

## School Board Candidates: An Overview



FIESTA 2011-Food, rides, music and a ferris wheel were featured as thousands attended the annual Culver City event at Veteran's Park last weekend. The three-day event dates back to 1951. The Culver City Fire Department was on hand as was the Police department with a demonstration by the K-9 dogs.

photo by Ron Peterson

### Million Dollar Fundraiser Begins For Schools

Culver City Education Foundation (CCEF) has launched a \$1 million fundraising campaign, "All for 1," which began last weekend at Fiesta La Ballona, August 27 and 28.

The campaign goal is to unite the community of Culver City to raise \$1 million in 30 days to benefit all Culver City schools. In 2009, the voter-approved parcel tax of \$1.2 million dollars per year made a huge difference in maintaining excellence in the city's award-winning schools.

Since then, however, unprecedented annual budget cuts from Sacramento have placed schools in need again.

Just \$1 a day (that's \$30 a month) would help ensure success for the schools. The programs to be supported with "All for 1" funds include academic support programs for all levels of learning, art, music, school garden programs, college-prep programs and classroom technology upgrades to improve the learning environment.

All funds raised will be applied to the 2012-2013 school year. The funds will be given as a grant to CCUSD.

By Lynne Bronstein  
Observer Reporter

*The campaign season is on for candidates for the Culver City Board of Education. Here is a rundown on the five candidates, their backgrounds, achievements, and goals.*

#### Gary Abrams

Gary Abrams has worked as a volunteer at Linwood E. Howe Elementary School in Culver City. He was a recipient of the 2008-09 Culver City Education Foundation's (CCEF) /See's Candies Volunteer of the Year Award for excellence and dedication to education.

A resident of Culver City since 1991, Abrams is a graduate of UCLA's Attorney Assistant Program. He and his wife Belinda Corpuz are both registered nurses. They have two sons, Garet and Grant, who attend Culver City schools.

At Linwood E. Howe, Abrams has been volunteering for more than a decade. He chaired the Linwood E. Howe Book Fair several times, and his other volunteer credentials have included field trip monitor, lice check, hearing and vision personnel, kindergarten playground monitor, garden and grounds keeper, office assistance, counseling, classroom assistance, and after-school playground monitoring.

Abrams has also served as a basketball and soccer coach at the Y. Of his goals, Abrams says: "Have no other aspiration than to provide our kids with the most beneficial educational opportunity available. I am not interested in 'politics.' Just for kids."

#### Laura Chardiet

A 12-year resident of Culver City, Laura Chardiet was raised in a family of educators in San Diego. A former classroom teacher, she now administers and oversees LAUSD's \$15 million adult literacy program.

Chardiet received her B.A. in English Literature from California State University Northridge and her Master's in Educational Administration from California State University Dominguez Hills.

She has been actively involved in Culver City PTAS for nine years, has been president of the Culver City Council of the PTAs 2009-2012, and received an Honorary Service Award from the Culver City PTA. She has also served on the Community Budget Advisory Board and the La Ballona School Site Council.

Laura Chardiet's husband Jon is a teacher and writer of children's books. Their two children, Cole and Isabella, attend Culver City schools.

She has advocated for public education in Sacramento and Washington D.C. Under her leadership, the LAUSD Workforce Investment Act Grant was grown from a \$14 million grant to a \$15.5 million grant

program.

Chardiet says "I want to work with my fellow school board members and our entire community to find creative ways to fund and preserve the arts, athletics, language immersion- all of the programs that make our Culver City schools so great.

"As a school board member I will work to develop more funding streams, think creatively and always lead by example- pulling together the many talents and resources available in our community and putting them to work for our kids and our future."

#### Nancy Goldberg

Nancy Goldberg's teaching experience in the Culver City School District dates back to 1969. After graduating from UCLA she began work in the District as a substitute teacher and subsequently was offered a post as an English teacher at Culver City Middle School "where I also enjoyed sponsoring the tap dancing and ice skating clubs." She went on to teach at Culver City High where she taught English, reading, U.S. History, journalism, and A.P. classes until her retirement earlier this year.

Goldberg served as a sponsor for the sophomore and junior classes at C.C. High and as a sponsor for activities including Penstrokes, Latinos Unidos, and the Korean Club. She was Senior Class advisor from 2003 to 2011.

Currently, Goldberg serves as a consultant to the College Board.

She sees serving on the School Board as "a logical transition" from her teaching days.

"My 41 years of teaching and working in the Culver City School District convince me that I have the expertise and skills to serve on the Culver City School Board. I have a deep understanding of student, parent and community concerns. My long term commitment is to children and their education."

#### Scott Zeidman

The current president of the

**Candidates - Continued On Page 5**

### MoKo Closes Doors

Five months after Gyenari restaurant in downtown Culver City closed and reopened as MoKo the new restaurant has closed and is being redone again.

The owner has announced the restaurant will reopen and be named G2 and return to its roots as a Korean barbecue. According to downtown locals, executive chef Gary Robins left suddenly and is facing numerous health issues.

The restaurant is located in the popular downtown Culver City restaurant corridor in front of the movie theaters and near the Culver Hotel.

#### Commentary

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#### Historical Society

Celebrates 94 years of Culver City  
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#### Sports

NFL Star Joins Culver Football Staff  
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**COMMENTARY**

**A Balanced Approach Will Preserve What's Best**

**Scott Malsin, Vice Mayor**  
(Second of a three-part series)

In my first article on Culver City labor issues I wrote about why changes in the City's retirement plan which take effect on January 1, 2012 are likely to force a large percentage of our most experienced and most valuable employees to retire. I described how by "grandfathering in" older employees we can avoid losing them and avert the serious degradation of City services it will cause. The cost to do so is low and the payback is substantial and meaningful.



Before Culver City became the thriving destination it is today there was one attribute which set us apart from other communities: our excellent safety services. While many small city Police and Fire Departments serve as "stepping stones" for safety professionals, Culver City's safety services have always been first rate.

Why? Because we have hired and retained the best. The recipe is simple but not easy to duplicate. Experienced professionals mentor new employees.

Expectations are high. Officers and Firefighters cross-train to be effective members of a tightly integrated team. They become a part of the success of our community.

It's easy to understand how important this is to the operation of our Police and Fire Departments. The loss of much of our senior staff will be a devastating blow to them - and to us.

The same principle holds true throughout our City organization. Culver City depends on a relatively small workforce to provide a wide variety of services. The loss of experienced parks and public works staff, building inspectors, finance staff and others will mean a loss of a great deal of the "institutional memory," the experience, and the personal commitment to our community that makes the high level of service we enjoy possible.

For every ambulance that arrives at your door, a large number of workers are part of the team that makes it happen. From the mechanic who maintains the ambulance to the dispatcher who takes the call, many people are involved in providing each and every service we depend on and each amenity we enjoy. A sudden loss of team members can only create disorder and disruption in these services.

The impact of these changes on the morale of our remaining workforce will be devastating. Culver City's employees show an incredible amount of dedication to our community. As we trim our workforce year after year they keep doing more for less. They care a great deal for our community, and it shows. We should not jeopardize that level of commitment.

A City whose residents care about service should do its best to retain its most valuable, experienced employees. We should not be rushing them out the door by making them choose between continued service to our community and the best interests of their families.

A City whose thriving business community depends on a knowledgeable and motivated team at City Hall should treat that team like a valuable asset. Their skills have helped our City prosper. Private sector studies have measured the financial value of "engaged" employees, and it is substantial. We should not undermine what so many employers struggle to create, especially in uncertain economic times.

My evaluation of the changes the City is implementing leads me to believe that costs have been understated and implications have been underestimated. Frankly, it just doesn't add up: If we're paying for the benefits of employees who retire before January 1 in order to retain their current retiree plan and we're paying the same amount again for the benefits of new, less-experienced employees, we're not saving money? we're spending more.

By "grandfathering in" the current retiree medical benefits of older workers we can achieve the vast majority of the savings we're seeking while preserving what's best about our community. Doing so will support our property values, strengthen our local economy, and ensure that Culver City remains a great place to live.

Many people who read my first article have contacted me about this important issue. I'm interested in hearing what you think about it. Let me know by emailing me at [scott@culvercity2020.org](mailto:scott@culvercity2020.org).

You can read this essay online at: <http://culvercity2020.org>

Full Disclosure: Culver City Councilmembers including Councilmember Malsin will be affected by these changes.

**Police blotter**

**August 23 to August 30**

**Residential Burglary:**

On August 23 at 4:48 pm officers responded to the 3800 block of Huron Avenue regarding a burglary investigation. The officers met with the victim who told them the following; her sons locked and secured the location at 1 pm. They returned at 4:40 and noticed some property missing and checked the rest of the location. They discovered a bedroom window was opened and more of their property missing.

**Car Burglary:**

On August 23 at 7 pm a victim called the police department to report her 2005 Yukon had been burglarized. The victim said she parked and locked her vehicle at 5:40 pm in the 4100 block of Overland Avenue. When she returned at 6:45 pm she discovered her passenger window had been shattered and her property missing.

**Stolen Vehicle:**

On August 24 at 9 pm officers responded to the 6000 block of Sepulveda Boulevard regarding a stolen vehicle investigation. The officers met with the victim who told them the following; he parked and secured his 2006 Suzuki motorcycle at 8 pm and when he returned at 8:45 discovered his motorcycle was missing.

**Attempt Burglary:**

On August 28 at 9:40 am officers responded to the 10800 block of Washington Boulevard regarding an attempt burglary investigation. The officers met with the victim who told them the following; he said his business was locked and secured on August 28 at 6 pm. The following morning at 8 another employee arrived at the business and discovered the front door was open and the lock was broken. The victim arrived and did not find any property taken.

**Vandalism:**

On August 29 at 8:15 am a victim called the police department to report her 1984 Honda had been vandalized. The victim said she parked and locked her vehicle in the 4100 block of Vinton Avenue on August 28 at 8 pm and when she returned the next morning discovered the rear window of her car was shattered.

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The Culver City Observer, Westchester/Marina Observer and Palos Verdes View are published weekly by California Community Newspapers. The Palos Verdes View is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation for Los Angeles County.

News and press releases may be submitted for consideration by mail to P.O. Box 2764, Culver City, CA 90231-2764 or by E-mail to [Editor@CulverCityObserver.com](mailto:Editor@CulverCityObserver.com)

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# Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I am responding to the Op-Ed piece written last week by Mr. Malsin. It is one of the most self-serving articles I have read in a long, long time.

He is trying to paint a picture of doom and gloom for the City, vis-a-vis personnel, that, in all likelihood will not occur.

There are three very important points that Mr. Malsin failed to disclose:

1. The members of two of the three City Bargaining Units (i.e. Unions and/or Employee Associations) have already approved the change in benefits -- probably because they would rather have jobs instead of full benefits.
2. One of benefits in question is free, lifetime medical insurance for the retiree and his or her family.
- 3 One of the few part-time employees with benefits who will be affected by the change in benefits is Mr. Malsin, himself.

Susan S. Deen  
Culver City

## A New Boss Arrives

Jennifer and Daniel Boss of Culver City announce the birth of their son, Desmond Hehn Boss.

Desmond arrived Thursday, May 19 at 3:27 pm. He weighed 9 pounds 13 ounces and measured 21 inches long. Desmond is first born to Jennifer and Daniel Boss.

Paternal Grandparents are Nancy and Richard Art and Donald and Roswitha Boss. Maternal Grandparents are George and the late Sally Adkins and Maternal great-grandmother Barbara Turnbull of Oxford, England.

## Historical Society to Celebrate 94 Culver Years

The Culver City Historical Society (CCHS) will present a celebration of the city's 94-year history at the newly-renovated Historic Culver Hotel at 9400 Washington Boulevard, Culver City, on Sunday, September 18 from 5:30 to 9.

Festivities will include music and dancing to the music of "DOOZY," a band specializing in "prohibition pop, depression era tunes, and retro-originals" every Thursday evening at the Culver Hotel; bountiful arrays of appetizers and desserts; a raffle and auction; silent movies; historic Culver City cocktails at a no host bar, and many more.

The auction and raffle will be conducted by former mayors Jozelle Smith and Andy Weissman, and will offer Culver City memorabilia and other items. The highlight of the auction will feature a hand-painted Tom and Jerry animation cel made by longtime Culver City resident Martha Sigall especially for this event. Sigall worked for 14 studios during her career and took part in the development of characters like Daffy Duck, Bugs Bunny, Elmer Fudd and Tweety.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to come out and celebrate the city's 94th anniversary in such a great town for all of us who live and work here, and to support our local historical society and its mission in the community," said Stu Freeman, CCHS president.

The public is invited to attend and encouraged to wear costumes of the 1920s and 1930s. Tickets are \$45 per person and reservations are required. Checks for reservations should be sent to the Culver City Historical Society, Box 3428, Culver City, California, 90231-3428. (Admission is \$50 at the door). Tickets may also be purchased at the CCHS's Archives and Resource Center on Saturday, September 3 from 1-3 p.m.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the CCHS' Museum/Archive and Resource Center (ARC) and support its mission in the community. There is no admission charge for visitors to the ARC, which is located at the back of the Veterans Memorial Building at 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City, and open on the first and third Saturday of each month from 1-3 p.m.

For more information call the Society at (310) 253-6941 or inquire by e-mail at info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org. Also, visit the CCHS website at: www.culvercity-historicalsociety.org or search Facebook at CulverCity HistoricalSociety for updates.



Martha Sigall holds the cel she created for the auction at the CCHS's fundraising event on Sunday, September 18, at the Culver Hotel.

**Visit Us On The Web At  
CulverCityObserver.com**

### CITY OF CULVER CITY NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO CITY COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

The City of Culver City is now accepting applications for appointment of members to the following City Commissions, Committees and Boards:

BOARD/ COMMITTEE/ COMMISSION	NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS	TERM OF OFFICE	CITY RESIDENCY REQUIRED?	SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS	DUTIES
Disability Advisory Committee	2	October 2011 thru June 30, 2015	No	Personal or professional experience with disabilities required.	Advocate for persons w/ disabilities in the Culver City community & make recommendations to staff and/or the City Council.
Landlord-Tenant Mediation Board	2 – Tenant Representative	October 2011 thru June 30, 2014	Tenant – Yes Tenant Alternate - Yes	Call Housing Division at (310)253-5780 for requirements of each category or refer to application.	Provide mandatory "good faith" mediation of residential rental disputes relating to rent increases in Culver City.
	1 - Tenant Alternate	No Term			
Advisory Committee on Redevelopment	1	October 2011 thru June 30, 2015	If not a resident, then candidate must either represent a business or property within the Redevelopment Project Area, or a community organization active in Culver City.	None	Advise the Culver City Redevelopment Agency on development projects within the Project Area before they are reviewed by the Redevelopment Agency, and to review and comment on Redevelopment Agency sponsored programs.

Applications are available during business hours from the City Clerk's Office located on the first floor of City Hall (9770 Culver Boulevard). **Applications will be accepted by the City Clerk's Office until 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 20, 2011.** Appointments are scheduled to be made by the City Council on Monday, October 3, 2011. Applications are available in person at 9770 Culver Boulevard, First Floor; or may be requested by phoning (310) 253-5851, or can be obtained on the City's website (www.culvercity.org). Completed applications may be dropped off at the City Clerk's Office or mailed. **No faxes will be accepted.** Business hours are 7:30 A.M.--5:30 P.M. City Hall is closed on alternate Fridays (City Hall will be closed on August 26 and September 9). City Hall will also be closed on Labor Day (September 5).

## Vintage Party Planned For Sister City Fundraiser

The Culver City Sister City Committee will be presenting its third annual fundraiser in vintage style, celebrating Culver City's "Golden Days". The party will take place on Sunday, October 16 from 3 p.m. to 6 at the Culver Hotel, 9400 Culver Blvd.

The event will feature music from the good old days, a variety of hors d'oeuvres and vintage cocktails. Attendees will be able to watch silent flicks, bid on auction items and participate in a book signing by Culver City Historian Julie Lugo Cerra.

Suggested attire for the evening is clothing that represents the fun, glamour and glitter of the past, such as: Top hat and tails, Zoot suits, jitterbug/roaring 20's outfits, poodle skirts or hot 60's styles. Vintage attire is optional.

The cost for the event is \$55 per person (\$65 after October 4). All proceeds will go toward helping to foster and promote international and intercultural friendships with our Sister Cities in Mexico, Japan, South Korea and Canada.

For tickets and additional information, please contact Maureen at (310) 839-9945 or ccscmaureengenteman@gmail.com.

## Traditional Scandinavian Dance Class To Begin

Beginning Wednesday, September 14 from 7:30 pm to 10, Culver City will present a weekly class featuring dances from Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland.

All ages and skill levels are welcome. Smooth soled shoes are recommended. For more information call 310-253-6650

## Office of Child Development Has Child Care Food Program

The Office of Child Development has announced the sponsorship of the Child Care Food Program. The program is available without charge to all eligible participants. Children are served the same meals at no separate charge.

"In accordance with Federal law and The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, prohibits this institution from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, or political beliefs. Persons with disabilities who require alternate means for communication or program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (Voice and TDD)."

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For more information, please contact the Office of Child Development at (310) 842-4230.



Conquero legend Poncho Sanchez was the final performer last Thursday evening concluding the 1011 Culver City Music Festival held in the Culver City Courtyard at City Hall.

This will be the eighth concert of the 2011 series which just concluded its 17th years.

photo by Ron Peterson

## Culver Rotary Club Donates Supplies to CCUSD Schools

The Culver City School District is pleased to thank the Rotary Club of Culver City for its generous donation to each of its five elementary schools.

With classroom budgets being trimmed more every day, Rotarians have stepped up to the plate. The club obtained a wish list from each school and donated more than \$1,000 worth of copy paper, pens, pencils, glue, protractors, rulers, crayons, markers, notebooks and scissors.

The supplies will be divided among the five elementary schools in the Culver City Unified School District. The Culver City Rotary Club is active in partnering with the Culver City Education Foundation and annually contributes to various programs, including computer equipment for classrooms, the Culver City High School Athletic Department's equipment, scholarship funds, Juvenile Diversion Programs, Boy Scouts and the Interact Club.

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**Candidates - Continued From Page 1**

Schol Board of Education has lived in Culver City since 1972, attending Farragut Elementary, Culver City Junior High, and Culver City High School, graduating from the latter in 1980. He obtained a B.S. in biology from Loyola Marymount University in 1984, and a J.D. in 1990 from University of California Davis School of Law. Zeidman is also the Vice President and General Counsel of L.A. Slot Machine Company, Inc.

In addition, Zeidman worked for the Culver City Department of Human Services as a parks and recreation leader from about 1977 through 1985.

He lives in Culver City with his wife Aileen and their two boys Jason and Brandon, who attend school in the CCUSD district.

His list of activities includes: Co-chair, Measure EE Committee; all CCUSD School PTAs (Council PTA Honorary Service Award Recipient); Culver City High Booster Club (Distinguished Community Service Award Recipient); Culver City Sister City's Committee; and Board Member Culver City Education Foundation.

Zeidman lists among his accomplishments during his first four-year term on the School Board: the passage of Measure EE; placing a cap on the student population of the middle and high schools; implementing one of California's first anti-bullying task forces; saving counselor and classroom aides during the school district budget cuts; maintaining and increasing transparency in the school budget process; enhancing the school music curriculum; and hiring Patti Jaffe as Superintendent.

"As the President of the Culver City Board of Education, I look not at how good our schools are, but rather I look at how great our schools truly can be. We have a tremendous core of teachers and staff, providing our students the best possible education. We have a large array of elective options for our students. But we can, and will, be better."

**Robert Zirgulis**

"Mr. Z" as he likes to be known, has been a Culver City resident since 1984. He holds a Master of Science in Business from CSUN and a B.A. in Public Service from UCLA. He lists his work experience as "teacher, entrepreneur, and realtor" and believes that his experience with substitute teaching gives him "a broader understanding of what has been happening in our schools because I have taught every grade from K-12 and been in virtually every class throughout the school district."

Running for the second time for School Board, Zirgulis is seeking to combat Culver City's budget problems with "promoting the quality of education while holding the line on spending." A supporter of Measure EE, which raised \$6,000,000 for Culver City's schools, he also supports an oil extraction tax on oil companies who pay zero taxes in California and hopes to raise \$3,000,000,000 statewide for the schools through this tax. Zirgulis states that he was the first candidate to advocate use of therapy dogs to help special needs students. He supports the Safe Routes to School program and wants to see CCUSD and local business teaming up to create internships for students. He also wants to overhaul and revitalize the Natatorium swimming pool.



The Backstage Bar & Grille celebrated its 75th anniversary last week by rolling back prices. A crowd formed early in the day to feast on 25 cent hamburgers and 25 cent beer. By the time the party ended at 7 that night the owner, Ben Myron, reported they had sold over 1200 hamburgers and gone through 100 cases of beer (that's 2400 cans).

**Birthdays**

Well we sure got behind on August birthdays. We sure do miss Jozelle Smith who retired after writing "In One Ear" for over 30 years (she started it when she was 9...so that makes her....) so here goes with the last of the August birthdays: Nancy Joujon Roche, Dan Cohen, Geoff Maleman, Harold Ekmanian, Lindsay Joy, Lance Johnson, Megan Hayes, Mark Johnson, Barbara Fier, Betty Knoblock, Alexa Powers, Richard Prehoda, Leda Rogers, Joyce Golden, Minda Moe, Barbara Daniels, Marion Tree, Bill Knott, Ron Lambert, Albert Ochs, Hugh Tidwel, "JR" Ayala, Ron Wielock, Marilyn Marble, John Drewery, John Piechowski, Mike Eskridge, Jerry Smith, Lavonne McCoy, Dave Myers, James Rocco, Hugh Biggs, Dorothy Weinberger, Margaret Littman, Helene Condie, Beverly Sackett, Judith Wilson, Marcy Drexler, Jeff Carrara, Carlos Romero, Gabrielle Veit, Laura Sisk, Anne- Marie Schaaf, Padma Indraganti, Maria Balzer, Mohi Chand, Chris Schiffman, Amy Gantvoort, Maria Del Toro, Kyung Song, Mildred Clark, Guillermo Torres, Amanda Wasman, Daniel Palo, Neesin Williams, Atticus Helpem, and Mark Alcantar. Celebrants Mary Ellen Fernandez, Vicki Daly Redholtz, Nick Danko, Ed Baughan, Lynda Harrold, Lori Matsunaga, Keeshawn Andrew, Marty Nicholson, Brad Smith, Helen Evans-Simon, Melvin Weiss, Ema Guy, Norma Hood, William Crumbaker, Jr., Mayme Johnson, Miguel Garza, Stephen Smith, Lou Alcala, Doug Northup, Christiene Rich, Anita Wilson, Lewis Hanson, Janet McMater, Jerry Jones, Ollie Malbreaux Holden, Marty Segal, Christine McLane-Metoyer, Marsha Franker, Ronald Williams, Negie Asfaw, Nancy Lewis, Sherry Kelly, Mary White, Marta Ruvalcaba-Baker, Alberto Fadlallah, Arthur Monson, Kendall Hirai, Karen Guthrie, Michelle Gamboa-Huitron, Alexa Sheehan, Kimberly Bevan, Donald Miller, Lina Martinez, Bronwyn Jamrok, Sanja McMaster Hirose, and Rebecca Popkin, Ken Smith, Julie Lugo Cerra, Mallory Low, Steve Rose, Earl Eskridge, Marci Clarke, Dr. Bob Montgomery, Lorraine Murphy, Gordon Lewis, Craig Shirey, Akio Nomi, Leonard Rubien, Michael Lambert, Myra Boime, Lise DeSablet, Christopher Corey, Laura Avila, Forrest Poorman, Greg Smith, Lori Pearson, Chand Shaikh, Renea Greenberg, Kirti Bhakta, Kevin Fukikami, Min Yang, Winfred Delloro, Dana Rucker, Olga Vaysberg, Patricia Hernandez, Alicia Brown, Sandra Ochoa, and Quincy Surasmith.

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• 55 years old  
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• 83 years old  
• Widowed, a grown son  
• Retired police officer

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Eligible participants must not have received prior immunotherapy or chemotherapy.

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# Images From Fiesta 2011



photos by Ron Peterson

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## Scully Explains Why He'll Continue With Dodgers

By Mitch Chortkoff  
Sports Editor



I've been blessed throughout my sportswriting career. In addition to all the championship athletes on Los Angeles teams I've been in a position to have Hall of Fame broadcasters Chick Hearn and Vin Scully as friends.

I traveled with Hearn for 23 years, often on Laker charter planes. We frequently sat together. We talked in the off-season. When my girl friend had a cold he was quick to ask if she was all right.

I wasn't as close to Scully for many years because I didn't travel with the Dodgers. But we've been in the same press box at Dodger Stadium day after day, year after year, and in the recent past we've had numerous talks.

When I was younger I was intimidated by him. Here was this broadcasting legend knowing everybody. I just watched.

I'm proud to say Scully gave me an exclusive story two years ago. The Los Angeles Times reported he was about to retire. Then he told me he hadn't made that decision. One more year will now become another in 2012 and there could be more even though he's 83 and has broadcast Dodger games for 61 years.

"I still enjoy coming to the ballpark," Scully told me Sunday.

What about the turmoil with the Dodgers' ownership this season and the team having more defeats than victories?

"It's the lifestyle I still like," he replied.

And then he said something very surprising.

"I enjoy being around newspapermen," he said.

I told him I now feel responsible. If he's coming back to be around guys like me, well, that's a responsibility.

He laughed and said he enjoys hearing stories in the press box. Newspaper men and women bring up tales from past years. It's a lot of fun.

Scully reduced his workload a few years ago but he's still the voice of the Dodgers. The furthest he travels is to Colorado, but he's on the air for all nine innings of home games and road games in the West.

I don't know who's going to own the Dodgers next season or how good or bad the team will be.

But we'll still be able to hear Scully, and that's something to appreciate.

# SPORTS

## Redwine Returns To Culver Coaching Staff

By Melanie Trup  
Special to the Observer

Sometimes you find out about something and the feelings that arise are feelings of pleasant surprise. With the announcement of the return of former NFL pro Jarvis Redwine to the Culver City High coaching staff, that's precisely how I was feeling, and I found out I wasn't the only one.

Culver City's head coach, Jahmal Wright, had this to say on Redwine's return, "It's awesome having him back on the coaching staff because he was my position coach in high school and he was here coaching under Tom Salter when I began my coaching career. It's an asset having him on the staff."

Wright then gave some insight as to how it happened, "We've had a relationship since I was a teenager and we kept in contact. Fortunately he found time in his schedule to coach this season."

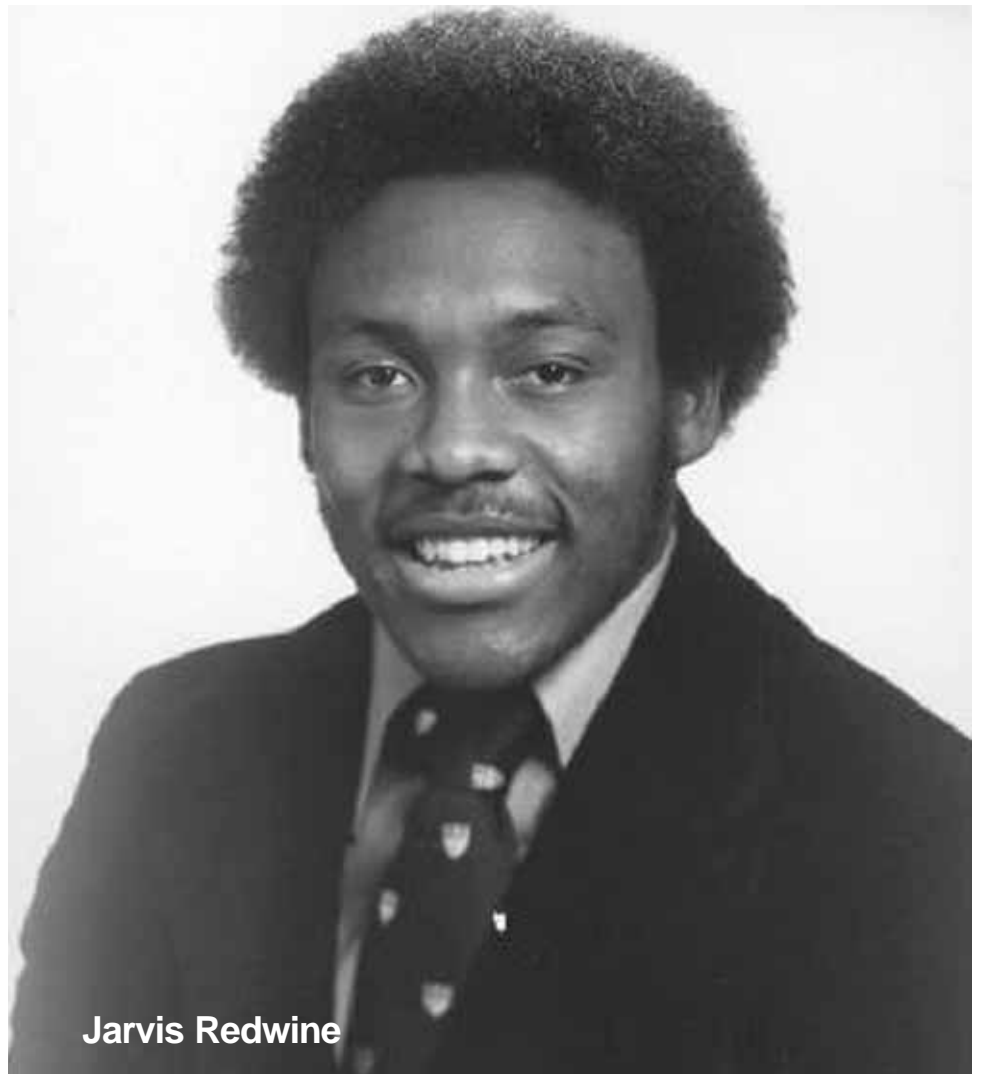
Wright also said that Redwine's knowledge of the game adds a unique element for the offense, "It's going to aid the defense a lot because he played in college and in the NFL. It adds a higher level of expertise to the coaching staff as well."

Then I got to ask Redwine about his influences, "My high school coach Thil Cantwell was one of my biggest mentors. He coached at Inglewood from 1971 to 1976, which was the year I graduated. He came over to Inglewood from Bishop Amat and took us from mediocrity to a winning program by creating a conditioning program."

After graduating from Inglewood Redwine moved on to Oregon State, later transferring to Nebraska. He did so well, that he was on the ballot for the Heisman Trophy in 1980, "I was on the ballot and had a real shot to compete for it. However, I suffered an injury (to his ribs) in the game against Florida State that lingered throughout the rest of the season and that caused a stall in momentum. It's just one of those things that happens in football."

Redwine then went on to talk about the change of pace and the differences between Corvallis and Lincoln, "It was a huge culture shock because of the extremes in weather in Lincoln.

Lincoln is a very flat, level city whereas in Corvallis it was raining 60 percent of the time and there's a lot of greenery. The program at Nebraska was much better. It was a good move for me, deciding to transfer, and I was happy with that."



Jarvis Redwine

## Culver's Adkison Transfers To Mater Dei

Tyler Adkison, who was going to be one of Culver City High's key baseball players in his junior season, has transferred to CIF perennial powerhouse Mater Dei. Adkison helped the Centaurs reach the semi-finals of the playoffs last season, a surprise development after Culver City finished second in the Ocean League behind Santa Monica.

With an array of talent returning to coach Rick Prieto Culver City is considered one of the favorites in next season's league race.

### Culver Football Schedule

Sept. 9 - home vs. West Torrance, 7 pm  
 Sept. 16 - at Peninsula, 3 pm  
 Sept. 23 - home vs. Redondo, 7 pm  
 Sept. 30 - home vs. Leuzinger, 7 pm  
 Oct. 7 - home vs. Narbonne, 7 pm  
 Oct. 14 - home vs. Morningside, 7 pm  
 Oct. 21 - at Inglewood, 7 pm  
 Oct. 28 - at Hawthorne, 7 pm  
 Nov. 4 - home vs. Santa Monica, 7 pm  
 Nov. 11 - at Beverly Hills, 7 pm

## No Bowl Game Again For USC



Mitch Chortkoff

USC begins its football season Saturday once again knowing it can't qualify for a bowl game.

Just like last season, when the Trojans began a two-year bowl ban due to NCAA penalties, the best it can do is succeed in the regular season.

But that didn't go so well in 2010 when the Trojans were only 8-5.

It was obvious the Pete Carroll era had ended.

The architect of so many grand USC seasons was coaching the Seattle Seahawks and his replacement, Lane Kiffin, was operating with a considerable handicap.

Because of NCAA action USC had less scholarships to offer, resulting in a reduced squad. Kiffin opted to cut out tackling in practice to prevent injuries and the

Trojans' defense became vulnerable in games.

We're hearing the situation has improved and we'll begin finding out Saturday when USC hosts Minnesota at 12:30 in the Coliseum.

The way I'll measure progress is seeing if USC can defeat either Oregon or Stanford, the highest rated conference opponents.

The Pac-10 has become the Pac-12 with the addition of Utah and Colorado. Utah is highly regarded and that game could be difficult.

One reason for USC to be optimistic is that it has more talent than last season. Quarterback Matt Barkley is now a junior and in addition to 2010 sensation Robert Woods Barkley has two more products of the same Serra High program to catch his passes.

We don't know yet who the premier running back will be but all the candidates have impressive credentials. Marc Tyler would be the choice if he didn't have off-field problems, but he does. So former Venice High star Curtis McNeal and D.J. Morgan from Taft High are likely to get opportunities.

I saw McNeal do special things in high school, including one night when he gained 230 yards against Santa Monica on a rain-soaked field at Santa Monica College. I know he's good but I also saw Morgan tear through Westchester High one time and he's got star potential also.

USC must improve its defense over last season and there are question marks in the offensive line.

Kiffin was relieved this week to learn he won't be hit with NCAA sanctions for violations when he coached at Tennessee.

He was a controversial choice for USC but so far he's played by the rules and I applaud him for taking a tough stand against Tyler, who is suspended Saturday and has to clear several hurdles put in place by Kiffin to be reinstated at any time this season.

When Carroll was at USC he told me with certainty McNeal was going to be in his plans. But now McNeal is a senior and it hasn't happened yet. So we'll see.

# 5 DAYS OF WAR

## MOVIE REVIEW



### debbie lynn elias

In August of 2008, the eyes and television cameras of the world were all turned on an event of international importance. Sadly, it may not have been the right event to be focused on, for while the world was watching the pomp and circumstance of the opening ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics, thousands of miles away in the former Soviet country of Georgia, a war erupted between Georgia, and Russia, who had the backing and participation of the separatist governments of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. On August 7, Georgia launched a large scale military operation (10,000-11,000 troops) against South Ossetia in an effort to reconquer its territory in Tskhinvali, as well as allegedly responding to attacks on its peacekeepers by Russia in South Ossetia. The he-said/she-said scenario played out with Russia deploying the 58th Army and airborne troops in South Ossetia. Air strikes were also launched against Georgian forces and tactically and logistically advantageous locations. By day 2, Russian Marines landed on the Abkhazian coast and the Russian Navy had blockaded the Georgian coast. Five days after fighting began, a cease-fire agreement was implemented after retreat by the Georgian forces and following intervention by the European Union.

soak in some local color and the beauty of a traditional Georgian wedding, the village comes under attack. Mayhem ensues as townspeople attempt to flee while carnage litters the streets and blood flows faster than a river. Trying themselves to escape, they rescue a young schoolteacher, Tatia, who has been separated from her family. Using Tatia as their translator and calling on Anders' old savior, Rezo Avaliani, Anders and Ganz agree to help Tatia find her family while they frantically document the cold blooded civilian murders and horrors of war while trapped in the thick of battle.

Under attack and cut off from the world with communication down, struggling to get their footage out to the world, survival becomes paramount if they are ever to broadcast the truth.

Long known for his unique casting style, Harlin "love[s] working with a fabric of actors...[that] all bring some extra color into the story." 5 DAYS OF WAR is no different. Rupert Friend is charismatic as Thomas Anders. Cast by Harlin not only because of his strength as an actor, but also "to mislead the audience a little bit" by not being a "megastar" in the lead role, Friend is not who one would think as your typical gung-ho combat correspondent. Yet he gives Anders an



kindness, care, concern and strength that he imbues into Rezo that stands out against the harsh realities of war. A silent humanity. As Harlin opines, "He makes a Georgian soldier look good." Outstanding performance.

Likewise is Andy Garcia who is mesmerizing as Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili. Not only does Garcia bear more than a strong physical resemblance to Saakashvili, but it turns out that Garcia is the President's favorite actor, prompting Harlin to move heaven and

though, it was with deliberate intention that Harlin and Alanne chose the POV to be that from the journalists' perspectives. "The whole angle of the journalist was based on my research there. I spoke to a lot of refugees, a lot of soldiers, a lot of politicians. I spoke also to a lot of international journalists who were in Georgia during the war. And their stories and their frustration with not only risking their lives and trying to get the story, but then not being able to get the story out into the world because it doesn't serve certain news corporations policy or whatever they want to tell." And the character detail is as interesting as the authenticity with which Harlin films the war.

As for the authenticity of 5 DAYS OF WAR, not only did Harlin have full cooperation from the Georgian government in terms of providing equipment, artillery, uniforms, locations (actual villages that were bombed during the war and the Presidential buildings), but then he calls on the best of the best with his Director of Photography, Checco Varese. "I really wanted to find a DP who had that experience and when I met with him I had seen his credits all the way from South America to Rwanda and Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq and all these places. Immediately when we met, we just hit it off. We shared a passion for films and stories. Having him there not only advising me but advising the actors and everybody about what they do in this situation, how they act and how they deal with just day-to-day situations of being in a war zone, was really invaluable." Shooting with the Hi-Def RED camera system, not only are the aerial battle scenes flawlessly lensed (and yes, they actually reenacted the battles), but the ground coverage bears an intimacy and "up close and personal" element that is as unsettling as if you were in the midst of battle yourself. There is no shortage of blood, bone, bodies and explosions.

But 5 DAYS OF WAR isn't all about war. From the opening sequences, we are shown the beauty, tranquility and culture of Georgia and its people with lush aerials, a mini-travelogue of quaint towns and villages and folkloric custom. An exquisite metaphoric juxtapositioning.

Visceral, bloody, emotional, passionate and fascinating, 5 DAYS OF WAR paints yet another picture of our fractured world but this time done by a man who does it better than the rest, Renny Harlin.

Thomas Anders - Rupert Friend  
Sebastian Ganz - Richard Coyle  
Dutchman - Val Kilmer  
Cpt. Rezo Avaliani - Johnathon Schaech  
President Saakashvili - Andy Garcia  
Directed by Renny Harlin. Written by Mikko Alanne and David Battle.



Inspired by these not so well publicized events, uber action director Renny Harlin now brings us a thrilling action packed telling of the Russo-Georgian conflict, using a fictional journalist named Thomas Anders and his more than daring cameraman Sebastian Ganz as the catalysts for the behind the lines explosive adventure of yet another tragic piece of world history. In a nutshell, this is the Renny Harlin we know and love, and he is at the top of his game as he blows us away with 5 DAYS OF WAR.

We first meet Anders and Ganz in Iraq. On their way to get an exclusive story, they are ambushed. Anders' journalist girlfriend is killed. Anders himself is badly wounded but rescued by Georgian coalition peacekeeping forces led by Captain Rezo Avaliani. Shell shocked over the attack and loss of his girlfriend, Anders returns to the United States, lost, alone and losing much of his daring-do journalistic combat bravado; that is until he gets a call in 2008 from an eccentric colleague, The Dutchman.

Conflict is brewing in Georgia and Anders needs to get in on it. Heading off to Ossetia, Anders hooks up with Ganz and a few of the die-hard journalists who are more interested in the adrenaline rush of conflict coverage as opposed to the glory of the Olympics. Acting on a tip, Anders and Ganz head off on their own, stopping in the beautiful border village of Viziana. While taking an evening respite to

earnestness and honesty that is refreshing and interesting.

As Sebastian Ganz, Richard Coyle is what we have come to expect combat photographers to be. Energetic, fast talking and often reckless when it comes to getting "the shot", for anyone who has seen "The Bang Bang Club" (and if you haven't already, it is a Must See) or "Restrepo", Coyle's Ganz is the embodiment of the combat journalist. He has a dynamic infectious presence from which you can never turn away.

The real casting coups, however, are Johnathon Schaech, Val Kilmer and Andy Garcia. As Dutchman, Kilmer is over-the-top, always on a high, exuding believable delusions of invincibility. With minimal screen time, Kilmer makes use of every second, etching his presence into our emotional palette. Harlin "love[s] him because he has this reputation of being a little bit troubled sometimes and whatever. But for me, what somebody like [Val] brings is not just an actor whose going to come in and say the lines. He brings his whole bag of tricks and he'll offer you suggestions. He's a collaborator. And you always get more than you expect."

Another favorite performance comes from Johnathon Schaech. A complex character, Schaech is almost unrecognizable as he transforms into Captain Rezo Avaliani. His accent is impeccable. But it is the sincerity,

earth to cast Garcia in this pivotal role. Replicating an inspiring and empowering speech given by Saakashvili to the Georgian people on August 12, 2008, Garcia moves one to tears with his passion. Interestingly, it is 8,000 Georgian people themselves who appeared at an open casting call that comprise the open-air audience at the Parliament building, the same people who stood there one year earlier to hear the real President speak. Garcia is so perfect, so realistic, so enigmatic, that the Georgians themselves were moved to tears and cheering, just as they did for Saakashvili. And Harlin captured it all on camera.

Renny Harlin became involved in the project less than one year after the war itself. Broached with the blueprint for 5 DAYS OF WAR, "I dove into research. I saw photos and videos of the war and read stories and then went to Georgia. I just became really passionate about this and really felt like I could really be the Renny Harlin that I can be if I tell this story. I can take what I've learned before, what I've done before and really make a movie that has something to say." Written by Mikko Alanne and David Battle, 5 DAYS OF WAR uses the unconventional bravado of journalists to tell a story. Each character is well crafted and evolve in an organic fashion. Each has depth as we come to know them and see that it's not just about "getting the story". There are real moments of humanity which set the wheels in motion. That said,

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT - 2011 076473**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **Custom Logo Apparel**, 3320 Redondo Beach Blvd., Torrance, CA 90504. Registered Owner(s): Elisseos Patronas, 3320 Redondo Beach Blvd., Torrance, CA 90504, Charles Blackledge, 14443 La Pluma Drive, La Mirada, CA 90638. This Business is conducted by: a General Partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Registrant(s) Signature: Charles Blackledge, Owner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **August 4, 2011**.

**NOTICE - In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, Except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the Statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the Expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published: August 11, August 18, August 25, September 1, 2011**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT - 2011 075998**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **E. Berumen Landscaping & Tree Service, E. Berumen Landscaping**, 3680 Wasatch Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90066. Registered Owner(s): Ejerardo Berumen, 3680 Wasatch Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90066, Marcelina Berumen, 3680 Wasatch Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90066. This Business is conducted by: a General Partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 1981. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Registrant(s) Signature: E. Berumen, RME This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **August 4, 2011**.

**NOTICE - In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, Except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the Statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the Expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published: August 11, August 18, August 25, September 1, 2011**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT - 2011 074448**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **Showroom Shift**, 127 E. 9th Street, #806, Los Angeles, CA 90015. Mailing Address: 4175 Verdugo View Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90065. Registered Owner(s): Lesley Greek, 4175 Verdugo View Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90065. This Business is conducted by: an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01-01-2007. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Registrant(s) Signature: Lesley Greek, Owner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **August 2, 2011**.

**NOTICE - In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, Except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the Statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the Expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published: August 11, August 18, August 25, September 1, 2011**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT - 2011 075566**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **Kircher Music Publishing**, 717 Indiana Court, # 23, El Segundo, CA 90245. Registered Owner(s): Joann G. Kircher, 717 Indiana Court, # 23, El Segundo, CA 90245. This Business is conducted by: an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08-03-2011. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Registrant(s) Signature: Joann G. Kircher This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **August 3, 2011**.

**NOTICE - In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, Except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the Statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the Expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published: August 11, August 18, August 25, September 1, 2011**

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