

## NEWS BRIEFS

**2 LA Coliseum officials on leave amid scandal**

LOS ANGELES—Two Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum officials under fire for financial abuses are now on paid leave. The Los Angeles Times said Coliseum staff and commissioners were notified in emails this week from interim general manager John Sandbrook. Ronald Lederkramer, the No. 2 administrator for the governing commission, has been granted medical leave for at least six weeks and Coliseum technology manager Leopold Caudillo Jr. is on paid administrative leave. Coliseum records show HH Tech, a firm founded by Caudillo and co-worker David Shea, has been paid about \$30,000 by the commission, mostly since last summer. Commission member and Councilman Bernard Parks has said Caudillo and Shea were removed because of their connection to the firm HH Tech, and Lederkramer and Sandbrook should be ousted for failure to handle financial abuses.

**14 Calif. mail facilities could close to cut costs**

SAN FRANCISCO—The U.S. Postal Service's plan to cut costs could lead to the closure of dozens of mail processing facilities employing hundreds of workers in California. The financially troubled agency announced this week it may close more than 250 mail processing facilities, or more than half of the service's processing centers nationwide.

The Postal Service said the closures, as well as reduced service standards for first-class mail, could save as much as \$3 billion annually. They also would affect 35,000 workers.

Fourteen of the facilities are in California, including five in Burlingame, Petaluma, Stockton, Eureka and Redding which together employ more than 1,000 people. In Southern California, the agency is considering closing facilities in Bakersfield,

Los Angeles, City of Industry, Long Beach, San Diego, Modesto, Pasadena, San Bernardino and Van Nuys.

**Court strikes down ban on soliciting day laborers**

SAN FRANCISCO—A divided federal appeals court has struck down a Southern California city's ban on day laborers who stand on public sidewalks soliciting work from motorists. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal said on Sept. 16 that Redondo Beach's ordinance violated the workers' free speech rights and was so broad that it was illegal for children to shout "car wash" to passing drivers. City officials enacted the ban because they said the workers were interfering with traffic. Several other California cities have similar laws, which are now in jeopardy if the court's ruling holds up. A three-judge panel of the San Francisco-based appeals court originally upheld the ban, but a specially convened panel of 11 judges voted 9-2 to overturn the earlier decision. Judges Alex Kozinski and Carlos Bea dissented.

**Armed suicidal man wounded by police**

GARDENA—Police have wounded an armed suicidal man who was threatening officers and bystanders at a Southern California strip mall. Gardena police Lt. Steve Prendergast said 58-year-old Noel Salinas is hospitalized and is expected to survive.

The Torrance Daily Breeze said officers were called to a computer business at the strip mall just before noon Thursday because an armed man was threatening to kill himself.

Salinas, who was behind in his rent and was being evicted, was holding a handgun in one hand and a knife in the other. He ignored officer commands and went inside a motor home where he lived. The lieutenant said Salinas was still armed when he came out of the motor

home and he walked toward officers. He was then shot twice.

**Southern Calif. grocery workers pave way for strike**

LOS ANGELES—Grocery workers could go on strike as soon as Sunday night in response to inaction on health care benefits, the workers' union said Thursday. Eight months into contract negotiations, Southern California grocery workers issued a 72-hour notice Thursday night to cancel a contract extension and pave the way for a strike, said Rick Icaza, president of Grocery Workers Union Local 770. A strike isn't guaranteed for workers at Albertsons, Ralphs and Vons, but cancelling the contract removes the final barrier to a strike. In separate statements Thursday, all three grocers said they were disappointed in the union's move and they will remain in active negotiations. "We don't want a strike, and we hope to continue bargaining rather than continue to alarm our associates and our customers," said Albertsons spokeswoman Christie Ly. Ralphs spokeswoman Kendra Doyel said her company remains committed to reaching an agreement. Vons spokesman Brian Dowling urged the union to remain focused on the negotiation process, while pledging to do the same. Contract negotiations are stalled because supermarkets are unwilling to compromise on health care contributions for 62,000 grocery workers, Icaza said. Doyel has said her company currently pays more than 90 percent of health coverage costs. Ralphs workers hired before 2004 pay nothing toward their premiums and those hired later pay either \$7 a week for single coverage or \$15 a week for family coverage. A four-month strike and lockout that began in 2003 cost Ralphs and other grocery chains an estimated \$2 billion.

**More crime, trafficking victims apply for visas**

LOS ANGELES—Immigration authorities say the number of crime and trafficking victims applying for special visas to stay in the country has increased, thanks to federal officials outreach to local law enforcement. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials say more than 13,000 crime victims have applied for the visas so far this fiscal year, up at least 28 percent from a year earlier. About 860 trafficking victims have applied, a 51 percent increase. Agency official Lynn Boudreau said on Sept. 15 that many victims said they learned of the visas from local law enforcement. Boudreau says officials have held training sessions for law enforcement in 30 cities this year. Community advocates say sometimes law enforcement officials are still reluctant to provide paperwork required for victims to apply for crime visas.

**LAPD officers rescue woman from burning motor home**

LOS ANGELES—Two Los Angeles police officers have rescued a woman from a burning motor home in the San Fernando Valley. Officers Fernando Sanchez and Alex Valencia were on patrol in the Sun Valley area on Wednesday afternoon when they were flagged down by someone who said a parked motor home was on fire. The Los Angeles Times said the officers forced open the door and the 45-year-old woman inside refused to come out. The officers then went inside the smoky motor home, spotted a burning mattress, and grabbed the woman. The woman, whose name hasn't been released, and the two officers were treated for smoke inhalation. Fire spokesman Erik Scott said a burning cigarette apparently set the mattress on fire.

**Free booster clinics offered for middle, high school students****Students may be transported by bus during school hours on Sept. 23, 29 for mandatory immunization**

From staff reports

COMPTON—The Compton Unified School District and St. Francis Hospital will provide free Tdap (whooping cough) immunizations to all middle school and high school students on three scheduled dates this the month.

Families are encouraged to visit the pupil services office, 417 W. Alondra Blvd., Monday, Sept. 19, from 1 to 7 p.m. The district will transport students who have yet to fulfill their mandatory Tdap immunization requirement on the following dates and times: Friday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to noon and Thursday, Sept. 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All middle and high school students must have proof of their immunization before Friday, Sept. 30, or they will not be allowed to attend school until the requirement has been met. There will be no exceptions made. Students who have not received the Tdap booster have already been given a parent letter, waiver and field trip slip along with their yellow immunization card. These forms have been provided in case parents or guardians are unable to accompany their children for a walk-in visit to the clinic. All forms must be completed, signed and submitted with the student if parents need their children transported to the clinic by bus.

The state's new school immunization law requires that all students in grades 8 through 12, be immunized with the Tdap vaccine booster, which prevents pertussis, also known as whooping cough. It is a very contagious respiratory disease that can be severe and last for months. By immunizing all students the district and its community can protect all students, schools and families from the disease.

For more information on immunization dates and shuttle times, parents should contact their child's school.

**Assemblymember Hall reports legislative accomplishments**

SACRAMENTO—After recently adjourning the first year of the 2011-12 legislative session, Assemblymember Isadore Hall, III (D - Los Angeles) said he scored a number of legislative victories to create jobs, enhance public safety, protect the rights of workers and save taxpayer dollars by increasing government efficiency.

Among the measures authored by Assemblymember Hall and approved by the California Legislature are:

- AB 692, which would prioritize public employee termination appeals before the State Personnel Board. Many of these appeal cases can take up to two years to be resolved. During this time, employees and their families endure significant financial losses that can lead to negative credit, bankruptcy and even the loss of their home.

- AB 720, which would increase efficiencies and needed flexibility for local governments to conduct local road or highway projects. Given the limited public resources available to maintain and improve local road infrastructure, this measure will be critical for local governments seeking to make the most of taxpayer dollars.

- AB 1417, which would appropriate \$9.1 million from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund to pay for local police, fire and other public safety needs resulting from tribal gaming in the state. At a time of budgetary challenges for many local governments, this

measure will give locals a needed financial boost to maintain and improve public safety services throughout the state.

- AB 1418 (Hall), which would ratify the tribal-state gaming compact between the State of California and the Pinoleville Pomo Nation. The measure will create thousands of jobs in the construction and hospitality industries, provide revenue to the state without raising taxes and will help get Californians back to work, Hall said.

Hall also co-authored more than 40 bills and resolutions during the first year of the 2011-12 legislative session to support public education, job creation and public health and protect California's diverse heritage.

"These measures provide real world solutions to problems facing families and communities throughout California," said Hall. "Especially in these tough economic times, it is critical that we focus our efforts on ways to protect workers, maintain core services and most importantly, to help get Californians out of the unemployment line and into a job. I am proud of the legislation I have authored this year and encourage the Governor to sign them into law."

The Governor has until Oct. 9 to veto or sign legislation into law.

For more information on specific legislation, visit: [www.assembly.ca.gov/hall](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/hall).

**El Camino College Compton Center offers foster youth program**

From staff reports

COMPTON—El Camino College Compton Center is one of nine educational institutions in Los Angeles County offering The Foundation for California Community Colleges' Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success (YESS) program. The YESS program is designed to provide foster youth ages 16-21 with academic and life-skills training so that they may successfully transition into adult life.

An upcoming orientation for the YESS program will take place on Sept. 20 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Foster Care Building at El Camino College Compton Center, 1111 E. Artesia Blvd. All attendees will receive a complimentary dinner and school supplies.

The YESS Program is open to foster care youth between the ages of 16 and 21 residing in the cities of Compton, Lynwood, Paramount, North Long Beach and Carson. Registration is required.

Foster youth who enroll in the 14-week program are introduced to college and community resources that will support their success. Students will earn high school and college credits, and will learn about scholarships and financial aid information. If students enroll in 12 or more

units they may be offered a job at ECC Compton Center, which is an incentive for them to continue their education.

YESS also offers interactive and hands-on training in basic life skills. Students build confidence by participating in experiential activities related to housing, money management, employment counseling and exploration, job skills, daily living skills and parenting.

The short-term goal is to give foster youth the tools they need to overcome hurdles they may face at different points along their path. The program's long-term goal is for participants to graduate from high school, begin earning a college degree or technical certificate and become self-sufficient and gainfully employed.

In Los Angeles alone, nearly 2,000 foster youth are emancipated each year. Without academic or life-skills support, as many as 50 percent of them become homeless, have serious money problems or end up incarcerated. The YESS program aims to prevent those problems by better preparing foster youth for independence.

For more information about the YESS program at El Camino College Compton Center, call 310-900-1600, Ext. 2767.

For more information visit: <http://www.foundationccc.org/WhatWeDo/YESS/tabid/602/Default.aspx>.

**El Camino College Compton Center's Transfer Center helps students to focus on future**

From staff reports

COMPTON—The beginning of the school year is an ideal time for students to familiarize themselves with El Camino College Compton Center's Transfer Center. There are a variety of services, programs and activities offered that are designed to help students put a successful transfer plan into action. ECC Compton Center provides students with an affordable start on a four-year degree, and its Transfer Center is the ultimate resource for making a smooth transition to any college or university.

Throughout the year, the Transfer Center invites students to identify and become experts in their individual transfer goals:

Transfer-related Informational Workshops walk students through the transfer process, university academic programs, how to fill out applications and tips on writing a personal statement.

University Representatives from UC, CSU and private and out-of-state colleges visit El Camino College Compton Center regularly to answer students' questions about admissions, majors, financial aid and more.

University and college fairs are offered throughout the year and give students an opportunity to learn about many different schools in one convenient location.

University Tours are a great way to see campuses in-person and learn more in-depth infor-

mation about a school. The Transfer Center offers about a dozen tours, free of charge, every year.

University Catalogue and Reference Library allows students to explore up-to-date information from nationwide accredited institutions on programs and admissions requirements, as well as transfer criteria.

Transfer websites and Internet resources are available to support the transfer process.

University Admissions panels present requirements for admission to California State University (CSU), University of California (UC), as well as independent and private schools.

Counseling and advising is always available to help students develop individual transfer plans.

"The Transfer Center helped me with everything from instructing me on what classes to take to encouraging me to go on university tours to check out school campuses, as well as advising me on the whole process of filling out college applications," said Alan Gonzalez, El Camino College Compton Center student and former Transfer Club president, who hopes to transfer to the University of California, Merced next year and eventually pursue a career as a lawyer.

For more information, visit the Transfer Center in Room D-29 or call 310-900-1600, Ext. 2764. The Transfer Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.