Fireworks fest fundraising met

The community’s daylong celebration of Independence Day 2019 was packed with food, music, games, and family fun, as neighbors gathered at Lake Murray Community Park to enjoy the annual Lake Murray Fireworks and MusicFest event. “Thank you to our donors, volunteers and to our community for getting behind the event and for doing their part to keep our neighborhood safe and clean this July Fourth,” said event chair Tracy Dahlkamp. The Lake Murray Fireworks and MusicFest committee is officially committed to hosting the event again July 4, 2020. All donations made from this day forward will be applied to 2020, for expenses including fireworks, city permits, insurance, emergency personnel, portable toilets and sinks, entertainment, and lighting and stage components. While community donations looked to fall short of the $85,000 goal this year, the total raised by the day of the event was a cool $85,171, according to Dahlkamp. The 2019 music festival drew a rotating crowd of an estimated 3,000 people, while the evening fireworks show could be seen by an estimated 100,000 people throughout La Mesa and San Diego. Serra Mesa earned the highest rent increase — 11.02%.

Trolley station housing approved

A plan to build housing at the Granville Trolley Station has cleared a hurdle, which has given local property owners both hope and caution about a long-term solution to the area’s flood problem.

On June 13, the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) board of directors approved a new development at the agency’s Granville Trolley Station to build 156 affordable units and 254 market-rate.

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FEATURE

California: Starting July 1, 2019 a law will go into effect that will require ty is one of our top priorities. We find it important to keep our neighbors and citizens or those with disabilities. Many residents are unaware of the Battery door systems and heavy one-piece tilt up doors. Garage doors can weigh the years we've developed a distinct familiarity with the neighborhoods and 24 hours of usage. A battery backup will engage when power is cut from the times of emergency or a power outage, the battery backup will provide up to wildfires that killed 44 in 2017, Senator Bill Dodd pushed for revisions of SB-796. Of course, some 2,000 years before the arrival of the Spanish, native Kumeyaay were settled in the area. Miller and Strathman note that, “Archaeological evidence of earlier inhabitants supports many elders’ belief that Kumeyaay ancestors have been here far longer, perhaps 10,000 years.” Originally, the mission was located on Presidio Hill. Two-hundred years earlier, the same soil had been claimed in 1542 and named San Miguel by Spanish explorer and navigator, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo. Another Spanish explorer and entrepreneur, Sebastian Viscaino, came along in 1602 and gave the area a new name, San Diego. Presidio Hill is often mistakenly today for Mission San Diego, but that first mission church, bar- racks of early Spanish soldiers, and the houses of civilians have crumbled over time into shapeless mounds of clay. (Archaeological ex- cavation is ongoing.) This original mission was relo- cated in 1774 to its present site six miles inland in Mission Valley. The striking structure that stands on Presidio Hill today was dedicated in 1929 as the Junipero Serra Museum. Constructed in the simplicity of early Franciscan churches, Serra Museum was gifted to the citizens of San Diego by George W. Marston, department store owner, politician, and philanthropist. Serra Museum would become the keeping place of aged docu- ments, maps, and photographs collected by pioneer historians, and a permanent home to San Diego Historical Society. GAINING INDEPENDENCE History notes that the Mexican War for independence began in 1810, and by 1821, Mexico had gained freedom from Spain. “San Diego became part of Mexico in April 1822 when the Mexican flag was raised over the Presidio.” (The early fort, or head- quarters of the American Army, stayed put on the hill when the mission was moved.) “You can have it, Horton, I wouldn’t give an mill an acre for all that you have bought!” JUDGE HOLLISTER, IN AN 1867 LAND AUCTION COM- peting with Alonzo Horton

Inhabitants of the Presidio be- gan to settle in what is known today as Old Town State Park. New arrivals were few, and in 1838, San Diego’s pueblo status was revoked with fewer than 150 residents. “San Diego remained a small town in San Diego History Center) battle at San Pasqual, ultimately the Americans defeated the Californians and the American flag was raised in the square at Old Town. The Mexican-American War ended in 1848, and two years later, California was admitted to the United States as the 31st state in the Union. ‘MORE MONEY THAN BRAINS’ William Heath Davis arrived in San Diego in 1850 envisioning a prosperous seaport community. Lumber for building up his New Town was so scarce that he shipped pre-fabricated Saltbox- style houses from Maine. (One of these homes stands on Island Avenue in its third location as the Davis-Horton House.) It was a hard sell for people to leave Old Town. Davis’ wealth had been the re- sult of his developing trade routes between Hawaii, China, and San Francisco. Sadly, a San Francisco fire in 1851 destroyed the bulk of his earnings and he returned to the Bay Area. Davis abandoned his New Town San Diego efforts, and residents dubbed it ‘Davis’ Folly’. New Town withered until new life was given it by Alonzo E. Horton in 1867. Horton was a provisions purveyor during the gold rush, but when that boom died out, he came to San Diego. Long story short, Horton pur- chased 960 acres at a land aucti- on. Judge Hollister outbid on a parcel and insisted Horton up the ante. A few cents later Hollister groaned, “You can have it, Horton. I wouldn’t give an mill an acre for all that you have bought.” (A mill equals one-tenth of a penny.) And residents of Old Town were satisfied that Horton must have more money than brains. “When San Diego attained a long-awaited railroad connection to the East in 1885, excitement about the area’s future triggered the ‘Boom of the Eights’, say Miller and Strathman. Population grew from about 2,400 in 1880 to nearly 35,000 by 1887. ‘Boosters and businessmen built vital infra- structure, including telephone, gas, and water systems.’

San Diego commemorates 250 years

Once a dusty hamlet and a boomtown gone bust, today San Diego is the eighth largest city in the nation. Put on your party hats — July 16 marks the 250th anniversary of America’s Finest City and the celebration is underway. “The San Diego we know today began on July 16, 1769, with the dedication of Mission San Diego de Alcala by Spanish friars, Fathers Junipero Serra and Juan Crespi,” notes San Diego History Center historians Dave Miller, Ph.D., and Andy Strathman, Ph.D. Of course, some 2,000 years before the arrival of the Spanish, native Kumeyaay were settled in the area. Miller and Strathman note that, “Archaeological evidence of earlier inhabitants supports many elders’ belief that Kumeyaay ancestors have been here far longer, perhaps 10,000 years.” Originally, the mission was located on Presidio Hill. Two-hundred years earlier, the same soil had been claimed in 1542 and named San Miguel by Spanish explorer and navigator, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo. Another Spanish explorer and entrepreneur, Sebastian Viscaino, came along in 1602 and gave the area a new name, San Diego. Presidio Hill is often mistakenly today for Mission San Diego, but that first mission church, barracks of early Spanish soldiers, and the houses of civilians have crumbled over time into shapeless mounds of clay. (Archaeological excavation is ongoing.) This original mission was relocated in 1774 to its present site six miles inland in Mission Valley. The striking structure that stands on Presidio Hill today was dedicated in 1929 as the Junipero Serra Museum. Constructed in the simplicity of early Franciscan churches, Serra Museum was gifted to the citizens of San Diego by George W. Marston, department store owner, politician, and philanthropist. Serra Museum would become the keeping place of aged documents, maps, and photographs collected by pioneer historians, and a permanent home to San Diego Historical Society. GAINING INDEPENDENCE History notes that the Mexican War for independence began in 1810, and by 1821, Mexico had gained freedom from Spain. “San Diego became part of Mexico in April 1822 when the Mexican flag was raised over the Presidio.” (The early fort, or headquarters of the American Army, stayed put on the hill when the mission was moved.) “You can have it, Horton, I wouldn’t give an mill an acre for all that you have bought!” JUDGE HOLLISTER, IN AN 1867 LAND AUCTION COMPETING WITH ALONZO HORTON

Inhabitants of the Presidio began to settle in what is known today as Old Town State Park. New arrivals were few, and in 1838, San Diego’s pueblo status was revoked with fewer than 150 residents. “San Diego remained a small outpost in Mexican California, relying on ranching and the lucrative hide and tallow trade.” After a revolt against Mexican rule, a good bit of fussing and bloody fighting, and a battle at San Pasqual, ultimately the Americans defeated the Californians and the American flag was raised in the square at Old Town. The Mexican-American War ended in 1848, and two years later, California was admitted to the United States as the 31st state in the Union. ‘MORE MONEY THAN BRAINS’ William Heath Davis arrived in San Diego in 1850 envisioning a prosperous seaport community. Lumber for building up his New Town was so scarce that he shipped pre-fabricated Saltbox-style houses from Maine. (One of these homes stands on Island Avenue in its third location as the Davis-Horton House.) It was a hard sell for people to leave Old Town. Davis’ wealth had been the result of his developing trade routes between Hawaii, China, and San Francisco. Sadly, a San Francisco fire in 1851 destroyed the bulk of his earnings and he returned to the Bay Area. Davis abandoned his New Town San Diego efforts, and residents dubbed it ‘Davis’ Folly’. New Town withered until new life was given it by Alonzo E. Horton in 1867. Horton was a provisions purveyor during the gold rush, but when that boom died out, he came to San Diego. Long story short, Horton purchased 960 acres at a land auction. Judge Hollister outbid on a parcel and insisted Horton up the ante. A few cents later Hollister groaned, “You can have it, Horton. I wouldn’t give an mill an acre for all that you have bought.” (A mill equals one-tenth of a penny.) And residents of Old Town were satisfied that Horton must have more money than brains. “When San Diego attained a long-awaited railroad connection to the East in 1885, excitement about the area’s future triggered the ‘Boom of the Eights’, say Miller and Strathman. Population grew from about 2,400 in 1880 to nearly 35,000 by 1887. ‘Boosters and businessmen built vital infrastructure, including telephone, gas, and water systems.’
John D. Spreckels arrived at the boom’s height and invested in real estate and wharf facilities. Land values collapsed by the end of the decade and population dropped to some 16,000. In the boom’s wake was left the iconic Hotel del Coronado.

A MILITARY PRESENCE
San Diego’s first harbor defense was an adobe fortification known as La Punta de los Guijarros constructed in the lee of Point Loma peninsula, at Ballast Point. In 1852, U.S. President Millard Fillmore signed an executive order to create a military reservation at the peninsula’s tip. Gun emplacements began to dot the hills of Point Loma as early as 1870, and by 1904, the U.S. Army post of Fort Rosecrans was completed. Fifteen gun batteries were constructed. Today their decaying remains are nearly hidden from view.

Chamber of Commerce forged a relationship with the U.S. Navy as far back as 1902 with the building of a coal station at La Playa. Steam ships of the era needed fuel. However, dredging the bay was of critical issue before the Navy could be coaxed into staying.

“Federally funded military infrastructure would benefit growth and commercial shipping,” note Miller and Strathman. Pressure of Congress brought the creation of a training station, shipyard, hospital, and other facilities over 100 years, including the U.S. Marine Recruit Depot. “William Kettner, San Diego’s ‘million dollar congressman’ helped establish San Diego as a Navy town in the years between two world wars.”

MEN AND THEIR FLYING MACHINES
Names like John J. Montgomery, with his first successful heavier-than-air flight at Otay Mesa in 1883, and the exploits of Glenn Curtiss truly established aviation development in San Diego. Curtis began an aviation training school at North Island.

“Commercial aviation took off, too. T. Claude Ryan arrived in 1912 to help launch a regularly scheduled passenger airline with flights to Los Angeles, and designed the monoplane that Charles Lindbergh would make famous in 1937,” say Miller and Strathman.

San Diego would also become a major center of military aircraft production. In 1933, Reuben H. Fleet relocated his Consolidated Aircraft plant here, which produced the B-24 bombardier and longer-range PBVs. Chula Vista-based Rohr Aircraft, Ryan Aeronautical Company, and General Dynamics remained regional employers long past the second World War.

EXTRACURRICULAR SAN DIEGO
Rail connections and a readapted train station were in place by 1915 for the opening of the Panama–California Exposition. The fair transformed the open spaces of “City Park” (which became Balboa Park) highlighting Spreckels’ gift to the city in the form of the world’s largest pipe organ.

Despite intention to build much of the venue as temporary structures, many remain and Bertram Goodhue’s Spanish Colonial architecture forever defines Balboa Park.

A second monthlong event, the California Pacific International Exposition, was held at Balboa Park in 1935 to promote San Diego’s economy that had slowed during the country’s Great Depression.

Sports and athletics have long been a source of civic pride. Lane Field brought the Padres, who joined Major League Baseball status in 1950. Jack Murphy Stadium was built in 1967, and hosted the hometown Chargers.

Notables in San Diego’s sports history are the arrival of the Gulls hockey team in 1966, creation of the sport triathlon in 1974, and the U.S. Olympic Training Center that opened in 1995.

In 1916, brothers Harry and Paul Wegeforth launched the San Diego Zoological Society and the formation of San Diego Zoo with ‘leftover’ animals from the 1915 exposition.

“The city’s promotion of tourism is also evident in the development of Mission Bay. A 1958 master plan paved the way for boat launches, beaches, playing fields, hotels, and the opening of SeaWorld in 1964,” Miller and Strathman said.

Turns out, Alonzo Horton had brains and money, that he foresaw a city worth more than a tenth of a penny. Today, he might enjoy a craft beer, a jaunt through vibrant neighborhoods like Barrio Logan, or a trek across San Diego-Coronado Bridge.

Cheers, San Diego, 250 years!
A ‘dream’ musical born in a dentist chair

By JOYELL NEVINS | Mission Times Courier

It started as an interview proj-
ec in a late father’s memory, side-
stepped as a jukebox musical re-
vue, and emerged as a celebration of
both a man and the musical era
his studio helped usher in.

Meet “33 1/3 - House of Dreams,” the world premiere mu-
ical performed by the San Diego Repertory Theatre, in partner-
ship with the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts
and R&R Productions, LLC. The show runs from Aug. 1-25 at the
Lyceum Stage Theatre.

“33 1/3 - House of Dreams” tells the story of Hollywood’s Gold
Star Recording Studios: both the
hit-making musicians in front of
the mic and the crew behind it,
including co-founder and lead en-
gineer Stan Ross. The story is told
to a total backdrop that the number
from the more than 120 Top 40
hits and iconic songs the studio
produced. The playlist includes
such classics as “Summertime
Blues,” “La Bamba,” “Be My
Baby,” “Unchained Melody,” and
“Wouldn’t It Be Nice.”

In its 33 1/3-year run — the
title references both the number
of years the studio was open and
the RPMs on a record — Gold Star
worked with just about every mu-
sical genre you can imagine. From
Iron Butterfly to Ritchie Valens and The Beach Boys to Ike and Tina
Turner, Gold Star produced it all.

Legends like The Rolling Stones,
Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan, and
The Beatles all made trips to Gold
Star to experience their magic.

“Gold Star was the mecca —
the place to go to in the ’60s,”
said co-writer Dr. Brad Ross. In
later decades, even after it lost its
commercial standing, the studio
would still be a musical pilgrim-
gage (The Ramones referred to it
as “hallowed ground” — their own
Abbey Road).

But this rock ’n roll show didn’t
start (or end) as a compilation of
some of the best-loved songs of
the last century. It started as a way
for a son to discover more about
his father.

FAMILY TIES
Brad Ross is the son of Stan and
Vera Ross. Even though Brad grew
up while Stan was still working in
the recording studio, he was less
starstruck and more just doing his
own thing (although Brad admitted
that having Sonny and Cher at his
brother’s bat mitzvah was quite the
cough). Although Brad played
the drums and was part of a
cover band, his main career had
always been dentistry.

“My father said, look, the mu-
sic business is really tough,” Brad
recalled, referencing some of the
great drummers his dad saw and
what they had to go through. “I
decided to do music as a hobby
and pursue a different career.”

The choice paid off, as Brad es-
dablished Mission Trials Dentistry
located in San Carlos in 1987.
It remains a thriving practice, em-
powering two other doctors and a
full staff.

“He is meticulous, he is car-
ging, and has great attention to
detail,” bragged “33 1/3 – House
of Dreams” co-writer and patient
Jonathan “Jon” Rosenberg.

You read that right — the writing
team first met in the dental chair.
Actually, they first met on the Little
League field, when Jon’s son played
T-ball as a “Dr. Ross Tooth Fixer”
in a San Carlos league. Long after
his son had graduated into other sports, Jon kept coming back
to Brad for his dental needs.

When Stan passed away in
2011, Brad decided that he want-
ed to learn more about the man
behind the legend. He planned to
interview some of the surviv-
ing and close-by musicians Stan
worked with. Brad recruited Jon
to be his road trip and interview
partner, due to Jon’s radio and
musical background, which in-
cluded disc jockeying in Michigan
and interviewing for KPBS.

“Jon came in for a typical den-
tal visit, and was my captive au-
tor,” joked Brad.

They started traveling to Los
Angeles and Palm Springs in
2012, meeting with tans such as
Brian Wilson and Bill Medley.
The more people they talked to,
the more the pair discovered just
how well-loved Stan was. He
was treated as an individual, with
integrity and respect.

“Mentioning Stan’s name was
like opening the keys to the king-
dom,” Jon said in regard to getting
time with musical icons.

“People loved him, and he loved
them,” Brad said.

But about six months into their
road trip, the men realized that
this was more than just a collec-
tion of stories for Brad’s family.

“The message kept being, ‘Gold
Star and your father and Dave
and Gold; Gold Star partner’ were
a game-changer,’” Brad recalled.

“But I’m a dentist — I knew I
had a story to share, and I knew
I needed teammates. I could not
do this by myself.”

ENTER THE EXPERTS
Jon and Brad wrote the first
script together, and chose 30
different songs to represent Gold
Star’s progression. But through
readings in Jon’s apartment build-
ing and the Lamplighter’s Theatre
in La Mesa, the reaction was con-
clusively, “We love the music —
work on the story.”

So, they did. At the urging of
Jon’s wife, he reached out to Javier
Velasco, the artistic director of
San Diego Ballet and choreogra-
pher and playwright as well. The
 trio officially met at a piece that
Steve Gunderson and Javier had
created and mounted at the San
Diego Rep as “Everybody’s Talkin’:
The Music of Harry Nilsson.”

Javier was immediately drawn
to the potential the show offered.

“The show was attractive to me
on two fronts. First, this piece is
about the creation of an artistic
’space.’ Not a single artist’s sto-
ry, but a crucible for artists,” he
explained. “The second thing is
that it dealt with regular ‘ordi-
nary’ people: the regular people
who supported the artists, and the
people who supported the people
who supported the artists.”

“33 1/3 – House of Dreams”
doesn’t just tell the story of Gold
Star; it tells the love story of Stan
and Vera. It tells of the deep friend-
ship between Stan and Dave.

“Stan was the person of Gold
Star, but there would be no Gold
Star without Dave,” declared Brad.

Dave was actually responsible
for helping create and build all of
Gold Star’s equipment. This
includes the echo chamber that
helped create the “Wall of Sound”
production style made famous by
Phil Spector, Larry Levine, and
their team of studio musicians
famously dubbed “The Wrecking
Crew” (who were also profiled in
a critically acclaimed 2008 doc-
umentary film). Although Dave
is not directly involved in the
show due to health reasons, Brad
stressed that they are trying to
honor him in the musical as well.

LEAVE THE QUARTERS AT
HOME
Although “33 1/3 – House of
Dreams” features many of the
storylines and songs in Gold Star’s
history, what it doesn’t do is become
a must-see. This was Brad and
Jon’s vision from the start, and
Javier picked up the charge.

“No matter how good it is, I
don’t know that the world needs

SEE ‘HOUSE OF DREAMS’, Page 11
City meeting will discuss lights and cameras program

BY DOUG CURLEE | MISSION TIMES COURIER

It’s never easy to tell people that cameras may be watching the area where they live, and recording data that can be accessed if you know how.

The city of San Diego is planning on installing such cameras in the Navajo area — Allied Gardens, Grantville, San Carlos and Del Cerro — and the city is asking area residents to bring their concerns to a community meeting July 30 at the Allied Gardens Library. The meeting starts at 5 p.m.

“We want to be sure the public has a chance to weigh in on this technology as a part of the process,” said Cody Hooven, the city’s chief sustainability officer.

San Diego is in the process of installing what will eventually be 8,000 LED streetlights that will give control over the lights to the city in order to cut energy costs significantly. The lights can be dimmed when not needed, or can be brightened when more light is needed.

That’s a good thing, and most people support it. What is drawing some negative reaction is the fact that about 3,200 cameras will be installed on some of those lights — cameras that can record and save video of things that might happen within the range of those cameras.

The cameras are primarily aimed at keeping an eye on things like traffic problems developing in areas that might need redesigning, or bush or tree growth that might be obscuring views. Camera sensors will also be able to sniff out air pollution problems, and a number of other things.

But there is some concern that the cameras will be surveilling people at the behest of the Police Department, and that Big Brother is watching a little too closely.

According to Hooven, they will not be doing that.

The cameras are not surveillance cameras as we think of them. They don’t tilt up or down. They don’t pan from side to side. They are not able to recognize faces. They are not able to follow action and they are not able to record voices. They are not able to zoom in on license plates.

That said, a camera or two in the downtown area were able to capture still shots that enabled police to crack a homicide case last May.

Anything the cameras may capture is stored on the device for five days — police can request the pictures as evidence, and transfer them to the SPD’s own secure sites.

After five days, the camera automatically erases whatever content it holds.

The public will be able to access the cameras if they want to through the city’s website.

The hope is that people will come to see that much lower power costs and better control over problems that might develop in their communities is worth what it costs to do all this — about $30 million all told.

The city can get that back with much lower energy costs. So far, the city says it has saved about $70,000 a month in electricity costs.

We don’t know yet exactly where the cameras in the Navajo areas will be — that should come out at the July 30 meeting.

If you’re still thinking these are surveillance cameras under another name, they are not. This won’t be at all like the surveillance cameras in the free world’s most-surveilled city: London, England, where they have lots of surveillance cameras that follow every step you take — no matter where you go.

London has, by actual count, 647,000 million cameras. And they’re adding more.

The San Diego Police Department reported no major incidents at the park and surrounding areas. To keep things tidy, a community cleanup of the neighborhood was well attended July 5 by local residents, community service organizations, and sports teams.

Organizers are already getting ready for next year’s event and are urging residents to visit the event website at lakemurray-fireworks.org for details on Lake Murray Fireworks and MusicFest 2020, including how to become a sponsor.

Fireworks
CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Diego’s Navajo neighborhoods of Grantville. Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, and San Carlos.

Attendees feasted on pizza, bacon-wrapped hot dogs, barbecued corn on the cob, and sweet treats, played field games on the playground, and danced to the sounds of Republic of Music rock the crowd. (Photos by Brett Alan Photography)

Republic of Music rock the crowd. (Photos by Brett Alan Photography)

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It’s time to take CEQA reform seriously

By BYRON WINKEL

[Editor’s note: This opinion first appeared on the Voice of San Diego website.]

Efficiently approve the construction of a greater number of affordable housing developments. However, thanks to the layers of red tape put into place by CEQA and the threat of lawsuits that come with it, homebuilders are stuck. They are left unable to do their jobs, and housing and rent prices only continue to rise as they lie on the sidelines.

Nowhere is this more problematic than in the rampant CEQA abuse employed by labor union representatives to stifle home development and into agreeing to project labor agreements. These representatives, claiming their actions are needed for the environment, are really using CEQA complaints as an excuse to hold up important development projects to ensure a union-member monopoly on the projects. This was seen just recently in San Diego, when Laborers Union Local 89 worked to block the building of 442 residential units just to force the developer into a project labor agreement. Their complaints are not and have never been about the environment; they are about forcing economic concessions out of developers.

Beyond the problem of making housing inaccessible to large swaths of the state population, the gridlock in housing development has an important and harmful ripple effect on all the industries that contribute to housing development as well. From the design phases and construction to utilities, maintenance and so much more, countless hardworking Californians rely on a robust and booming housing market for work.

The solution now is clear. It is up to our legislators in San Diego to make significant and meaningful changes to CEQA in the name of everyone in the state. Without substantial reform, CEQA will continue to be weaponized as a bulwark against the housing development low-income individuals and others across California so desperately need. It is possible to both ensure we maintain a healthy environment without blocking new development projects altogether.

Past regulations and red tape in California have provided plenty to laugh about, but this is something our legislators,Sacramentoid, need to take seriously. A lot of people are counting on this reform so they can continue to live in the state we all love, and so California can continue to be the place people across the United States dream of living one day.

—Byron Winkel is president of the Building Industry Association of San Diego County.
Navajo Nights summer social

By Pat Boerner

Please join Republican Women of San Diego’s Cuyamaca/Camp Pendleton Club (RWCP) on Thursday, July 25, 6:30 p.m. at Truckee Meadows Country Club, 15410 Los Coches Rd., Jamul. The featured speaker will be Contestant in the Miss Universe competition, Miss Universe Puerto Rico 2018, Olivia Culpo. We will discuss what it takes to succeed in the pageant and what it’s like to be Miss Universe. The funds raised will benefit a local charity. There is no charge to attend. The cost is $25 for non-members at the door. Transportation can be arranged. For more information, call 619-688-3088 or visit rwcp.org.

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MTS housing
CONTINUED FROM Page 1

student-oriented units. Two developers will be teaming up on the project – Affirmed Housing will build the affordable units and Greystar will build the market-rate units.

“This is a great example about how MTS can help address our region’s affordable-housing problems and climate-action goals,” said Paul Jablonski, MTS chief executive officer in a press release. “MTS is committed to cultivating partnerships to redevelop our top-tier park-and-ride locations into transit-oriented developments.”

In addition to the housing units, the partnership between MTS and the developers would also bring 96 replacement parking spaces for MTS commuters.

What neighboring property owners are hoping is that the development will also create a partnership that will finally implement the Alvarado Creek Revitalization Study — a plan drafted in 2017 to end the persistent flooding of properties along Alvarado Creek. With the new development now approved by the MTS board, there is some hope that an agreement on Alvarado Creek might come to fruition.

When MTS approved the new Grantville development, they also agreed to eventually sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on dealing with its section of the Alvarado Creek study. MTS is the majority property owner in the study area.

Navajo Community Planners board chair David Smith said he hopes the MOU will be an agreement to fully implement the Alvarado Creek study plan and will spell out all the terms, positions, penalties, time statutes and costs that MTS will be bound by.

“That, of course, is the big ask,” he added. “What exactly will get signed by MTS staff and city attorneys is still yet to be determined.

Fortunately, those who will be signing this document will be behind closed doors,” Smith continued. “It will be between the City Attorney’s Office, the [City] Council member’s office which will be the voice of the community, MTS staff and the city of San Diego Transportation and Stormwater Department. There will be multiple meetings and plenty of negotiations between the various departments and landowners before the MOU is finalized and the final agreement goes before MTS board to be voted on. Smith, whose family owns property along the creek that is affected by the flooding, said the behind-doors negotiation needs “as much attention as it can get.”

“It’s going to be upon us as community members, and anybody else who is interested in this topic, to continue to go and speak at MTS board meetings, to remind them that they should not settle for anything unless it is the full solution fix.”

Smith described the MOU as both helpful and dangerous for property owners along the creek and others interested in seeing Grantville transform into a broader transit-oriented community.

“People need to know that once this document is signed, that is what they are bound by,” he said. “And if MTS wants to be this regional public agency for transit that stands for reduced greenhouse gas emissions and increased ridership, and then they decide to lobby their way around having to do anything in an expedient fashion, then MTS needs to be bashed as the agency that killed Grantville’s hopes to be the urban housing redevelopment, transit-oriented node that the community has been wanting for 15 years. Because if MTS does nothing, nobody on the other side of the creek can build.”

—Reach Jeff Cleometon at jeff@sdnews.com.

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LMFDC CONTINUED FROM Page 7

homelessness and provides tax cuts to small businesses – all while creating the most robust reserve in the state’s history. Atkins will also highlight some key bills currently being considered by the Legislature, including her own SB 1, the California Environment, Public Health and Workers Defense Act of 2019, which provides that any federal environmental or worker-safety standard in place and effective before Jan. 22, 2017, shall remain in effect and be enforceable under California law even if the federal government rolls it back.

Emerald, who made her mark locally as the ever popular consumer advocate “Troubleshooter” on KGTV for more than two decades, parlayed that advocacy to an historic run for City Council in 2008, winning the District 7 seat which had been dominated by Republicans for many years. She won a second term on the City Council in 2012, this time in the newly formed District 9. To have Marti serve as our moderator for a panel of aspiring District 7 candidates is a terrific pairing.

Our panel of candidates for District 7 represent a broad swath of backgrounds, advocates, and community involvement.

Wendy Wheatcroft sports a 15-year long career as an elementary school teacher, a community advocate as a leader for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, and was the founding member of San Diego’s biggest local gun violence prevention coalition, San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention.

Raul Campillo, a native San Diegans and USD Grad, sand-wiched a public school teaching career with a Harvard Law degree, an international law firm practice working for Bill Clinton in America, and more lately, a job as Deputy City Attorney with the San Diego City Attorney’s office. Shown as a former San Diego County Service Specialist with the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Department. Her broad background includes the Linda Vista Town Council and she was elected to the Linda Vista Planning Group. She’s also been a substance abuse counselor, case manager at the Door of Hope Transitional Housing Program, and intake specialist at Jewish Family Services.

Monty A. McIntyre, Esq. is a mediator, arbitrator and refere, Monty has been a California lawyer since 1980, a trained mediator since 1993, and a member of the California Association of Trial Advocates since 1995. Monty served as the president of the San Diego County Bar Association in 2000. David Greene, an honored Law School Graduate at USD, he was also Co-Founder of Student Alliance for Equality (SAFE), high school’s first LGBTQ organiza- tion. His experience as a lawyer highlights his commitment to community, with a focus on helping employees and other vulnerable community members, such as people with disabilities.

The Aug. 7 meeting is open to the public and begins at 6:30 p.m. at the La Mesa Community Center, 4975 Memorial Drive, La Mesa, just north of University Ave. in La Mesa.

—Tina Ryberg is president and Jeff Beneis is vice president of programming for the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club lamesalandsdems.com.
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Grossmont College students receive national LGBTQ scholarship

By DELLA ELLIOTT

Two Grossmont College students are recipients of scholarships from the Point Foundation, the nation’s largest scholarship-granting organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) students of merit.

Gigi Andrews, a psychology major, and Jasz Cabrera, a Theatre Art student, are the only San Diegans among 25 recipients of the nationally awarded community college scholarship.

The Point Community College Program is geared toward helping LGBTQ students fulfill their goals of attending a four-year college or university. Students accepted into the program receive between $2,000-$4,800 in scholarships, as well as admissions counseling, coaching and financial education at the Point Community College Transfer Symposium in Los Angeles. They also are able to connect to the Point Foundation network of LGBTQ scholars and more than 300 alumni dedicated to seeing LGBTQ students succeed.

Scholarship winners are chosen based on academic performance, leadership skills, financial need, personal goals and the applicant’s involvement in the LGBTQ community.

GIGI ANDREWS

Andrews, 33, had a difficult time coming out at age 14. Bullied and harassed to the point of dropping out of high school, she went on to earn a General Education Diploma or GED. At 21, she was diagnosed with HIV, then in her mid-20s, came out as transgender.

She first began attending Grossmont College part-time in spring of 2009, felt unsure of her future. But she never gave up her dream of a meaningful career so she returned and is an introducto ry psychology class in 2017 proved so she returned and an introductory psychology class in 2017 proved.

Andrews plans to use her $3,700 scholarship to supplement her earnings to purchase a used car and to spend what’s left on a laptop computer.

JASZ CABRERA

Cabrera identifies as a non-binary trans student and is described in a Point profile as a costume designer in technical theater and president of Grossmont College’s SOGI Club. Cabrera is credited for promoting the safety of students and others on campus coming out.

Cabrera aspires to further study costume design and construction with the goal of working in multicultural theater and eventually as a designer and owner of a clothing company that sells androgynous, uni-sex attire. Cabrera, a martial artist, received a scholarship sponsored by Big Apple Recreational Sports, a non-profit, coed sports league in New York City for LGBTQ athletes.

“While most LGBTQ students have the opportunity to see and connect to the Point Foundation, there are still a large number who are not aware, primarily because of financial barriers,” said Jodi Ewart, executive director of Grossmont College’s SOGI Club and a Point Foundation Officer of Point Foundation.

“3 1/3 – House of Dreams” is such a unique opportunity to dive into a real-life history, and also to delve into the nature of creativity,” Steve said.

And with that, aided by the business assistance of Michael Kruke and the incredible support of their families, Brad and Jon had found the teammates they needed to take “3 1/3 – House of Dreams” from a dream to reality.

“3 1/3 – House of Dreams” visit sdrep.org or call 619-544-1000.

—Freelance writer Jogell Nevins can be reached at jogell@gmail.com. You can also follow her blog Small Big World. Big God at www.jogell.wordpress.com.
Art shows what inspires students

Patrick Henry High School (PHHS) has spent the last five years working on developing a strong culture and sense of pride within our community. Three pillars were selected and much discussion during advisory groups has been centered on being well coming, doing no harm, and us

This year, the advisory team headed up by English teacher, Chad Miller — with the help of his support team of teachers Linda Good, Tom Knapl, Elise Morgan, Mindy Butsch, Mike Pinto, Karl Bolton, and Karen Thomas — decided to change the focus toward development of a stronger mindset. They created videos with the help of some student leaders and provided an avenue for students to consider the idea of “Not Yet” when considering one’s ability to do a challenging task. From that idea, we moved toward considering what inspires you and that’s where our program created something special. If you enter past the main gate, you’ll find a Van Gogh-themed art piece featuring messages of what inspires Henry students.

(A Photos courtesy PHHS)

Alumni Association Golf Tournament

Thank you to all our great sponsors, donors, volunteers and attendees for making Thursday, May 16, a special Patriot Day! Patrick Henry High School (PHHS) would like to thank the Alumni Association and specifically the president, Kevin Carlson, for the continued support provided by this organization of volunteers. They spend over a year planning the golf tournament with the hope of raising funds that will directly go to the students at PHHS.

Members from the Alumni Association give their time and in many cases, their financial support, through hole sponsorships and other donations to make this event successful. We are very grateful for all that they’ve done and I hope you enjoy reading about the tournament so that it will inspire you to attend the next one on Oct. 22, 2020.

Through their support, we’re pleased to announce that our event this year netted $43,000 for special capital projects, equipment, and other teaching aids items unfunded by the school district.

Add to that number more than $16,000 in cash donations received from Patriot alumni ($25,000 restricted to the Patriot baseball program by Class of 2000 alumni Dahnte Sullivan — thank you, Dahnte, along with two anonymous $5,000 donations and many other smaller amounts) and your alumni association will have a net impact this year alone to the school of over $79,000.

This means in just seven years, your Patrick Henry High School Alumni Association, Inc. (PHHSA, Inc.) has raised in excess of $314,000 while holding seven fun events for alumni, current and former faculty members, parents of students, and other friends of the school.

Your Alumni Association has also been the recipient of a $200,000 donation of furniture for the school’s main office, $90,000 of donations earmarked for the new PHAME building, the $25,000 and two $5,000 pledges mentioned above, an anonymous $25,000 grant used to help purchase 38 new PCs and monitors for the school’s computer lab, along with two separate $10,000 pledges received in a prior year from various alumni.

All in all, with your assistance, we have raised and are in the process of donating nearly $700,000 in goods and material support for the school and its student body in the brief seven-year history since the Alumni Association’s founding. Not bad for a dream born out of a luncheon reuniting Class of 1978 and 1979 football and baseball players to thank several of their coaches back in the summer of 2011.

More Alumni Fundraising

New Patriot Head Football Coach J.T. O’Sullivan is a 10-year NFL quarterback) is busy transforming the Henry football team. This fall, Coach O’Sullivan will be running his team into a newly remodeled stadium and field in new Nike green Henry uniforms purchased by your PHHS Alumni Association, Inc. Coach O’Sullivan is actively raising funds to replace the...
Kevin Carlson ('78), Tom Conklin ('77), Jeff Cyr ('78), Todd Faucett ('82), John Harris ('76), Deanna Hopkins-Christian ('78), Lesty Gillingham, Leta Keyes, Bill McColl ('80), Marla Mohr ('84), Al Nallhoff ('78), Mike Nokes ('78), John Osborne ('78), Bob Ruane ('78), Jeff Schindler ('78), Mary Treadwell, Marie Tuthill, and Tom Weikel ('80).

Volunteers — September Chappell ('84), Steve Corso ('78), Diane Darley-Munoz ('78), Erin Doherty-Karnetski ('78), Duane Lester ('78), Terri Racine-Stolberg ('82) and Deanna Rodriguez-Carlock ('84).

PHHS parent volunteers — Darcy Denton, Bessee Gellnfeldt, Elaine Legaspi ('82), Andrew Schacke ('82) and Niki Schacke.

We also want to give special recognition to our co-title sponsors: Scott Slocum ('93); Winfield Development, Inc.; Peter Vander Werrt Construction, Inc.; and Chuck Gossage for their outstanding financial support, as well as to Marie Tuthill, her assistant Leta Keyes and our auction item donors for their help in making our silent auction as well-presented as you will see anywhere and financially successful as well.

Congratulations to our male and female athletes of the year Allison Arend and Jonathan Marshall were selected this year to represent the best and brightest athletes at Henry. Allison was selected due to her cumulative GPA of 3.91 and her work on both our field hockey and soccer teams. She was noted for earning the following recognition in both sports: Field Hockey Captains Award 2016, Field Hockey MVP 2017 and 2018, Women’s Soccer MVP 2018, Field Hockey First Team All-League 2017 and 2018, Women’s Soccer First Team All-League 2016 and 2018, Conference Player of the Year for Women’s Soccer 2018, and a four-year Honor Roll student at PHHS. Allison will be going to the University of New Mexico to continue playing soccer.

Jonathan was selected for his strong academic standing in the class earning a GPA of 4.37 and his outstanding contributions to our Henry baseball program. He earned other distinctions which included: San Diego Union-Tribune Scholar-Athlete, San Diego Union Tribune Prep Athlete of the Week, Perfect Game All-Tournament Team, four-year Honor Roll student at PHHS. PHHS Top Ten Junior Recognition earning the Brandies Book Award, Seal of Bi-Literacy Seal for Spanish, and AP Scholar with Distinction. Jonathan will continue his baseball career as a catcher at Occidental College next year.

PHHS wishes both Jonathan and Allison the best of luck with their future endeavors.

—Elizabeth Gillingham is principal of Patrick Henry High School.
If intuition is key for instilling that elusive, magical quality into Italian food, Francesco Basile has the technique mastered. Since opening Antica Trattoria almost two decades ago, the Sicilian-born chef is known for his keen knack in allowing ingredients to spring forth equally in the dishes he sends out to an often-packed dining room. His flavors are multi-dimensional, but they’re never in conflict. And he shatters our assumption that Italian food is based on copious amounts of garlic. As any true Paesano knows, it isn’t.

Basile’s passion-kissed meals are savored within an atmosphere flaunting large frescoes, exposed wine shelving and a cozy bar. Single bottles of vino are set on every table. And pendant lighting hangs from high ceilings, which feature rows of burlap coffee sacks hiding soundproof panels. Located within a small plaza and fronted by ample parking, you’ve unmistakably entered to an established Italian restaurant that comes with a tinge of formality when passing through its threshold.

The lunch and dinner menus offer the same options. Although you’ll save a couple bucks on entrees when dining in the afternoons, which might seem too early for such main courses as fettuccine with smoked salmon and shrimp in brandy cream sauce — or veal saltimbocca with prosciutto and sage browned butter. But the portions are elegantly portioned; they’re neither overwhelming or stingy.

Just as I remembered when visiting twice some years ago, meals begin with warm house-made table bread and a dish of olive oil with balsamic. This time, instead of proceeding to my usual caprese appetizer, my lunch companion and I vouched for bruschetta that was amped up with roasted eggplant, grape tomatoes, goat cheese, basil and a hint of garlic. Like all of the dishes I’ve tried here, every forkful offers differing flavors and textures — always clearly Italian, but with more intriguing nuances compared to the fare at other trattorias.

In another starter, for example, a quintet of small meatballs were served in marinara spiked lovingly with red wine. The sauce also gave way to pleasurable bursts of saltiness from olives, which really do go well with cooked-down tomatoes. Moments of creaminess arose from a dollop of whipped ricotta on top.

Moments of creaminess arose from a dollop of whipped ricotta on top.

My friend’s house salad brought together slices of local avocados, organic spinach, and hearts of palm. It escaped coming off as “totally California” thanks to shaved Parmesan and herby balsamic vinaigrette. As for my Caesar salad, it was your everyday variety, which was exactly what I wanted.

Basile makes nearly all of the pasta in-house except for penne and angel hair (capellini) cuts. But he does wondrous with those, as we discovered in our entree choices.

The penne was tossed with porcini mushrooms, roasted eggplant and fresh tomatoes. Depending where our forks wandered within the dish, we alternately hit upon earthiness from the mushrooms, sweetness from the caramelized eggplant, and faint garlicky spots from lurking pesto.

Join “Club Veg” at www.souplantation.com

SEE ANTICA TRATTORIA, Page 15
**Antica Trattoria**

Equally exquisite was the capellini pasta strewn with white shrimp and wild mushrooms. The harmonious interplay of oceanic and earthy flavors was almost sedating. Served in thin lobster broth accented by chardonnay wine, the dish is almost French in nature except for the lack of cream. Even when eating the leftovers at home a few hours later, there was enough liquid in the dish to keep everything juicy. Basile changes the menu seasonally, sometimes making only subtle changes to existing dishes. But the two untouchables, he noted, are the calamari steak with shrimp and lemon-butter sauce, and the boneless Angus short ribs (brassato), which he serves in robust cabernet sauce with fresh vegetables and mashed potatoes. From a small selection of house-made desserts, we vouched for a boozy version of tiramisu as well as a pack of warm, comforting chocolate lava cake. Both of the semi-sweet confections, along with everything else I’ve ever eaten here, brim reliably with heart and soul.

—Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of ‘Secret San Diego’ (ECW Press) and began his local writing career more than two decades ago as a staffer for the former San Diego Tribune. You can reach him at fsabatini@san.rr.com. ■

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Not Valid on Holidays or Special Occasions.

On coupon per table. Expires Aug 8, 2019
Mission Trails announces amateur photo contest winners

Each year, the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation organizes an amateur photography contest to encourage photographers of all ages to capture their experiences of MTRP and share their unique perspectives with the community. Selected photos are exhibited as part of the annual art program at the MTRP Visitor Center.

The winners of the 27th annual Mission Trails Regional Park Amateur Photo Contest were announced on June 9 and this year’s Best of Show was awarded to Julie Gealta for her work “Pampas Grass in the Sun.” First prizes in various categories went to Enzo Moscola, Ethan Garrett, Jennifer Carmona, Cheryl Old, Mark James, William Combs and Skip Reichenberg.

A record-setting 223 entries were submitted this year, divided into four categories: plants, animals, people, and landscapes; and the contest divisions included children age 12 and younger, teens (ages 13-17), and adults (ages 18+). All photos were displayed at the MTRP Visitor Center from May 11 through June 21, with the awards reception on June 9. MTRP Foundation board member Betty Ogilvie and her husband, Mike, took the lead in making this year’s event a success, from collecting the applications and photos to installing the works and working with the contest jurors.

The Art Program at the MTRP Visitor Center is organized by the MTRP Foundation and a portion of all artwork sales benefits the park. For more information and a list of this year’s exhibitions, visit mtrp.org/art. The Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center is located at 1 Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego. The Visitor Center is open daily from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. and admission is free.

NEW AT THE VISITOR CENTER
In June, we installed a new exhibit on the Visitor Center Terrace that provides an overview of Mission Trails’ geological history. Developed with renowned geologist Pat Abbot, Ph.D., the panels highlight some of the geological events that shaped our modern landscape. We appreciate Republic Services, Superior Ready Mix and the County of San Diego for providing the funding needed to create the exhibit.

Also new at the Visitor Center is an updated Mission Trails branded T-shirt. It has been very popular, so get yours soon! While at the center, view Lesley Goreen’s illustrations of California native plants and pick up some of the custom-made cards she created for MTRP.

—Jennifer Morrissey is executive director of the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation.

2019 MTRP AMATEUR PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Best of Show: Pampas Grass in the Sun by Julie Gealta

People’s Choice: Upon a Valley by Tahila Schett

Category: Children
• First Place: Scaly Lizard by Enzo Moscola
• Second Place: Divided Snail by Enzo Moscola
• Third Place: Aidan’s Discovery by Aidan Clark
• Honorable Mention: My Brother Looking at the Mountain by Angel Peddecord

Category: Teens-Animals
• First Place: Snake Snack by Ethan Garrett
• Second Place: Water Slider and Tadpoles by Ethan Garrett

Category: Teens-Landscapes
• First Place: Sunset in Lake Murray by Jennifer Carmona
• Second Place: Motion by the Riverside by Miles Wong
• Third Place: Ripples by Ethan Garrett
• Honorable Mention: Go with the Flow by Michelle Black

Category: Teens-Plants
• First Place: Bee Snack by Ethan Garrett
• Second Place: Let the Sunshine In by Michelle Black
• Third Place: Still by the Wind by Miles Wong

Category: Adults-Animals
• First Place: Portrait of a Roadrunner by Cheryl Old
• Second Place: Finch in Fountain Grass by Beth Swersie
• Third Place: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher by Michael Peddecord
• Honorable Mention: Lizard Smooch by Kelly Lenn

Category: Adults-Landscapes
• First Place: April Showers by Mark K. James
• Second Place: North Fortuna Trail by Victor Tubesing
• Third Place: Big Rocks at Duck by David Marshall
• Honorable Mention: Photo 2 by Rachel Gil

Category: Adults-Plants
• First Place: Banking Fungus by Skip Reichenberg
• Second Place: Feathers and Storm by Mickey Wilson
• Third Place: Splendid Mariposa Lily by Robert MacDonald
• Honorable Mention: Amazing Color by Victor Tubesing

Category: Adults-People
• First Place: Self Portrait by William Combs
• Second Place: Walking the Dog by James Lemen
• Third Place: Discovery Through Young Eyes by Stacy Marshall
• Honorable Mention: Photo Op by James Lemen
Observations of the month: All 4,923 of them!

By PATRICIA SIMPSON

April was a busy month in Mission Trails Regional Park for “in-attics” (a nickname for people submitting observations of nature to the online database iNaturalist.org). Instead of picking one observation from among the 4,923 submissions, I thought I would tell you a little about all of them. There is a good reason for the plethora of data this month: The City Nature Challenge (CNC) was held April 26-29. Cities across the globe competed to get the most observations, the most observers, and the most species. San Diego County came in fifth worldwide for the first two categories and sixth for the number of species. Quite impressive!

Events like these are crucial for scientists. It is a great crowd-sourcing method where regular nature enthusiasts like us, camera or phone in hand, can indulge in “hunting” for plants, birds and other critters that roam our neighborhoods and parks. Who needs “Pokémon Go” when you have iNaturalist!

The observations made in Mission Trails during the four days of the CNC account for 72% of all April observations in the park. That’s a big boost in data for MTRP and that is just what scientists need: more data. Of all the observations in San Diego County during the CNC, just over 9% were in MTRP. But the number that is more telling is that observations from the park included almost 22% of all species found in the county, a testament to the biodiversity the park holds.

Here is a breakdown of number of species by class: 410 species of plants, 108 insects, 69 birds, 20 fungi/lichen, 17 arachnids, 13 amphibians and reptiles, 10 mammals, six mollusks, and two fish.

Looking at the data, a few things stand out. Of the 410 species of plants, 281 are native, which is good news for the biodiversity of the park. Native plants are growing strong. For mollusks, the picture is not as bright with 100% of the species reported being non-native. From previous iNat data, we know the park has native snails and slugs so it could mean that next year’s CNC naturalists should try harder to find them, or it could mean the impact of the alien population is affecting the native population in a negative way. Let’s hope it is the former.

Observers also found 21 listed species (from “vulnerable” to “critically imperiled” or “seriously threatened” according to NatureServe and California Native Plant Society), a reminder of how important nature preserves such as MTRP are to some of our most vulnerable earthlings.

Since the CNC is held every year at around the same time, over time scientists can have a better understanding of the status of certain areas or certain species. Thanks to everyone who contributed data during the CNC and chose MTRP as your “hunting” ground.

—Patricia Simpson is a trail guide at Mission Trails Regional Park.

Favorite place: Grindading Rocks

By BEA SHEBY

My favorite place in MTRP is the Grinding Rocks. The old oak trees that have been there long before I ever was overlook the San Diego River. The running waters are still carving a gorge through the mountains. The large plutonic rocks show markings of women’s work in a long time past. Here they prepared acorns to feed their families.

Little is known of those long gone by, but legends tell of a simpler and more peaceful time than what we know today. As a breeze blows through my hair while I sit on a “grinding rock,” my thoughts go back in time. I wonder what life would be like here if the Europeans had never come and changed the local people’s lifestyle forever.

—Bea Sheby is a trail guide at Mission Trails Regional Park.

MORE OF THE SPAAAAAHHHHH

Midweek Specials Available
Community

Allied Gardens Grantville Community Council news

by shain haug

OFF-LEASE DOG PARK
Under the leadership of Gerhard Oertelt, Greg Allsup, and Jay Wilson, our efforts to establish a much-needed off-leash dog park in the Navajo area are on the move. We have found our way into the city bureaucracy and now have a high-level contact point in the Parks and Recreation Department. Oertelt has developed a core group of 40 or so folks to take on the complex administrative process necessary to complete this project. This grass roots movement has been named “Beyond Leashes.”

At the beginning of the project, the Allied Gardens Granville Community Council (AGGCC) is filling the role of the nonprofit sponsor required by city policy. That sponsorship will include outreach to the residents of our Navajo communities, coordination with the community councils of San Carlos and Del Cerro, presentations to the Allied Gardens and San Carlos Recreation councils, hearings before the Parks and Recreation Council, and management of initial finances. After the park is issued, when several technical matters are resolved, and once we can be sure that the park will be established, management will shift to a new nonprofit organization with the Beyond Leashes name.

The organizers considered two locations. The portion of the Allied Gardens Park between the Benjamin Library and the pool did not meet the 3-acre minimum and must be preserved for the eventual expansion of the library. Two parcels on Pasatiempo Avenue were rejected because of ecological restrictions and proximity to residences. The best area is the upper area of the Rancho Mission Canyon Park (better known as Marguerite Park). A portion of the park that has fallen into disuse and that is most ecologically available. In the next few weeks, we will create a website where you will find more information. At that site, you will be able to add your name to the growing list of dog owners and enthusiastic contributors. Until we get that site running, let us add you to this communal effort by sending us an email at aggcshain@yahoo.com or at beyondleashes@gmail.com.

TOWN HALL MEETING
Looking ahead to our next Town Hall Meeting at the Benjamin Library (Zion Avenue and Gleneroy Street) at 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, July 23, we will be hearing from The Diego Humane Society. As successor to the San Diego County Animal Control, the Humane Society took over animal control in the city. A representative of the society will discuss their services and how to contact them for assistance.

Our Town Hall Meeting on July 23 will also feature a new feature. We will hold a drawing for a $50 gift card for Moma’s Restaurant. No financial contribution will be required to qualify for the drawing, the only condition will be your attendance at the meeting. Our thanks to board of directors member Chuck Cwalawler, branch manager of the HomeStreet Bank, and the bank for their generosity.

Del Cerro Action Council news

by jay wilson

The next meeting of the Del Cerro Action Council is Thursday, July 25, 7 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El. Our guest speaker will be Roberto Garcia, partnership specialist, U.S. Census Bureau. He will present a program about the 2010 census for the Del Cerro, presentations to the Allied Gardens and San Carlos Recreation councils, hearings before the Parks and Recreation Council, and management of initial finances. After the park is issued, when several technical matters are resolved, and once we can be sure that the park will be established, management will shift to a new nonprofit organization with the Beyond Leashes name.

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The All Peoples Church project has been submitted to the city and upon receipt of the first copies report, which is the city’s response to the project as submitted, there will be follow-up meetings with residents about the project and the results of input from residents adjacent to the project.

The fire season is upon us and the city of San Diego’s Fire-Rescue Department is urging all of us to be fire safe. The city has published a new version of Ready, Set, Go — a personal guide to wildland fire protection. Here is the URL to access the publication: bit.ly/2j4hot. Take the time to make certain your home and neighborhood is prepared should there be a fire in any of the canyons surrounding Del Cerro.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, July 28, 7 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El for the next meeting of the Del Cerro Action Council.

Happenings at the Allied Gardens Library

By KEVIN TRAAN

WHERE’S WALDO
Try your skills in locating a Waldo at any of the San Diego Library’s “Where’s Waldo” at the library will be in its third year. Find Waldo and get a special-edition pin that is specific to that branch. On July 1, the Waldo scavenger hunt will turn in your Waldo passport by July 31 to the Library Store at the Central Library. You will be entered into a raffle for exclusive prizes. The contest will run from July 1-31, please visit any branch for a passport to start collecting Waldo stamps.

TRASH TRUCK STORY TIME
When two great city departments get together, magic happens. We will be hosting a special story time featuring two trash trucks from the City of San Diego’s Environmental Services. This will take place at our normal story time on Tuesday, July 30, at 11:30 a.m.

TECH TIME
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3-4 p.m., we will be here to answer any questions you may have about your smartphones, tablets, e-books, emails and everything in between. Please try to have all passwords and pertinent information ready.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL
As the summer comes to a close, we are celebrating all of your hard work in the form of an ice cream social on Aug. 19 at 2:30 p.m. The Summer Reading Program Ice Cream Social will feature vanilla, strawberry, and sorbet varieties with all the toppings for a truly decadent treat. All summer reading participants and their families are invited to join.

FREE LIBRARY CARDS
For the entire month of July, the library will be issuing free library cards. We will be featuring the highly sought-after animal Comic-Con card. New this year is a LGBTQIA+ Pride card designed exclusively for the city of San Diego libraries. Come early as all cards are produced in limited numbers and will only be free during the month of July. Free cards will only be issued as replacements for old cards or receiving the limited-edition ones. Any and all previous fines on the account[s] will still have to be paid.

FLAG BOXES
We will be a collection site for old or tattered flags to be disposed of with dignity and respect. The local Boy Scout troops will frequently collect the boxes and deliver them to local American Legion posts and associated non-profits that will conduct flag retirement ceremonies.

PARK AND RECREATION STORY TIME
“Animal Habitats and Survival” will be presented by Park Ranger Heidi on July 26 at 10:30 a.m. This story time will be geared toward preschoolers to first graders. A craft will follow the summer story and a special backpack will be handed out at the story time for our young readers, brought to you by Kids in the Canyons.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM
Programs for our Summer Reading Programs held on Mondays at 2:30 p.m. are as follows:
July 8 – Slime with Challenge Island
July 15 – DIY play dough
July 22 – Noteworthy puppets singing rendition of “The Three Little Pigs”
Aug. 5 – Audience participation movies: “The Jungle Book” (the original)
Aug. 12 – Cupcakes by you! Design your own cupcakes
Aug. 19 – Ice cream social and scavenger hunt

—Kevin Tran is library assistant III at the Allied Gardens/Benjamin Branch Library.
From the gridiron to ‘The Beast’

By Ken Denbow | Mission Times Courrier

Del Cerro resident and St. Augustine football star, JT Penick, is one of an elite group meeting the highly selective requirements of the U.S. Military Academy. He is currently enduring the eight-week Cadet Basic Training (CBT) at West Point. “The Beast,” as the CBT is affectionately known by those who have completed it (those currently in it have less complimentary names for it), is a test of physical and mental toughness for future military leaders. For JT, The Beast was no surprise… his brother, Nathan, graduated from West Point in 2016.

“I expect it to be challenging,” JT said. “It’ll prepare me financially and by those who have completed it (those currently in it have less complimentary names for it), is a test of physical and mental toughness for future military leaders. For JT, The Beast was no surprise… his brother, Nathan, graduated from West Point in 2016.

“I expect it to be challenging,” JT said. “It’ll prepare me financially and academically, and preparing our freedoms.

“My brother had a big impact on my decision,” he continued. “We have always challenged each other, and I suspect we will continue to do so in the Army.”

JT (the decided to be called by his initials at an early age) is setting a high bar for himself. Nathan recently completed the annual Ranger competition, coming in third of 50 two-man teams in this elite group.

Selection to West Point is highly competitive. The acceptance rate is about 10%. In addition to rigorous academic standards, the applicant must meet strenuous physical requirements, and be nominated by a congressperson — Rep. Susan Davis in JT’s case — and no special treatment is accorded those recruited for sports.

Once accepted, the new cadets attend classes during the academic year. In the summer, they are assigned to field units of the Army to gain insight into career paths available. The cadets do not incur a service obligation until the start of their junior year. After that, if they do not complete college, they must serve as enlisted persons for various lengths of service, depending on education completed. Upon graduation, the newly commissioned 2nd Lieutenants are required to serve five years to repay the taxpayer’s investment in providing a tuition-free college education.

Many football players shy away from the service academies because of the service requirement following college, which would interfere with a possible NFL career.

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“RT for right now. I’ll concentrate on playing well at the college level,” JT said. “Army plays some pretty stiff competition. I’ll worry about the NFL if it comes up.”

JT has not decided on what fields he will pursue in college, or later, in the Army. He may follow his brother into the Rangers.

By choosing the military, JT will not be following in the family business, T.B. Penick and Sons. If he had chosen that route, he would have been the fifth generation in the 105-year-old company.

“I do get a feeling of pride when I see the business name stamped in concrete all over San Diego,” he admits. “But I’ll leave that to my sister, Grace, who is already working with dad.”

Following The Beast, JT will start workouts with the football team. One challenge will be getting up to weight to play linebacker. In high school, he played at 6-foot-3-inches, 210 pounds. Army coaches want him at 240.

JT has chosen a challenging and rewarding way forward in serving his country. It takes a special individual to choose the path of service and selflessness, becoming a team player in defense of country.

Good luck and God bless, JT. And thanks for your service.

—Ken Denbow is a local freelance writer. Reach him at kdenbow@hotmail.com.

 Cox adds Prime Video app to Contour TV

Wondering which TV show or movie to watch when you have some time to unwind? Cox Communications just made it even easier to find a new favorite show with its recent launch of Prime Video on Cox Contour TV.

Prime Video joins Netflix, YouTube, NPR One and others in the Contour TV library of apps. Cox Contour video customers can use their voice remote control to easily and quickly access their Prime Video library of apps. The most acclaimed shows such as “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” directly on their televisions.

Other popular Originals include “Hanna,” “Tom Clancy’s Jack Ryan,” “Guava Island,” “Homecoming,” and “The Man in the High Castle.”

“There’s no need for a secondary device or input switch,” said Suzanne Schlundt, vice president of field marketing. “Similar to Contour’s other integrated apps including Netflix, YouTube and iHeart Radio, all you have to do is speak into your voice remote control and say things like ‘Prime Video’ or ‘Mrs. Maisel,’ and Cox Contour will take you to your Prime Video programming.”

Prime Video can also be accessed in the “Apps” section of the Contour guide.

“Contour has become one of the most innovative platforms in cable,” said Schlundt. “By adding the Prime Video app to Contour, Cox continues to make it incredibly easy for customers to access all the programming they love in one place.”

Popular Prime Video TV shows include:

“Hanna” (1 Season)

Based on the 2011 film of the same name, “Hanna” is a brooding thriller about a young girl raised by her father in isolation in the woods and trained to be a lethal assassin. Thrust into the real world with no sense of social normality, Hanna skillfully dodges an off-book CIA agent while searching for the truth about her identity.

“Jack Ryan” (1 Season)

This political action thriller follows CIA analyst Jack Ryan, a character from Tom Clancy’s well-established “Ryanverse,” who is pulled from the safety of his desk job to work in the field.

Perfect 1950s housewife with two kids whose life gets turned upside down when her husband leaves her. Instead of falling to pieces, Midge surprises everyone she knows by taking the stage and becoming one of New York City’s most colorful stand-up comics.

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“Jack Ryan” (1 Season)

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Perfect 1950s housewife with two kids whose life gets turned upside down when her husband leaves her. Instead of falling to pieces, Midge surprises everyone she knows by taking the stage and becoming one of New York City’s most colorful stand-up comics.
On view at the Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Visitor and Interpretive Center from June 22 through Aug. 3, is an exhibition by Los Angeles-based artist and illustrator Lesley Goren, whose lively and colorful images of plants and flowers are a self-described “love note” to the native vegetation of Southern California. To commemorate her exhibition at the MTRP Visitor Center, Goren has created two new custom greeting card designs for Mission Trails Regional Park to be sold in the Visitor Center’s gift shop beginning in June. The designs highlight the leaves and flowers of Mission Trails. The opening reception for Goren’s solo exhibition and first showing in San Diego County will take place at the MTRP Visitor Center, 1 Father Junipero Serra Trail on June 23 from 2-4 p.m. Artwork featured in the exhibition will be available for sale, and a portion of the funds will support the park through the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation. 

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**ONGOING EVENTS**

**Saturday, July 13**

**Kid-friendly worm bins for composting**

Come make a kid-friendly worm bin. Learn how to care for the worms at home from instructor Deborah Austin, a representative from Food2Soil. 9-10:30 a.m. at the San Carlos Community Garden, 6492 Boulder Lake Ave. Cost is $10 per person for materials. For ages 4 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required. Visit bit.ly/2Y2JQUM.

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**FEATURED EVENTS**

**Monday, July 15**

**Aria Marathon**

Get to know the Opera NEO Young Artists of 2018 one aria at a time! 6 p.m. at Palisades Presbyterian Church, 6301 Birchwood St., San Diego. Free event, no RSVP necessary, suggested donation is $25.

**Wednesday, July 17**

**Dive-in Movie Nights: ‘Hotel Transylvania 3’**

Swimming, movie and pizza party for the whole family at The Salvation Army Kroc Center, 6845 University Ave., San Diego. Doors at 6:30 p.m., movie starts at 7 p.m. $5 for guests and free for members. $5 for Woodstock’s Pizza, proceeds go to Heroes! Visit bit.ly/2WMtBrqSU.

**Thursday, July 18**

**The Sunshine Boys**

Through Aug. 4

The story of this play written by Neil Simon follows the attempt by a young theatrical agent to reunite his elderly uncle, a former vaudeville great, with his long-time stage partner for a TV reunion. Despite their celebratory reputation, the old men have not spoken in 12 years. Besides remastering their sketch, the two men have numerous issues to work out before they are ready to return to the public eye. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. at Lamplighters Community Theatre, 5915 Severin Drive, La Mesa. Tickets are $23 general admission; $20 seniors, students and active military; group rate of 10 or more for $18 each. Visit lamplightersla.com.

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**RECURRING EVENTS**

**Saturday, Aug. 1**

**Santee Summer Concerts: Straight Six**

Free concert by rock, rhythm and blues band Straight Six. 6:30-8 p.m. at Town Center Community Park East, 550 Park Center Drive in Santee. More information at santeesummerconcerts.com.

**Friday, Aug. 2**

**AG First Fridays: Sandollar**

Allied Gardens’ First Friday concert series presents the feel-good vibes of local rock/reggae band Sandollar. 6-8 p.m. in the Allied Gardens Community Park, 5515 Greenbirch Ave. Concerts are free and hot dogs are served courtesy Ideal Plumbing, Heating & Air. For more information, visit agfirstfridays.com.

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**CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, July 24**

**The Little Mermaid**

Through Aug. 3

The Grossmont College Theatre Arts Department presents Disney’s “The Little Mermaid,” based on one of Hans Christian Andersen’s most beloved stories. A hauntingly beautiful love story for all ages, this fishy fable will capture your heart with its irresistible songs, including “Under the Sea,” “Kiss the Girl” and “Part of Your World.” Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and a 2 p.m. matinee, except for opening night July 25. Additional Wednesdays on May 21, July 24 and August 7. At The Summer Arts Conservatory, 6640 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon. Tickets are $15 general admission, $12 for seniors, military and faculty; $10 for students. For more details, call 619-644-7234.

**Santee Summer Concerts: Bump City Brass**

Free concert by funk and soul dance band Bump City Brass.

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**UP COMING EVENTS**

**Mondays**

**Movies**

Visit the College Avenue Center on Mondays at 1 p.m. for an afternoon movie! Free for members, $2 for nonmembers. 6269 Capi Dr. Visit jfsod.org.

**Tuesdays**

**Food Truck Tuesday**

Civita Park plays host to a weekly food truck event. 5:30-8:30 p.m. 7960 Civita Blvd., San Diego. Visit curbsidebies.com for a list of participating trucks.

**Fridays**

**La Mesa Farmers Market**

La Mesa’s farmers market offers fresh local produce, flowers, pastries, live music, and arts and crafts each Friday, 3-7 p.m. at La Mesa College Boulevard. Free. Visit bit.ly/2YM741F.

**Saturdays**

**Hike Cowles Mountain**

Looking for an adventure? Come join Sunday morning hikes at Cowles Mountain. Group photos will be taken at the summit and water will be provided. Meet at the Cowles Mountain Staging Area (located on the corner of Golfcrest Drive and Navajo Road) at the trailhead south of the comfort station. 5:30 a.m. Free. Register at bit.ly/2CvCF3F.

**Shop Local Market**

Last Saturday of the month at Grossmont Center, participating shops set up tables and the classic and new product showcases. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 5500 Grossmont Center Drive, La Mesa.

**Sundays**

**Traveling Stories**

Visit Grossmont Center each Sunday for an interactive story time for kids. Kids visit the StoryTent, pick out a book that interests them, and then read it out loud to a volunteer. The volunteer asks engaging questions that help the child build reading comprehension and critical thinking skills all while earning book bucks to trade for cool prizes. Free. 5500 Grossmont Center Drive, La Mesa.
for holiday celebrations. Patients depend on lifesaving blood transfusions every day,” said Cliff Nunning. He also mentioned that volunteers had helped in a big way.

“So it is nice to have help. Last night was the first time I could actually watch the fireworks,” Jay said.

So next year, when you attend the Lake Murray Fireworks and Music Fest extravaganza, scratch beneath the surface, look behind the scenes for the people who serve their community. Thank them. Get out your checkbook and contribute to the cause. Better yet, volunteer your time. See you on the banks of Lake Murray in 2019.

All donations for this year and next year are greatly appreciated. Go to lakemurrayfireworks.org to express your thanks and make a donation.

Our next SCAC meeting will be on Wednesday, Aug. 7, at 6:30 p.m., at the San Carlos Branch Library; 7265 Jackson Drive. Our featured speaker will be City Councilwoman and mayoral candidate, Barbara Bry.

Red Shoe Day volunteers (Courtesy Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego)

“San Diego came out in force today to support Ronald McDonald House and the families who rely on our services, and we are so grateful for their contributions,” said Chuck Day, president and CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego, in a press statement released after the event.

As a founding partner of Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego, McDonald’s restaurants across the country showed their support for the charity by hosting an in-restaurant fundraiser, which continued through June 23.

Corporate support was provided by title sponsor Wells Fargo; presenting sponsors San Diego County McDonald’s restaurants; NEWS 8, AM 760 and 100.7 San Diego; and community blood drives and other organizations in San Diego County who have not been determined, but community health and Human Services Agency officials say the north region has the greatest immediate need.

The centers will offer psychiatric care, medication and other help, and will connect patients to long-term services and programs. The centers will include law enforcement drop-off.

District Attorney Summer Stephan said the board’s action is a leap forward, advancing some of the concrete recommendations in the DA’s Blueprint for Mental Health Reform, which was released earlier this year.

The county PERT (psychiatric emergency response teams) program will continue to respond to the most serious incidents. There are currently 53 PERT teams, with funding in place to grow that number to 70.

The county is moving to bolster follow-up services for those helped through PERT or any law enforcement contact.

RED SHOE DAY A SUCCESS

San Diegoans opened their hearts and wallets and raised an estimated $253,000 during the 10th annual Red Shoe Day fundraiser, benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego.

During the June 20 morning commute, nearly 1,600 dedicated volunteers — the most volunteers in Red Shoe Day history — collected donations at approximately 200 major intersections across San Diego County to raise funds to support families with critically ill or injured children receiving treatment at San Diego-area hospitals. Proceeds help provide a range of services to families, including meals, lodging and emotional support during their child’s hospital stay.

In addition to street-side donations, funds were also raised through online fundraising pages, matching gifts, corporate sponsorships and contributions made at McDonald’s restaurants in San Diego County. This year, the impact of online donations was doubled courtesy of a $500,000 matching gift and endorsement from the Joseph Clays III Charitable Trust. The funds will help transform the House’s kitchens and dining rooms as part of its More Than A Meal campaign.

SCAC CONTINUED FROM Page 19

Lake Murray Fireworks and MusicFest master of ceremonies Owen Dahlkamp (Photo by Patricia Mooney)

Follow San Carlos Area Council at on Facebook and Twitter.

—Patricia Mooney is vice president of the San Carlos Area Council. Have a San Carlos story to tell? Email patty@crystalgumaltd.com.

SUPervisors VOTE to CANCEL 37 CRISIS CENTERS

On June 25, the Board of Supervisors agreed to cease around-the-clock crisis stabilization centers and bolster clinical resources and other tools to help those dealing with mental illness and addiction.

Board chairwoman Dianne Jacob proposed the improvements in her State of the County address in February. Supervisor Kristin Gaspar, District Attorney Summer Stephan and Sherrif Bill Gore teamed up with her to formally bring them to the board.

The first crisis stabilization center will be located in North County. An exact location has not been determined, but community health and Human Services Agency officials say the north region has the greatest immediate need.

The centers will offer psychiatric care, medication and other help, and will connect patients to long-term services and programs. The centers will include law enforcement drop-off.

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August Concert
Friday, August 2nd
6-8pm
Sandollar
Allied Gardens Community Park
5155 Greenbrier Ave.

Many thanks to our local Friars Village
for the refreshing treats!

Put some chili on that dog, by your friends at Longhorn!

Stop by the Ideal booth for your FREE hot dog, grilled cheese, and chips!

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