If you can’t stand the heat...

Students seek shade as temperatures soar to more than 100 degrees — breaking record highs in San Luis Obispo

Marisa Bloch
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Students and professors alike have been running for shade over the past few days as the temperature in San Luis Obispo County has steadily risen. According to multiple reports, temperatures reached a high of 106 degrees, breaking the previous record of 104 degrees made in 1993.

According to the Public Health Department website, San Luis Obispo County residents can expect temperatures to be as high as 105 degrees during the week. See Heat, page 5

Teen suspected with San Luis Obispo rape

Alicia Freeman
ALICIAFREEMAN.MD^MAJL.(X>M

A 15-year-old male was arrested in connection with the rape of a 19-year-old woman late Friday, Sept. 17, in her home on Murray Street, according to Chief Deputy District Attorney, Jerret Gran.

According to multiple sources, the suspect was charged as an adult for allegedly raping the woman in a hearing Monday morning. He pleaded not guilty to all charges.

San Luis Obispo police suspect the male of not only the alleged rape, but also of several burglaries in the area. Gran said he is unsure why the suspect may have progressed from burglary to violence.

"(The suspect) is currently 15 years old... We have filed a criminal complaint in adult court," Gran said.

Gran also must follow the law when it comes to cases including minors and serious crimes. Proposition 21, passed in 2000, "requires adult trial for juveniles 14 or older charged with murder or specified sex offenses," according to an official trial and summary prepared by the Attorney General. Though the suspect is underage, Gran said he believes that due to Proposition 21 making "the charges we filed...

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Mayor continued from page 1

Farrell said he hopes he can use his experience as president of the Interfraternity Council and his communication skills to assess and meet city needs, despite his lack of experience in local government.

"I love talking to people, it doesn't matter what it's about," Farrell said. "It's about talking about something real with people. That's what I love to do."

Even with his conversational skills, which fellow candidate Paul Brown and Mayor Dave Romero both complimented, Farrell may have a difficult time getting the older community members to see eye-to-eye with Cal Poly students.

The student-community relationship is a long running issue that Romero said he has worked on with the help of student representation from Cuesta College, Cal Poly and the city council for more than 20 years.

"It's a very difficult thing to do with all the new students every year — about 3,000 at Cal Poly," Romero said. "You have to restart every year. It is an easy thing to say that we need better relationships in the community but a very difficult thing to do because the life of the student is very different from the life of an older community member."

As one of Farrell's biggest supporters, Lamb anticipated that Farrell's opponents would focus on Farrell's lack of experience as his greatest downfall, he said. "I've seen him evolve as a leader and deal with complex issues and work with community leaders and officials," Lamb said. "Andy's a person that tastes. He's not going into this in a confrontational manner."

Being a resident of San Luis Obispo and often a neighbor to many students, Lamb observes firsthand how students and community need to work for a peaceful coexistence. In order for this to happen, Lamb said, the student population needs to be better represented in government and students and community members need to respect one another.

This is something Farrell's opponents, Brown, feels should be addressed in the election. Brown agrees that there is a disconnect between the two entities and that something needs to be done about it. However, he said Farrell will need a hard time gaining the trust and respect of the older members of the community.

"Everyone wants to be valued and respected," Brown said. "I remember seeing two students ride their bikes through an older community member's hedges. When they were asked what they were doing, they told the person to mind their own business. That's not respect. The same goes for the city works. It's four in the afternoon and students are having a barbecue in their backyard, they shouldn't have the cops called on them. The respect needs to be there."

Brown said Farrell's status as a student may end up hurting his campaign. "I think Andy has a very special insight into the life of a college student; but, because of the older community in SLO, he will have a hard time getting the two sides to understand each other," Brown said.

Brown said Farrell would be just as effective as bringing the Cal Poly community and permanent residents of San Luis Obispo together if he was on the city council, a position that has the same voting power as the mayor. "I've had the opportunity to see things from more perspectives," Brown said. "However, I think there's a need to have student representation on the council."

Another opponent, Jan Marx, has advantage over Farrell if voters side with experience at polls. Like Brown, Marx has more experience in local government than Farrell. She has served on city council for more than 20 years, something that makes her more respected," Brown said. "I'm not nervous," Farrell said. "As no period have I questioned my experience in the process or felt in over my head."

Perhaps one of the reasons Farrell remains in good spirits about the time spent on the election is because he feels he has a good chance. "I don't think I'll win, I believe it," Farrell said. "Your belief in something is much stronger than just thinking something."

However, Farrell won't go as far as to say he knows he'll win. "If you are a spiritual person and believe in God, Allah, Yaweh, and you believe He has a plan, we never know what's going to unfold," Farrell said.

If Farrell is elected, then inherently he's qualified for the job, Brown said. Mayor Romero feels different about this. Someone may get elected for office, but that isn't enough to make them qualified for the job, Romero said. According to the mayor, it takes much more than an ability to gain votes to be the right person for the job.

Whoever takes the office of mayor needs to have an understanding of how the city works and have had time to build relationships with members of the community, Romero said. "Relationships are a very important part of the job," Romero said.

Romero shares Brown's opinion that unifying the community is the best way to win. "I've spoken with Andy and he is a very articulate, intelligent young man, but I don't think he's experienced enough in local government for the job and that's the brutal truth," Romero said.

Brown and Lamb agree that his campaign will not go unnoticed. "I think what has impeded past candidates is that Cal Poly students seriously is their inability to get Cal Poly students to vote," Lamb said. "If Andy is able to mobilize the Cal Poly constituency the whole history of SLO politics will change. It can make people realize that it is legitimate for Cal Poly to be represented in government."

While Farrell's chances of winning remain uncertain, something is to be said for the effect his campaign will have on city politics, regardless of the outcome, Brown said. "I think Andy running is a good thing. Whether or not he wins I think it'll get more students interested (in city politics). I think there's a lot of excitement and there should be," Brown said. "If Andy wins that's a huge statement. It shows there's a portion of population that doesn't feel represented — more importantly, not respected."

Until the November election Farrell will remain focused on his campaign, a path he said is very different from what he thought he'd be doing with his life.

When Farrell was in high school, he said he wanted to go into film. A rejection letter from his first choice, the University of Southern California film program, led him to Cal Poly.

"I would say I probably gave up on my dream but film wasn't the end all be all. I want to do something fulfilling and the day will leave me at peace," Farrell said. "This is the first time I've done something for myself."

Everything considered, a loss at the polls would be a disappointment to Farrell, he said. However, both Brown and Lamb agree that his campaign will not go unnoticed. "I think what has impeded past candidates is that Cal Poly students seriously is their inability to get Cal Poly students to vote," Lamb said. "If Andy is able to mobilize the Cal Poly constituency the whole history of SLO politics will change. It can make people realize that it is legitimate for Cal Poly to be represented in government."

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SLO City Council Member

May 2010

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With the public education system in a crisis, President Obama called on Monday for purging underperforming teachers and lengthening the school year so that education in the United States can keep pace with other advanced countries.

He said more spending is needed to update textbooks, facilities and equipment, but added that money without reform would not solve the problems of education in America.

"You can't defend a status quo in which a third of our kids are dropping out," Obama said in an interview on NBC's "Today" show. "You can't defend the status quo when you've got 2,000 schools across the county that are dropout factories — and they really are — where more than half of the kids are dropping out.

Incompetent teachers must be identified and weeded out, he said in the interview, which took place in the White House.

"We've got to be able to identify teachers who are doing well (and) teachers who are not doing well. We've got to give them the support and the training to do well," Obama said. "And, ultimately, if some teachers aren't doing a good job, they've got to go.

Teachers unions remain an important part of the Democratic Party base. Yet, Obama's view of unions, while positive, was also tempered.

"I'm a strong supporter of the notion that a union can protect its members and help be part of the solution, as opposed to part of the problem," he said in the interview.

"What is also true is that sometimes that means they are resistant to change when things aren't working."

Unions in many states have been partners in finding solutions, Obama said, adding that sometimes "radical change" in schools is necessary.

Obama endorsed the idea of merit pay for teachers and a longer school year in a major education address last year. Reiterating those views, Obama said in the interview that the extra cost of a longer school year would be worth it.

"We, now have our kids go to school about a month less than most other advanced countries," the president said. "And that month makes a difference. It means that kids are losing a lot of what they learn during the school year during the summer.

He added: "It's especially severe for poorer kids, who may not be seeing as many books in their house during the summers. So the idea of a longer school year. I think, makes sense."

During the interview, Obama said he did not think his two daughters wouldn't have attended an elite private school in Washington, could receive as good an education as they would in the local public schools.

In Washington's recent mayoral primary, voters rejected first-term Mayor Adrian Fenty, who made a major effort to overhaul the district's public schools, closing classroom buildings and removing teachers.

Obama said that, as president, he could probably find a public school that is able to provide his daughters with an excellent education.

"But the broader problem is for a mom or a dad who are working hard but don't have a bunch of connections, don't have a lot of choice in terms of where they live," he said. "They should be getting the same quality education for their kids as anybody else. And we don't have that yet."

Obama also restated his support for the use of charter schools as an alternative to public schools, but added that he wanted to make sure they were high quality and accountable.

"Charter schools are not a panacea," he said. "We shouldn't say, just because a school's a charter, that it's an excellent school, because there are some actually very poor-performing charters."
State

STOCKTON (MCT) — The public has a chance to shape how medical marijuana is distributed in San Joaquin County.

A three-hour public work­shop would concern marijuana dis­pensaries in unincorporated areas of the county, separate from the rules for inside the Stockton city limits.

In April, the San Joaquin Coun­ty Board of Supervisors voted to ex­tend a temporary ban on opening medical pot dispensaries by a year.

Thursday’s public workshop at the Public Health Auditorium is part of that process.

After the workshop county staff will prepare a draft ordinance. From there it will come before a Planning Commission hearing.

The commission may make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for another hearing.

The new ordinance would cover the mostly rural areas in San Joaquin County between cities.

Last month, the City Council approved rules that would allow three medical marijuana dispensa­ries in the city.

THOUSAND OAKS (MCT) — Thousand Oaks is looking to the sun instead of the grid to help cover the mosdy rural areas in San Joaquin County.

The Newbury Ibrk Library.

The library’s electricity needs and power one of its libraries.

The library’s electricity needs and power one of its libraries.

PEOPLE AT THE COUNTER

THOUSAND OAKS (MCT) — More than 500 people held il­luminated balloons in the dark­ened Unionhigh School sta­dium in Coneville for the 7h annual Light the Night Walk to honor survivors and to remem­ber those who passed away from leukemia.

The Light the Night Walk is a fundraising event held on des­ignated nights across the United States and Canada. The funds are used for blood cancer research; free educational materials and events for parents and their families; comprehensive and per­sonalized assistance through the society’s Information Resource Center; and local programs.

 pennsylvania (MCT) — North Korean propagandists are hard at work spinning Kim Jong­Eun’s youth into an asset, trying to convince a wary public that the youngest son of leader Kim Jong­Il will bring the country lurching toward modernity.

The ruling Worker’s Party is convening a rare congress on Tuesday in Pyongyang to name the next leader of the country.

There are widespread expectations that the young Kim will be named to a position in the Politburo that will pave the way for his rise to power after the death of his father.

Open Radio for North Korea, another Seoul-based group, re­ports that Kim Jong­Eun spent three years in the North Korean military as a soldier, not an offi­cer, and that he is now working in the political affairs unit of the military.

National

TEXAS (MCT) — Southwest Airlines will buy low­cost competitor AirTran Airways in a $1.4 billion deal that puts Southwest into Atlanta’s giant Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, ex­pands its markets in the Southeast and along the Eastern seaboard, and moves the carrier closer to going international.

Southwest will combine the two airlines into one that will carry Southwest’s name and col­ors and continue to be based at Love Field in Dallas. Southwest CEO Gary Kelly said.

If debt and aircraft operating leases are included, the deal is worth $3.4 billion.

The deal, which is subject to regulatory approval, could take nine months to close the deal. But it could move faster than as the recent United Airlines-Con­tinental Airlines merger merged Department of Justice approval within a few months of the an­nouncement.

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International

ENGLAND (MCT) — A businessman who bought the company that makes the Segway scooter died from a fall off a cliff in the remote England, apparently while riding one of the scooters on his estate.

West Yorkshire police said in a statement that the body of Jimi Heselden, 62, had been pulled Monday from the River Wharfe near the town of Bostom Spa.

Local media reports said he was believed to have lost control of his scooter Sunday on a wood­ed path that ran perilously close to a 30-foot drop into the river.

Heselden was a coal miner who lost his job in widespread mine closures of the mid-1980s.

British law restricts the use of Segway, invented by Dean Ka­men and travels at top speed of about 12 mph, to private land.

THOUSAND OAKS (MCT) — Thousand Oaks Planning Commission will consider the eco-friendly project at its meeting Monday night, and the removal of seven trees to accommodate it.

The library was selected for its high demand for electricity.

The solar panels are expected to supply 65 percent or more of the library’s electricity needs and prevent the library from using 172,000 kilowatt-hours annually.

* NO APPOINTMENT

* NO APPOINTMENT

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news

Tuesday September 28, 2010

Brie f s

A voter casts his ballot in Afghanistan's second parliamentary elections since the 2001 U.S. invasion. Reports of insurgent attacks, attempted fraud and a low turnout marked the polls.

Dion Nissenbaum

McClatchy Newspapers

As Afghan election officials sorted through thousands of voter com­plaints from the recent parlia­mentary election, new evidence emerged Monday of apparent vote rigging in southern Afghanistan.

Video obtained by McClatchy Newspapers shows a man in an Af­ghan border police uniform watch­ing while three men appear to be stuffing votes into a ballot box.

The one-minute clip, which could not be independently au­thenticated, is one of thousands of cases that could tilt the balance of legislative races as election officials examine the complaints and prepare to release full results in a few weeks.

The video, obtained from an Afghan politician who asked not to be identified for safety reasons, shows three men sitting on the floor filling out ballots after ballot and then stuffing them into the ballot box. It shows a man in a bor­der police uniform standing with a Kalashnikov rifle and keeping guard over the ballot stuffing.

The video, the politician said, was shot in Spin Boldak, a scrappy town along the Afghanistan-Pak­istan border that is controlled by the Taliban after a military offensive to cripple the Taliban in their spiritual heartland.

It was impossible, however, to determine the beneficiary of the apparent ballot stuffing.

Elections officials said Monday that they are investigating more than 3,600 complaints from the Sept. 18 election to select 249 members of the elected house of the country's parliament.

More than half the cases, the country's Electoral Complaints Commission said Monday, could tilt the balance of local races.

If the complaints process fails to win the confidence of Afghan lead­ers and the world community, it could undermine Afghanistan's frag­ile democracy and international support for it.

"It's a big concern," said Jandad Spinghar, the executive director of the Free and Fair Elections Com­mission of Afghanistan, the coun­try's largest electoral watchdog or­ganization.

"I hope elections officials will do their job well," he said. "Oth­erwise, there will be great concern about the legitimacy of the elec­tion.

In a statement, Raeski dismissed the video and said it's easy to buy Afghan police uniforms on the open market.

A second video obtained by McClatchy Newspapers shows an apparent vote-rigging elec­tion watchdog and a polling place official in Kandahar province.

The video, the politician said, was shot in Spin Boldak, a scrappy town along the Afghanistan-Pak­istan border that is controlled by the Taliban after a military offensive to cripple the Taliban in their spiritual heartland.

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Rape

continued from page 1

mandatory," there will not be controversy when it comes to him being charged as an adult. "Iht person is convicted in juvenile court, the most someone can be incarcerated as a juvenile is 23 ... even if you convict someone lor N) to 40 years,"

The best thing we can have folks do, especially with young women, is stay in groups.

— Chris Staley
San Luis Obispo Police Department Captain

Gret said, "If we convict (the suspect) in adult court, he will get a longer sen­ tence because we wouldn't have that re­ striction of 25 years."

Captain Chris Staley of the San Luis Obispo Police Department, said community members should lock their doors, travel in groups and stay­ ing in lit areas.

"The best thing we can have folks do, especially with young women, is stay in groups," Staley said. "A couple years ago, we had a person who was grabbing people at night. The women that he attacked were all alone, so if you can stay together, that would be a good idea."

Staley also said that incidents like this in which the alleged rapist is a stranger are uncommon; rather, of the "22-30 reported rapes in the city each year ... 99 percent of those were acquaintances and most of them in­ volved alcohol."

Heat

continued from page 1

The Public Health Department and the Cal Poly Health Center are encour­ aging people to take precautions in this extreme heat. Extreme heat can affect anyone, but according to the Health Department, the "elderly, the very young, and people with mental illness and chronic diseases" pose the highest risk.

This extreme change in weather has shocked many because the summer season is technically over. In any case, many students are finding it difficult to go about their daily activities in the high temperatures.

Ethnic studies senior Jenny Brooks said all she wants to do is go to the pool or the beach.

"I am really not motivated to go to class, and forget about working out at the gym," Brooks said.

Daisy Huttado, a business admin­ istration senior, said even walking to class in the heat is unbearable.

"It is difficult to do anything out­ doors," Huttado said. "I keep asking myself where this weather was over summer. Great timing, SLO."

Despite the heat wave on campus, Athletic Media Relations Director Brian Thurmond said sports practice schedules aren't being affected and the athletics department expects practices to stay on the same schedule but with extra precautions due to health con­ cerns.

"Football is still holding their regu­ lar practices of 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.,” Thurmond said.

The Tenerra Environmental PG&E Day Weather Forecast gives some tips on ways to stay cool and avoid heat related problems. These include:
- Stay hydrated
- Go to a cool place (i.e. a location that is air conditioned)
- Take showers more frequently
- Stay in the shade as much as possible
- Limit physical activity. When you are physical give yourself frequent breaks
- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight clothing

According to the Public Health De­ partment, some signs of illness related to heat are "heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea, confusion and unconsciousness."

The basic advice many health ser­ vices, are giving is to drink plenty of non-alcoholic beverages, schedule out­ door activities for early morning or late evening and monitor yourself and oth­ ers closely during this heat wave.

The Public Health Agency encour­ ages anyone with further questions on this issue to contact the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Depart­ ment at (805) 781-5500.

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Hey, we've got a real news feed too.
Cosby performance packs the PAC

Sarah Parr

Hundreds of people packed into the Harman Hall of the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center (PAC) to watch and listen to famous comedian Bill Cosby perform stand-up comedy on Sunday.

The routine, which lasted nearly two hours during both the 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. shows, focused on various universal topics such as age, religion, student life, male and female differences and marriage.

While Cal Poly Arts Director Steven Lerian was discussing upcoming shows before Cosby was supposed to begin his act, Cosby came onto the stage prematurely to a shocked audience, and thus, a standing ovation, and talked with Lerian about the state of jazz music.

When Lerian told Cosby about some of the upcoming jazz acts, such as Ernest Green, Spalding and Diane Schuur, Cosby said, “this is a very hip school.”

Once Lerian left the stage, Cosby joked about how the onions from the salad he ate earlier caused him to sweat, “sucks,” Cosby said. Of erectile dysfunction, a condition that was rarely talked about when he was younger.

“Look, we’re alive because we sucked,” Cosby said. Of erectile dysfunction, Cosby “thought they were talking about some prehistoric animal.”

Cosby offered anecdotes about the physical effects of aging, including the time his wife, Miss.

Cosby, realized he no longer had the same rear-end he once had when he starred in the ’70s drama “I Spy.” Cosby responded by pointing to his stomach and simply saying, “it’s here.”

With his role in “I Spy,” Cosby was the first African American to star in a television series and receive three consecutive Emmys for his role in the show. Besides starring in “I Spy,” “Kids Say the Darndest Things,” The Bill Cosby Show and Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids, Cosby has also released comedy albums and more than 10 books.

Perhaps Cosby is most well-known for his role as the father figure of an affluent African American family in “The Cosby Show.” The show, which aired from 1984 to 1992, focused on upper-class family life.

Cosby got the inspiration for the material in his show from his own experiences. During the show, Cosby did not shy away from referring to his family members in his jokes.

Another story Cosby shared in his act was the time he bought a top-of-the-line giraffe piñata for his niece Monica’s sixth birthday party — and forgot to fill it with candy. The children kept shaking the piñata, however, no matter how many limbs fell off of the giraffe, there was no candy to be found.

“Nobody told me,” Cosby said as he pretended to sob into a tissue.

“The little children were expecting so much,” Cosby said through fake tears. “I thought the candy was already in there.”

This, according to Ross, was perfect.

Aerospace engineering freshman Kyle Rom agrees.

Rom said he liked how Cosby’s expressions added to the story he told, such as when he drove his eyes when audience members gave obvious answers to his questions.

Although much of the audience was older than most Cal Poly students, Cosby still connected with the college-aged crowd.

It’s important to get good grades because a C average “means you only know 70 percent,” Cosby said. No one would accept a doctor who only knew 70 percent about his professional field, Cosby said.

After discussing how universities were not originally intended for “getting drunk and throwing up in bushes and having your laughing friend find you (in a random location),” Cosby again focused on the topic of religion and how there must be missing stories and explanations from the Book of Genesis. For instance, God must have presented random objects and animals such as turtles for Adam to name when he created the world, and Adam must have felt many emotions when Eve came into the picture.

After seeing Eve in all her glory — her face, body and hair — “Adam bore of (his) bone” or “the flesh of (his) flesh,” that was “probably the first time someone said ‘Oh God,’” Cosby said.

Cosby linked the beginning of the loss of trust between spouses to something more than just a fruit that Adam and Eve ate.

“I’m not concerned about what they ate (in the Garden of Eden),” Cosby said. “I’m concerned about the control and how she got it.”

To offer examples, Cosby told stories of how his wife began giving him things — even when he didn’t ask for them.

“Why give you a side of the bed? Why do you need to give a side of the bed?” Cosby asked.

Cosby said his wife also declared a certain side of the closet was his without asking for his input beforehand.

In his closing remarks, Cosby explained how a wife is not a friend, but rather a different, like a supervisor.

According to Cosby, wives may sporadically change the décor of the house, hang drawers, disapprove of friends and surprise their spouse with a foot scraper in the middle of the night.

“They own us,” he said.

Biomedical engineering sophomore Jack Ross, who is not yet married, enjoyed how realistic Cosby made marriage seem.

Everything Cosby said about wives is true, Ross said. “I’ve seen it and can’t wait to experience it.”

Feis: “His timing (with the jokes) was perfect.”

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"Desperate Housewives" returns for a seventh season

Neale Justin
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

The lawns on Wisteria Lane are crisply cut, the homes freshly painted and the residents look as youthful as Girl Scouts. But there's reason to suspect it's all a facade. "Desperate Housewives" is crawling into its seventh season, a point where even great series start to show cracks, where viewers begin to wax romantically about the "early days" and wish that everyone involved in their once-beloved show would take a permanent vacation.

Truth is, "Housewives" started losing loyalists long ago. In its first season, the ABC series was nominated for nine Emmys and drew 23.7 million viewers a week. Last season, the average audience was a little over 14 million and the cast and crew has mustered only three Emmy nominations in the past two years.

The mass exodus is largely deserved. Too often, the show's writers have leaned on ridiculous twists lifted from the worst of daytime soaps. Jeff Greenstein, a longtime producer, admitted the writers went overboard in season 5 when Kyle McLaughlin's character was drugged and impregnated by his own wife. While he was at it, Greenstein could have tackled on the numerous disasters that have befallen the neighborhood — the tornado, the nightclub fire, the grocery-store hostage crisis, the plane crash — ridiculous events that helped contribute to more than 35 deaths and 1,000 times as many raised eyebrows.

"There are times we've gotten a little too big," said Greenstein, standing on one of the set's pristine porches during a break in shooting. "The show has to be grounded in reality."

Creator Marc Cherry seems to have reminded himself of that golden rule, at least judging from the new season's first episode. The premiere is packed with the zippy zingers that made us fall in love with the dramedy in the first place, thanks in large part to the return of Paul Young (Mark Moses), the widowed husband of the show's narrator, Brenda, and still the creepiest villain in the show's history. He's just been sprung from prison for a murder he didn't commit and insists on moving back among his old neighbors.

"They never came to the trial, they never visited you in prison," says his befuddled lawyer. "It'd be understandable if you hated them a little."

Young replies with gravitas worthy of Anthony Hopkins: "I don't hate them — a little."

Then there's new cast member Vanessa Williams as a high-society flyer who is Lynette's former college roommate and continuous sparring partner.

"She was always the one with the fashion sense," Lynette (Felicity Huffman) says of her frenemy. "Before I met her, I had never heard of Gucci, Prada or chlamydia."

Williams proved that she can deliver haughty attitude in "Ugly Betty" and it's grand to see her give a repeat performance.

"This show is so trail-blazing and has really opened the door for women my age," Williams, 47, said on the set. "This is an opportunity to see women my age looking fantastic and having lead roles in television. That's rare, because at 38, you're done being the ingénue and on to being the mom or the district attorney."

That reasoning helps explain why the show's four core actresses — Huffman, Teri Hatcher, Eva Longoria Parker and Marcia Cross — have remained with the series since day one. (Nicolette Sheridan, the show's top second-stringer, was written out of the show last year. She claims she was fired because she had accused Marc Cherry of assault. A lawsuit is pending.)

"As an actor, you can't underestimate the allure of a steady job," said

MUSTANG DAILY
From Uncle Jesse to the cast of 'Glee'

Yvonne Villarreal

It's just another day on the set of "Glee" and Lea Michele, who plays spirited songstress Rachel Berry, is in her schoolgirl attire, roaming around with a salad in hand and a female companion by her side. Then John Stamos walks by. Michele plays it cool, greeting him casually. But as Stamos passes, the reaction that has shadowed him throughout his career reveals itself: "Oh, my God. That's Uncle Jesse," Michele's friend says in a muffled voice.

Actually, it's John Stamos. But the character he's best known for is never too far behind.

The dark-haired star achieved heartthrob status while developing his comedy chops on the decidedly "Full House," a hit sitcom that ran for eight seasons in the late '80s and early '90s—and continues its wholesome influence in syndication. Stamos has been trying to shake this alter ego ever since.

Along the way, there have been several highlights to his wide-ranging career: performing with the Beach Boys; stints on Broadway; playing a nice guy and one spot on "Glee"—now part of the middle for a long time.

For all intents and purposes, it's the role we are sticking with, is being written for him on "Glee,"" Murphy said. "I've been always been knocked out by his Broadway side—his voice is just so great. And I wanted to showcase that, introduce people to that who haven't seen it."

As an added benefit, he's a self-indulgent pingpong enthusiast, he said.

"I love John because I think he's a mixture of darkness and great sweetness, and that's the role we are writing for him on "Glee,"" Murphy said.

"I've been comfortable at the low end of the middle for a long time. I'd like to say that's strategy, but it's just good timing."

The clock is on his side these days.

His heartthrob persona was tweaked in the latest season of "Entourage," where he played a stylized version of himself—a self-indulgent pingpong enthusiast (he trained for weeks, only to have the ball digitally inserted) cast to play Johnny Drama's brother in a TV series. "You spend your career playing a nice guy and one spot on "Entourage" can totally burst the bubble. People see it and go, 'I knew he was a jerk.'"

He's following that up with a stint on "Glee"—a "golden ticket" for any actor, he said.

"It's the time of the disposable celebrity, almost," Stamos said.

There are so many celebrities and actors out there. People are begging to get into television; movie stars who used to cringe at the thought of doing TV are all about it now. So to be still in the game ... I guess I'm a survivor."

His entry into the glossy, upbeat world of Fox's critical darling has a certain Stamos, considering that last season, McKinley High guidance counselor Emma Pillsbury (Jayma Mays) said of Stamos, "They say it takes certain more than talent to make a star. I mean, look at John Stamos."
Minority high school graduation rates improve with teaching methods — starting in preschool

The first weeks of the school year invariably bring fresh evidence of the achievement gap that separates black and Latino students from their white classmates. Worrn off, by far, are African American males.

A new study from the Schott Foundation for Public Education sets out the sorry statistics. Across the county, fewer than half of all black males graduate from high school, compared with 78 percent of white males.

LOS ANGELES, the situation is similarly grim: just 41 percent of black males graduate, compared with 58 percent of white males.

Scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the nation’s "report card," tell the same tale. By eighth grade, a third of white males, compared with just 8 percent of black males, are "proficient" in reading.

In Los Angeles, just 10 percent of black eighth-graders are "proficient" and fewer than 1 percent are "advanced" readers.

On measure after measure, black males are struggling. Nationwide, they are twice as likely to be left back or assigned to dead-end special education and three times as likely to be kicked out of school as white males.

All too often they’re on what educators privately dub "the prison track."

And while goals of all races do better than boys, the gender gap among African Americans when it comes to high school graduation — 15 percent — is wider than among white youngsters.

These disparities aren’t new — the Schott report could have been published a generation ago. What is new and noteworthy is solid evidence that this gap can be bridged, with well-tested approaches that don’t require massive changes in public education and don’t depend on superhero teachers and administrators.

Because African American boys are academically behind even before they start kindergarten, their education needs to begin earlier, at age 3 or 4.

Decades-long studies that have monitored youngsters who attended high-quality preschools, almost all of them African American children from poor families, show that they were significantly more likely to succeed in school than their peers who lacked that opportunity.

They were also healthier, less likely to get into trouble with the law and able to earn more money. A large-scale study in Chicago found that 74 percent of the boys who attended preschool graduated from high school, compared with 57 percent of those who didn’t.

Preschool makes a good beginning, but it’s no magic bullet. An analysis of the effects of Head Start, the biggest early-education program, concludes that the program had no long-term impact on children who went to underfunded public schools.

The outcome was entirely different for Head Start alums who attended well-funded schools: they were substantially more likely to graduate from high school, to earn more and to be healthier. The message is plain: effective education can’t be accomplished on the cheap.

From kindergarten on, for most black males, the achievement gap keeps widening. Reformers from the "no excuses" camp believe that the answer is to fire teachers whose students are failing and exponentially expand charter schools, but there’s no empirical basis for such claims.

What does work? Reducing class size to 14 or 15 students, a large-scale Tennessee experiment demonstrated, can generate big academic gains in the long run. Focusing on reading is also smart practice. More than a million students, more than half of them African American, have participated in Success for All, a model that relentlessly emphasizes reading skills, delivers support for teachers and tutoring for students, and conceives parents as educators. That initiative boosts reading scores by an average of nearly half a school year.

Keeping schools open from dawn to dusk, six days a week — offering youngsters a raft of medical, social and psychological supports, academic help, sports and activities — also has a demonstrable effect on academics.

For starters, "community schools" keep kids off the streets after school — that’s critical, because the amount of time young people hang out on street corners with their friends is a better predictor of failure in school than family income. Carefully scrutinized mentoring programs like Big Brothers or Friends of the Children, which keeps mentors involved in the lives of the hardest-to-reach young­sters from kindergarten through high school, have been proven to rewrite life-scripts for such children, including African American males.

Other well-tested reforms emphasize rewriting students’ mental scripts. Psychological experiments have found that if youngsters believe that intelligence is a given — something they can’t control — they are prone to give up. Minority youths are particularly vulnerable to such "stereotypic threat," but the good news is that this destructive dynamic can be reversed.

In one study, college students exposed to studies of brain development demonstrating the plasticity of intelligence saw their grades shoot up. The same holds true for middle school students. When they’re taught how learning alters the brain, they set higher goals, become more motivated to succeed and get better math grades.

Changing students’ attitudes about the value of hard work also makes a difference.

A study of black eighth-graders found that students’ self-discipline was twice as good a predictor of grades as IQ. Charter schools, like those run by Green Dot and KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program), that emphasize character-building have narrowed the achievement gap for adolescent black males.

At one Green Dot school in Los Angeles, 68 percent of African American male students graduated in four years, while at a nearby pub­lic high school, just 3 percent gradu­ated on time. Even at Los Angeles’ Locke High, one of the toughest in the nation, Green Dot is making slow but steady progress.

Good preschools, smaller elementary school classes, a focus on reading, altering attitudes about intelligence, linking schools to their communities and paying attention to character-building — there’s nothing hip-in­the-sky in this agenda. If that’s what it takes to shift the public conversation away from "you can’t educate these kids" fatalism and toward investing in what’s been shown to work, the biggest achieve­ment gap may finally start to shrink.

David Karp is a professor of pub­lic policy at University of California Berkeley

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If you put him in a group of most-competitive, biggest-clutch players, I think he’d have to be the guy to win it all.

— John Madden
Former Raiders head coach

Blanda continued from page 12

ing he was the third quarterback behind Johnny Lujack and future Hall of Famer Sid Luckman. Blanda won the starting quarterback job in 1953 but lost it the following season because of injury. His playing time dwindled after that, and he retired in 1959 when it became clear the Bears wanted him as a full-time kicker. But he didn’t sit around long. In 1960, he joined the Oilers of the new American Football League, and wound up playing a role of 16 more seasons in Houston and Oakland before calling it quits after the 1975 season. Among his many NFL records, he’s in the books as the only player whose career spanned four decades. Blanda made an immediate splash in his two stints with the Oilers, including the 1961 season after throwing for 3,330 yards and setting a pro football record with 36 touchdowns. That stood until 1986, when rooting the (New York) Titans, and Blanda came out of the game early in the second half. He had seven touchdown passes midway through the third quarter when they took him out. Sabol remembers going to Blanda’s home and interviewing the recently retired quarterback. When they were finished, Blanda proudly showed him a homemade Christmas card drawn by his wife, who had passed away that year. It was a cartoon of Blanda standing with Santa, who told him, “You’re the only little boy I gave a uniform to that’s still using it.”

Soccer continued from page 12

score more goals. We’re struggling to score and in certain situations we’re creating opportunities. Against UCLA we had 22 shots but we didn’t produce enough quality chances,” Holocher said.

At this point last season Cal Poly was averaging 1.5 goals per game; this year, they are scoring almost half that at 0.83 goals per game. Cal Poly has yet to score more than one goal in any of their first six games.

Though their offensive hasn’t been as productive as last year, Zamora is satisfied with their defense this season because computer-generated calculations can’t quantify the value of the intangibles the Bears wanted from him. Blanda was 5 feet 7 and 175 pounds; he has a .326 lifetime average and a respectable .346 for his career.

Padres’ David Eckstein stretches small into big numbers

Helene Elliott
LOS ANGELES TIMES

If David Eckstein is right, if players like him are an endangered species because computer-generated calculations can’t quantify the value of the intangibles he does so well, baseball will be the poorer for it.

If there’s no room for someone like the San Diego Padres’ second baseman, the ultimate little guy with a big heart and a winning influence on every team whose dirt-stained uniform he has worn, the sport will lose a piece of its soul.

“The style of game I play is definitely well against all the new-age baseball guys. A place in this game is not going to be very long for me, the way I play, because it’s not what everyone that’s getting power would want to do,” Eckstein said. “They want to see the numbers. They want to see stuff that translates on paper. I don’t translate to paper. It says on paper that he’s only 5 feet 7 and 175 pounds; he has no power, with 35 home runs in 10 seasons. That’s not the kind of game I play. Baseball has many bases anymore — seven this season — and isn’t getting on base as much as he used to, with a .326 on-base percentage this season but a .346 for his career.

He’s a choke-up-on-the-bar, hit-behind-the-throwing-hand singles hitter with an arm that’s not the world’s strongest. He plays second base by positioning and studying opposing hitters and somehow gets to the right place at the right time.

He’s always alert and sharing information with teammates, a quality appreciated by his manager, Bud Black.

“I’ve noticed my last two years here with Eck, he has taken on a more of a vocal role from the team’s standpoint that I might not have seen in the early 2000s with Anahim,” said Black, the Angels’ pitching coach when Eckstein broke into the big leagues. Good thing Eckstein ignores all the negative numbers.

“The way I play, it’s not what everyone’s that’s getting power would want to do,” Eckstein said. “They want to see the numbers. They want to see stuff that translates on paper. I don’t translate to paper. It says on paper that he’s only 5 feet 7 and 175 pounds; he has no power, with 35 home runs in 10 seasons. That’s not the kind of game I play. Baseball has many bases anymore — seven this season — and isn’t getting on base as much as he used to, with a .326 on-base percentage this season but a .346 for his career.

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Eckstein, 35, is also a two-time World Series champion — in 2001 with the Angels and again in 2002 with the St. Louis Cardinals, when he was voted the Series’ most valuable player. He’s a two-time All-Star and was the National League’s starting All-Star shortstop in 2005.

In a recent poll of 313 major league players conducted by Sports Illustrated, Eckstein was chosen the player who had gotten the most out of his talent. He got 25 percent of the vote, well ahead of the 13 percent earned by Boston’s Dustin Pedroia.

No room in the game for David Eckstein?

“I hope that’s not the case,” Black said recently. “He’s a baseball player with talent. One thing I think gets overlooked is he can play. He’s great on defense, he’s arguably among the half of his career he does, he does a lot better than a lot of players in this league.”

Talking about Eckstein brought a smile to Black’s face.

“When we win, Eck seems to do something in that game to help us win,” Black said, “whether it’s a hit, a play in the field, something he says on the field to a defender. To a teammate. Or something he says in the dugout.”

And Eckstein, who missed 28 games last season while struggling at the plate, has perked up. Plus, he has experience with team slumps, having endured two eight-game losing streaks and a seven-game skid with the 2006 Cardinals. He knows that although things appear bleak, they can turn around quickly for a team or a player, as he proved in 2006 by batting .364 in the World Series after batting only .133 in the NL Division Series against the Padres and .231 in the NL Championship Series against the New York Mets.

Eckstein said that, like his strong points, the Padres’ strengths don’t translate to paper.

“We battle. We fight. And we will play the game the right way,” he said. “Hopefully, we’ll find a way and we’ve done the first five months will show.”
Conference play presents new start for men's soccer

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Cal Poly men's soccer (2-3-1), already off to a better start than last year, is looking to improve upon its second place finish in 2009-2010, and capture a Big West Conference title.

Cal Poly completed last season with an 8-10-2 record overall, and finished second in the Big West, behind UC Santa Barbara. Cal Poly advanced to the Big West semifinals but fell to UC Irvine in double- overtime, 2-1. This season Cal Poly had four of their five All-Big West selections return: David Zamora, Patrick McLain, Jacob Hustedt and Patrick Sigler. The Mustangs lost five of their ten starters, but have kept all four goalkeepers from last year and brought in nine new players, including one transfer, sophomore Chris Bernardi, from LMU. This new Cal Poly team is young with 11 freshmen, 7 sophomores, 7 juniors and 2 seniors.

Cal Poly struggled on the road last season and began the 2009-2010 campaign with four straight losses. So far this season, Cal Poly has posted a better record against a more difficult schedule this year which included eight games against teams that made the NCAA tournament last year. Those teams include No. 18 Indiana, Notre Dame, UCLA, Loyola Marymount, and two games versus UC Santa Barbara and UC Irvine each.

Cal Poly earned its first two wins of the season against Denver and No. 18 Indiana. Cal Poly demonstrated its resolve in both games with a last minute goal and shutout performance. Sophomore Chris Gaschen scored his first goal of the season in the 88th minute against Denver while Bernardi scored in the 83rd minute against Indiana. Cal Poly won both games 1-0.

Cal Poly registered its first loss against Air Force, when both teams accrued two red cards each. Junior Tim White scored first for Cal Poly in the 14th minute, but a penalty kick for Air Force in the 65th minute tied the game. After the penalty, Cal Poly took only one shot on goal before Air Force claimed victory with a header from Conan Henry in the 97th minute. Cal Poly has won one of its last seven overtime games since the start of the 2009 season.

Before returning home for a three-game homestand, Notre Dame defeated Cal Poly 5-1. It was the worst point total surrendered since a 2005 home game against UC Riverside when Cal Poly lost 5-0.

In the first home match since the start of the school year, Cal Poly tied No. 17 UCLA in front of 8,717 fans, the 10th-largest regular season crowd in NCAAA history. Despite offensively outscoring the Bruins 22 to 11, Cal Poly was unable to put one past junior goalkeeper Brian Rowe. Even though they weren't able to record a win, the UCLA game and the sellout Cal Poly fans have kept the Mustangs motivated.

Bernardi said the highlight of his time with Cal Poly has been the fans. "Playing in this atmosphere here at Cal Poly, words can't explain it. You get crowds out here that we didn't get (at LMU)," Bernardi said.

Cal Poly followed its game against UCLA with a slow offensive and defensive game against LMU. Cal Poly gave up the most shots on goal (11), and took the second fewest shots (9) of the season.

Head coach Paul Holocher, in his fifth season as coach, said his team needs focus on playing at their maximum potential through all games.

"We are too inconsistent. We seem to have one good performance against a good team and then one poor performance," Holocher said.

Holocher said Cal Poly also has to work on its offense and converting its shots into goals.

"We need to figure out how to see Soccer, page 11

Volleyball garners some national respect

For the third time this season, the Cal Poly women's volleyball team received votes in the AVCA Division-I coaches' poll. The team is still on the outside of the polls looking in, but after the Mustangs finished 10-0 in the Big West and earning them three votes. On the season, the Mustangs are (12-3, 2-0 Big West) and will resume play against Cal State Fullerton Friday.

Blanda, Hall of Famer dies at 83

Sam Farmer
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — George Blanda, the Hall of Fame quarterback and kicker who played a record 26 seasons of professional football and once almost single-handedly won five consecutive games for the Oakland Raiders, has died. He was 83.

The Pro Football Hall of Fame said Blanda died Monday after a brief illness.

Blanda, whose career dated to an era when players routinely manned two positions, scored a then-record 2,002 points. He scored those by, among other things, throwing for nine, as well as kicking field goals.

"If you put him in a group of most-competitive, biggest-clutch players, I think he'd have to be the guy who would win it all," his Raiders coach, John Madden, said in a phone interview Monday. "He was the most competitive guy that I ever knew."

"Never was that more evident than during a five-game stretch in 1970 when the 43-year-old Blanda, his hair greying, perma-sporting sideburns, led the Raiders to four victories and a tie with late touchdown throws or field goals.

"It got to the point where when he'd come in (the game), the whole team would go, 'Here comes George. We're going to do it now,"' Madden said. "Then pretty soon all the fans started believing, and they'd all go nuts. And then the topper is when the opponents knew it. It was like, 'Oh no, here he comes.'"

That remarkable stretch began on Oct. 25, 1970, when Blanda replaced an injured Daryle Lamonica and threw three touchdown passes in a 31-14 victory over Pittsburgh.

In the four games that followed, he:

- Kicked a 48-yard field goal in the final seconds to force a 17-17 tie at Kansas City.
- Threw a tying touchdown pass with one minute, 34 seconds remaining, then kicked the game-winning 52-yard field goal in the final seconds of a 23-20 victory over Cleveland.
- Threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Fred Biletnikoff in a 24-19 victory over Denver.
- Kicked a 16-yard field goal in the final seconds for a 20-17 victory over San Diego.

Said Davis In an interview with NFL Films: "Whenever we were in trouble, John just went to the bullpen, waved his hand, and George came in and started throwing those miraculous touchdown passes and kicking those miraculous field goals."

In looking at that incredible streak, NFL Films called Blanda "football's King Tut exhibit," noting that even though people initially thought the quarterback was too old to be a player, "He was just the right age to become a legend."

Blanda was born Sept. 17, 1927, in Youngwood, Pa., one of 11 children of a cobbler and his home- maker wife.

When Blanda entered the NFL as a 12th-round draft pick out of the University of Kentucky in 1949, he showed his versatility by playing linebacker for George Halas' Bears.

That was out of necessity, consider-