

Seaside center: The plan allows the city to be 'architect of its own destiny'

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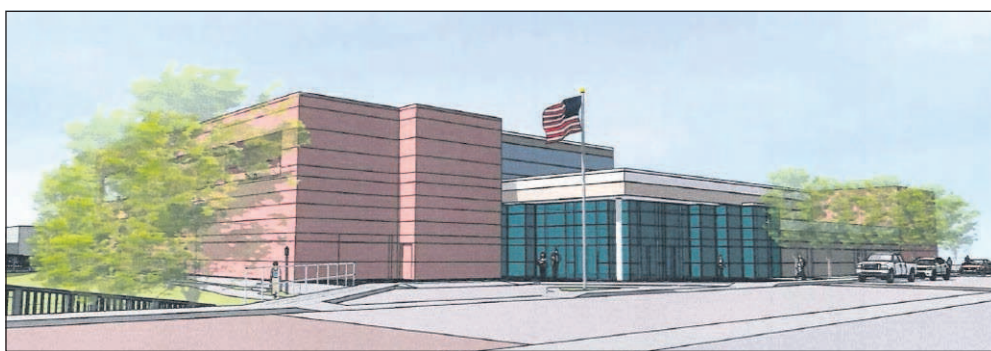
The construction project would add about 10,000 square feet to the existing 62,000-square-foot facility, and renovate more than 13,000 square feet of the current space.

The plan allows the city to be "architect of its own destiny," Vandenberg said.

At earlier meetings, Vandenberg said the expansion would meet requirements of 60 percent of the organizations within a 300-mile radius of Seaside and increase market



Russ Vandenberg



Steele Associates Architects LLC

Proposed renovation plans for the exterior of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

penetration by 20 percent.

The project will allow larger and more diverse groups to use the center, he said, filling a need not only for the convention center, but the entire downtown business community.

The convention's last

expansion in 1991 was funded by an increase in the room tax.

Mayor Don Larson called the convention center plans an "amazing presentation for an amazing structure."

"We're firing the starting gun," Councilor Jay

Barber said as councilors unanimously approved the go-ahead.

After financing approvals, the renovation's design phase could take six months and construction up to two years, Vandenberg said.

Divided: 50 percent of millennials describe themselves as independents

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GenForward poll. The first-of-its kind survey of young people between the ages of 18 and 30 was conducted by the Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago with the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Briana Lawrence, a 21-year-old videographer and eyelash artist from the South, wants America to return to what it was. A recent North Carolina Central University graduate, she's voting for Clinton. She was just 7 on Sept. 11 and the aftermath of the attacks is the only time she remembers the nation feeling united.

"My biggest hope for this country is for us to come back together as a community," she said.

That's hard when people like her begin adulthood thousands of dollars in debt. Economic issues are huge with this group, since many are saddled with student loans and struggle to find jobs.

Finances

Only 8 percent of millennials feel their household's financial situation is "very good," according to GenForward's poll.

Brien Tillett, who recently graduated from a Las Vegas high school, is 18. He was only 10 when the recession hit. His single mother was hospitalized for months after a car accident and, with no safety net, the family struggled.

National debt is his top concern. As a black man, he's turned off by some of Donald Trump's remarks, but likes the Republican's aggressive economic stance. He also considered voting for Clinton, but is angry about her use of a private email server while Secretary of State. Unsure at first, he recently decided on Clinton.

Anibal David Cabrera wouldn't think of voting outside his party.

The son of a Honduran mother and Dominican father, he graduated from college in 2008. He was a finance major, but the economic collapse dried up jobs. Now 31 and living in Tampa, Florida, he finally found an accounting position at a small firm. He feels he's entering the prime of his life a few steps behind, through no fault of his own.

He's backing Trump and prays the candidate keeps promises and boosts the econ-



AP Photo/John Locher

Brien Tillett takes part in a Zumba fitness demonstration while working at a health fair in Las Vegas. Tillett exudes youthful idealism as he talks about casting his first vote in a presidential election. "It means a lot to me personally because I'm making a difference in my life and in the country. My vote does matter," he said. "It really does." notforsale



AP Photo/Brennan Linsley

Recent law school graduate and Donald Trump supporter Trip Nistico, 26, right, scales a rock with his friend, Adam Agostini, in the hills above Boulder, Colo. Millennial voters' disdain for traditional party affiliation have made them particularly unpredictable.

omy. "That is something my generation has kind of never seen," he said.

Not in the party

Shared pain doesn't lead to shared views.

Millennials' disdain for traditional party affiliation means that half describe themselves as independents, according to a 2014 Pew Research report — a near-record level of political disaffiliation. They tend to be liberal on social questions such as gay marriage, abortion and marijuana legalization. Yet they skew slightly conservative on fiscal policy and are

more in line with other generations on gun control and foreign affairs.

Trip Nistico, a recent Colorado law school graduate, is a gun rights advocate who visits shooting ranges — but also supports in same-sex marriage. He backed President Barack Obama in 2008 and Mitt Romney in 2012. The 26-year-old is voting for Trump this year.

Still, Trump remains unpopular among millennials and nearly two-thirds of Americans between the ages of 18 and 30 believe the Republican nominee is racist, according

to GenForward's poll. Views of Hillary Clinton also were unfavorable, though not to the same extent.

Matching values

Bill and Kristi Clay, parents of two young boys and devout Christians from rural Ohio, have struggled to pick a candidate who matches their values.

Kristi Clay opposes same-sex marriage and abortion and names those as her top issues. Yet the 32-year-old school librarian reluctantly leans toward Clinton, because she feels Trump is materialistic and prefers the Democratic views on immigration and poverty.

Though she and her 33-year-old husband are feeling "pessimistic" about this election, both say they will vote anyway.

Whether their millennial brethren do the same is unknown. Some are disenchanted that progressive Bernie Sanders, who ran against Clinton in the Democratic primary, is out of the race.

The millennial vote rose steadily beginning in 2002 and peaked in 2008. In 2012, however, just 45 percent of millennials cast ballots and participation has leveled off or dropped since, said John Della Volpe, director of polling at Harvard University's Institute of Politics.

"They have a somewhat different perspective in terms of politics," he said. "It hasn't really worked. They haven't been part of a movement that's been effective."

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Trump's stamina attack on Clinton stirs talk of bias

NEW YORK — Donald Trump and his Republican allies say Hillary Clinton is weak, lacks stamina and doesn't look presidential.

Intent on undermining his Democratic rival, Trump and GOP backers are increasingly relying on rhetoric that academics and even some Republican strategists say has an undeniable edge focused on gender. Trump notably belittled his primary rivals, tagging Jeb Bush as "low-energy," and disparaging Ted Cruz as "Lyn' Ted," and Marco Rubio as "Little Marco." His criticism of Clinton goes beyond "Crooked Hillary," and complaints about her use of a private email server as secretary of state and her foreign policy decisions.

Clinton, Trump said in a speech last week, "lacks the mental and physical stamina to take on ISIS and all the many adversaries we face."

He has repeatedly called attention to Clinton's voice, saying listening to her gives him a headache. Last December, he mocked her wardrobe. "She puts on her pantsuit in the morning," he told a Las Vegas audience. At rallies and in speeches, the billionaire mogul has also used stereotypes about women to demean Clinton, who stands to become the country's first female president if she wins in November.

A frequent point of criticism: Clinton doesn't look like a typical president.

The root of immigration woes? Look to the past

WASHINGTON — For more than a decade, lawmakers have been pointing at their counterparts to take the blame for what just about everyone agrees is a broken immigration system.

Republicans say President Barack Obama's immigration enforcement policies encourage more people to sneak into the country. Democrats blame Republicans for blocking legislation that would allow people already here to gain legal status and create a path for future, legal immigration.

But whatever specific policies are being fought over now, immigration experts say the problem took root at least 30 years ago, when President Ronald Reagan signed a 1986 immigration law that has become known as the "Reagan Amnesty" and allowed roughly 3 million people in the country illegally to gain legal status.

Immigration laws were overhauled again in 1990 under Republican President George H.W. Bush and again in 1996 under Democratic President Bill Clinton.

Obama has tried in his eight years in office to overhaul them once again, but nothing has passed.

White House says feds doing their part in flood response

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is making his first visit to flood-ravaged southern Louisiana as he attempts to assure the many thousands who have suffered damage to their homes, schools and businesses that his administration has made their recovery a priority.

The Baton Rouge visit Tuesday is a reminder of the political dangers and opportunities that natural disasters can pose. On top of a competent federal response, it's critical for political leaders to demonstrate compassion and a reassuring sense of engagement.

Obama took some criticism by opting to complete his family's two-week vacation in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, before inspecting the flood damage personally and meeting with local residents. An editorial headline in the Baton Rouge Advocate last week read: "Our Views: Vacation or not, a hurting Louisiana needs you now, President Obama."

The White House said Obama is willing to assume criticism about "optics" as long as the federal response is up to par.

"The survivors of the flooding in Louisiana are not well served by a political discussion; they're well served by a competent, effective, strong, coordinated government response," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Monday. "And the federal government has certainly done our part in the first eight to 10 days after this disaster, but there's a long road ahead."

Islamic State struggles to retain grip as it loses ground

DIBAGA CAMP, Iraq — As the Islamic State group loses ground in Iraq, the militants are showing strains in their rule over areas they still control, growing more brutal, killing deserters and relying on younger and younger recruits, according to residents who fled battleground territories.

The accounts point to the difficulties the extremist group faces as Iraqi forces, backed by the United States, prepare for an assault on Mosul, the largest city still in the militants' hands. For months, Iraqi troops, militias and Kurdish fighters have been clawing back territory town by town, making their way toward the northern city.

In the latest areas recaptured, Iraqi troops over the past month took a clump of villages near a key military base south of Mosul that they plan to use as a hub for the assault. Residents of the communities, which lie strung along bends in the Tigris River, say that in the preceding weeks, the militants ruling them had seemed to be scrambling to keep control.

In Qayara, which is the main town in the area and remains in IS hands, beheadings and extrajudicial killings that previously were occasional became commonplace in a hunt for spies and deserters, said Jarjis Muhammad Hajaj, who was among thousands of residents who fled fighting in the area and now live in the Dibaga Camp for displaced people in Kurdish-run territory.

"They started making raids on houses, arresting people and beheading them," he said.

Private lives are exposed as WikiLeaks spills its secrets

CAIRO — WikiLeaks' global crusade to expose government secrets is causing collateral damage to the privacy of hundreds of innocent people, including survivors of sexual abuse, sick children and the mentally ill, The Associated Press has found.

In the past year alone, the radical transparency group has published medical files belonging to scores of ordinary citizens while many hundreds more have had sensitive family, financial or identity records posted to the web. In two particularly egregious cases, WikiLeaks named teenage rape victims. In a third case, the site published the name of a Saudi citizen arrested for being gay, an extraordinary move given that homosexuality is punishable by death in the ultraconservative Muslim kingdom.

"They published everything: my phone, address, name, details," said a Saudi man who told AP he was bewildered that WikiLeaks had revealed the details of a paternity dispute with a former partner. "If the family of my wife saw this ... Publishing personal stuff like that could destroy people."

Port: Five-day jury trial scheduled for January

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Reese's motion, filed Monday, asks Param to admit that an agreement was never required by the Port Commission's motion, and that none was ever signed.

"Admit that no authorized individual, including the executive director (Jim Knight) or his designee, signed an agreement consenting to the assignment of the lease for the Riv-

erwalk Inn property from Brad Smithart and/or Hospitality Masters LLC, to Param Hotel Corp," Reese wrote in his motion.

Hospitality Ventures

Things have been clearing up this month for Trabucco and Orr as they complete the first year of operating the Riverwalk Inn.

The Port Commission recently extended Hospital-

ity Ventures' lease on the hotel through October 2018, citing the significant investments made by the company in the property. The Port had initially held the company to a month-to-month lease as a short-term operator, hoping to collect proposals from potential long-term operators once the litigation with Param was resolved.

Judge Philip Nelson recently struck Hospitality Ventures from the lawsuit,

arguing the company's lobbying of the Port Commission to get the hotel lease was allowed. Param and Hospitality Ventures had been arguing over the amount of attorney fees the latter would receive as part of the favorable judgment, but Orr and Trabucco withdrew their motion for attorney fees earlier this month.

The Port and Param are scheduled to start a five-day jury trial in January.