



NewsChieftain | CorridorNews | NewsJournal | Rancho

MYLOCALNEWS



THE
POMERADO
NEWSPAPER
GROUP

Local news from Poway, Rancho Bernardo, Scripps Ranch, Carmel Mountain Ranch, Rancho Penasquitos, Sabre Springs & 4S Ranch

- [Home](#)
- [Local News](#)
- [Local Sports](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Editorial](#)
- [Send a letter](#)
- [Columns](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Business / Real Estate](#)
- [Rancho Magazine](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [About us](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Send a news tip](#)
- [Pomerado Publishing](#)
- [Community Links](#)

Hemphill: Mayor has a bad case of red eye

It was quite a shock to enter my kitchen first thing in the morning and find San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders standing there.

It seems that my wife had left the coffee pot on. Mayor Sanders's antenna discovered the red light on the coffee machine and thought it was a live camera.

OK, that is a bit of a stretch, but I did see Mayor Sanders heading a press conference right after the Vista school non-shooting. The mayor was with San Diego school officials to assure parents that their children were safe.

Excuse me, but that is a problem in so many different ways. First, the mayor has nothing to do with schools — Vista, Poway, San Diego, or anywhere. But then, a press conference is a press conference is a press conference – to paraphrase Gertrude Stein.

In the pantheon of jobs that Americans won't do, apparently one of them is to tell Mr. Mayor that he is overexposed. The man just loves the camera eye.

Personally, I would be a lot more sanguine about political performance if the streets didn't have so many potholes, the water pipes did not erupt daily and the city was actually addressing the pension problem.

Those problems alone would be enough to require Mr. Mayor to spend more than full time in his office, but he is everywhere except pitching for the Padres and conducting the San Diego Symphony. (Please do not suggest that to him.)

I understand that Senator Schumer and the Revs. Sharpton and Jackson have applied to the mayor's office to take lessons on how to get in front of a working camera. Heck, Donald Trump could take some lessons from Mr. Mayor.

Generally, it certainly appears that Mayor Sanders is doing a decent job. At election time he was certainly the lesser of the two available evils. In the midst of his mayorship he inherited the mantle of a "strong mayor." The relationship between the mayor and the City Council went from first among equals to a separate and powerful position.

The trials (figuratively and literally) of the City Council and a quirky city attorney leave so much to be desired that perhaps Mr. Mayor is providing an alternative circus – but more likely Mr. Mayor is simply running for his next term or for higher office, and there is all of that free face time available.

Why not take advantage of it? Well, for one thing, it is unseemly to so

[Search our site](#)



- [I-15 Construction Updates](#)

[Local Weather](#)

**Poway, CA
(92064)
Clear**

74°F

Guide360.com

[Click here for weather forecast](#)

obviously hog the limelight. He is photogenic, articulate, knowledgeable, affable, but he is more visible than a ubiquitous TV anchorman. I have often changed TV channels during the news, only to find Mr. Mayor wall-to-wall on every news broadcast simultaneously – and not because of some breaking city news, but just getting face time for mundane ribbon-cutting reasons.

Mr. Mayor is a TV anchorman without portfolio, available anytime, anywhere, no “green room” necessary, and no exclusive TV station contract negotiations.

There is little hope for a change in Mr. Mayor’s behavior – so I am removing the light in my refrigerator.

Hemphill can be reached at ahemphill@cox.net.

Copyright © Calvert Communications Inc. All rights reserved. No part of the contents of this Web site may be reproduced for any medium, including print & electronic media, without written consent of Calvert Communications Inc.