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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDEPAGE 2
LOCAL CHEF WINS CONTESTPAGE 3
BOOK REVIEWPAGE 4
CRIME WATCHPAGE 8
MYSTERY PHOTOPAGE 9

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Judge tells voting rights attorneys they can loosen up (their neckties)

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

The contentious trial over race and politics in Santa Monica took a brief twist and turn Tuesday when one of a dozen lawyers on the case broached the subject of neckties. The question came from Lancaster Mayor Rex Parris, an attorney for the plaintiff, who made headlines around the world this summer for suggesting they should disappear from his City Hall.

Judge Yvette Palazuelos was hardly knotted up over the issue. Under her black robes, she wore a collared shirt without a tie, its top button open in front of her neck. She told Parris she wouldn't mind if he chose not to wear one.

"You should see the things we see in criminal court," she told the assortment of blue, grey and black suits litigating the voting rights case. "Lots of interesting clothes. We ignored it."

A few hours later, Parris opined on the stifling nature of the necktie to the Daily Press in the halls of Los Angeles Superior Court. He looked down at his yellow tie speckled with blue polka dots and said it would be the last one he wears for the trial.

To him, the issues of public health and personal liberty are intertwined.

"What I really want to do is just boost awareness that there's a lot of things we should do to boost our well-being and governments should get out of the way and so should employers," Parris said.

Parris came up with the idea to remove tie requirements for government employees while reading

SEE NECKTIES PAGE 7

Two dozen candidates file for 2018 election races

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The nomination period has closed for most of the 2018 election season and 24 individuals have filed paperwork to run for one of the 14 seats available this year.

Several candidates are still waiting to officially qualify for the ballot. Potential candidates have to gather 100 signatures from registered voters and those signatures must be validated by the County.

That process will take several days and the wait time is often longest at the conclusion of the nomination period as the county deals with a flood of deadline-beating submissions.

All eligible incumbents filed to run in the Council, Rent



Control and School Board races. One eligible incumbent for the College Board, Andrew Walzer, did not file and the nomination period for that race will be extended to August 15.

Nine candidates have filed paperwork for one of three seats on City Council: Sue Himmelrich (Incumbent), Ashley Powell, Kevin McKeown (Incumbent), Greg Morena, Scott Bellomo, Whitney Scott Bain, Pam O'Connor (Incumbent), Nathaniel I. Jones Jr. and Geoffrey Neri.

Five individuals have submitted for the three seats on the Rent Control Board: Lori Brown, Naomi Sultan, Steven Duron (Incumbent), Nicole Phillis (Incumbent) and Jon Mann.

Five applications were received for four seats on the School Board: Laurie Lieberman (Incumbent), Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein (Incumbent), Craig Foster (Incumbent), Ann Thanawalla and Oscar de la Torre (Incumbent).

Five residents applied for four seats on the Santa Monica College

Board: Nancy Greenstein (Incumbent), Barry A. Snell (Incumbent), Louise Jaffe (Incumbent), Sion Roy and Patrick Acosta II.

Potential candidates have one more chance to participate in the election as Write-in candidates.

Write-in candidates must gather 100 signatures, pay a nominal fee and fill out an application with the City Clerk before they are qualified. The process is similar to that of other candidates but write-in candidates do not appear on the ballot. Voters will be given a list of valid write-in candidates on election day.

The nomination period for Write-in candidates is from September 10 – Oct. 8.

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SCHOOLS

Santa Monica Mini Cooper Owner Steve Quinn, Santa Monica Education Foundation Board Chair Kathleen Rawson and Mayor Ted Winterer celebrate at the Celebration of Heroes and Friends event at the Mini Cooper showroom last Thursday. The Santa Monica Education Foundation announced a new logo and branding at the event.

Ross Furukawa

Pro Con pier series continues with rent control debate

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Pier's one-hour debate series Pro Con is back this summer, an event where experts from separate sides of an issue argue for their position while a neutral moderator keeps things civil. The Pacific Ocean acts as a cool, contrasting background to buffer the sometimes heated arguments in the series.

Last week's Pro Con centered around the blazing marijuana legalization debate while this week's August 13 argument will focus on a growing concern in the city of Santa Monica: rent control.

Arguing for the Pro side of rent

SEE DEBATE PAGE 5

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