



STRAIGHT TALK *REPORTER*

The Newsletter for the Straight Talk Television Show

www.straighttalktv.com

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April 2007

Port Focuses on Environment



Jim Hankla is President of the Board of Harbor Commissioners.

James C. Hankla, who has served for the last three decades as a top-level local public official, is a member of the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners. The Board governs the Port of Long Beach, one of the world's leading container cargo ports and a pioneering environmental steward. Hankla was voted by his colleagues as the president of the Board of Harbor Commissioners in July 2006.

As president, he has championed the Port of Long Beach's pioneering Green Port Policy, an environmental protection ethic that is a model for seaports around the world. In 2006 he led the Port's development of the wide-ranging Clean Air

Action Plan, the most aggressive clean-air strategy of any seaport complex in the world. He received the prestigious 2006 Greening Award for his significant environmental leadership as a Harbor Commissioner.

Hankla joined the Board of Harbor Commissioners in July 2003. Before his appointment to the Commission, Hankla served as the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA) chief executive officer for five years, from August 1998 to July 2003, overseeing all financial and administrative matters and ensuring that the \$2.4 billion project opened on time and on budget. Prior to joining ACTA, Hankla distinguished himself as city manager of the city of Long Beach for 11 years. Hankla has served on numerous governing boards,

(Continued on page 3)

Memorial Medical Center Celebrates 100 Years



Terry Belmont is CEO of Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and Miller Children's Hospital.

Terry Belmont is Chief Executive Officer of Long Beach Memorial Medical Center (LBMMC) and Miller Children's Hospital – the second largest community hospital campus in the West.

The Center is celebrating the fact that it is 100 years old and still going strong. The year-long celebration started on January 17 with a presentation by community leaders followed by a celebration complete with confetti and a marching band. Mayor Bob Foster, Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe and other community leaders were on hand for the event held at Houssel's Forum at LBMMC.

"Our centennial anniversary celebrates how Long Beach Memorial has always strived to provide Long Beach the latest in modern medicine and compassionate care, just as we did in 1907," said CEO Terry Belmont.

The night also rang in "100 Days of Health", a campaign to empower the community to live a more healthy and active lifestyle.

Belmont's career included titles of President and Chief Executive Officer of several California entities, including St. Joseph Hospital of Orange, Pacific Health Resources, California Hospital Medical Center, HealthForward and others. He served as Chair of Healthcare Association of Southern California and Health Care Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties. A member of the PacifiCare board for several years, he also served on the California Healthcare Association board and executive committee.

Since 1999, Belmont was a Senior Vice President at Kaiser Permanente, first in the San Diego Region and since 2003 in the Inland Empire Region.

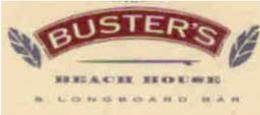
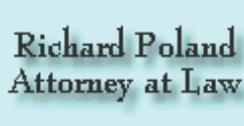
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Publisher's Note:

With this issue the Straight Talk Reporter expands from four to eight pages. Thank you for your interest and support.

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Sponsor Spotlight - Polly's Gourmet Coffee



Owner Mike Sheldrake next to Coffee Roaster

Polly's Gourmet Coffee is one of Southern California's oldest and most complete gourmet coffee stores. Founded in 1976 with the express purpose of providing only the best coffees and teas, Polly's has evolved into a complete coffee house with an espresso bar, in-house bakery, patio dining, whole bean coffees, fine teas, exotic spices and a nationwide clientele of discriminating and enthusiastic patrons.

At Polly's Gourmet Coffee, we select only the finest, top grade arabica coffee beans from around the world. But the real difference is in the roasting. That's why **WE ROAST OUR OWN COFFEE BEANS** right in the store. We guarantee that you will know what you are getting, when it was roasted, and where it comes from. We provide you with the highest quality, freshest and best tasting coffee available!

Polly's Gourmet Coffee
4606 E. 2nd St.
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Laserfiche An Innovator In The Paperless World



Rob Webb is Manager of Government Affairs for Laserfiche

Rob Webb recently joined Laserfiche Document Management as the Manager of Government Affairs. Rob oversees local and state government affairs, community relations and client relationships with key Long Beach area businesses.

He is a former Long Beach City Councilman where he served as Chairman of the Economic Development and Finance Committee as well as the Harbor and Tidelands Committee. He has been active in a variety of community organizations.

Laserfiche is currently completing a major project for the **Press-Telegram** whereby the paper's "morgue", containing tens of thousands of pages and photos, is being completely converted to digital form. The paperless morgue will be accessible by every Press-Telegram employee on their computer and potentially by the public as well.

Brian LaPointe is Director of Strategic Solutions for Laserfiche



Brian LaPointe, the Director of Strategic Solution for Laserfiche, currently leads the team responsible for the strategic client engagements. Prior to the national role, Brian successfully managed Laserfiche's Canadian marketplace, focusing on providing local government, education, financial services, and healthcare solutions.

Brian is a 12 year computer industry veteran and frequent presenter at industry events. His professional background combines extensive startup experience with years of professional services and custom development projects. Brian holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts.

Rob Webb and Brian LaPointe will be our guests on the Straight Talk Show airing the weeks of April 9 & 16.

Jim Hankla (continued from page 1)

advisory boards and civic organizations, including International City Theatre, Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, Los Angeles/Long Beach World Trade Center Association, and Memorial Health Services.

Trade Impact Study

A trade impact study recently issued by the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA) underscores the role of the nation's two largest container ports play as critical economic powerhouses and job generators for both the state and national economies.

The San Pedro Bay ports handle more than 40% of the nation's total containerized cargo import traffic and 24% of

the nation's total exports. Since 1994, when the trade impact study was first conducted, the growth in the national impact of trade for goods being transported at the San Pedro Bay ports increased 246%, from \$74 billion to \$256 billion, with \$62.5 billion of that trade in California .

The number of direct and indirect jobs associated with the trade activity generated by the San Pedro Bay ports increased by 200%, from 1.1 million jobs nationally in 1994 to 3.3 million jobs in 2005. In addition, the study conservatively estimates that more than 886,000 jobs in California are directly and indirectly related to international trade activities conducted through the San Pedro Bay Ports.

Jim Hankla will be our guest on the Straight Talk Show airing the weeks of April 23 and 30.

Terry Belmont (continued from page 1)

The Inland Empire Region alone serves 680,000 members and includes more than 700 physicians and 7,900 employees.

Belmont's contributions to the community are substantial. These include Vice President of the Orange County World Affairs Council and service on the boards of the Southern

California College of Optometry, American Heart Association and Children's Fund. He received his master's degree in public health with a major in hospital administration from University of California, Berkeley, and his bachelor's degree in business from University of Redlands.

Terry Belmont will be our guest on the Straight Talk Show airing the weeks of April 9 & April 16.

Thought of the Month

Be the change you want to see in the World.

— Mahatma Gandhi

45th Annual Renaissance Pleasure Faire Returns April 7



The Renaissance Pleasure Faire and Artisans Market will celebrate its 45th year at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area (where the 210 and the 605 Freeways meet) **Seven Week-ends April 7 through May 20** from 10:00am till 7:00pm.

The Renaissance Faire is a 360-degree re-creation of an Elizabethan English country faire and marketplace in which the spectacle surrounds guests. Where else can you cheer on heroic knights, learn to juggle, chat with William Shakespeare, haggle with a fishwife, and join Her Royal Majesty, Queen Elizabeth I, on a grand visit to a bustling 16th century Faire? And you won't want to miss a favorite of the crowd, the **Armored Joust on Horseback**.

From the morning antics at the Call O' Faire show, where the town gates are opened, to the farewell to the Queen at the end of the day, the **1,000 costumed performers** surround fairegoers with entertainment. Swashbuckling Heroes, merry Minstrels, dazzling Daredevils, Belly Dancers, Jugglers, and Colorful Characters of every sort compete for attention on the busy streets and upon the stages offering continuous entertainment throughout the day.



Returning this year is a Faire favorite, "The Washing Well Wenches". They are a hilarious group of misinformed women looking to make themselves attractive to the opposite sex through the sultry lure of laundry. A perennial favorite "**Sir Frances Drake**", is a member of the Queen's Court, who has enchanted visitors for countless years. New this year are the Tartanic, a bagpipe band out of Texas and Copali-Copli, high energy Aztec Dancers.

In addition to continuous entertainment, visitors will find **hundreds of artisans and craftspeople** selling a wide selection of wares from delicate jewelry to sturdy handmade furniture. The Faire offers a chance for all to watch these Craftsmen, some of the finest in California, practice and create their art. Dozens of these vendors have demonstrations, including glass blowing, papermaking, coin-striking, woodturning, weaving and bronze fabrication. There are also stuffed animals, metal sculpture, wooden mugs, pottery, fine art, leather masks, and handmade candles.

Over **seventy-five incredible edibles** are offered from our food vendors including heaping portions of traditional English fare such as Shepherd's Pye, Fish and Chips, Toad-in-a-Hole and sausage Bangers. Others provide more exotic foods including Falafel, chocolate dipped berries, fruit ices. New this year are bruchetta, fried ravioli, tamales, pulled pork, fresh cut zucchini and pork ribs. There is also vegetarian cuisine, and healthy choices are available.



Ticket prices at the box office are \$25.00 for adults, \$15.00 for children ages 5-12 (children under 5 are always free) and a discounted price of \$22.50 for military, students and seniors (62+). For information on discount advance tickets please call **(877) 772-5425** or visit **www.RenFair.com**.

Having Our Say Coming to ICT

Having Our Say, the remarkable story of two centenarian sisters who became groundbreaking career women and astute observers of over a century of American life, comes to life on the stage at International City Theatre starting April 27.

This show is Emily Mann's stage adaptation of Sadie and Bessie Delaney's best-selling memoir of the same title, in which the sisters look back on 100 years of their family life and black history in America. In the play, 103 year old Sadie and her 101 year old sister Bessie invite the audience into their living room to hear the story of their lives, which begins in Reconstruction and progresses through the rise of Jim Crow, two world wars, the Harlem Renaissance, the civil rights and women's movements, and right up into the 90's.

The lives of the two centenarians were first brought into the spotlight when reporter Amy Hill Hearth wrote an article for the *New York Times*. That article led to the bestselling book and appearances on national television. Although the book was Mann's primary source, the playwright also met with the sisters in their Mt. Vernon, New York home. According to an interview with *New York Time's* Mel Gussow, Mann decided to approximate that meeting on stage, designing the play as a character study and conversation piece in which the Delanys welcome the audience into their home and into their lives.

Performances take place **April 27 through May 20**, with low-priced previews beginning April 24. For tickets or further information, call **(562) 436-4610** or visit the ICT website at **www.ictlongbeach.org**.



Important Long Beach Special Election on May 1

Guest Column by
Mayor Bob Foster

On May 1, the voters of Long Beach will have the opportunity to **vote yes** to enact several common-sense proposals that will improve the efficiency, transparency and accountability of our City government and generate crucial funding to help meet our growing public safety needs.

Propositions A-G are a package of modifications to our City Charter that will improve the structure of government in Long Beach. These recommendations come after more than two years of consideration, beginning with the 2004 Government Reform Task Force, and subsequent deliberations by the City Council.

Proposition A is a common-sense proposal that will improve the efficiency and accountability of our City government by creating a real system of checks and balances. Currently the Mayor has an ineffectual veto that can be overridden by the same number of council members (5 votes) that passed the measure in the first place. Proposition A will give the Mayor a traditional veto that requires a two-thirds vote of the City Council to override, in addition to granting budgetary line-item veto authority that can be used to rein in out-of-control spending. This addition, along with changes that allow more time for public review of the annual City budget, gives the Mayor and Council the tools they need to better manage City expenditures.

Proposition B establishes three new citizens' commissions to make City government more effective and accountable: Ethics, Redistricting and Salary Review.

Proposition C sets term limits of the Mayor and City Council members, Harbor Commissioners and Water Commissioners to a maximum of three terms of four years.

Proposition D closes unintended loopholes by setting enforceable residency requirements for candidates for public office and disqualifying a person from running for multiple municipal offices at

the same time. Proposition D will also write-in candidate to appear on the runoff ballot if they receive enough votes to qualify.

Proposition E, "Parks in Perpetuity," will help ensure that our parks and open space are preserved for future generations by requiring that any sale or transfer of parkland must be approved by a vote of the people or replaced by the City with twice as much parkland as compensation.

Proposition F will allow the City Prosecutor's office to focus more of existing resources on misdemeanor prosecution by transferring civil service cases over to the City Attorney's Office.

Proposition G is simple clean-up language that removes sections from the charter that have been made obsolete over the past 80 years, primarily by changes to state law.

Finally, but of tremendous importance, is Proposition H, the Police and Fire Public Safety Oil Production Act. Prop. H will increase the fee charged to oil companies when the extract oil from underneath the City of Long Beach, generating \$3.8 million annually that can *only* be used to support our fire and police departments.

Neighboring cities such as Signal Hill charge 60 cents per barrel. Long Beach's fee is currently 15 cents and has not been raised since 1990 – it's time Long Beach receives its fair share.

We need the funding generated by Proposition H for Public Safety and the charter reforms of Proposition A-G to make our government more effective, transparent and accountable to the residents of Long Beach. That's why all these propositions are endorsed by Senator Alan Lowenthal, our Long Beach Police and Firefighters, the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce and many other community leaders.

Please join me in supporting these necessary modifications to our charter and get out to vote on Tuesday, May 1.

Straight Talk Reporter

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Election Matrix

The Long Beach Special Election on May 1 has a number of important propositions on the ballot.

As an aid to our readers, we summarize the positions of the Mayor, selected media and the Chamber of Commerce.

We urge everyone to **Vote on Tuesday, May 1** and make your voice heard.

| Proposition | Mayor Bob Foster | Straight Talk | Press-Telegram | Long Beach Business Journal | Long Beach Chamber of Commerce | Grunion Gazette | LongBeach Report.com |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| A | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes (Barely) |
| B | Yes | No | No | No | Yes | No | No |
| C | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes | No |
| D | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | N/A (not available) | No |
| E | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | N/A | Withhold Vote |
| F | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | N/A | Yes |
| G | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | N/A | Yes |
| H | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes (Overdue) |

Summary of Propositions

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| Proposition A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong mayoral veto, requiring 2/3 vote of City Council to override. ▪ Line item mayoral veto for annual budget. | Proposition E | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requires that certain park and recreation areas shall not be sold or otherwise transferred without either a majority vote of the people or the replacement of such property at a ratio of at least two to one (2:1). |
| Proposition B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creation of Independent Salary Commission to set salary for City Councilmembers. ▪ Creation of Ethics Commission to advise City Council on ethics regulation. ▪ Creation of Redistricting Commission to review council district boundaries every ten years. | Proposition F | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove the duty of the City Prosecutor to prosecute hearings before the Civil Service Commission. |
| Proposition C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Modify term limits for Mayor and Council from two four-year terms to three four-year terms. ▪ Modify terms limits for members of Harbor and Water Commissions to three four-year terms. | Proposition G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delete obsolete provisions of the City Charter regarding outdated tax, fiscal year and financial account descriptions. |
| Proposition D | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Modify residency requirements for City Council candidates. ▪ Prohibit a candidate from running for two City elective offices at the same time. ▪ Permit the name of a termed-out candidate to appear on the run-off ballot if the candidate qualifies in the primary. | Proposition H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the oil extraction fee charged to oil companies for removing oil under the City of Long Beach. ▪ Will generate approximately \$3.8 million annually to be used only to support the Long Beach Police and Fire Departments. |

Desert News—Palm Spring Follies a Big Hit

The Fabulous Palm Spring Follies is enjoying a great 16th season, with this year's theme *Gotta Dance!* The show plays through May 20th at the Palm Springs Playhouse.

According to impresario and founder **Riff Markowitz**, "This year's theme reflects our experience that dance is precisely what a dancer *must* do— regardless of age". "Our cast— even those in their 80's— performs nine shows every week! Do that and dance is more than just your job, it's your passion and your mission in life. And our audiences have told us that the more dancing we include in each new Follies, the better they like it.

In addition the show now features singing star **Mimi Hines**. She was an instant sensation in 1958 when her *Tonight Show* rendition of "Till There Was You" reduced host Jack Paar to tears. Time has done nothing to diminish the magnificent voice and comic timing that won Hines the coveted role as Barbra Streisand's replacement in the Broadway production of *Funny Girl*.

This season's international variety acts include Russian quick-change artists **Tatiana** and **Victor Manjos** and the explosive **Dancing Gauchos** from Argentina.

Living Better Longer Symposium

In partnership with the **UCLA Center on Aging**, the Follies will present a symposium entitled "**Living Better Longer**" at 7pm on Friday, May 4, 2007.

Hosted by Follies star Riff Markowitz, the panel will be led by the UCLA Center on Aging's Director, **Gary Small, M.D.**, a best-selling author and one of the world's leading physician-scientists in the fields of memory and longevity. Also featured on the panel will be several members of the Follies cast, including **Dorothy Kloss** who, at age 83, was just named by Guinness World Records as "World's Oldest 'Still Performing' Showgirl."

The UCLA Center on Aging is a leading center in the world for research and education to help people live better longer. For 16 years the Follies have vividly demonstrated that growing *older* needn't mean growing *old*.

Tickets to the show and/or the symposium can be reserved by calling the Follies Box Office at **(760) 327-0225** or by visiting the website at **www.psfollies.com**.

Desert News—Ramona Festival Opens April 21

Ramona, the Official California State Outdoor Play, begins its 84th season April 21 at the Ramona Bowl Amphitheatre in Hemet, California. It is the **oldest and longest running outdoor drama in the United States**. *Ramona* is a journey back to the early days of California in a colorful blend of fiction and history the whole family will enjoy. This classic outdoor drama vividly portrays the conflict between Native Americans and the new settlers of the period. Traditional Native American and Mexican music and dancing, authentic costumes, and lively scenes of horses galloping toward the late afternoon sky add to the spectacle.

Ramona has been described as a **feast for the senses**. This popular show is set against the rugged natural backdrop of the southern Hemet hills, and is presented by a cast of more than 400 local actors, singers, dancers, and horsemen. The natural shape of the amphitheatre enhances the sound quality of the performance, and the beautiful landscaped surroundings create a perfect setting for this colorful and exciting fresh air pageant.

Janine Reitenbach, General Manager of the Ramona Bowl Amphitheatre, is thrilled with the support provided by this year's sponsors: Riverside County, the City of Hemet, the James Irvine Foundation, Soboba Casino, Verizon, Cahuilla Casino, the Press Enterprise, KZSW TV, Mt. San Jacinto College and many more. "The **City of Hemet** helps to promote *Ramona* with festive banners displayed throughout town, and

with a **Ramona Parade on Saturday April 14**, on Florida Avenue that begins at 10:00am" Reitenbach said. "The generous support of our sponsors and hundreds of volunteers at the Bowl enables us to present *Ramona* better than it has ever been."



Tickets are on sale now for the weekend shows that begin on Saturday, April 21. Performance dates for the 2007 season are April 21, 28, 29, and May 5, 6, and 12, 2007. Gates open at 1:00pm with **Entertainment and Pre-show Activities** starting at 1:30pm and continuing until show time. *Ramona* performances will begin promptly at 4:00pm and conclude at 6:30pm. For tickets or more information call **(951) 658-3111**, or visit their website at **www.ramonabowl.com**.

Straight Talk Around Town

This month we start a new feature in our expanded newsletter—Straight Talk Around Town. We will feature people, places, and pictures of some of the many exciting activities happening in our increasingly vibrant city.



Jennifer Boyd, hostess at Trani's Restaurant, pictured with a race car before a Straight Talk Night honoring the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach.



Mayor Bob Foster is helmeted by Committee of 300 Director Amy Zitko for an E-Ticket ride in a Formula Drift car at Press Day.



Rob Webb, Art Levine and Mike O'Toole help celebrate St. Patrick's Day.



Dan Ham, Praveen Soni, Art Levine and Bobby Gordina are the winning team for the College of Business Administration in the 1st Annual Chick-fil-A College Shootout at CSULB.



Decorated WWII Veteran Bob Houser surrounded by daughters Gretchen and Beth.



Veteran speaks at the Barnes & Noble Book Week Event honoring The Greatest Generation.



Keesal, Young & Logan attorney Evelyn Christensen pictured with another elegant guest at the great closing event for Book Week.



U.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors perform aboard the RMS Queen Mary at the USO type closing event for Book Week.