Workers are allotted another 12 days in sick leave each year, though many choose instead to cash in for extra pay. And because employees work longer hours Monday through Thursday, City Hall is closed every other Friday — meaning employees have another 26 days off.

Good compensation and healthy benefits apparently make local government posts attractive to job-seekers. City Hall employs 1,853 workers in 14 departments and is often flooded with applications.

"For example, when we recruited for lateral firefighters a few years ago, the applicants had to

already be firefighters in order to apply, and we had over 1,000 applicants," Bancroft said.

In total, City Hall this year will spend \$171 million on salaries, wages and fringe benefits — and \$8.5 million of that is for overtime, said Steve Stark, City Hall's finance director. Salaries account for more than 60 percent of the city's budget. By contrast, members of the City Council earn \$10,351 a year, while the mayor earns \$12,422, Bancroft said.

See SALARY, page 5

City Manager	\$219,534.24
Assistant City Attorney	\$191,158.44
City Attorney	\$187,469.37
Assistant City Manager	\$181,802.04
Police Chief	\$171,879.50
Police Captain	\$169,259.95
Deputy City Attorney	\$169,154.72
Deputy City Attorney	\$168,662.88
Director, Environmental and Public Works Management	\$165,752.52
Police Sergeant	\$165,388.23*
Fire Chief (retired)	\$165,105.54
Deputy City Attorney	\$160,606.94
Deputy City Attorney	\$158,717.38
Deputy City Attorney	\$158,644.41
Director, Transit Services	\$158,482.25
Deputy Police Chief	\$158,076.89
Battalion Chief — Prevention	\$157,954.10**
Deputy City Attorney	\$156,991.43
Deputy City Attorney	\$155,842.11
Deputy City Attorney	\$155,801.60

(* Includes \$64,763.39 in overtime. ** Includes \$18,215.56 in overtime.)

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