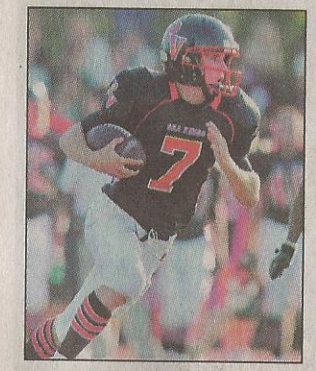
funds for cancer support.
Society, Page A16

FOOTBALL PREVIEW



Your guide to this year's teams on the Hill.
Sports, Page B1

Calendar	A11
Classifieds	B4
Crime	A12
Education	A13
Legals	B6
Opinion	A5
Restaurant Directory	A8
Religion	A10
Service Directory	B2
Weather	A12

You are scheduled to receive this complimentary publication till further notice, if you do not want to receive it or would like to discuss any issues, please contact us at (310) 540-5511.

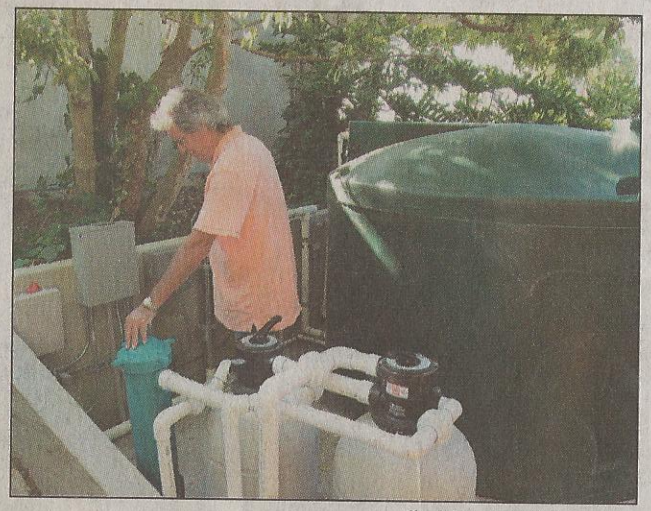
Chuck Bennett Staff Photographer

The Sea Kings cheerleaders welcomed Palos Verdes High School students back to school Tuesday morning. Students returned to a new set a bleachers, completing the school's fairly new athletic field.

OPERATION SAVE WATER

Businesses and the U.S. government are looking to a local innovator for water-recycling solutions.

By Mary Scott
Peninsula News



Chuck Bennett Staff Photographer

Buzz Boettcher monitors a new and improved gray-water recycling system that he installed at a Portuguese Bend home.

California's long-term drought may be over but water conservation continues to be an issue. As the planet's available fresh, clean water dwindles, people around the globe are looking for ways to recycle what water they can to use on landscaping, for showering and flushing toilets rather than wasting valuable drinking water.

Palos Verdes Estates resident Buzz Boettcher has one solution, and homeowners and companies, even the U.S. government, are seeking his company's gray-water recycling systems to install at homes and businesses.

Most gray-water recycling systems are do-it-yourself projects, without the proper filtration system required by many cities. Boettcher developed a prototype that would properly filter and treat gray water from the shower and laundry, almost to the point that it was clean enough to drink.

"It's probably higher quality water then what people drink in 80 percent of the world," Boettcher said.

Since the *News* saw his prototype system in 2009, Boettcher has further refined the system and installed a number of them in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

With the system's prototype, lines were hooked into the shower and laundry facilities and the dirty water, called gray water, drained into a series of tanks and filters. Two of the system's four small blue filters collected large particles (such as soap chunks, change). The other two filters — one filled with anthracite coal and the other with activated carbon — collected the smaller particles and residue. The water then flowed through ultraviolet light to kill bacteria, then into a storage tank that is connected to his sprinkler system. Each morning, the sprinkler system used the recycled water on his lawn.

However, the maintenance on the filters was cumbersome, Boettcher said, which for him was OK. "But for the average homeowner, no," he added. "They expect it to churn along by themselves."

Boettcher replaced three of

WATER A4

during my campaign," Alegria said. "In fact, my wife and I live in the surrounding neighborhoods around the college and would be, along with my neighbors, impacted

Brophy tried to squash the speculation, but when he announced that the college would hold a candidate

MARYMOUNT A2

Chuck Bennett Staff Photographer

PVE City Manager Judy Smith

Transition to PVE city manager a smooth one

By Robert Doss
Special to the News

Palos Verdes Estates' City Manager Judy Smith is quite familiar with the city and the position she was selected to fulfill after the previous city manager, Joseph Hoefgen, was fired back in June.

As a matter of fact, the close relationship between Smith and PVE goes back 17 years when she was hired to be the finance director for the city.

"In 1996, when our city clerk retired, PVE combined the department's head positions of finance director and city clerk, and named me assistant city manager with responsibilities for both departments," she said.

Up until her recent promotion, Smith has held that position, which she credits as being her biggest advantage in helping her transition to her new job.

"I have the benefit of knowing the community through my tenure with the city," she said. "Anyone in this position who was new to the city would need time to meet people and understand the organization: In that respect, I'm already prepared."

Before coming to PVE, Smith worked for the cities of Pittsburgh, Pa., Forest

MANAGER A7

gram. This test is not painful

attacks also put you at risk.

ening of symptoms.

MATTRESSES ADJUSTABLES

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY & MORE!

(Min. $599 mattress purchase. See store for details.)

We also carry Iron Beds, Day Beds & Wood Beds

Beds Etc.

We're The Best Kept Secret In Town. Family Owned Since 1964

LOS ANGELES • (310) 477-2019
11069 West Pico Blvd. Corner of Pico & Sepulveda

STUDIO CITY • (818) 752-0303
12741 Ventura Blvd. At Coldwater Canyon next to Sportsman's Lodge

PASADENA • (626) 796-0055
3700 E. Colorado Blvd. Corner of Colorado & Rosemead

TORRANCE • (310) 542-0850
18516 Hawthorne Blvd. at 186th northeast side

TORRANCE • (310) 217-1500
19010 S. Vermont Ave. Next to Skechers on the 405 Fwy.

Expires 09/06/11
*Excludes Tempur-Pedic

PV 927036 0301

WATER

FROM PAGE A1

the smaller filters with two larger swimming pool-type filters filled with silica sand and anthracite coal. The last filter, a small blue one, is filled with activated carbon. The water now flows through an ionizer after it's been treated by UV light to add a small amount of copper, a natural bacteria inhibitor, to the water.

"What I found once the water went into the tank and sat there, it wasn't subject to the UV anymore. ... Copper continues to keep the water fresh," Boettcher said.

Keeping the water fresh and bacteria-free is a requirement of most cities. Besides, Boettcher said that using improperly treated or bacteria-laced gray water on landscaping can have an adverse affect on plants.

Boettcher added a timer to the system that automatically pumps stored water back through the system.

"Every 24 hours that water gets recirculated to make it fresh," he said.

Homeowners also can set the system to backwash, cleaning its filters, as well as set it to automatically dump stored water into the sewer system to prevent the tank from overfilling or to reroute water from the main supply if the tank is too low to supply the sprinklers.

"The biggest change in the system is the ease of maintenance," Boettcher said.

The *News* saw the improved system at the Portuguese Bend home of Guy and Shela Grant. The Grants contracted Boettcher to include a gray-water recycling system as part of their home remodel.

"He wants to recycle all the water he can," Boettcher said.

The Grant home also includes other eco-friendly features, including solar power.

"With the cost of water and electricity going up, I thought it would be best for my family," Guy said.

The "investment wise" recycling system should be required for all new development projects, especially those that use a lot of water, he added.

Boettcher is finishing up the project and is set to start on a system for NFL player Tom Brady and his supermodel wife, Giselle.

Larger-scale systems

When Boettcher first started Gray Water Recycling Systems LLC, his primary customer market was that of the homeowner. But the homes market was hit hard by the recession.

"Money got tighter for homeowners," he said.

However, his business has drawn the attention of progressive companies wanting to attract the growing "green" customer base.

Boettcher will begin work on a large-scale gray-water recycling system for Hampton Inn and Suites in Washington, D.C. The 128-room hotel is seeking LEED certification to attract government personnel who are asked to stay in environmentally friendly hotels during their travels.

Boettcher also won a subcontracting bid to build a rooftop rain-collection system for the new $577-million border complex at the San Diego-Tijuana crossing.

And, the U.S. Marine Corps has hired Boettcher's company to develop a transportable system to fit on a 5-foot-by-6-foot pallet that can be deployed at construction sites in remote areas.

"Because water is in short supply at these remote locations they need to reuse every drop," Boettcher said. "The unit needs to be bullet-proof, able to withstand a parachute landing and all the abuse extreme field conditions will present."

He expects to have a prototype ready for the Corps in November.

Systems have been installed in the Paul Mitchell Hair Salon School and at the Fixtures Living, both in Costa Mesa.

Both companies wanted to save the water used during classes and product demonstrations.

"We've come a long way since we first stood in the backyard with four blue filters," Boettcher said.

mscott@pvnews.com

DERMATOLOGY & SKIN SURGERY

Specialists in Skin Cancer Detection

- Skin Cancer & Mole Removal
- Mohs Micrographic Surgery
- Reconstructive Surgery
- Laser Surgery
- Smoothbeam-Acne/Wrinkle Reduction
- Vbeam-Redness/Broken Capillaries

Unique Eyebrow Threading