

THE VALLEYS NEWS Observer

Volume 21 Number 49

Observer Group Newspapers of Southern California

Thursday, October 12, 2006

\$14 Mil Needed to Finish Museum

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Officials said they are struggling to raise funds needed to finish the \$52 million Children's Museum of Los Angeles slated to open in late 2007.

Some \$14 million is still needed to complete the first major museum in the San Fernando Valley, a suburb north of downtown, according to director Mark Dierking.

The museum has received fewer donations than expected from philanthropists in the Valley. "A lot of our money is coming from over the hill" in Los Angeles, Dierking said.

Of nearly \$38 million raised as September, \$17 million comes from public coffers, with most of the \$21 million balance donated by non-Valley residents.

The 57,000-square-foot museum will replace the downtown Civic Center Children's Museum, which closed in 2000 for lack of space.

A More Inviting Place to Adopt Pets

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Animal control officials have unveiled a renovated shelter they hope will be more inviting for people seeking to adopt pets, and healthier for the creatures themselves.

The North Central shelter, whose \$10.1 million renovation was funded by 2000's Proposition F, is modeled after a botanical garden, with running water fountains and greenery.

In the dog kennel section, floors are heated for cool days and an overhead misting system is in place for hot ones. The canines also will have private cages.

The shelter has a free-flight aviary for birds and shaded hutches for rabbits. A "catery" is in the works where felines can roam free.

Most of the facility is open-air, which keeps the animals cleaner and healthier, animal services general manager Ed Boks said. It also "encourages people to relax and get to know the animals," he said.

After Months of Intense Negotiations Beverly Hilton and Unite Here Local 11 Sign 3 year Contract

Contract Includes Ground Breaking Partnership between Union, Beverly Hilton and African American Community Leaders to Increase Hiring of African Americans at Hotel

Local 11 and the Beverly Hilton completed several months of intensive labor negotiations with a landmark new labor contract that addresses both labor and management's real needs for the coming years. The leaders of the union and the owner of the hotel hailed their new agreement as proof that an employer and its union can work together to make a business more successful and to provide improved compensation and job security for its employees. The parties said that while negotiations were complex and difficult, requiring months of preparation and more than fourteen days of bargaining, they focused throughout on understanding each other's needs and perspective rather than engaging in the confrontations and one-upsmanship that has characterized so many recent labor negotiations and that the new agreement as a result was able to resolve the real issues facing the parties, including the following:

- Ø Provides for non tipped wage increase of \$2.30/hour over a three year term. Tipped workers will receive the \$1.25/increase under California's new minimum wage law.

- Ø Provides 10c of new pension contributions, defers legal fund contributions into health insurance and pension, and creates a new non contributory

401K plan that will enable hotel employees to begin saving for their own retirement for the first time.

- Ø Maintains the current health insurance plan with no additional costs to employees while creating an incentive for the union and the employees to restructure the health insurance plan in the future to encourage better usage and lower costs.

- Ø Provides for a groundbreaking new program wherein employer, union and Los Angeles African American community leaders will work together to increase the hiring of African American in the hotel industry, reversing a long term national trend to the contrary in the American hotel industry.

- Ø Creates a new labor-management partnership that encourages the parties to work together to build trust, improve communication, and find meaningful solutions to problems and changes during the term of the contract instead of waiting until the next expiration date to resolve such issues.

- Ø Jointly revises key work rules to improve both worker productivity and employer fairness, including spelling out new ground rules for organizers' meetings with employees; restructuring guest relations positions to better serve guests;

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Beverly Hilton worker Charles Hodge (right) and Dr. Fred Murph, Senior Pastor at Brookins AME Church, who played a key role along with other African American leaders in reaching the agreement to increase hiring of African Americans.

Oldest Californian Recognized

(LOS ANGELES)— Gertrude Baines, the state's oldest living resident on Wednesday credited her faith in God and clean living for her longevity as she celebrated her 112th year with a party at the West Adams convalescent center she calls home.

"I feel good. This arthritis got me. I can't walk, but I sure can talk and eat," Baines said. "I have no secrets. I put my trust in the Lord, that's all. I have no secrets."

Baines, who lives at the Western Convalescent Hospital, spends much of her time attending church and watching television "She likes the 'The Price is Right' and she loves 'Jerry Springer'," said nurse Cynthia Thompson. "It's one of her favorites. She loves Jerry Springer."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, whose Second District is home to Baines, was present to honor her at the celebration.

"Mrs. Baines, happy birthday," Burke told the centenarian. "One thing it sure shows -- soul food doesn't kill you. If you've been eating ham hocks and bacon and eggs and black eyed peas and you got to 112, that says something."

Baines was born in Shellman, Ga., on April 6, 1894, the same year as artist Norman Rockwell and author Dashiell Hammett.

Baines was married to Sam Conley at a "very young age" -- she won't be specific. The couple had one child, Annabelle, who died of typhoid fever when she was 18.

Baines lived alone until she was 105.

"We feel blessed to have her," hospital administrator Emma Cananag told said of Baines. "It's been an honor having the oldest living person in California in our facility."



Gertrude Baines, 112 is California's oldest living resident. Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, whose Second District is home to Baines presents her with a certificate of recognition.

Clippers Kick Off Preseason in Russia



Clippers Shaun Livingston Earl Heath

The Los Angeles Clippers started their preseason in Russia. The Clippers went 1-1 with the Russians. In the first game the Clippers defeated BC Khimki 98-91. Shaun Livingston scored 19 points and Corey Maggette had a high of seven rebounds.

The second game the Clippers were defeat 94-75 by CSKA Moscow. Chris Kaman had 15 points with 11 rebounds and Maggette added 13 points.

The Clippers will have their first preseason game at Staples Center on Saturday Oct. 21st against Seattle.

Announcement

Joseph L. Coley Jr. has been appointed Publisher for The Valleys News Observer and the Observer Group Newspapers of Southern California. Mr. Coley is the son of the late Joseph L. Coley founder of The Valleys News Observer Newspapers. Joseph has been operations manger since the death of his father and will use these skills in his new position of publisher.

Dee Slade will continue in her role as Public Relations Director and assume the role of Assistant Publisher.

