

Bars no bar to voting: County inmates do their time – and civic duty

Live free or vote: If you are thinking about not voting Tuesday, please understand other folks going the extra mile to vote. These voters are inmates in the Sacramento County jail system. While nonvoters in the outside world are missing their chance, county inmates are busy with No. 2 pencils, weighing in on candidates, helping decide whether taxes are raised for state and local initiatives, helping decide democracy's course. The jailbirds don't get to visit the polls. They vote absentee. They don't even need stamps to send in their ballots. "The registrar of voters checks the applications and makes a voter ballot for each inmate," sheriff's Sgt. R.L. Davis wrote in a memo. "The recreation staff picks up the ballots and brings them to the inmates for the vote. When the voting is completed, the recreation staff takes the ballots back to

the registrar of voters to be counted." Inmates lose their rights to privacy but not their right to vote in secret. We'll never know how they feel about "three strikes," stem cells and school boards. About 250 inmates are voting, said Davis, noting, "When they come in, we check their eligibility." If there are any cliffhangers next week, the Jailhouse Vote might make the difference. ...

Rock the town: Those ominous caves in the Sacramento River levee south of Miller Park are being filled in by tons of rocks. The rocks come by barge. The barges are pushed by tugboats. When the barges – which can be 100 feet in length – bear down on a



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The fishing boat scampered away with minimum room to spare. Some people will do anything for fresh salmon. ...

Lifesaver: Darren Perreira batted .517 for the Christian Brothers High School baseball team before a knee injury stalled his career. That was 18 years ago. But Darren hasn't lost his athletic prowess. Quick action by Perreira saved a child's life on the Big Island of Hawaii the other day. "He was about 5 years old, and he was knocked

off his boogie board by a good-sized wave," Darren said. "He was yelling for help. The waves were carrying him out, and there were no lifeguards. I handed my watch and wallet to my wife and went after him." Darren swam about 25 yards through deep, heavy surf to rescue the boy. "His grandmother offered to buy me a new shirt because I was soaking wet," Darren said. "I said, 'No, I'll dry.'" Darren's two kids watched. Now they believe those stories about the old man's heroics at Christian Brothers. ...

Moving news: Forget about buying the lovely North Natomas home sitting between the two swinging bachelor pads owned by billionaire brothers and Kings owners Joe and Gavin Maloof. Word is the middle manse is being taken by Bob White, political consultant, former chief of staff to Gov. Pete Wilson and consigliere to Gov. Arnold

Schwarzenegger. This is one street trick or treaters won't want to miss on Halloween. ...

Politician town: San Francisco first lady Kimberly Guilfoyle Newsom ignited a storm of embarrassment, shock, laughter and envy when she graphically discussed her sex life with Mayor Gavin Newsom in a New York gay rights speech attended by 1,100 people. "Only she can say things like that," Gavin said in the San Francisco Chronicle. There's no way a similar fiasco could befall Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo. Heather's husband, Alan Moll, would never accept a speaking engagement in New York.

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