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- [Metro Bikers ride](#) with 'Run to the Wall' to Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. **/VIDEO**

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- [Taking care](#) Employees Jump into Spring at Div. 3 Health Fair
- [Obituary](#) Retired Bus Operator Stephanie Gray Dies at 56

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[Take the Pledge: Bike to Work Week is May 17 - May 20]



Metro employees Joe O'Donnell, Senior Contract Administrator, and Tony Jusay, Transportation Planning Manager III, are veteran bicycle commuters.

Bike to Work Week: Sign Up Now To Get Ready to Ride

- Are you ready to dust the cobwebs off your bike and try riding it to work? If so, why not try it on Metro's annual Bike to Work Day - Thursday, May 20!
- But first, attend the Metro Bike Safety Training Session on May 7 at noon in the Union Station Conference Room (3rd Floor) of Metro Headquarters.
- [Online](#): Take the pledge to ride. Learn about the various Bike to Work Week activities and plot out your route and the pit stops near your work location at www.metro.net/biketowork.

By Terree Holman

Corporate Employee Transportation Coordinator

(May 3, 2010) Bike to Work Week, May 17 – 21, is quickly approaching. This is a perfect time to try a great commuting alternative.

To learn more about the benefits of riding your bike to work, we asked regular bicycle commuters Joe O'Donnell and Tony Jusay how they manage their two-wheel daily commute.

What made you start riding your bike to work?

Joe: I started commuting on my bike after 9/11. I wanted to reduce my dependence on oil, and



Give Bike to Work Week a try, says Corporate ETC Terree Holman. Join in the fun, games and

decided that riding my bike to work would help me do this.

Tony: To save money, get in shape, plus it is a lot of fun!

Why do you like to ride your bike to work?

Joe: I feel like I am contributing to creating a cleaner environment, and reducing my dependence on oil. Plus, no matter how hard of a day I've had, by the time I have ridden my bike home, all of the stress of the day has melted away.

Tony: I live near the Gold Line which makes it really convenient for me to ride my bike to the train station year round, as it is only a mile away. However, during the warmer months, I like to ride the entire 20 mile roundtrip to and from work. Plus, I don't need a gym membership because I get my exercise by commuting. How cool is that!

Here are some tips from the commuting pros Joe and Tony, who have a combined total of 16 years of experience commuting to work on their bikes:

Don't hurt yourself! If you haven't been on a bike in a long time, don't try riding your bike the entire 25 miles to work! Joe and Tony suggest that you ride your bike to the bus and/or train station near your house, and take public transportation the rest of the way.

Cyclists ride free on Bike to Work Day!

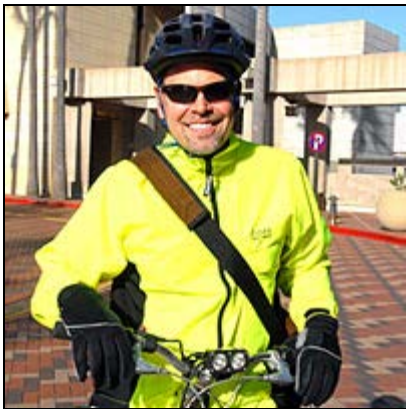
On Thursday, May 20, your helmet and/or your bicycle counts as fare. That's the designated day of "Bike to Work Week" when cyclists are invited to ride the bus or train for free. To find out which transit operators are participating, go to www.metro.net/biketowork, select the "Bike to Work Day" tab, then scroll down to "Participating Transit Agencies."

Map out and try out your route. Make sure that you map out your route prior to riding your bike to work or the train/bus station. Joe and Tony suggest that you also ride the route the weekend before. This way you can make sure that the route is safe, and it will also give you an approximate idea of how long it will take you.

To find a safe biking route from your home to work, visit Google Maps. Pick the bike option, and it will map out a bike friendly route for you:

- Go to www.google.com. Click on the "Maps" link in the upper left hand corner. Click on the "Get Directions" link in the upper left hand corner. Type in your starting point (A) and destination (B). On the drop down menu select "Bicycling." Click on "Get Directions"

prizes during the week of May 17-20. [Pledge online](http://www.metro.net) at Metro.net or visit the Employee Transportation Coordinator (ECT) at your site. For more information, contact [Terree Holman](mailto:Terree.Holman@metro.net), at (213) 922-7118.



Joe O'Donnell enjoys a four-mile ride to work and brings his lunch and business attire along in his backpack. Below, he stores his bike and gear in a bike locker on P-1.



Wear comfortable clothing and a helmet. You will also want to bring a clean set of clothes to change into at work.

Make a pit stop! Make sure that you stop at one of Metro's official pit stop locations to pick up some free goodies and great food. The pit stops are located throughout Los Angeles County, and some of the pit stops will be serving free breakfast from Subway!

Take the Pledge! Register now on *metro.net* or with your onsite ETC to enter a drawing for prizes.

For more information or assistance with registering, contact Metro Corporate Employee Transportation Coordinator, Terree Holman, (213) 922-7118.

EMPLOYEE RIDESHARE PROGRAM: Metro's Rideshare Program encompasses all the alternative forms of commuting to and from work. Alternative Modes include: vanpooling, carpooling, walking, bicycling, public bus/train and Metrolink. To learn more about the benefits of ridesharing and how to enroll, please visit mymetro/hr/Programs/Rideshare.asp or call (213) 922-7118. Come and join the fun and try ridesharing! You will save money on commuting costs, have more time, contribute to a cleaner environment and significantly reduce the amount of stress you create for yourself by commuting to work alone.


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Operator's Daughter Lands Top Trophy for Speech, Now Preparing for Next Round

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(May 4, 2010) Public speaking seems to come naturally to Esther Maddox, the daughter of Div. 15 Bus Operator Charles Maddox.

In March, the high school freshman spent six minutes before a live audience talking about world leaders like Nelson Mandela and Winston Churchill, and was thrilled to learn that her presentation had earned her a first place trophy and \$200 in the National Management Association Leadership Speech Contest (NMA).

The contest was sponsored by the Lockheed Martin Leadership Association in conjunction with the NMA.

On April 28, Esther competed in another speaking round and this time she presented a five minute speech on women's rights and placed among three finalists. Now Esther is expected to battle it out in a final round on May 7 in Lancaster with the winner walking away with a \$1,000 savings bond.

"I'm nervous when I get in front of people, but she enjoys getting up and performing," her father said indicating that his daughter has also performed in plays.

In the first contest, Esther, who attends Students on Academic Rise (SOAR) High School in the Antelope Valley, competed against ten other high school students from the region. Area Toastmasters helped the students practice before the event and then judged the students on speech content and presentation.

Esther's father said she was well prepared for the event, since she has always been interested in public speaking, enjoying a broad range of presentations from the 2008 Presidential debates to UC TV programs.

"She's a 4.0 student and I'm really proud of her," he said.

Curious about the political arena, young Esther joined her mother at a presidential debate party during the election and shared her analysis of the event in an interview with a local paper.



Public speaking champ Esther Maddox, a freshman at SOAR High School in Antelope Valley, is the daughter of Div. 15 Bus Operator Charles Maddox.

Esther plans to attend Oxford University in England to study law and/or theater and, her father jokes, with all the money she’s winning she could pay for her own education.

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Safety begins at the very start of the day with stretching exercises and safety tips.

Good Safety Practices Rule of the Day at I -405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project

By Rich Morallo
Community Relations / Volunteer Coordinator

(May 4, 2010) The phrase “Don’t Tread on Me” and the image of a coiled rattlesnake have much more than solely political overtones in the scrub and brush covered hillsides of Southern California.

The warning is literal and when a slight movement in the bush on the hillside overlooking the I-405 Freeway caught Rich Hanzel’s eye, he immediately focused his attention on what could have had the potential of becoming a life-altering experience.

He didn’t have to wait long. Within seconds, a dark colored Western Rattlesnake glided silently out from under the thick scrub brush on the hillside below the Getty Center.

Stepping back to a safe distance, Hanzel, a survey crew member working on the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project, stepped back a safe distance, took a quick photograph of the snake and reported the incident.

A Western
Rattlesnake
checks out



the ruckus going on alongside the I-405 as survey crew member Rich Hanzel snapped the photo of this hillside resident.

Safety first

No stranger to the area, one of the first recorded instances of a run-in with this particular species of rattlesnake can be found in the journals of the fabled explorers Lewis and Clark, who wound their way from Missouri to the Pacific Ocean in the early 1800s.

On their return journey, they wrote, "...we have encountered a VERY poisonous snake. It is known as the Western Rattlesnake, it has a rattle on the tail used when it is about to attack. The size can differ greatly anywhere from 1.3 feet to 5.3 feet. The very adaptable climate makes it easy for these critters to climb into equipment and enjoy the ride."

Letting these – and other "critters" such as coyotes, raccoons, skunks, bees – "climb into equipment" and "enjoy the ride" wasn't exactly the lesson learned by Hanzel and the other Kiewit Pacific Company survey crew members in a series of safety meetings presented by Kiewit Senior Safety Manager Robert Hume.

"We covered this in our next few safety meetings," said Hume, a safety professional with 14 years experience, who also keeps all field workers in the area briefed about potential hazard at the weekly progress meeting with both Metro and Caltrans staff. Both agencies are client partners in the four-year highway project.

"Hanzel and the other survey crews working in the tall grass were briefed on safety beforehand, wore protective snake chap leggings and followed the right safety practices," said Hume.

Correct safety practices are vital and planned for on this project to add a northbound high occupancy vehicle lane to the San Diego Freeway (I-405) between the Santa Monica Freeway (I-10) and the Ventura Freeway (U.S. 101), according to Metro Construction Safety Manager Ralph Sbragia.

Safety "is first on this \$1.034 billion project," which includes removing and replacing three major bridges, widening 13 bridges which span the Interstate and LA City streets, and reconstructing 25 ramps, he said.

"Kiewit has three high and aggressive safety goals – zero recordable injuries, zero at fault vehicle collisions and zero public/private property damage incidents," said Sbragia. "Zero recordable injuries means they intend to prevent any injury requiring more than first aid treatment during both the design and construction phases of the project."



Work crews are motivated and trained to follow good safety practices.

Plans in place

A safety professional with a 30-year safety and health sciences resume, Sbragia said that plans have been developed to create and maintain a safe work environment while crews work night and day with heavy equipment, demolish and rebuild bridges and work on widening the freeway, all while minimizing the flow of traffic on one of the Southland's busiest – and most important – freeways.

"Every work assignment has a job hazard analysis done so workers will be aware of the proper way to handle equipment, the appropriate safety gear to wear and what are potential dangers," said Sbragia, who has also briefed visitors on proper protocol and field attire.

"We protect ourselves from the hazards of a construction site by wearing the right work clothing, proper work boots and ANSI approved hard hat, safety eyewear, gloves and traffic vest," he said.

According to Kiewit's Robert Hume, work crews will be motivated and trained to follow good safety practices.

"Safety begins at the very start of the day when we all do stretching exercises and talk about safety to ready ourselves for the day's work," he said. "Working safely means we are staying safe not only for ourselves but for the project, our teammates and our loved ones. We all want to go home at the end of the day in the same shape we started the day."


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The championship Metro Bus Maintenance team takes the stage in Cleveland May 4, landing in 6th place in the maintenance competition and grabbing first place in the top-seeded Brake Board Event. The Metro Bus Team stayed in the top 20 in the overall competition, earning a respectable 14th place. Pictured are, from left in front row, Service Sector General Manager Richard Hunt, Central Instruction Operations Asst. Instruction Manager Frank Cecere, Equipment Maintenance Instructor Steve Mullaly, interim Executive Director, Maintenance, Alex DiNuzzo; the Arthur Winston Division champion maintenance team of master mechanics Daniel Galindo, Frank Forde, and Enrique Perez; APTA President William A. Millar, and Div. 5 interim Maintenance Asst. Manager Marco Pedemonte. *Photo by Christine DiNuzzo sent courtesy of Alex DiNuzzo.*

Metro Bus Team Lands in Top 20 at 2010 International Bus Rodeo in Cleveland

- No three-peat for the two-time champion Bus team, but the maintenance dream team comes in sixth and scores the coveted Brake Board trophy, signifying that the Metro mechanics were the fastest team to correct the electrical portion of the grueling ABS brake board event. Combined maintenance and transportation scores keeps Metro in the top twenty of the international competition.

(May 5, 2010) Scoring high in several levels of competition at the 35th International Bus Rodeo, the Metro Bus Team stayed in the top 20 in the international rankings, earning a respectable 14th place in overall competition. Metro's championship maintenance team scored sixth place and easily bagged the challenging ABS Brake Board Event to win a special trophy.

The international competition was held May 2 in conjunction with the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Bus and Paratransit Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. Winners were announced at an awards

banquet May 4.



Interim Chief Operations Officer Lonnie Mitchell, at right, snaps a team photo at the Cleveland competition. From left, Alex DiNuzzo, mechanic Danny Galindo, Roman Alarcon, Operator Joe Acosta, mechanic Frank Forde, Richard Hunt and mechanic Enrique Perez. *Photo by Marco Pedemonte*

In an e-mail sent directly from the awards banquet held Tuesday night in Cleveland, interim Executive Director, Maintenance, Alex DiNuzzo said the team's achievement is a reflection of the skills of the outstanding people who run Metro's transit system. "I am very proud of our team, they did outstanding in both maintenance and transportation competitions!" he wrote.

The competition showcases transit professionals who keep North America's bus systems safe and efficient. Top honors are given to the bus operator and maintenance teams that have the highest combined score in a series of events testing bus operators' driving skills and mechanics' abilities to troubleshoot mechanical problems and fix them quickly.

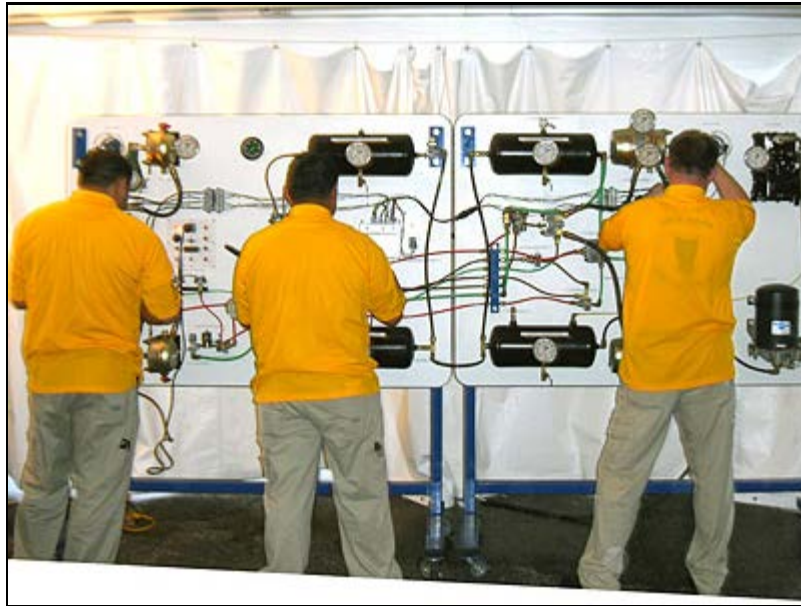
The Metro maintenance team of Frank Forde, Daniel Galindo, and Enrique Perez, along with Division 3 Operator Joe Acosta, beat out scores of competitors from transit agencies across the country and Canada. Thirty-eight bus operators competed in the operator contest for 40-foot buses. Twenty-five teams competed in the maintenance contest.

The State of Florida (Broward County & LYNX) won the Grand Champion Award. The Grand Champion award recognizes the bus operator and maintenance team that has the highest combined score.

Frank Gonzales of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (Houston, TX) was named best driver in North America, beating out 38 other competitors to win first place in the 40-foot bus competition.

Twenty-five teams competed in the Maintenance Competition, which tests mechanics' abilities to troubleshoot mechanical problems and fix them quickly. The State of Florida (LYNX, Orlando, FL) also won first place in the

maintenance competition.



Metro maintenance team shows the skill that snared the coveted Brake Board trophy, signifying the fastest team to correct the electrical portion of the grueling ABS brake board event.

*Photo by
Marco
Pedemonte*

The maintenance team of Forde, Perez and Galindo are assigned to Arthur Winston Metro Division 5; Operator Joe Acosta, competing for the first time, is with Metro's North Los Angeles Division 3.

Metro teams have consistently placed high in the annual competition and won the prestigious Grand Champion award at the 32nd International Bus Roadeo held in Nashville, Tenn. in 2007 and the 34th International Bus Roadeo in Seattle, Wash.

The Arthur Winston maintenance team has represented Metro at the international competitions every year since 2003, with the exception of 2004.

-- from Gayle Anderson

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OBITUARIES

Gateway Cities Governance Council Member Larry R. Nelson Sr.

- A vigil is scheduled for tonight, May 5, from 5 to 8 p.m., at [Forest Lawn - Cypress](#), 4471 Lincoln Ave., in Cypress.
- Services begin Thursday, May 6, at Holy Family Church in Artesia, starting at 10 a.m. Holy Family Church is located at 18708 Clarkdale Avenue. A funeral procession will leave Holy Family Church to his grave at Artesia Cemetery. A reception will be held at 1 p.m. at the Albert O'Little Community Center, 18750 Clarkdale Ave, in Artesia.

(May 5, 2009) Gateway Cities Governance Council Member Larry R. Nelson passed away May 1 after fighting a battle with cancer.

Mr. Nelson served on Artesia's City Council since March 1999, and was elected mayor twice. An active civic leader, Mr. Nelson was an original member of the Gateway Cities Governance Council that formed in 2003 and served as its chairman and vice-chairman.

"He was a dedicated Governance Council Member who focused on the needs of Metro customers," said Alex Clifford, High-Speed Rail Executive Officer and former Gateway Cities General Manager. "He was not shy about riding the buses in the late night and early morning hours with Gateway Cities Service Sector staff.

"During his tenure, Mr. Nelson made a great contribution towards improving bus service in the southeast parts of Los Angeles County. Mr. Nelson took great pride in personally observing the service and speaking with customers before voting for service changes over the years," said Clifford.

Mr. Nelson was born in Superior, Wisconsin, in 1948. He joined the Navy Seabees in 1967. After completing his tour of duty he married his wife, Pat, and moved to California in 1972. They settled in Artesia in 1977. Larry had a passion for draft horses that prompted him to start his own business called Larry's Ponies/Memory Makers Carriage Co. He specialized in horse drawn carriages.

He is survived by wife Pat, their son Chip (Larry Jr.), daughter-in-law Dawn and grandchildren Austin Gray, Dakota Nelson and Trace (Larry Nelson III). He is also survived by his brother David.



Artesia City Councilman Larry R. Nelson was an original member of the Gateway Cities Governance Council that formed in 2003 and served as its chairman and vice-chairman.

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Proceeds from the Gateway Child Care Center Silent Auction will be used for educational activities. Center Parent and Records Clerk Karla Duran (left) designed this lovely Disney themed basket. Joining her is another parent and auction organizer Principal Deputy County Counsel Nedra Jenkins. *Photo by Michael D. White*

Silent Auction Will Benefit Gateway Child Care Center

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(May 6, 2010) The Gateway Child Care Center's Silent Auction will be held Thursday, May 20, with parents preparing some inviting deals to help raise funds for the day care operation.

This year, the auction is organized and hosted by the Parents Advisory Guild and will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Gateway building plaza lobby.

The proceeds will help "enhance learning experiences and increase educational activities for the children," said organizer and Principal Deputy County Counsel Nedra Jenkins.

Parents from each of the Center's seven classrooms have created baskets with interesting themes like All Things Dr. Seuss; Wine Lover; Earthquake/Emergency; Summer Fun; Night Out; Nickelodeon; and Disney for the auction, while bidders will also get a chance to try for other items such as gift certificates and event tickets.

"The more people that we have attend the silent auction, the better our

chances are for having a fantastic and extremely profitable event," said Jenkins.

For more information, contact Jenkins at 323.286.2018 or nej323@att.net.

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Metro Basketball League News

Hats Off to the Metro Gateway Crew

- All Star Game is May 15: [Flyer](#) (PDF)

(May 6, 2010) Though the team has struggled through the season – so far – without a win to its credit, the Metro Gateway squad has consistently showed that those who thought that a game with the Gateway squad guaranteed an automatic win were wrong.

What the team lacked in points on the board, it made up for in class as it often found itself battling overwhelming odds with just five players and an empty bench.

In last week’s match-up of the year, Gateway faced the Black Magic.

With the score 30 -16 at the half, the Black Magic took a break probably thinking it could make the opposition vanish into thin air. But the second half proved to be an eyebrow-lifted as Gateway roared back, laying a major scare on the BM squad and closing the gap to lose in the final minutes by a thin five point margin, 52-47.

By far the best game that Gateway played all year, the squad’s final charge was lead by Stephen Tu and Jesus Arrayaler, who sank 15 points each and



TOS Richard Wright, West Hollywood Division Instructor, Transportation, is the Metro Basketball League Commissioner.

League Standings as of 5/6	
Div 3207	7-0
RRC	3-3
Black Magic	3-3
Orange Crush	3-4
Gateway	0-6



TEAM: Div. 3207



TEAM: RRC

William Bolanos, who added another 10 to the tally.

The Black Magic, who finished the year with a 3-3 record, was led by Dayton Hernandez, who dominated the boards, chalking up an impressive game-high 19 points.

In the week's second match-up, League-leader Div. 3207 brought their record to a perfect 7-0, squashing the Orange Crush 71 – 45 in what turned out to be a somewhat one-sided contest.

The "3207" were led by Prince Mitchell's game high 24 points with Eddie "Mad Bomber" Corbin scoring 13 and Melvin "Mr. Consistency" Ford adding another 12 points.

There are no Metro league games scheduled this weekend due to the May 9 Mothers Day holiday.

League play will resume on May 16 when the Black Magic will meet the league-leading Div. 3207 crew and the Gateway squad tips-off against the RRC. The Orange Crush will "bye."

On Saturday, May 15, the Metro All-Stars will play the Northrup Grumman All-Stars at the Hawthorne High School gym. The event is a fundraiser with a \$3.00 per person charge at the door.

-- from Richard Wright

Richard Wright
Director/Commissioner
(323) 449-3604 – cell
(310) 854-3142 – work
Email: rwmentor@att.net / wright@metro.net



TEAM: Orange Crush



TEAM: Gateway



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Photos by Laura Kloth. Click on blue arrows to navigate through slide show. ^

Employees Jump into Spring at Div. 3 Health Fair

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(May 11, 2010) Metro employees had the opportunity to sweat to some contemporary tunes, witness a nail-biting jump rope contest and receive health screenings during the May 5 health fair at Division 3.

Newly appointed Transportation Manager Maria Reynolds provided a friendly welcome to employees as she encouraged them to get their free screenings for cholesterol, blood pressure and diabetes.

Reynolds recently assumed her position after heading the Division 8 in Chatsworth for 10 years.

Earlier this year, she touted the Chatsworth facility during a visit from local school children saying, "This is an award-winning facility. We have the lowest accident rate. We have the safest facility and it's because of all of the work they (employees) do that makes us such a good division here and a great place to work."

According to Reynolds, the health fair presented an opportunity to get to know her slightly larger staff, understand better how the division operates and mingle before inviting everyone to a traditional Mexican Cinco de

Mayo feast in the back room.

While some of her new crew had their screenings, others enjoyed the fruit salad table and picked up healthy giveaways like toothbrushes, pedometers and a bagful of health-related informational materials.

Highlights of the event included a warm up to hip-hop tunes and a jump rope contest won by Operator Aubrey Harrison who jumped for 1 minute, four seconds without breaking a sweat.

Later in the afternoon, several employees were honored at a retirement ceremony.

Those retiring from Division 3 are: Gerald Bingham, Robert Nembhard, Joe Miller, Dwain Edwards, Raymond Jaramillo, Frank Zamora, Wendell Slater, Carlos Griffith, Nathanael Morales, John Urrutia, Margaret Tucker, Robert Barnett, Gabriel Jimenez, Donald Woolley, Francis Mauliola, Eliseo Perez, and Cheryl Thomas.



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OBITUARIES

Retired Bus Operator Stephanie Gray Dies at 56

- Viewing is Thursday, May 13, at Solomon's Mortuary, 10625 S. Broadway, Los Angeles. Services will be held at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 15, at Inglewood Park Cemetery's Grace Chapel, 720 E. Florence Ave. in Inglewood. [Directions](#)

(May 11, 2010) Memorial services have been scheduled for retired Bus Operator Stephanie Gray who died April 27 following an illness.

Ms. Gray started her Metro career in 1981 at the Arthur Winston Division. She retired in 1991 and is remembered as not only a good employee, but one who enjoyed participating in many employee functions at the division.

Born on July 30, 1953, Ms. Gray had been living in Los Angeles and is survived by close relatives who also worked for Metro, including retired bus operators William Whitlock and Devorah Turner.

Services will be held at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 15, at Inglewood Park Cemetery's Grace Chapel, 720 East Florence Ave. in Inglewood. Viewing will occur Thursday, May 13, at Solomon's Mortuary, 10625 S. Broadway, Los Angeles.

For more information, call Inglewood at 310-412-6500 or Solomon's at 323-757-1754.



Stephanie Gray

-- from Laura Kloth


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Friends in deed: Operator William Bonney, center, now nearly fully recovered from a major attack he suffered on the job, reunites with co-workers who came to his rescue. Pictured, from left, Mechanic Vincent Tsao, Operator Diane Coleman, TOS Karmana Potts, Bonney, Operator Richard Cuevas and Operator Raul Arango. *Photos by Luis Inzunza.*

• Rescue efforts by co-workers save Bus Operator's life

(May 12, 2010) A major heart attack at Division 1 April 22 felled an operator but set into motion a crack team of co-workers whose unerring skill and determination saved his life and paved the way for operator training in life-saving techniques at the division.

Just as Bus Operator William Bonney was about to start his shift on Line 745 on that fateful Thursday afternoon, he collapsed with a heart attack in the bus yard. Operator Raul Arango was in lane 90 – his bus in motion – when he was signaled by Operator Diane Coleman in lane 89 that Bonney had fallen to the pavement and appeared to be in trouble.

"I looked out the window. He was in convulsions, starting to get blue. That means no oxygen to the brain," said Arango.

Both Arango and TOS Karmana Potts rushed to the operator's aid. "I knew CPR so I began mouth-to-



Operator William Bonney, above with rescuers TOS Karmana Potts and, below, Raul Arango, shares his gratitude in a heartfelt message written on a special card he designed. Bonney drew the image on the cover.

mouth resuscitation and Karmana started the compressions."

"When you're waiting for the ambulance, it feels like it takes forever. I saw TOS (Potts) getting tired and that's when I signaled another operator, Richard Cuevas, to jump in and take over the compressions."

Both Arango and Cuevas were military trained in CPR. Arango is a U.S. Army veteran who served two tours in Iraq. Cuevas was in the Air Force. "In the military, we are trained over and over. It gets to you like second nature."

The co-workers continued CPR until the paramedics arrived at 3:23 p.m.

Bonney, who had no pulse when the paramedics arrived, was kept alive by co-workers applying life-saving CPR. The action earned the praise of the paramedics, who defibrillated Operator Bonney restoring a normal pulse, said Operations Instruction Supervisor Chris Doan. Doan had visited Bonney at USC Medical Center when he was still on life support.

At an awards ceremony held May 5 at the division, interim Director of Service Operations Sonja Owens, until just recently the longtime transportation manager at Division 1, presented the co-workers with engraved plaques signifying humanitarian honors.

The guest of honor on that day was Operator William Bonney, now nearly fully recovered.

"It was an emotional time," said Owens. "We were all out there, but it was these co-workers who saved his life."

As Bonney tearfully reunited with co-workers, Owens read a letter he prepared to express his heartfelt gratitude:

I am so deeply grateful to all. I pray everyone at Div. 1 be always surrounded by



Rescuers Arango, above, and Richard Cuevas, below, applied life-saving CPR to save Bonney's life. Longtime Division 1 Transportation Manager Sonja Owens presents Humanitarian Awards May 5.



Mechanic Vincent Tsao: "Happy to see you came back. Someday we will meet in the yard again."

God's love and protection. I don't understand it all, but I do understand on that day in my time of need. Some real, living angels stepped up and handed me my life back! God bless you! – William A. Bonney

The co-workers, now known as heroes at Division 1, are:

- Part-time Operator Diane Coleman. She made the operator comfortable and got help.
- Part-time Operator Raul Arango. He performed all rescue breathing until relieved by paramedics.
- TOS Karmana Potts. She performed chest compressions until relieved by Operator Cuevas.
- Operator Richard Cuevas. He performed chest compressions until relieved by paramedics.
- Mechanic Vincent Tsao. He kept time on ventilations-to-compressions ratio – important data needed by medical technicians.
- Equipment Records Specialist Lessie Candler. She dialed 911 and "held it all together."

Maintenance Manager John McBryan praised the teamwork and shared the lesson he had learned from the experience. "This is a good message that Mr. Bonney has given us: Start taking care of yourself."

Bonney is a part-time operator assigned to Division 1 who joined Metro in March 2009. The married father of one lives in East Los Angeles. He looks forward to returning to work upon his complete recovery.

--from Gayle Anderson



Operator Diane Coleman: She saw Operator Bonney collapsed and took action. A left, Operations Instruction Supervisor Chris Doan: "Thanks to his co-workers, the Los Angeles City Paramedics, the County USC Medical Center's CICU, and all of our prayers, William Bonney has almost made a full recovery."



Message from Rail: A certificate of exemplary performance above and beyond for performing life-saving measures to save an operator's life.



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Metro Basketball League News

Metro All-Stars Expected to Ground Northrop Grumman

- All Star Game is May 15:** Tip-off time is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Hawthorne High School gym [Flyer](#) (PDF)

(May 13, 2010) If you're a fan of Metro basketball, you won't want to miss this coming Saturday's match-up as the Metro All Stars gear-up to clip the wings of their counterparts from Northrop-Grumman.

Tip-off time is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Hawthorne High School gym aka the Metro Enormo-Dome.

The event is a fundraiser with a \$3 per person charge at the door.

The game promises to be a tense match-up as both teams will feature the best of the best of what is expected to be one of the most competitive corporate basketball match-ups in the entire Southland.

With Div. 3207 coach Peter Jones at the helm, the Metro squad will boast an impressive bench-in-depth with players from each of the five Metro teams hitting the boards in front of what's expected to be a sell-out crowd.

Undefeated league leader Div. 3207 will field Alfredo Lopez, Warren Paul, Prince



League Standings	
Div 3207	7-0
RRC	3-3
Black Magic	3-3
Orange Crush	3-4
Gateway	0-6

TOS Richard Wright, West Hollywood Division Instructor, Transportation, is the Metro Basketball League Commissioner.



TEAM: Div. 3207



TEAM: RRC

Mitchell, and Jason Tims, while the Gateway squad repped by Silhan Jin and Jesus Arrayaler. The RRC crew will be represented by Henry Largaespada and Sal Buenrostro.

Troynell Williams, Dayton Hernandez and Vince Wilkes from the Black Magic squad will hit the boards for the Metro squad with the Orange Crush's Myron Robinson and Chris Roberson rounding out the All-Star roster.

-- from Richard Wright

Richard Wright
Director/Commissioner
(323) 449-3604 – cell
(310) 854-3142 – work
Email: rwmentor@att.net / wright@metro.net



TEAM: Orange Crush



TEAM: Gateway

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Symposium organizer and Metro Director of Countywide Planning & Development Robin Blair told attendees, "We want a city that improves the quality of life and the quality of health of its residents."

Metro's Pedestrian Symposium Includes Public Health, 30/10 Funding Discussions

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(May 13, 2010) "Placemaking" and "obesity crisis" became the buzz terms of the day during Metro's 2010 Pedestrian Symposium, as city planners, architects and local officials shared ideas with public health representatives to improve L.A.'s "walkability" score, largely agreeing that well planned neighborhoods should include pedestrian-friendly streets complete with accessible public transit.

In his welcoming remarks, Metro CEO Art Leahy said he was enthusiastic about the "slow" revolution occurring in Los Angeles County.

"The revolution that has occurred seems slow unless you've been here for a long time," he said, contrasting the empty corridors of Union Station of than 30 years ago when he drove a bus for Metro, with today's environment.

Additional rail lines have become a reality thanks to funding from Measure R and now the potential funding from the proposed 30/10 measure, Leahy added, inviting guests to ride the trains, and enjoy the stations.

Essentially, the Metro Board has backed the 30/10 Initiative that seeks advanced funding from the federal government to construct 12 major rail projects in 10 years. The idea is to ramp-up the effort to improve the Southland's air quality and lessen the dependency on foreign fuel.

"We're excited about what's going on and

- See Project for Public Spaces list of "[The 20 Best Neighborhoods In North America](#)"

Kent said pedestrian-friendly streets "have enormous benefits since they not only help the local economy, they also enhance community interaction while promoting health because people enjoy walking on them."

Calling it "a massive movement" that's "happening right in front of our eyes," he said "the transformation is phenomenal and we need a whole new generation of people to redefine the streets of the future and all we have to do is get them out there practicing it."

Blair indicated that Measure R monies are funding some \$30 million in pedestrian-friendly projects this year, and funded another \$36 million in the 2009 Call for Projects process. In addition over \$5 billion dollars of discretionary transportation funds will be distributed to cities through the Measure R cities formula.



Move LA Coalition member Gloria Ohland, who worked extensively to get Measure R passed, said she was confident the 30/10 initiative would get federal support.

Move L.A. Coalition member Gloria Ohland, who worked extensively to get Measure R passed, said she was "confident" the 30/10 measure would garner federal support.

"I really do believe that we are going to get the money from the federal government to accelerate all these projects," she said. "There is no other region in the country that passed three half cent sales taxes for public transportation. We are really a self-help county."

Stating that "something that big and that bold" has really captured the attention of Congress, she said, "We're the kind of place that the government should want to reward because we are not asking for handouts. All we're asking for is a loan."

The day-long symposium, which was expected to receive more than 300 participants, was organized by some 20 Metro staff members under the leadership of Metro Executive Officer Diego Cardoso.



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Primary Resources Blog Takes Readers Back to the Future of Transportation in Southern California

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2010

Getting To Dodger Stadium: The Aerial Gondola And Escalators That Never Were



Image via Flickr by Atwater Village Newbie

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 - Go Play On The Freeway! Cap Park Proposals

Check it out on the Library's new [Primary Resources](#) blog.

- **Play on the freeway? Take a gondola to a Dodger game? Your streetcar is here? The Library's new blog tells all.**

(May 13, 2009) Primary Resources, a new transportation blog from the Metro Transportation Library and Archive, just may be the ultimate link to detailed research and intriguing past lives of current transportation projects and issues in Southern California.

From [parks atop roadways](#) (go play on the freeway!) to [mapping the transit funding crisis](#) (from bad to worse!) Digital Resources Librarian Kenn Bicknell puts today's hot topics into perspective.

It's all here, but there's a lot more on the way. Posting on the average of twice a week, Bicknell plucks juicy topics relating to transit and transportation in Southern California from the Library's Transportation Headlines Blog, which he produces daily, and mines the Library's ample resources to provide context and background.

Let's hope that Digital Resources Librarian and blogger Kenn Bicknell lands a spot

on the "Jeopardy" game television show and that there's a transportation category on the board.



Hot topics on tap at [Primary Resources](#) Blog

- Keeping Up With Public Transportation Research From TRB: Finding Publications, Conferences, Hearings, And RSS Feeds
- 50 Years Ago This Week: The Launch Of Freeway Flyer Service
- The Key To Transportation Research: Harnessing The Wealth Of Information In The TRB Databases
- Go Play On The Freeway! Cap Park Proposals And A Look Back At The Highway Relationship To Park Planning In Los Angeles
- From Bad to Worse: Mapping the Transit Funding Crisis
- The Beauty Of "Crowdsourcing" From Social Media: User feedback is a great value-added feature of increased access to resources.
- Hooray For Hollywood: Your Streetcar Is Here, But Your Subway Doesn't Arrive For Almost 50 Years
- Getting To Dodger Stadium: The Aerial Gondola And Escalators That Never Were
- 100 Years Before The Gold Line...
- Economic Impact Study: Measure R Projects, 2009-2038

"The Primary Resources blog compliments the the daily aggregated news items in the Transportation Headlines," says Bicknell. "We have a lot of important resources from our collection and beyond to share with our transit and transportation community."

Currently, the Metro Library collects news headlines related to transit and transportation from newspapers, magazines, journals, blogs, advocacy organizations and other sources to help inform thousands of people every day. The results are published in the [Transportation Headlines blog](#) and its content is disseminated via [email subscription](#) as well as [RSS feed](#).

Transit and transportation advocacy is growing thanks to social networking and other communication tools. Resources can be disseminated, consumed, and redistributed more easily than ever before, said Bicknell.

In the Primary Resources blog, Bicknell applies interesting (and often humorous) historical resources to the current conversation. "We want to share these resources to provide additional context to our mobility agenda," he said.

Not hooked up to the web at work? Check it out at home.

The Primary Resources Blog is online at the Library's site on metro.net at <http://www.metro.net/about/library/> or go directly to <http://metrotransportationlibrary.blogspot.com/>.

--from Gayle Anderson

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Photos by Luis Inzunza

Board Chair and Glendale Mayor Ara Najarian leads news conference Monday to launch Bike Week LA activities. Most of the major media and community news outlets attended to cover increasing interest and participation in bicycle commuting.

Free-wheeling News Conference ramps up start of Bike Week LA

- Share the Road: Metro, LAPD encourage participation, safety
- Go to www.metro.net/biketowork for routes, pit stop locations, and how-to advice. Be in on the count: Register online or at a pit stop near you.



Triumph on Wheels

Downtown Bike to Work Ride event, organized by the Metro Bike Club, was a demonstration of how commuters can access major work centers in downtown Los Angeles by bicycling and/or using Metro Rail. Organizer Dave Sotero, at left, posts the thrill of it all on The Source at metro.net:

[Get on Your Bikes and Ride: 2nd Annual Downtown L.A. Ride Rolls through Downtown](#)

(May 18, 2010) Bicycling commuters took center stage on Monday to begin Bike Week LA as transit officials led the way with a successful press conference attended by most of the major media outlets in the region.



Board Chair Ara Najarian and LAPD Chief Charlie Beck reminds everyone to 'share the road' and keep cyclists safe.



Board Chair Ara Najarian and Director Rita Robinson and CEO Art Leahy joined Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge, LAPD Chief Charlie Beck, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC) members and others to highlight bike safety.

Narajarian set the tone with advocacy in support of cycling as transit and a strong plea for participation and safety on the road.

"Along with walking, bicycling is the cleanest form of transportation," he said. "If more people bicycle, even if they let MTA carry their bicycles for part of the ride, there'd be fewer cars on the road and then maybe Los Angeles could shed its dubious distinction of having the smoggiest skies in the nation."

LAPD Chief Charlie Beck made a plea for safety: "Share the road. Bicyclists are an important part of the commuting public but they are the most vulnerable. Give them the extra room - motorists have to pay attention to make it safe for cyclists," he said.

Najarian said Metro is working on a variety of fronts to encourage cycling, which is gaining popularity as the public worries more and more about global warming. "Commuting by bike instead of a car can reduce your individual carbon footprint by at least 20 pounds a day, and for a whole year, that's 2 tons," he

said.

Metro has funded 100 bikeway projects and other facilities and programs in Los Angeles County to encourage bicycling, Najarian noted. Seeking to increase the cycling form of transportation, he called on the commuting public to double or triple the amount of commuting trips made by cyclists, which currently amount to one percent of total trips countywide.



The right to bike: Joining forces for Bike Week LA are, from left, LAPD officer on bike detail at Central Traffic, LAPD Chief Charlie Beck, LACBC Outreach Coordinator Aurisha Smolarski, Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge, Good Samaritan Hospital CEO Andy Leeka, Board Chair Ara Najarian, LADOT General Manager Rita Robinson, LACBC Executive Director Jennifer Klausner and CEO Art Leahy.

On Bike to Work Day, Metro is co-hosting more than 60 bike pit stops with local organizations, inviting bicyclists to stop by for refreshments and free giveaways from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. only. For exact locations, go to www.metro.net/biketowork.

On Thursday, the official bike to work day, bicyclists can ride Metro buses and many other municipal bus lines, for free if their bicycle and helmet are along for the ride.

Cyclists also can bring their bikes on Metro Rail trains and ride free. Since Metro Rail trains may be full during weekday rush hours, Metro reserves the right to ask bicyclists to wait for the next train from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. unless trains are moving in a direction opposite the peak hour flow of commuter traffic on the Metro Blue, Green and Gold Lines.

On the Metro Red and Purple Line subway trains, bikes are not allowed in either direction during rush hours from Union Station to Wilshire/Vermont only. No other restrictions apply.

"For thousands of cyclists, every week is bike week, said LA Bicycle Coalition Executive Director Jennifer Kosner. "But this is the week when we invite the entire L.A. community to be a part of this program. More people on bikes means better public health and less congestion."



Coordinator Paula Carvajal, Community Relations Planning Manager, engages cyclists with a pit stop preview and hands out Metro's new updated Bike Map that covers routes throughout Los Angeles County.

"It seems there a lot more bicyclists participating and we expect probably 70 to 100 cyclists per pit stop on Thursday," said coordinator Paula Carvajal, Community Relations Planning Manager. There's also a significant increase in sponsors, who have upped participation from 44 goody-laden booths last year to a record 60 booths placed at strategic locations throughout Los Angeles County.

Go to www.metro.net/biketowork for details on the various events. Metro will be offering a chance to win several prizes, including a two-night stay for two at the Red Mountain Resort & Spa in St. George, Utah, a folding bike from REI, and more prizes, to those who pledge to bike to work on Bike to Work Day Thursday, May 20.

--from Gayle Anderson


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[Metro News Release]

Metro Board Adopts FY11 Budget

By Marc Littman

(May 19, 2010) The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors today adopted a \$3.8 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2010-11.

The spending plan is \$47 million less than the current Metro budget but still advances a variety of transportation improvements for the region including a spate of new highway and transit building projects. These are funded largely with federal stimulus funds and the new Measure R transit sales tax.

Against the backdrop of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, Metro has seen a sharp drop in local transportation sales taxes and farebox revenue compounded by cuts in state transit funding.

As a consequence, Metro originally faced an historic \$250 million operating deficit but CEO Art Leahy has managed to balance the budget by severely cutting administrative costs including the elimination of 20 percent of the agency's non-contract staff, 240 full-time equivalent positions.

For the second year in a row, the budget assumes no wage increase. However, Metro is negotiating new contracts this spring with its major labor unions representing operators, maintenance employees and clerks.

In addition the budget reflects improved capital budgeting and centralizing bus operations to improve efficiency. A five percent reduction in bus service is assumed along with a previously approved fare change that will be implemented July 1.

However, less than half of Metro riders – 48 percent – will be impacted by the fare change, which is only the third Metro fare increase in the past 15 years. Thanks to the passage of the Measure R transportation half cent sales tax in Los Angeles County in November 2008, fares for seniors, students, the disabled and Medicare recipients will stay at current levels until 2013. Silver Line fares also will not change.

The cash fare for regular riders will be increased 25 cents to \$1.50; a day pass will be \$6, up one dollar; the Metro weekly pass will be \$20, up \$3; and a monthly pass will be \$75, up \$13.

The new fares will still be among the lowest charged by any major transit agency in the nation. Even under the new fare structure, riders will only pay 28 percent of the cost of operating Metro buses and trains. The rest is subsidized by other funding sources, primarily local sales tax revenue.

The five percent reduction in bus service hours will be achieved through more efficient scheduling to reduce service duplication and improve productivity. However, service quality will improve by continuing the

current level of maintenance support and on-street supervision.

Metro will program \$625 million in local Measure R sales tax monies in FY 11. These include monies to advance planning and construction for more than two dozen transit and highway projects plus monies to subsidize bus operations and \$87 million in local return monies that will be given the various cities in Los Angeles County to use for major street resurfacing, pothole repair, improving traffic congestion, bikeways, pedestrian improvements, signal synchronization and transit improvements.

Among major transportation advances in the coming fiscal year, Metro will purchase 125 new compressed natural gas buses, order new rail cars, continue construction funding for the Expo light rail line from downtown Los Angeles to Culver City and a four mile extension of the popular Metro Orange Line busway from Canoga Park to Chatsworth, oversee construction of a 10-mile northbound carpool lane on the I-405 freeway from the 10 to 101 freeways and advance numerous planning studies for new transit projects throughout Los Angeles County. Construction of an 11-mile Foothill extension of the Metro Gold Line from Pasadena to Azusa also will begin this summer.

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Metro Basketball League News



Metro All-Stars took on Northrup Grumman at corporate showdown May 15 in Hawthorne.

Northrop Grumman Whops Metro All-Stars As Season Winds Down

- League playoffs are set to start on June 6; no games scheduled on the May 30 Memorial Day holiday.

(May 19, 2010) OK, kids. Here's a life lesson plain and simple. Sometimes, the other guy just wants it more. And so it went on May 15 as the Metro All-Stars were shot down 58-39 by the Northrop Grumman crew before a record crowd at the Hawthorne High School gym.



TOS Richard Wright, West Hollywood Division Instructor, Transportation, is the Metro Basketball League Commissioner.

League Standings	
Div 3207	8-0
RRC	4-3
Black Magic	3-4
Orange Crush	3-4
Gateway	0-7

The Northrop squad came to play. Support came from fans including Metro Transportation Director Roman Alarcon who came out to watch the Metro squad.

The season is winding down with one more week

for regular play offering a battle for 2nd and 3rd place in Metro league standing. The top four teams – Div. 3207, RRC, the Black Magic and the Orange Crush – will move on to post-league play, but the game of the week matched the 2nd Place RRC squad against the 0-7 Gateway crew.

Gateway really stepped-up and gave the opposition a run for its money. Trailing at the half 24-13, Gateway – led by Quintin Sumabat – scratched and clawed their way back into the game to come within a hairs-breadth of pulling-off the upset of the season.

The final buzzer sounded with the scoreboard showing the RRC on top 43-40. The crowd was treated to outstanding performances by Gateway “big gun” Jesus Arrayales, who scored a game high 20 points, and standouts Silhan Jin and Chris Talamantez with 7 points each and William Bolanos, who sank 6.

The RRC squad was led by Devin “The Painter” Reed with 15 points and Sal Buenrostro, who chipped in 9 to edge-by a determined Gateway team.

The second game on the bill saw the undefeated Div. 3207 team wave its wand and make the Black Magic disappear into thin



TEAM: Div. 3207



TEAM: RRC



TEAM: Black Magic



TEAM: Orange Crush

air by a blow-out score of 58-27.

Led by Melvin "Mr. Consistency" Ford's game high 21 points, the Div.3207 machine commanded the floor from the first tip-off with Tim Williams sinking 16 and Alfredo Lopez racking-up 13 points. Leonard "Hoopster" Hooper sank a team high 7 points for the Black Magic.



TEAM: Gateway

On May 23, the last two games of the regular season will match the Black Magic vs. the RRC and the Orange Crush vs. the Gateway. Tip-off times are 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., respectively, at the Hawthorne High School gym.

Div. 3207 will bye. League playoffs are set to start on June 6 with no games scheduled on the May 30 Memorial Day holiday.

-- from Richard Wright

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Metro Blue Liners to Honor the Fallen at Memorial Day Concert

- Blue Liners play at Metro Café on Thursday at noon

By Michael D. White
Staff Writer

(May 25, 2010) For Metro Copy Center operator Raul Gomez, Memorial Day is more than an extra day off to kick-back and enjoy a barbeque with friends and family.

"I used to think like that," he said, remembering the morning a little more than five years ago when an Army Chaplain delivered the tragic news that his cousin, [U.S. Army Specialist Sergio Gudino](#), had been killed in action on Christmas Day when a roadside bomb detonated next to the tank he was driving during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq.

"Our whole world changed that morning," said Gomez. "We never thought we'd be impacted by what was going on over there. When the news hit, we were devastated and still are. Memorial Day hasn't been the same since and neither have I."

Gudino was married and had a 3-year-old son, Cyrus. He was the son of Victor Gudino, a former SCRTD employee who worked as a revenue mechanic from 1978 through 1984.

In memory of his cousin and all those who've given their lives in service to their country, Gomez and his fellow Metro Blue Liners will present a selection of patriotic music in a lunch-time concert appearance in the Gateway Café, Thursday, May 27 from noon to 1:00 p.m.

"It's the very least we can do," said Gomez. "We just want everyone to take a few moments and remember what sacrifices Sergio and so many others have made on their behalf."



Poster by Raul Gomez

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Rail TOS John Sanchez Rescues Children from Smoking School Bus Stranded on the Hollywood Freeway



School Bus Fire

KNBC-TV

A school bus carrying 23 third graders and their teachers catches fire, prompting a hasty escape.

Click above to view KNBC news video

Rail TOS John Sanchez, at left, and motorist Brian English are interviewed by reporter Patrick Healy for the KNBC evening news. The two men stopped to help children escape a burning school bus Wednesday, May 19, on the 101 Freeway in the Cahuenga Pass.

Read broadcast w/photos - and link to news video - in a KNBC report:
<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local-beat/School-Bus-Catches-Fire-Minor-Injuries-Reported-94277479.html>

(May 25, 2010) When a school bus caught fire on the southbound 101 Freeway Wednesday morning, May 19, RAIL TOS John Sanchez was in the right place at the right time. While other motorists whizzed by the smoking bus, which was stranded in the middle lane with 25 school children inside, first-responder Sanchez stopped to help. "I saw the kids and thought, 'I've got to stop,'" Sanchez told KNBC Reporter Patrick Healy. First on the scene, Sanchez flagged down another motorist, Brian English, who pulled to the side of the road and raced to the bus. English kicked the front door open while Sanchez broke into the emergency rear door. The two men carried the children one by one to safety. Ultimately, their action saved the children's lives and

avoided a tragedy of untold proportions. Minutes later, the bus burst into flames.

Sanchez, a 17-year veteran, is a Rail Transit Operations Supervisor at the Red Line Division 20. In the wee hours of May 20, the day after the incident, Sanchez reported the details to Red Line Transportation Manager Barbara Harris in an e-mail:



Rail Division Transportation Manager Tom Jasmin, left, presents same-day honors to Rail TOS John Sanchez for his heroic efforts in rescuing children from a stranded school bus about to burst into flames on the Hollywood Freeway.

even late last night, by channels 2/9, 4 and 7 on the events of the day. I am truly grateful for being in the right place at the right time and for the training received to observe and watch my surroundings.

At approximately 0845 hrs I was traveling southbound on the 101 freeway when I observed a school bus sitting in the number three lane with smoke coming out of the front area.

When I arrived to the bus and was parallel to its location, I noticed that there were children, approximately 25, and 8 adults sitting in the bus. I then parked the MTA unit on the left shoulder of the freeway and proceeded to the rear of the bus to access the emergency exit. When I opened the emergency exit door of the bus, the children with the adults began to line up so that we were able to carry them out to a safe location on the opposite shoulder of the freeway. Once everyone was out of the bus, the bus was engulfed in flames and completely burned out.

I was given the opportunity since then to be interviewed,

--John Sanchez
May 20, 2010



KNBC used the video taken by John Sanchez on his cell phone for the report that aired May 20. Photo above is a still of the burning bus from the video.

--from Gayle Anderson

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CEO Names Lonnie Mitchell to Top Operations Post

- New Chief Operations Officer will integrate bus and rail operations

(May 25, 2010) CEO Art Leahy announced Thursday the appointment of Chief Operations Officer Lonnie Mitchell to the position he has held on an interim basis since December 2009.

"Lonnie performed exceptionally well during that time period," Leahy wrote in a memo to Metro staff. "I look forward to him working quickly to solidify operations, improve performance and help make Metro the world class operation I know it can be."

As COO, Mitchell oversees bus and rail operations with an annual operating budget of \$1.48 billion and nearly 7,500 employees.

"My goal is to execute the CEO's vision to improve transit services and make this agency the best transit organization in the country," said Mitchell. "It's an opportunity to continue to make this transit service one that the public likes to ride."

Despite the constraints of the budget, Mitchell remains optimistic in the quest to improve transit service in the region. "We have outstanding transportation professionals on the job. The challenge is to listen and learn and make the changes necessary to support accomplishing the vision," he said.

Mitchell joined Metro as Procurement Chief in June 2000 after completing a 30-year career in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps. Appointed Chief Administrative Services Officer in December 2005, Mitchell's responsibilities expanded to include Procurement and Material Management, Administration, and Information Technology Services.

Mitchell concluded his 30-year naval career as vice commander of the Navy Exchange Service Command in Virginia Beach, Va, where he was responsible for oversight of information systems, financial operations, contracting, human resources, training and planning for 113 retail complexes worldwide.

Mitchell is a 1969 graduate of Washington State University, where he earned a BA in economics. He earned a Masters in acquisition



Chief Operations Officer Lonnie Mitchell
Photo by Noel Pamplona

management at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.

Mitchell resides in Hancock Park. He has two adult daughters, Lacy, 32, and Allison, 28, and three granddaughters.

--from Gayle Anderson

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Architect Martha Welborne Picked for Top Planning Post

• Measure R projects top agenda

(May 25, 2010) Metro CEO Art Leahy announced May 21 the hiring of architect and urban planner Martha Welborne to Metro's top planning job. Welborne, a moving force in many forward projects in the Los Angeles region and the nation, will join Metro June 1 as Executive Director of Countywide Planning. In that capacity, she will play a key role in accelerating delivery of voter-approved projects funded by Measure R.

"Los Angeles is on the cusp of the most significant improvements in public transportation in its history. To be part of the team that will bring this about is both compelling and exciting. An opportunity like this comes around once in a lifetime," said Welborne.

Welborne's work has ranged from individual building design to such large-scale planning projects as Los Angeles' surface transit project, an effort that led to the creation of the Metro Rapid bus system now running throughout Los Angeles County. She served as director on the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board from May 2005 to February 2006.



Martha Welborne joins Metro June 1

Welborne is the current Managing Director of the Grand Avenue Committee, a public/private partnership focused on revitalizing the civic and cultural districts of downtown Los Angeles through a \$3 billion project that includes six high-rise buildings and a 16-acre civic park. She will continue to spearhead this effort over the next six months as she transitions into her post at Metro.

As an architect and city planner, she has worked on large scale urban design projects such as campus master plans and transit systems as a principal of ZGF Architects, LLP, in Los Angeles. Previously, she was an associate partner of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP, and was also a principal of Sasaki Associates, Inc. in Boston.

Welborne currently serves as a member of MIT's Visiting Committee for the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, serves on the Board of the Community Foundation Land Trust, and on the Board of Councilors for USC's School of Architecture and for KUSC. She was a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, and is a member of the

College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. She has also served as president of the Los Angeles chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

--from Gayle Anderson

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Video by Rich Morallo. Not hooked up to YouTube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogE8OuXmBds&feature=email>
NOTE: This YouTube link is being sent to you for the purpose of viewing the Metro video only. Metro employees are subject to the Employee Code of Conduct that generally restricts the use of company time/equipment to conducting Metro business. Please click on icon above to view the video.

Metro Bikers Join 'Run for the Wall' Motorcycle Ride to Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.

- Rey Coutts and Jes Godinez took off May 19 on the 2,500 journey to honor their uncles and others killed in Vietnam on Memorial Day.

By Rich Morallo
Community Relations/Volunteer Coordinator

(May 25, 2010) Metro employees Rey Coutts and Jes Godinez were both teenagers in the late 1960s when their uncles, both U.S. Marines, shipped out to Vietnam.

"My uncle, Staff Sergeant David Louie Munoz, was declared missing in action in May 1969," recalled Coutts, a transportation operations supervisor at Metro Operations Central Instruction.

Almost two years earlier, in June 1967, Lance Corporal Alejandro Godinez was reported killed in action.

"My uncle used to take all of us kids on day outings," remarked Godinez,

an assistant manager with the Revenue Collection Equipment Maintenance Department.

Early on May 19, Coutts and Godinez, both former Marines themselves, throttled off on a 10-day, 2,500-mile motorcycle ride from Ontario Mills to Washington, D.C. to honor their uncles and the 55,000-plus others who served and gave their lives in Vietnam.

"We're joining about 9,000 other military bikers on this journey. We call it a mission, to the Vietnam Wall Memorial," said Coutts.

Known as the "Run For The Wall," the trip honors all veterans and their families and friends. "It also calls for an accounting of all prisoners of war and those missing in action," explained Godinez.

Coutts and Godinez will log about 300 miles a day aboard their Harley-Davidsons and make about 10 stops en-route to the nation's capital.

"At the end of the journey when I reach the memorial, I'll look for my uncle's name on the wall," said Godinez. "He used to take us swimming and hiking. 'Semper Fi,' Uncle Alejandro."

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THE source

Transportation News & Views

- Ned Racine's profile of I-405 project arborist Kay Greeley was posted in The Source May 25.

(May 27, 2010) Kay Greeley freely admits that she is a tree hugger. She estimates that she has examined 50,000 trees during her career, which is a large number of hugs by any measure.

Greeley even has favorite trees: two native oaks (coast live oak and valley oak) and the California sycamore. "I have spent so much time in the field with them, it's like they are my friends," she says laughing.



Arborist Kay Greeley leaves no tree behind in the foliage survey conducted in the construction area of the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening project.

A certified arborist, as well as a civil engineer and landscape architect, Greeley led the tree survey process that mapped the 5,600 trees and "significant foliage" (think bushes and shrubs) along the [I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening project](#).

From January 4 to March 4, she and other surveyor/arborist teams frequently worked six-day weeks to collect data on each tree in the construction area—predominantly on the project's east side—

including an evaluation of each tree's health. Each tree was photographed and tagged for identification. That information was plotted on drawings, using the precise longitude and latitude for each tree.

Greeley analyzes the data and decides which trees remain and which are removed to accommodate the construction of a wider I-405 in the narrow confines of the Sepulveda Pass. She also engages the construction team to explore if the project can be adjusted to save more trees.

Even when a tree is designated for removal, California black walnut, coast live oak and California sycamore cannot be taken without approval from the city of Los Angeles.

The project's final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact

Statement require specific replacement ratios for protected trees. Walnut trees, coast live oaks and sycamores, for example, must be replaced at a 5:1 ratio: five trees planted for every tree felled.

In the final step of the tree survey process, Greeley develops protocols that protect the remaining trees. This commonly includes surrounding them with fences and watering them during construction. Her protocols are designed to avoid "drought stress," Greeley says, explaining that trees can suffer from any change around them, particularly changes to the ground.

Considering the number of trees surveyed, the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening project is the largest project Greeley has worked on. Her other projects include the Expo Line, the Stone Canyon Water Treatment plant and projects within multiple Southern California cities.

"There are a lot of things I look for," she says, explaining how she evaluates the health of a tree. "I look at the bottom of the tree, the root crown, I work my way up the trunk, then I look at the branching structure (the scaffold). Then I look at the little branches and the foliage."

In addition to finding dead trees during the survey, Greeley notes that the survey found "dangerous trees." These are weakened trees that can fall on a freeway or street. This is exactly what happened the day Greeley was interviewed for this story: A tree fell across a lane of the 605 freeway in the San Gabriel Valley.

As much as Greeley loves trees, she knows she must balance their preservation with the reasonable use of the property where they live. "Whoever owns property has a right to use that property as it is intended," she insists. "I try to help people to find that balance. In the city of San Fernando, we are constantly looking at ways to adjust sidewalks to save trees.

Greeley is no stranger to the I-405 nor its congestion. Although she has a home in Simi Valley now, she was born and grew up in the San Fernando Valley. She still drives the I-405 almost every day.

"I was stuck on the freeway going to the beach in my teenage years," she recalls. "I have always been stuck on the 405 wherever I commute.

"I'm amazed at the size of the undertaking in a project like this," Greeley adds. "The amount of skill on the part of the people working out there every day is incredible."

— **Ned Racine**
I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening project
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Operator Janice Dickson, center, is honored for 'act of valor' at Operations Committee meeting June 17. Pictured, from left, Division 3 Transportation Manager Maria Reynolds, Operations Committee Chair Rita Robinson, CEO Art Leahy, Dickson, Exec. Director of Transportation Roman Alarcon, Chief Operations Officer Lonnie Mitchell, and UTU Local 1607 Chairwoman Lisa Arredondo.

Div. 3 Operator Assists Fellow Employee During Bus Attack

By Laura Kloth

Staff Writer

(May 27, 2010) Metro, Div. 3 Bus Operator Janice Dickson says she loves her job and considers it her "life's mission."

"Every time I get behind the wheel, I get a chance to touch someone's life with a smile or kind word," she says.

On April 28, Dickson's mission took a radical twist when she came to the assistance of a fellow Metro employee, Senior Scheduling System Analyst Rollin Baker, who was violently attacked while on duty validating passenger boarding data.

Dickson was driving on the Line 251 route from Long Beach when she heard a commotion behind her.

"I heard noises and when I turned my head, I saw one of the analysts bleeding profusely," she said.

Baker was one of two Metro data analysts on the bus working on a Passenger Miles Verification Project and was allegedly punched by a male passenger, who appeared to be "agitated" and behaving "aggressively."

Baker said the suspect became agitated when he allegedly caught the man ransacking his personal belongings. The swiftness of the attack shocked Baker, who alerted Dickson, who quickly called the police.

Dickson said she recognized the suspect as a regular customer who she'd spoken with many times before. Dickson was able to secure the bus and

hit the panic button, while firmly ordering the alleged attacker to get off the bus.

"I was initially a little stunned by the sudden trauma but turned to face him. He then tried to kick me," Baker said in his official report of the incident, adding the suspect shattered a clipboard that he used to try to defend himself.

"The Operator (Dickson) then put herself between me and my assailant (I was still sitting down), and using force of personality, assumption of authority and possibly rapport built up," Baker said.

Dickson was able to convince the suspect to leave the bus and within minutes was providing the Vernon Police with a full description of the assailant. The man was picked up and arrested later that day. Baker returned to work later after being treated for a cut lip at the scene by paramedics.

Today, Baker said he was grateful to Dickson, who said she relied on her OCI training to handle the situation.

"They [Metro Operations Central Instruction] train us for a multitude of situations... everything from handling someone who is sick to an altercation," she said. "They make us fully aware of what we're up against."

Metro operators are required to attend training classes annually that cover everything from performing CPR to learning how to assist disabled passengers.

A single mother of two grown sons, Dickson said she also relies on her personal faith when she gets behind the wheel every morning.

"I love my job," she said. "I love what I do. I love making a contribution to society."