



DIANE BELL

Chamber of Commerce to make mayoral endorsement

In a departure from tradition, the board of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce appears ready to endorse a candidate in the upcoming mayoral election. A special meeting of its board of directors has been set for Monday morning to discuss the issue.

The business organization's longtime policy has been to refrain from endorsing political candidates unless its board finds that the election outcome "will have a material and substantial positive or adverse impact on one or more critical issues" vital to our region.

Its only candidate endorsement in recent history was of **Jerry Sanders** in the 2005 mayoral runoff election during the crunch of San Diego's pension crisis. Even then, though, the Chamber did not take a public stand in the primary race.

A letter sent Thursday to directors explained that Sanders, now the

Chamber's CEO, and **Mike Niggli**, its chairman, have made that finding and the group's management council has concurred.

Sanders appointed a special committee that subsequently met to discuss making an endorsement recommendation. With 66 board members, a lively discussion is sure to ensue Monday.

Behind closed doors: In a separate development, a group of Republican and conservative civic leaders met last Saturday at the La Jolla home of property developer **Tom Sudberry** to consolidate support behind a single candidate. They are anxious to avoid what occurred during the last mayoral primary when three major Republican candidates battled high-profile Democrat **Bob Filner**, fracturing GOP support.

Potential GOP contenders **Ron Roberts**, **Carl DeMaio** and **Kevin Faulconer** were there and made presentations.

The following Tuesday, Roberts announced he wasn't running and DeMaio opted to stay put in his Congressional race. Faulconer declared his candidacy on Wednesday.

Planning ahead: The "Bad Timing Award" goes to San Diego city employees who scheduled road work on Thursday near two popular synagogues on La Jolla Scenic Drive North and Gilman Drive, hampering access and street parking. The city construction work fell on Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year observed in

synagogue services marking the start of the High Holy Days.

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Happy hunch: Sonya Chandler, of University City, won a 2013 Mazda 3 in the Make-A-Wish San Diego Tuna Challenge raffle. In an unusual gesture, she publicly thanked her friend, Make-a-Wish volunteer **Mike Smith**, for selling her the winning ticket. When she bought it, "I had this feeling the new Mazda was mine," said Chandler.

Wine talk: In 1857, **Agoston Haraszthy** founded the oldest commercial winery in California, Buena Vista Winery in Sonoma County. He came to fame earlier though, serving as San Diego's first sheriff, from 1850 to 1851. That's why Buena Vista proprietor **Jean-Charles Boisset** decided to come to San Diego for the inaugural release of his 2012 red wine, named **Legendary Badge** and dedicated to law enforcement officials. Sheriff **William Gore** and **Karen Killpack**, spokeswoman for the National Sheriffs' Association, joined him in the recent uncorking celebration at the **William B. Kolender Sheriff's Museum**.

Haraszthy, it turned out, wasn't nearly as good at building jails as he was at growing grapes. He constructed San Diego's first jail, which quickly gained a reputation for inmate escapes, including that of the legendary **Roy Bean**.
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