

# The DOWNTOWN GAZETTE

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## Richardson Big Winner In 37th District

By Kurt Helin  
Editor

Former Long Beach City Councilwoman Laura Richardson appears on her way to Washington after winning the special primary election Tuesday to fill the 37th District House of Representatives seat.

Richardson pulled 37.8% of the vote in a crowded 17-candidate field, handily defeating another former Long Beach City Councilwoman, Jenny Oropeza, who pulled in 31.3% of the vote. No other candidate garnered more than 10% of the vote.

Richardson will enter an Aug. 6 runoff as the Democratic representative facing off against Republican John Kanaley (7.6% of the vote), Green Party candidate Daniel Brezenoff (1.2%) and Libertarian Herb Peters (1.1%). However, as Democratic candidates accounted for 86% of the vote in last Tuesday's primary, Richardson is considered an overwhelming favorite.

If elected she would represent the 37th District, which covers about 80% of Long Beach (although not the eastern part of the city including Belmont Shore). The seat became open when congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald passed away in April.

Richardson said she has a lot



STUNT RIDERS...

All manner of tricks you should not do on the street will be tried next to the Queen Mary this weekend at the XDL US Open event. See story, page 16. —Photo courtesy Greg Gallup

of things she wants to deal with in Washington D.C.

"I believe that we have sick care, not health care," she told supporters. "I believe our children are being left behind. I believe we need to get our troops home from Afghanistan and Iraq."

Richardson was able to coalesce behind her the organizations that had been the power

base of Millender-McDonald. She had strong support from African-American leaders throughout Long Beach as well as the neighboring cities of Compton, Carson, Wilmington and others.

"She was the best candidate and it came together for her," said Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-35), one of  
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## SOME INDUSTRY OFFICIALS OPPOSE

# Ports Clean Truck Plan Stalled For More Study

By Kurt Helin  
Editor

The sweeping and controversial "Clean Trucks Plan" for the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles will get at least another couple months of study.

After a closed-door meeting last week that included union and other shipping industry officials, representatives from both ports said more time was needed.

One of the things that will be done in the next couple of months is an economic impact study, officials said.

"In the interests of fairness to those who offered their input, we need time to evaluate their suggestions," said Richard Steinke, executive director of the Port of Long Beach. "We remain committed to aggressively improving air quality with a Clean Trucks Program, and our aim is to get this right."

The sweeping "clean truck" plan would both improve air quality and dramatically transform the trucking industry at the ports.

Currently, most of the truck drivers are independent contractors who maintain their own rigs. That has led to an older — and heavily polluting — fleet of trucks making an average of 30,000 trips a day in and out of the ports.

Under the proposed plan, trucking companies would be awarded "trucking franchises" to haul containers in and out of the ports without having to pay a truck impact gate fee. As part of that contract, over time the companies would have to supply the drivers with newer trucks.

Trucks built in 2007 are 90% less polluting than the older trucks currently working in the ports. Port officials say that, once fully in place, the plan would reduce the diesel pollution from the ports by 80%.

The clean truck plan got the backing of both environmental groups and unions already in the ports. About 50 truckers took part in a rally outside the Port of Long Beach last week urging passage of the plan.

However, there has been opposition to the plan from some within the shipping industry, specifically retailers who ship goods through the port.

The reason is the trucking companies would give the drivers an employee standing and the ability to unionize, likely driving up the costs from the current fleet of independents.

That opposition has led to threats of a lawsuit if the clean truck plan is passed.

"Many business stakeholders  
(Continued on Page 21)

## Music, Fireworks Part of July 4th Festivities

By Heidi Hatch  
Staff Writer

It's a mix of patriotism, summer sounds, fireworks shows and festive fare in the city for Fourth of July celebrations.

The Queen Mary is celebrating Independence Day with live bands and children's activities along with unobstructed views of the city's fireworks show, which is slated to begin at 9 p.m. off of First Place Beach. The ship's activities run from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with local bands performing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Latin Vibe from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. and a Beatles tribute band will round-out the entertainment with a show from 7 to 9 p.m.

"It's a great view of the fireworks," said Erika Testo, marketing coordinator for the Queen Mary. "It's great for families, and it's a great place to be — on the water on a hot July day."

General admission tickets are \$25.95 for adults, \$22.95 for seniors and military and \$11.95 for children ages 5-11. Parking costs \$15 per car. For VIP treatment, tickets cost \$99 for adults and \$39 for children, which include a buffet dinner, admission to the "Rockin' Hollywood" exhibit and preferred seating for the fireworks display.

The Queen Mary is at 1126 Queens Hwy. For more information, call 435-3511 or visit [www.queenmary.com](http://www.queenmary.com).

The 2007 Seafest Concert Series and Fireworks show will kick off at 3 p.m. at Rainbow Lagoon Park. Headlining at the concert is Augustana; the band will perform songs from their album, "All the Stars and Boulevards," and is scheduled to take the stage at 7 p.m. Kevin Misajon will open the show at 3:30 p.m., followed by Rochester Road at 5 p.m. The fireworks display begins at 9 p.m.

(Continued on Page 21)

## NEW OTTER HOME...



The sea otters at the Aquarium are getting a remodeled home — and some new friends. See story page 14. —Graphic courtesy Aquarium of the Pacific

# GAZETTE PICKS

## HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

Block parties, barbecues and picnics during the day, then fireworks at night, will help Long Beach celebrate the holiday. Government offices, banks and the Gazette offices will be closed.

## — Columns & Spotlights —

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# Stunt Bike Riders Freestyle, Show Tricks At XDL U.S. Open

By Heidi Hatch  
Staff Writer

Stunt bike riders are set to smoke up the asphalt and show off their "sickest tricks" on Saturday (July 7) on the grounds of the Queen Mary for the XDL U.S. Open, a national

stunt riding championship qualifying round.

Some of the top riders from around the country will lift, spin and whirl their bikes in attempt to advance to the finals, which return to the Queen Mary in March 2008.

The main event, individual freestyle, will determine which bikers move on to the finals and join the winners from two other qualifying events this year.

Fifteen to 18 riders are set to compete Saturday, 10 of whom

will advance to the next round.

Top riders are scouted from around the country and mixed with up-and-coming talent for this invite-only competition, said Randy Grube, director of competition for XDL.

Riders will be judged on a point system in categories such as difficulty, execution and variation.

"Individual freestyle tends to be very technical," Grube said. "It takes consistency and innovation... The perception is that stunt bike riding is crazy and out of control. It creates the illusion of being out of control while being completely in control — with months and months of practice."

The top five individual freestyle winners will receive cash prizes totaling \$10,000.

In addition to the individual freestyle, other competitions throughout the day were created for audience appeal and participation, Grube said.

In the "Sickest Trick" competition, riders announce a trick and then are allowed two

attempts to complete it. The winner will be determined by the loudest audience shouts and applause, and awarded \$500.

The most popular the bikes driven for competition are Hondas, Yamahas, Suzukis and Kawasakis, Grube noted.

"The ones used are usually no longer street legal," Grube added. "They do add extra levers — brakes, clutches. You need a little more control. They don't change the engines, but things to make it easier to stunt the bikes."

The stunt riding runs from noon to 6 p.m., followed by a concert from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Queen Mary's Exhibit Hall. Featured performers are DJ Quik, J-Hustle, Loose Logic and Bedrin Daddys.

Tickets cost \$10 in advance and \$15 at the gate; admission includes both the bike show and concert. The Queen Mary is at 1126 Queens Hwy.

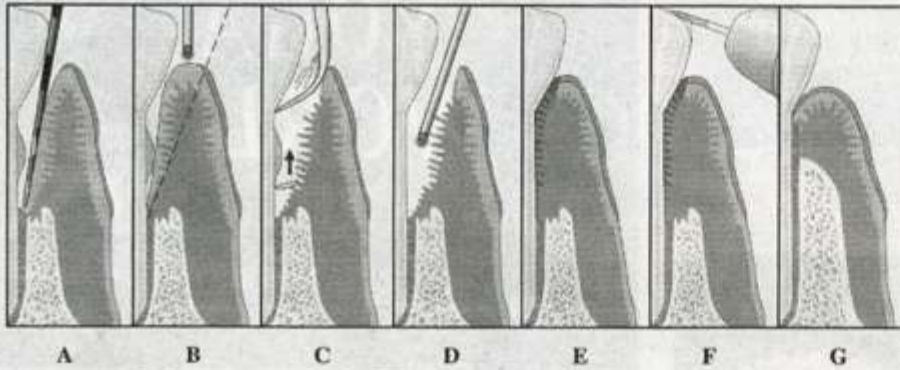
For a detailed schedule of events and to purchase tickets, log on to [www.xdlshow.com](http://www.xdlshow.com).

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