If three times is indeed a charm, then Allied Gardens resident Crystal Pridmore could be up for a Grammy Award. For the third time, Pridmore, a music teacher at Myrtle Finney Elementary in Chula Vista, has been nominated for the Music Educator Award — a Grammy that recognizes music educators, kindergarten through college, who have made “a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools,” according to the Recording Academy and Grammy Museum which sponsor the award.

Pridmore was one of more than 3,000 teachers nominated for a 2020 award and this year, for the first time, she was selected to be one of 189 quarterfinalists.

“I’m excited to see where this leads, no matter what the outcome of the award is,” she said. “I think it’s neat how a lot of people are taking notice of the work we are doing in Chula Vista.”

FireMom provides for firefighter needs

By JOYELL NEVINS | Mission Times Courier

When large fires sweep through California, firefighters from across the state are dispatched to come and help. They don’t get time to pack or prep; they just go. That often means the strike team firefighters only have the bare minimum in personal supplies. FireMom, an online company based out of San Carlos and Fletcher Hills is working to change that through their

San Carlos Patriots Football attracts area talent. Page 14

FireMom co-owners Tara and Cindy Cornett and their city of San Diego firefighter brother/son Mike Cornett (Courtesy photo)

BEST OF MISSION TIMES COURIER PRIZE DRAWING WINNERS

Next month the Mission Times Courier will be publishing its annual Best of Mission Times Courier issue, celebrating the local businesses who have caught the attention of our readers.

Readers who cast ballots for the Best of Mission Times Courier, either online or by mail, were entered into a drawing for prizes donated by local businesses. We are happy to announce the winners are:

- David Morrison won a barbeque gift basket courtesy of Jeff Rosa Realty. (Photo by Heather Fine)
- Anette Blatt won a $25 gift card to Windmill Farms.
- Alexis Popko won a $50 gift card to Mono’s Italian Restaurant.
- Shari Rodriguez won a facial, manicure and beauty products from Pizazz Hair and Nail Salon, valued at $100.
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FireMom
CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

Firefighter Go Bags Community Support Program.
Finding out what they go through physically and mentally, where they may end up sleeping, and some of the hazardous effects the fire and smoke has on their bodies as they are fighting the fire, we found out that there are several items that can make the process a whole lot more tolerable,” said Cindy Cornett. Cornett and her daughter Tara are the founders of FireMom. The website offers gear and gifts for firefighters and their families, from hearty red mugs to special cleaning wipes. The Cornetts are also forming a community of support and encouragement for firefighter families and friends.

“It’s important to us to be impacting our firefighters in a positive way,” Cindy said. “We also felt it was important to have a way to support the firefighters who end up saving our homes and businesses, and protecting our loved ones year after year.”

One of FireMom’s most popular and unique offerings is their Go Bags. Cindy’s son Mike is a firefighter, and has worked with both the city of San Diego and CalFire.

He has been a part of those groups called out to fight fires for days at a time. Cindy and Tara noticed that many small but helpful toiletry and energy items were already being donated by community members to the teams — but there was a snag in distribution.

“We found that when items are donated individually, while generous and extremely helpful, the fire stations and firefighters are still having to piecemeal these items together. Often they have too much of one thing and not enough of another,” Tara said.

So the women designed a “Go Bag,” a small personal bag filled with health, hygiene and nutritional items specific to firefighters’ needs. When a large fire hits, the bags are delivered directly to the fire station or base camp.

“Our goal is to make sure these complete kits get in the hands of the firefighters who need them when they need them,” Tara explained. “They’re preassembled and ready to go, and when a fire happens, we get the bags directly to where they’re needed.”

WHAT’S INCLUDED
So what’s in a Go Bag? The decision came from many discussions between the Cornett family and people who were directly in the flames.

“We talked with firefighters who have years of experience fighting wildfires, and asked them to tell us all of the things they need when they’re assigned to a fire for days at a time,” Cindy said.

The Cornetts admitted some of the requested items were unexpected — like diaper rash cream!

“We were surprised because you don’t typically think of diaper rash cream as being something a young man or woman who’s in good shape and good health would use,” Tara said.

They learned that the kidde cream is actually a perfect ointment to help relieve the sting and chafing that can come from wearing the fire gear in intense heat. The Go Bags also include Gold Bond Powder, Carmex lip balm, Visine eye drops, cough drops, sunscreens, bug repellent, and even tooth wipes for when resources are scarce.

The Cornetts added some non-perishable favorite snacks too, such as Kind Bars. Liquid IV, or Zipfiz.

FROM CITY TO WHOLE COUNTRY
The Cornett’s vision for the Go Bags is to go statewide, and then nationwide. But they are starting distribution right here in San Diego.

“We think it’s important to the community that the Go Bags support the firefighters who directly care for them and their families every day, so we started in San Diego to support our local firefighters first,” Tara declared.

To support firefighters and purchase a Go Bag yourself, visit FireMom.com. You can also follow @FireMom_us on Instagram.

FROM SMALL WORLD TO WHOLE WORLD

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El Cajon celebrates 20 years

By DOUG CURLEE | Featured Times Correspondent

El Cajon is not a city that offers a whole lot of tourist attractions. But people who live here admit that, to a degree.

There is one, though, that many people here are more than a little proud of — and they should be.

It’s all due to a man who adopt-
ed El Cajon as home in 1944.

Olaf Wieghorst is recognized as one of the great American artists to bring us the stories and peo-
ples of the Old West in America, through his paintings, drawings and stories of cowboys, Native Americans, horses, buffalo and every other aspect of the times.

Born in 1899 in Viborg, Denmark, he worked as a cabin boy on a ship bound for America. He joined the U.S. Army Cavalry. He had learned to ride, and to love, horses in Denmark, so it was a natural choice for him. He served along the international border during and after World War I, protecting against the Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa.

He worked as a cowboy in the West for a few years, storing up the mental images that would fuel his successful art career.

Wieghorst returned to New York City in 1922 and unable to shake his love of horses, served on the Mounted Patrol of the New York Police Department for 22 years.

By this time, Olaf’s artwork was beginning to draw serious attention — and serious money.

In 1944, the draw of the West caused Wieghorst to gather fam-
ily and paintbrushes and move to El Cajon. Here, he began to seri-
ously explore what would become much-desired and sought-after works of art.

He opened a studio in downtown El Cajon — which has now turned into the Olaf Wieghorst Museum, which brings about the point of this story.

Five years after the museum opened on Rea Street in El Cajon, the property just adjacent became available. It is now one of the most beautiful, parklike ar-
eas you’ll find anywhere, and 20 years ago, his El Cajon house at Sunshine and Renette streets was taken apart — not torn down, but taken apart and moved alongside the museum.

The whole thing is now run by a foundation of volunteers devoted to his story and his work. They used to have some paid staff, but times got a little tough, and they had to let go.

The big fundraising party they had on Aug. 3 in celebration of the museum’s 20th anniversary will help keep the place running and looking great, as it has since the house was moved in.

There are plants decorating the area you don’t normally see in El Cajon — there are plants you don’t normally see in America. That’s probably be-
cause the president of the mu-
seum’s foundation board is a landscape architect named Mike Bostwick.

Many of the artist’s original paintings are displayed throughout the home.

Olaf Wieghorst

Bostwick, who spent decades as the Curator of Plants at the San Diego Zoo.

“We’ve got plants here from all over the world,” Bostwick said. “If you know where to get them, and how to take care of them, they’ll do well here.”

The foundation has a whole lot of Wieghorst’s painting available for sale, and they do sell. Hollywood stars and political lead-

ers have bought and displayed his art over the years — John Wayne was a friend and a fan (Wieghorst actually made appearances in two John Wayne movies), and Ronald Reagan had a Wieghorst on the wall behind his desk.

I met a guy named Dave Galvan at the fundraiser. He’s part Piute Indian (as were five of my cous-
ins, but that’s another story). He told me he met Olaf through his grandfather, a Piute Indian who was a model for one of Wieghorst’s better known works, “Buffalo Watch” — a simple, but powerful painting of a horse and a brave, obviously both worn out, atop a hill, looking for buffalo.

“I never met Olaf, but I feel like I know him through the family connection. Grandpa said he was a great man,” Galvan said.

The museum and property are open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 1:31 Rea St., El Cajon.

That’s a short street just off Magnolia Avenue about half a block south of Main Street.

If you like art, and the Old West, it’s a place you need to see.

— Doug Carlier is a longtime San Diego reporter in both print and tele-
vision. Reach him at dougcarlier@
cox.net.

Many of the artist’s original paintings are displayed throughout the home.

(Photos courtesy Olaf Wieghorst Museum)

News briefs

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

• Rebecca Loomis won a $25 gift certificate to Ted Flowers.

• Suzanne Koski won a $100 gift card for five classes at Trinity Yoga.

• Sue Gervase won two cus-
tom-made pillows from Mattress Makers.

• Maria Hopkins won a teeth clean-
ing from Mission Trellis Flowers.

• Joshua Edwards won a $50 gift card to Grocery Outlet, courtesy of Home Street Bank.

• Edward Federman won a one month free membership to TrueSport Sporting Club.

• Stuart Benjamin won two free pies from Marie Callender’s.

• Pat Walker won a $50 gift card to Longhorn Bar & Grill.

• Keri C won a $50 gift card to Elma’s Hallmark.

• Vivian Marquez won a $40 gift card to Troy’s Greek Restaurant.

We’d like to thank all our readers who voted for this year’s Best of Mission Times Courier winners and we hope you will vote again in our Best of 2020 list, and maybe you too will win a prize from our supporting businesses!

SOCAL REHAB GOLF CLASSIC — a tournament that pro-
motes golf for seniors and people with disabilities.

Money raised from the tour-
ament will support Alvarado Hospital Auxiliary, a nonprofit service organization which has raised money to support health education and patient care proj-
ects such as Program for Active Living and Support — a group of post-treatment programs for the benefit of individuals with disabil-
ities and seniors.

The whole tournament will be a four-player scramble format and all teams will have at least one individual with a physical challenge.

Selling Their Homes

San Diego - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today’s market. The fact of this matter is that fully three quarters of homemakers don’t get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and worse financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homemakers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars.

The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitles “The 9 Step System to Get your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar”. To order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-270-1494 and enter 1000. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report Now to find out how you can get the most money for your home.

Home Owners Lose Thousands When Selling Their Homes

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FEATURE / NEWS

Aug. 9 – Sept. 12, 2019
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Music teacher
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A L I F E I N M U S I C
Music has been a part of Pridmore's life from the time she was born. Her parents were both musicians — her father a classically trained tenor singer and guitar player, her mother a harpist.

“They were always playing duets,” she said. “And that’s how I went to sleep every night as a little kid — listening to my parents play together.”

Her parents taught her music education early on and by her middle school years, Pridmore found an identity in her school’s music programs.

“Music was my safe place in school. I struggled socially with expressing emotions verbally, but when I played music, I had a place to belong. I was part of a group,” she said, adding that she moved around a lot in her early years and music education eased the awkwardness of meeting new people. “When I was part of band or choir, I had an automatic group of friends.”

It was in middle school when Pridmore was turned on to jazz music, specifically the music of John Coltrane and Miles Davis, which prompted her to pick up the saxophone.

“I think my parents were a little dismayed when I picked alto saxophone as my instrument because it does not blend with a harp or a guitar,” she said. “I guess I was a little rebellious in that way, but I really loved jazz music.”

In addition to the school band, Pridmore also played in the local community band in Birmingham, Alabama where she lived at the time. She made her way to first chair in that group where she played with musicians who were sometimes twice her age.

Although she played saxophone through high school, it was her talents as a singer that landed her a scholarship to Point Loma Nazarene College in San Diego where she majored in music education while continuing to study voice for jazz and musical theater.

A NEW PROGRAM
Pridmore began her current job teaching music in the Chula Vista School District in 2016, part of a renewed effort by the district to improve arts education after years of not funding arts programs.

When I first started the program at Finney and at Juarez Lincoln, we had nothing for about six months,” she said. “They hired me, but they didn’t have budget for curriculum or instruments, so it was all body-percussion-based and lots of singing and dancing — but it’s a lot easier to teach when you have materials.”

So Pridmore did what a lot of teachers must do now and began searching for grants to fund the music program. And she has been very effective in raising money so far.

“We have the VH1 Save the Music grant and that gave us our orchestral instruments, it gave us 40 music stands and some method books,” she said. She has also raised around $10,000 from Donors Choose grants — a crowd-funding site for educators. She used the funds to purchase new xylophones, drums, method books and 31 ukuleles.

“My kids are so proud of their instruments. They want to take good care of them,” she said. “I have a club that meets twice a week after school to clean and tune all the instruments — the Backstage Bulldogs. They have contests with each other to see who can tune the most instruments, so they keep tally on the white board.”

Although Pridmore said she had formally taught band, orchestra and choir students, she is modest about her own ability to play the instruments she teaches.

“Play” is a strong word. I’m one step ahead of the kids in a lot of instruments,” she said. “I play the beginnings of everything — you have to if you’re a music teacher.”

Her students usually put on two performances a year, singing songs and performing on the orchestra instruments they get to practice on during music class. She also tries to involve her students’ parents when she can.

“Something that I’m really proud of that we’ve done is we did a community night [this past] spring,” she said. “Instead of doing formal performances on stage, we invited the families in to play together with our kids. I taught the kids and parents some songs and dances together in the music room. It was really neat to see all our families come in and just play and dance with each other and just get a taste of how interactive it was in music — see how much more it is than just do this, this and this, but make your own thing.”

In addition to teaching her students and involving parents in music education, Pridmore offers professional development classes in the Orff Schulwerk process for fellow San Diego County music educators. The Orff Schulwerk process is a method of teaching music using singing, dance and instruments like xylophone and glockenspiel. Pridmore is currently vice president of the San Diego chapter of the American Orff Schulwerk Association and will be taking over as president next year.

AND THE GRAMMY GOES TO …

In September, Pridmore will know if she will be selected as one of 15 Grammy semifinalists. Semifinalists receive a $500 honorarium with matching school grants. There will also be 10 finalists chosen who will receive a $1,000 honorarium and matching grant for their respective schools. The winner will be chosen from the 10 finalists and flown to Los Angeles to attend the 62nd annual Grammy Awards and participate in a range of Grammy Week events.

Pridmore is realistic about her chances of winning — she’s hopeful, but not overly confident. Mostly, she said, she is excited that the Grammys started the award program to raise awareness about music education in schools.

“My hope is that it just gets our story out there and helps our kids get more support, because they deserve a quality arts education — it’s important,” she said. “I don’t think it should just be this optional thing.”

—Reach editor Jeff Clementon at jeff@sdnews.com ■

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—Reach editor Jeff Clemeton at jeff@sdnews.com ■

The ensemble, open to all lev- els and instruments, focuses on music that stretches from the Moorish kingdoms of Andalusia in Spain, down through Morocco, and across the rim of Africa to the rich music traditions of Afghanistan and Iran.

The one-unit class offered through the department of music offers students and community members an opportunity to become involved in a living tradition of music that includes possibilities outside of Western music, including the so-called “quarter-tone” interval characteristic of some, but not all, Middle Eastern music. Additionally, students will learn about rhythmic systems of the Middle East and improvisation, as well as areas of interest to the players themselves.

The Grossmont Middle East Ensemble, the first of its kind in the county, will be working toward performances with an eye on enriching the already vibrant San Diego music scene with the diversity of music from the Middle East and North Africa.

For more information on the Caravan World Music Ensemble, contact Farhad Bahrami at 619-361-3077 or bahramif@ucsd.edu and/or join the Facebook group (GMEI) at goo.gl/R57ojQ.
San Diego State University officials wanted a tentative deal this summer to buy 132 acres of city-owned land in Mission Valley so they could begin a $1.8 billion campus expansion early next year. That hasn’t happened. Behind closed doors there appears to be significant tension between the university and the city over the terms of any deal.

Voters overwhelmingly approved Measure G last fall, which directed the city to sell the land to the university. Within hours of the vote, the city and the university began negotiating what could be one of the largest transfers of developable land left in urban California.

The first public sign of those talks was a hunky-dory Nov. 8 photo-op with Mayor Kevin Faulconer and SDSU President Adela de la Torre. Both leaders wore “I Am SDSU!” scarves and announced they were “excited to join together.”

Eight months later, the public excitement has given way to a sense that the deal could be in serious trouble.

The university’s main deadline is to break ground early next year. Officials there say things are still on track for that to happen. But one of the university’s first deadlines—a tentative deal this summer—will almost certainly be missed, if it hasn’t been already.

Other aspects of any deal are at least slightly behind schedule if not entirely up in the air, according to interviews, public records, some of which were obtained through Public Records Act requests by Voice of San Diego.

The basic plan voters approved is relatively clear, as far as multi-billion-dollar campus expansions go. SDSU will pay fair market value for the former Chargers stadium site. Then the university will tear down the old stadium, put up a new stadium, create a park and prepare the land around the new stadium for a river park.

Earlier this year, Voice of San Diego sued SDSU for withholding public records that may show how the university plans to do all this without raising student tuition and fees, a promise university officials apparently made during last year’s campaign.

In a recent court filing related to that lawsuit, McCarron said the university’s financial models are subject to change as assumptions about the stadium’s design changes. He also said that SDSU staff and consultants are using the models to prepare for “if the stadium does not meet the revenue projections.”

SDSU also argued that the university’s promise not to raise student tuition and fees wasn’t based on models showing the university could afford to pay for the whole project without raising student tuition and fees. Instead, McCarron said the university’s promise was based on a legal reality.

“In fact, the University does not have the authority – through state law or [Cal State University] policy – to unilaterally raise funds for property development through taxes or student fee increases,” he said in a July 8 court filing. “SDSU does not have legal authority to raise taxes. Nor can the university unilaterally increase student fees for property acquisition and development.”

SEE SDSU WEST, Page 8
Gun violence often begins at home. Firearms are a leading cause of death among children, second only to motor vehicle injury deaths. Most of the 7,000 children killed and injured in this manner are in their own homes. Most of these deaths happen when a child is playing with a gun, misunderstanding it was a toy, or was unloaded or locked. Studies show that 46% of gun owners with children at home do not secure their firearms. Among children aged 9 and under, 73% know the location of their parents’ firearms, and 36% admit they’ve handled the weapons when unattended.

Protecting children from these horrific accidents is why I proposed the Safe Storage of Firearms Ordinance. It requires that firearms in a resi- dence be stored in a locked con- tainer, or disabled by a trigger lock, unless they are carried on the body or are in the immediate control of an authorized user. Fifteen other California cities (including Los Angeles, San Jose, and San Francisco) have adopted similar firearm safety laws because studies show they are highly effective at saving lives. The Safe Storage of Firearms Ordinance follows the same path and does not infringe on a gunowner’s rights to carry weapons or to use the weapon for self-defense. Firearms need not be locked if they are being carried by, or are within the immediate control of, a person who is legally authorized to use or possess the firearm. Importantly, safe storage does not prevent quick access. More than 1,700 devices are avail- able. Gun owners who authorize un- supervised users from accessing guns, and owners can choose one that best suits their needs. A background check that uses fingerprint technology can be placed near a bed and opened within seconds — as quickly as a nightstand drawer. Cable locks may be preferred by hunters who store their rifles when it isn’t hunting season. Like other common-sense safety measures, such as seat- belt laws and childproof cups on prescription drug contain- ers, safe storage practices pre- vent tragedies from occurring. California’s 1990 firearms law illustrates how law-abiding citizens respond to a safety law. Before the law was enacted, 20% of the some households had seat belts, even though they were effective in saving lives. After the law was enacted, seat- belt use doubled. After 25 years, 96% of California motorists and passengers are wearing seat belts, making all of us safer.

As a mother, and as your City Attorney, I want to make sure no one endures the heart- breaking accidental shooting like the one that happened in my own community of Scripps Ranch a few years ago. Lives were shattered when a 10-year-old boy found an un- locked gun in a friend’s garage, a place known as a hangout for the boy accidentally shot himself in the chest and died.

Scenarios like this one are all too familiar, which may be one of the reasons that even the National Rifle Association recommends the safe storage of firearms.

Common-sense precautions like safe storage can avert these tragedies and save lives from ever experiencing a dev- astating firearm-related loss. The Safe Storage of Firearms Ordinance will prevent life-al- tering accidental shootings by reminding gun owners that they are responsible for secure- ly storing their guns for the pro- tection of those around them.

For more information about available safe storage devices, please see the California State Attorney General’s website: bit.ly/2OL2sYI. For additional information and tips on safe gun storage, visit bestfriends.org or ask- ingsavekids.org.

— Mara Elliott is City Attorney for the City of San Diego.
San Diego Congressman Scott Peters returns to the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club to key-note our Fall meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 5, meeting where we’ll catch up with this influential Washington, D.C. politician, and ask him our questions about men’s reproductive rights.

Peters serves the 52nd District of California, which covers much of central San Diego County including large portions of the city of San Diego. He is a member of the House Energy & Commerce and Budget committees. Peters is regional vice-chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), a role in which he helps lead the on-the-ground effort to fortify and expand our new Democratic majority. He also serves as chair of member services for the New Democracy Coalition. Peters is a former environmental attorney, City Council president, and Port Commission chairman.

It is safe to say Rep. Peters will address some of the major trends of both the Green New Deal and the start of the impeachment inquiry in the House. And we’d like to have this lawyer to analyze the Mueller report and it’s many references to Trump’s foreign entanglements and national security irregularities, and concerns even now about the Trump companies, Trump family business interests and Russian meddling in our elections, then and now.

And we hope he’ll reference the ongoing gun violence epidemic that kills Americans on a seemingly daily basis, stoked in no small way by our golf-playing “commander in chief.” Peter’s views on both inabilities to get a bipartisan House gun bill past Mitch McConnell on background checks, and the House attempts to curb the president’s largely illegal and certainly unlawful attacks on immigrants, even those serving in Congress, will be of great interest to all attendees. Peter’s fascinating talk will be followed by an equally important panel on protecting women’s reproductive rights, particularly those efforts to maintain Planned Parenthood clinics in red states where they have become a diminishing resource for millions of Americans.

We’ll have Neal Ortiguerra, director of Political Action for Planned Parenthood of the Southwest, and also representatives of NARAL Pro-Choice America, and the local chapter of the ACLU. These organizations are among many that work nationwide to provide and protect health services for women that may have few options in their family planning and obstetrical and gynecological care.

States like California have a plethora of affordable health centers for women, but in much of the United States, Planned Parenthood and others are being legislated out of existence by Republican state governments. Come hear what the most critical and current actions are being waged, mostly in courts, by both sides of this contentious debate.

The Sept. 5 meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at La Mesa Community Center, 4975 Memorial Drive, La Mesa. For more information, visit lamesafoothillsdemocraticclub.com.
Big step forward: The Board of Supervisors recently backed my call for beefed-up services and resources for those dealing with mental illness and addiction.

We voted to create a network of 24/7 crisis stabilization centers and pursue the establishment of non-law enforcement mobile crisis response teams.

Both will help us do a better job of connecting those with chronic mental health and addiction issues with the services and programs they need.

Families often struggle with how to help a loved one deal with mental health challenges. Many homeless face similar issues. I called for major improvements to the region’s behavioral health system in my State of the County address in February.

Our great outdoors: I continue to work closely with the community to expand public access to open space and to showcase our beautiful backcountry.

The county recently moved to expand the Ramona Grasslands preserve by 123 acres. It is now bigger than Del Mar and Solana Beach combined.

And construction continues on the county’s first backcountry nature center. The attraction is due to open later this year on the Santa Ysabel Preserve.

Power to the people: My board colleagues and I continue to explore options for launching a community choice energy program.

Community choice would offer consumers — now saddled with some of highest electricity rates in the nation — an alternative to SDG&E.

Our studies so far show that local ratepayers with community choice would see smaller utility bills. We’re aiming to make a decision on the issue in a few months. Ratepayers are sick of getting ripped off and need relief!

—Dianne Jacob is chair of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and represents District 2. For more District 2 news, visit diannejacob.com or follow her on Facebook and Twitter. For assistance with a county issue, call 619-531-5522 or email dianne.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov.

The statement may not change the promise, but it appears to change why the promise was made. Last year, a top SDSU consultant said he’d run a series of models analyzing the risks to students and found a low chance student money would be needed to pay for the expansion.

PRICE QUARREL

The meetings may be private but there’s no question that price is being discussed. There are clear disputes between the city and the university over how much the land is worth. Most of those became apparent in April when de la Torre, McCarron and Jacobs appeared before the City Council.

There, McCarron said SDSU believes that the cost of demolishing the stadium should be deducted from the sale price. He said a previous appraisal of the site factored in demolition costs. A few of the Council members — namely Mark Kersey and Scott Sherman — didn’t buy that argument. Sherman said the university will be buying a stadium where it will play football for a season or two before its new stadium is built. Thus, the stadium is part of the deal.

Measure G specifically advised the city and university “may fairly” consider the costs of the stadium demolishing effort and other needs for the site in their negotiations about the price. But it doesn’t appear to lock in any considerations.

There are likely similar tensions over the river park, transit upgrades and the effect of past floods on the value of the land.

We don’t know what’s being discussed because members of the negotiating teams are bound by a confidentiality agreement each team’s leader signed on March 21. Kris Michell, the city’s chief operating officer, leads the city team. McCarron leads the university’s team.

According to their agreement, the two parties are only supposed to talk publicly about terms when a deal is reached or if negotiations “permanently cease.” So, the public is supposed to know what is going on not at all, and then very suddenly learn everything.

When asked specifically why such an agreement was necessary, the mayor’s office referred questions to City Attorney Mara Elliott’s office. Her office then referred questions back to the mayor’s people.

Eventually, Chadwick said attorneys for city and university developed the confidentiality agreement to “facilitate negotiations that are productive and result in the best possible deal for the taxpayers of San Diego.”

The confidentiality agreement encourages city and university officials to stamp every document generated as “confidential.”

The agreement, though, doesn’t prevent any members of the teams from talking freely with members of the City Council or the university’s Board of Trustees.

Eventually, Chadwick said the city team would negotiate a deal that would not have the Council’s support.

—Ry Rivard is a reporter for Voice of San Diego. He writes about water and power. You can reach him at ry.rivard@voiceofsandiego.org or 619-550-5665.

Letters

Granville, and beyond, doesn’t run eastward from Downtown past about 11:30 p.m. Often the Green Line Trolley that runs eastward from Downtown only goes as far as the SDCU Stadium Station. Bus service is also very limited, or non-existent, at late hours. If you’re a student that has purchased one of the proposed “market-rate” homes in Granville and work Downtown at say one of the Gaslamp businesses that closes late, your only option for getting back home appears to be driving your own vehicle and paying the expensive parking rates charged Downtown, taking a cab, another expensive option, or using ride-sharing because the trolley and buses don’t run late and some that do leave you a good mile or more to walk to Granville.

The latest giveaway the city has bestowed upon developers: easing of parking requirements for new housing developments, which has not made housing any more affordable. Developers say residents will use public transportation or ride-sharing entities. The first is a fantasy and in regards to ride-sharing entities, if there’s less parking where will the vehicles that provide ride-sharing park when they’re in use?

—Stuart Rachmuth, Mission Valley.
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Mission Times Courier
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Member SIPC
Haug honored by city

On July 23, City Council member Scott Sherman, on behalf of the city of San Diego and residents of District 7, declared July 23, 2019 as Shain Haug Day in the city of San Diego.

Haug and his wife are long-time residents of Allied Gardens who have always taken an active interest in their community. Haug’s passion for community affairs led him to join the Allied Gardens Granville Community Council (AGGCC) in 2015. His commitment to the board’s work and his talent as a community leader made him an obvious choice for the position of board president, which he accepted in 2015. As president of AGGCC, Haug has been involved in identifying, presenting and resolving vitally important topics in AGGCC Town Hall Meetings — efforts that have dramatically affected and affected his community.

As board president, Haug was actively involved early on in supporting and fundraising for the Allied Gardens First Fridays Concerts and leading and coordinating the effort of AGGCC and the city to beautify the community through urban forestry projects resulting in the planting of 60 additional trees along Zion Avenue in the AGGCC Zion Avenue Beautification Project, resulting in a special award to AGGCC and the project committee members for their efforts. His leadership has encouraged and engendered support for the community via a number of other AGGCC projects including the newly installed Ascension Lutheran Church Community Garden. One of his current projects also involves creating the first dog park approved for the Allied Gardens community, which will be the first dog park in the Navajo neighborhoods of District 7.

He has worked tirelessly towards establishing, tracking and facilitating regional elderly and homeless projects, including a working relationship between AGGCC and Zephyr House, a housing project for homeless vets in Granville where his comprehensive efforts included the provision of supplies and necessities to the new residents at Zephyr House. Haug has also been very active in recruiting new members to the AGGCC board and establishing and maintaining its eight subcommittees. He has also been leading the creation of an AGGCC nonprofit public benefit corporation, a 501(c)(3) to facilitate tax-deductible public donations for new community development projects. Each year, he has assisted the AGGCC holiday events and tree-lighting ceremony at local schools and the lighting of Alvarado Canyon flyover bridge. He also has led the construction and maintenance of the AGGCC website.

Haug has faithfully written the AGGCC column in the Mission Times Courier and as a board member of the Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (NCPI) provided in-depth presentations of the AGGCC’s many activities at NCPI meetings, each time within the allotted three-minute time period. As a member of the Navajo Planning Council for Allied Gardens, he has been orchestrating and enhancing the relationship between AGGCC and NCPL.

Notably, in addition to the above, Haug was a member of the 2016-2017 San Diego Grand Jury.

News briefs

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

The SoCal Rehab Golf Tournament will be held at Riverwalk Golf Club, 1150 Fashion Valley Road. Registration begins at noon, followed by a 3 p.m. shotgun start and an awards dinner following the tournament. Tournament registrations includes greens fee, cart, range balls, polo shirt and more. Prizes and awards include $1,000 for a hole-in-one, and awards for low net team, longest drive, closest to the pin, putting and closest to the line.

Early bird registration fees are $45 for physically challenged golfer and $140 for partner golfers. After Aug. 23, fees are $60 for physically challenged golfers and $160 for playing partners. Register at bit.ly/2088Wn. For information, call 619-229-7362.

COUNTY LOOKS TO REUNION UNCLAIMED MONEY

It’s the most wonderful time of the year for San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister: refund season!

The Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office (TTC) is trying to reunion $703,000 in county refunds with its rightful owners. See if your name is on the list at sdttc.com.

The TTC has 1,928 refunds broken into two lists - countywide unclaimed money and unclaimed property tax refunds. If you are owed money, follow the instructions on our website to file a refund claim by Sept. 6, before the money is rolled into the county’s general fund. You can email your claim to refunds@sdcounty.ca.gov.

“In the past, sadly, most refunds were never claimed,” said McAllister, “so we’re trying a new strategy to let people know about this money. For the first time, we’re mailing 2,407 postcards to people who may be owed a refund, encouraging them to file a claim through our website.”

THERE TIPS ARE JUST IN TIME FOR SUMMER.

Here are a few of my favorite summer tips to help you save between 4pm and 9pm when energy prices are highest:

- Use a portable or ceiling fan to save big on AC.
- Keep blinds and curtains closed during summer days to block out direct sunlight and reduce cooling costs.
- Cool down your home until 4pm; set your AC 7° higher until 9pm. Take advantage of off-peak period pricing.
- Charge an electric vehicle before 4pm or after 9pm.
- If you have a pool, run the pump before 4pm or after 9pm.
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Senior Awards Night

In June, the class of 2019 was formally recognized by many community organizations through scholarships and other school awards to approximately 70 students. The following students were recognized by the community with scholarships:

- PHHS Alumni Association Scholarship, $1,500: Alan Intahavong, Shusheng Li, and Elizabeth Swanson
- Semper Fidelis Distinguished Student Award: Thao Thi-Thuan Doan
- Semper Fidelis Musical Excellence Award: James Titus Schultz
- Semper Fidelis Academic Excellence Award: Anne Minh Nguyen
- Semper Fidelis JRTOC Leadership Award: Donaji Conde Lorenzo
- Semper Fidelis JRTOC Esprit de Corps Award: Shusheng Li
- The United States Military Academy at West Point: Angelo Salazar
- CalRTA Scholarship: Julia Hong and Bonnie Nguyen
- The Administrators Association of San Diego: Tiffany Pham
- East County Schools Fed. Credit Union Scholarship: Jonathan Marshall
- SDSU Shirley Ann Spelman Scholarship: Phuong Cao
- SDSU John O. & Mary L. Anderson Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Sociology: Cindy Tu
- SDSU Fowler College of Business Scholarship: Khai Nguyen
- The William Kahl Memorial La Mesa Rotary Club Scholarship: Eliza Rosales and Nathan Tong
- Grossmont High School Health Career Scholarship: Sophie Green and Chris Isip
- St. Dunstan’s Community Outreach: Owen Cooksy, Vanessa Du, Kristie Duong, Emily Otsuka and Lojene Ragab
- RCD Conservation Scholarship: Apollonia Arellano
- Granville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis Scholarship: Shyla Iloang, Trenten Ihu, Ryan Liang, Long Pham, Christine Van and Ivy Vuong
- AVID Scholarship: Ryan Liang
- PIHHS Foundation Scholarships: Mohamed Awadh, Sophie Green, Armando Luna, Brian Ramos, Michelle Rivera Lomeli and Joy Churchill
- Sunrise Optimist Club of SD Scholarship: Garrett David and Shayla Iloang
- Lake Murray Kiwanis Scholarship: Pamela Cruz Cortes, Yongqing Li, Amanda Martin, Lojene Ragab and Sherleen Reyes Chavira

The following students were recipients of the PHHS Department Awards:
- AVID Award: Briana Combs
- Drama: Kenneth Anderson
- Engineering Academy: Andrea Espinoza
- Engineering Academy-Computer Science: Jared Belz
- English: Owen Cooksy
- English Writing: Brian Wright
- Mathematics: Trevor Chubb
- California Math Council: Sarah Kosic
- Music-Instrumental: Amanda Martin
- Music Vocalist: Lydia Duran

Junior University Book Awards

Every year, different universities recognize outstanding juniors in local secondary schools by presenting books to the top 2% of the class. The students do this to help attract the best students to their schools and to provide name recognition for counselors and schools when talking about options for their seniors. They also encourage students to look at schools outside the area by providing incentives (like promises of scholarships) for students who might select them the following year.

The counseling team starts with a ranked list and tries to award each book based on the student interest and talents. This year, the book awards were given to the following students:

- YALE BOOK AWARD: KIERAN HILMER
- The Yale Book Award recognizes a junior who is in the top 1% of their class and exhibits leadership skills, demonstrates outstanding personal character and has intellectual promise. Kieran Hilmer is currently ranked first overall for the class of 2020 and has a GPA of 4.72.

- NJROTC: Onrie Chewy and Yongqing Li
- Photography: Megan Cheever
- Science: Maya Rozenshteyn
- Social Studies: Megan Hayes
- Student Government: McKenzie Graff
- Yearbook: Zoe Chandler

The last set of students were recipients of the PHHS Special School Awards:
- National Merit Finalist: Sarah Kosic and Maya Rozenshteyn
- Perseverance & Achievement Award: Joscim Gonzalez and Michael M. Nguyen
- President’s Academic Excellence (top 2% students): Ivy Vuong, Celeste Lintz, Maya Rozenshteyn, Jonathan Marshall, Andrew Hua, Tiffany Pham, Trevor Chubb, Anne Nguyen, Lilly Mai and Amanda Martin
- The Patriots of the Year for the Class of 2019: Jonna Carey, Trevor Chubb, Maya Dixon, Mia Fischel, Sarah Kosic, Jonathan Marshall, Amanda Martin and Matthew Russell
- Senior of the Year 2019: Amanda Martin
- Scholar Athletes of the Year: Allison and Jonathan Marshall
- Maria Theodore Memorial Scholarship: Jonna Carey
- Donald Giddings Leadership Award: Christopher Stagner
- Presentation to the Salutatorian: Maya Rozenshteyn
- Presentation to the Valedictorians: Ivy Vuong
- Weisberg Family Watch Presentation: Ivy Vuong

See PHHS, Page 13

Wellesley College Book Award

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PHHS CONTINUED FROM Page 12
tied for second overall for the class of 2020 and has a GPA of 4.7.

GEORGE EASTMAN YOUNG LEADERS AWARD: ISAAC ROBERTS
This award was formerly called the Kodak Young Leaders Award. It is presented to deserving students for their high grades in challenging courses, involvement in extracurricular activities, and/or leadership experience at school and in our community. The award is from the University of Rochester and may lead to a $500 scholarship if the student applies and is admitted. Isaac is currently ranked fourth overall for the class of 2020 and has a GPA of 4.68.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS AND SUSAN B. ANTHONY AWARD: JADE VASQUEZ-ENRIQUEZ
The University of Rochester selects students who have demonstrated strong personal character and a commitment to understanding and addressing difficult social issues. Jade is currently tied for fifth overall for the class of 2020 and has a GPA of 4.67.

BAUSCH & LOMB HONORARY SCIENCE AWARD: THEODORE SCHENCK
The Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award is given by the University of Rochester for rigorous and high achievement in science classes and also high PSAT scores in math. Our winner this year is Theodore Schenck. Theodore is currently tied for fifth overall for the class of 2020 and has a GPA of 4.67.

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD: AINSLEIGH BEARD AND SYDNEY COOPER
St. Lawrence University honors their recipient for their commitment to active service in the community as well as academic success by giving them a book award and a $1,000 merit scholarship per year if they apply and are accepted. Alex is currently ranked second overall for the class of 2020 and has a GPA of 4.61.

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD: HEATHER NELSON
The Brandeis Book Award recognizes outstanding high school juniors committed to academic engagement. Heather Nelson is tied for eighth overall for the class of 2020 and has a GPA of 4.56.

Reclassified students celebrated at Henry

Patrick Henry was proud to award 21 students on their ability to reclassify as English Learners. These students were tested when they entered the San Diego Unified School District for their initial identification as an English Learner (demonstrating a lack of proficient knowledge of the English language).

After spending some time in a specially designated learning environment, students were given an annual summative assessment to measure their progress in learning English and to identify the students’ level of English language proficiency as they progressed through various grade levels. Once they passed the ELPA21 (English Language Proficiency Assessment for California) test and showed progress in their coursework, they could be reclassified as “reclassified” English Learner.

Speaking two languages or more is a tremendous advantage for these students and completing their training towards becoming proficient in another language (English) further supports their ability to excel in high school. PHHS honored these students with a special presentation given by the principal and the ESL coordinator, Kyra Bartlett.

Congratulations to: Mohammed Alnaimi, Alberto Castaneda, Carlos Rodriguez Chavez, Miriam Briones Decenas, Thao Doan, Hannah Donaldson, Darien Duong, Isaac Galicot, Sofia Galicot, Cesar Guerrero, Bryant Ho, Ethan Jimenez, Jason Melchor, Raul Montano, Cesar Munoz, Luz Ortiz, Destiny Solis, Ignacio Urbano, Alexia Vasquez-Enriquez, Manuel Vega Torres, Natalia Vega Torre and Sofia Zukowa.

Circle of Friends club. Joy earned this award for her dedication at Patrick Henry plus more volunteer work she continues to do at her church and the Patrick Henry Helping the Homeless Club.

Joy Churchill: Joy has been a passionate volunteer in Ms. Reitman’s classroom and has also served for the last two years as the president of the Patrick Henry Student Council.

Triple E Awards

Bea Evenson, a local philanthropist, generously donated funds to Patrick Henry High School to award students who have exhibited the three Es – Excellence, Ethics and Enterprise – in community service.

Awards have been given in the past for many activities including participation and achievements in various community organizations, all manner of volunteer work at hospitals, parks, libraries, charitable events, churches, synagogues, homeless shelters, humane societies, and other contributions to the community.

This has been a very special tradition at Patrick Henry High School for over 35 years and we are proud to give the Triple E Award to four special students this year. Here is a quick description of each award winner this year:

Joy Churchill: Joy has been a passionate volunteer in Ms. Reitman’s classroom and has also served for the last two years as the president of the Patrick Henry Student Council.

Circle of Friends club. Joy earned this award for her dedication at Patrick Henry plus more volunteer work she continues to do at her church and the Patrick Henry Helping the Homeless Club.

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Recipes by ‘Pancho’
Taco shop founder leaves behind a thriving legacy

Restaurant Review
By FRANK SABATINI JR.

The name blends into scores of other Mexican eateries on our commercial landscape. But with its looming orange-and-blue signage found in seven busy neighborhoods throughout San Diego County, including Allied Gardens, the drive-up-friendly Los Panchos Taco Shops stand out with dishes that haven’t changed since the business started in Chula Vista in 1974.

Its founder, Francisco “Pancho” Diaz, passed away early this month at the age of 89. He left behind a growing mini chain of eateries run by his son and two grandsons.

“Almost right up until he died, my grandfather would regularly pop in at all of our locations. And he would go to the National City location daily,” said Luis Diaz Jr., who recently opened a Los Panchos Taco Shop in Mission Valley (6110 Friars Road) with his sibling Carlos. He is now preparing to launch in a renewed operation in Hillcrest (441 Washington St.), located a stone’s throw away from its previous address.

That eighth location will be the biggest in the collection, complete with a full bar and outdoor deck. It’s due to open in September, at the same time Diaz plans to start remodeling the Allied Gardens location, which has been around since the early 2000s.

Currently, high-back booths and interior brick walls bearing the signature orange and blue colors greet dine-in customers as they’re faced with an illuminated menu board stretching the length of the order counter. The food choices are vast. And as of late, guests are given complimentary chips and a cup of salsa. 

Chile relleno (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)
Los Panchos
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

of fiercely comforting bean-bacon soup once they make their decisions. A spotlessly clean salsa bar to the right of the cashier offers some ravishing choices — all of them homemade. In addition to the red and green salsas are two creamy sauces, both of which appear innocent but carry delicious, spicy bangs. One is a yellowish-color fusion of serrano peppers, onions, garlic and oil. Depending on the demand, it takes three hours to cook down. The other is a velvety cilantro-habanero sauce with a sour cream base. Small dab of either sauce go a long way.

Based on multiple visits to a few locations, including Allied Gardens, the food is reliably fresh and above-board. A basic bean and cheese burrito, for example, offers lush flavor due to small measures of chorizo and rendered carnitas fat lacing the re-fried pintos.

“My grandfather was very proud of his beans and picado about the texture,” said Diaz, while noting he had worked for several restaurants in his native Mexico and in the U.S. before founding the business. “He was a natural cook, and he combined ideas from other chefs with doing things his own way.”

Among them was a preference for using Angus ground beef in his rolled tacos, which are made fresh onsite at all locations. They’re easier to eat and easier to roll compared to shredded beef. Diaz noted. Delicate and crispy, they’ve become one of my go-to items.

My long hiatus with chile rellenos ended here recently. I had given up on the stuffed pepper years ago because I was bored with the bland-tasting and stringy Anahum chilies most places use. Los Panchos chooses spicier, deep-green pasillo peppers, filling them with pepper jack cheese for extra zing. The egg batter is light and spongy, and the non-spicy tomato sauce on top is thin and lessiacious.

Also commendable are the carnitas, which I savoried in a well-endowed burrito brimming with the slow-roasted, orange-kissed pork. Like the beefy, marinated carne asada customers have come to cherish, it’s available also in tacos, tostadas and plates.

One of the hottest sellers at Allied Gardens is the “bitchin Cali” burrito containing a payload of sauteed shrimp, carne asada, French fries, salsa fresca and guacamole. Spicy chipotle sauce clutches the deal and restores equilibrium if you’re eating the burrito after a night of drinking. (The shop is open until midnight Sunday through Thursday, and until 1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays.)

Other tried-and-true items I’ve ordered include a plump “quesadilla loca” filled with tender pollo asado. It’s available as well with shrimp, carne asada or both. A hard-shell potato taco “Dona Maria style” was perhaps the mildest tasting dish I’ve had so far. Adorned with cabbage, sour cream and Cotija cheese, a few dribbles of those feisty sauces from the salsa bar significantly perks things up.

Items such as beer-battered fish tacos, the chile verde pork burrito, a few tortas, and various hearty soups are currently blinking on my radar. I’ll try them soon, provided I can resist re-ordering the dishes I’ve come to love at what has become one of my favorite ta-co shops in San Diego.

— 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@sandiegoreader.com.

乽Ground beef rolled tacos乿

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Pork Ribs & Birdies
8/23 to 8/29

Potato Salad
8/30 to 9/5

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Museum of Art Artists Guild at Visitor Center

By JENNIFER MORRISSEY

On view at the Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Visitor and Interpretive Center from Aug. 3 through Sept. 13 is an exhibition featuring 25 artists from the San Diego Museum of Art Artists Guild. “Au Naturale: Nature’s Art” showcases paintings, drawings, photographs, and prints in a variety of styles to exemplify the wonder found in the plant and animal life all around us.

The Artists Guild is an organization linking the San Diego Museum of Art to the artist community of San Diego County. It works to enhance awareness and appreciation of local artists by bringing their original art to the attention of patrons for display and purchase. This membership-based artist collective was founded over 100 years ago, celebrating its centennial in 2015 with an exhibit at the Oceanside Museum of Art.

With new members joining each year, the guild remains a vital part of San Diego’s art future and past. Previous members included some of the region’s most notable artists like Belle Baranceanu and Olaf Wieghorst.

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. The artists in the exhibition are Jody Abssy, Susan Ashley, Warren Bakley, Jo Caldwell, Gloria Chadwick, Christopher Conroe, Jackie Farkas, Sue Gold, Doria Goocher, Elaine Harvey, Sandra Hayen, Alan Haynes, Sunny Hilliker, Margaret Laelham, Janet Lehmann, Skipp McKinney, John Oleinik, Cher Pendarvis, Arun Prem, Julianne Ricksecker, Sherry Roper, Bonnie Roth, Vita Sorrentino, John Straub and Minnie Valero.

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.

MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK SUMMER CALENDAR*

Wildlife Tracking Walks: 8:30 a.m., first Saturday each month – Visitor Center

Guided Nature Walks: 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday each week – Visitor Center

Guided Nature Walks Kumeyaay Lake Campground: 8:30 a.m., second and fourth Saturday each month – KLC Campground

West Sycamore Nature Walk: 8 a.m., third Sunday each month – Stonebridge Pkwy in Scripps Ranch

Birding Basics Class: 1 p.m., last Saturday each month – Visitor Center

Bird Walks: 8 a.m., third Saturday each month – check website calendar for meeting locations

Family Discovery Walks: 3 p.m., fourth Sunday each month – Visitor Center

Discovery Table Activity: 10 a.m.-1 p.m., second Saturday each month – Visitor Center

Live Hawk Talk Activity: 9 a.m.–noon, first Sunday each month – Visitor Center

Kids Nature Story & Craft with a Ranger: 10 a.m. – Every third Saturday – Visitor Center

Native American Flute Circle: 1–3 p.m., second Sunday each month – Visitor Center Outdoor Amphitheater

*Partial listing of Monthly Events at Mission Trails Park. Please view our website for full calendar of free activities, programs, and updates at mtrp.org, or call the Visitor Center at 619-668-3281.

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“Water for the Dogs” by John Oleinik (Images courtesy MTRP Foundation)

New merch designs available in the Visitor Center

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**Observation of the Month: Long-nosed snake**

*by Patricia Simpson*

Trail guide and naturalist Mark K. James had the privilege of coming upon a gorgeous long-nosed snake (Rhinocheilus lecontei) at Mission Trails on a “cloudy, misty” early morning in May. This is one of those rare chance encounters in the park, where the observer was probably glad to have his camera in hand and the nonvenomous reptile was in full sight. He was able to post his photo on NatureList here: bit.ly/2LIEWOG.

This species has only been observed once before on Naturessist here: bit.ly/2LEWOG. In the month of May, nine different species of snakes were observed in the park on Naturessist. Almost 60% of the observations were rattlesnakes. The Western rattlesnake (Crotalus oreganus) is seen most often, but the red diamond rattlesnake (Crotalus ruber) is also commonly spotted.

In the month of May, nine different species of snakes were observed in the park on Naturessist. Almost 60% of the observations were rattlesnakes. The Western rattlesnake (Crotalus oreganus) is seen most often, but the red diamond rattlesnake (Crotalus ruber) is also commonly spotted.

Make sure to be aware, stay on the trails and keep your pet on a leash. Here is a site with good tips regarding rattlesnake encounters: bit.ly/2YmM7OB.

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

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**Spring rain brings life to vernal pools**

*by Nancy Conyers*

Now that summer is here, I cannot help but reflect on the spectacular flower show Mother Nature provided this winter and spring. It seemed there was something wonderful to see around every corner. A new show every week, if not at times every day.

My typical route includes the Rim Trail past the pump house and the vernal pools. In May, a field of canchulagua was in bloom. Its species name, Zeltnera venusta, is derived from the Latin word “venustus,” meaning charming, elegant — it is all of that. Nearby, there were also fields of goldenstar (Blimeria crocea) blooming. I don’t recall ever seeing anything like it.

A delight this year to see the vernal pools teeming with life. After they dried, something new appeared. If I had seen it in years past, I had not recognized it for what it was. This year, there was an explosion of purple. Not just a few flowers, but big patches. As I approached for a closer look, I could detect the strong, sweet odor of mint. I was in the midst of San Diego mesa mint.

San Diego mesa mint (Pogogyne abramii) is an herbaceous annual with bell-shaped purple flowers with white or yellow throats and typically blooms March through June. It has been listed as an endangered species since Sept. 28, 1978. The mint is endemic to San Diego County and can be found south of Del Mar Mesa in Mira Mesa, Kearny Mesa and Tierrasanta. Seed germination is highly dependent on the wet and dry cycles of vernal pools. Seed set is minimal in dry years, but seeds will survive several dry seasons.

Urbanization has been a major factor in the loss of vernal pool habitat. The popularity of recreational off-road vehicles including mountain bikes has also become a threat to the San Diego mesa mint. Drought, climate change and fire control are also thought to be contributing to habitat loss.

In 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and San Diego State University collaborated to establish the Vernal Pools of Southern California Recovery Plan. Ongoing efforts to restore and conserve vernal pools including control of nonnative plants is essential to preserve San Diego mesa mint. How fortunate we are to be able to see this work continue in Mission Trails Regional Park.

—Nancy Conyers is a trail guide at Mission Trails Regional Park.

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**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 subscription to watch acclaimed shows such as “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” directly on their televisions.

Other popular Originals include “Hanna,” “Tom Clancy’s Jack Ryan,” “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:

- “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” (2 Seasons)
- “The Man in the High Castle”
- “Jack Ryan” (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 normalcy, Hanna skillfully dodges an off-book CIA agent while searching for the truth about her identity.

**“Hanna” (1 Season)**

“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.
Allied Gardens Grantville Community Council news

By SHAIN HAUG

The Tuesday, July 23 Town Hall Meeting featured a presentation by Elke Willis, the director of community engagement for the San Diego Human Society on its history and responsibilities. The Humane Society offers a wealth of services and support to pet owners and the public. Learn more about the organization at sdhumane.org.

We also heard from SDPD Officer Steffen regarding local crime statistics and with good advice on staying safe. Diana Lara, representative for Senator Toni Atkins, and Victoria Floyd, representative for Supervisor Diane Jacob, brought us information on today’s priorities of these elected officials. Gerhard Dertelt discussed the developments of the Beyond Leashes off-leash dog park. You can find more information on that project at beyonddogleashes.com.

Roarke Shanley, representative for District 7 Council member Scott Sherman, addressed progress of the joint use park at Marvin Elementary School, the smart street light program, and real estate development projects in the Grantville area.

Officers were also elected at the meeting; Shain Haug, president; Julie Stollenberg, secretary; and John Kunkel, treasurer. Incoming board members Steve Dahms, Sophia Frost, Barry Price, and Marilyn Reed were elected to the board. Membership on the board and the community elected new members Marian Lindsay, Chuck Cadwalader, and Kim Morris to the board of directors.

The winner of the raffle was Laura Lake and she will soon be enjoying dinner at Mona’s.

Greater detail will be found in the minutes of the meeting now posted on our website, aggccshain@yahoo.com.

San Carlos Community Council news

By PATRICIA MOONEY

As a child, I remember a lovely song by Nat King Cole heralding the arrival of summer. He sang about the days of soda and pretzels and beer. “We’re in it now, the height of summer. Hopefully you are enjoying yourselves, spending time at the beaches, lakes and swimming pools of San Diego, attending barbecues with friends and family, and taking care of your own well-being. Have you ever heard someone start a sentence like this?” “I’ll be happy when...”

Have you been guilty of saying it, or have you been the one on the receiving end? Summer is the best time to shrug off this kind of thinking. When you are living in the moment — as happens when you’re running around Lake Murray, mountain biking or hiking at Mission Trails, or sipping a mocha latte at your favorite coffee shop, aren’t you already in a happy state of mind? So substitute “I’ll be happy when...” to “I’m happy now.” It’s a subtle shift in thinking that can have a profound impact on your life. “Always look on the bright side of life,” is a verse made famous by Monty Python. Here in San Carlos, we have many opportunities to do just that. Go to the library, which is a treasure trove of future meditation classes in addition to yoga asanas, abound. Think of our “Golden Triangle” right here in San Carlos: the renowned comprised of Cowles Mountain, Lake Murray and Mission Trails. Take a walk around your neighborhood with some friends. Go to the store, which has a duty to inform. We truly live in America’s finest neighborhood.

\textbf{LIGHT MY FIRE}

A few weeks ago, San Carlos Area Council (SCAC) president Mark Shulze and I bid on a single item at a San Diego event benefiting Safe Harbor Kids in Los Angeles. We were the happy winners. What’s more, the artist of the painting was there to talk about the provenance of the giclee painting and sign the back of it as a courtesy to us.

The artist? Robby Krieger, who was lead guitarist in a band most baby boomers know and love, The Doors. Robby still knows how to make his axe sing and thrilled the intimate gathering with his music. He dabbed the painting “Light My Fire.”

He told Mark and I that one day Jim “The Lizard King” Morrison had complained to the band, “Why do I have to write all the songs? Why don’t you try to write one?” When Robby asked, “What should I write a song about?” Morrison said, “Something you have strong feelings about. That is when Robby thought about the elements that comprise our planet and our very existence: fire, water, wind and air. He decided that fire would be the motif of the song he’d write. And he ended up writing “Light My Fire,” one of The Doors’ most famous songs.

San Carlos Action Council news

By JAY WILSON

The quarterly meeting of the Del Cerro Action Council (DCAC) was held on July 25. The meeting began with a report by SDPD Community Relations Officer John Steffen who reported there were several crimes in the last month including two violent crimes adjacent to the motel on Adobe Falls Road. There were three vehicle thefts, a car break-in and one home burglary. There were no reports of any invasions/assaults on Lake Shore Drive in San Carlos.

DCAC Chair Mark Rawlins provided an update on the formation of a Maintenance Assessment District for Del Cerro. He reported, “The city of San Diego has turned the switch back on to move forward. This means the city is no longer willing to let opponents sloted to go before us. We will need a petition-gathering effort and the Friends of Del Cerro are leading the way. We are waiting for approval from the city on the petition. As soon as it gets approved, we hope to begin gathering signatures within in the next 30 to 45 days. When we have collected the number of required signatures, a vote can be held to approve or disapprove the formation of a Maintenance Assessment District. All property owners will have an opportunity to vote.”

Ashley Campbell, the senior community representative for Rep. Susan Davis, introduced herself and invited anyone with a federal-related concern to contact her. Her office phone number is 619-280-5353 and her email address is Ashley.Campbell@mail.house.gov.

The program for the meeting was presented by Roberto Garcia, partnership specialist for the San Diego County 2020 U.S. Census Bureau. He provided an overview of the 2020 census and how important it is for everyone to participate. It determines the number of congressional districts and federal dollars allocated to California.

JIM BELL

Our friend, Jim Bell, an ecological design consultant who was known as “The Mayor of O.B.” passed away peacefully on July 31. He had suffered a stroke several months ago and was in hospice at his Ocean Beach home surrounded by friends. He was beloved by many. His presence and influence at his favorite haunts — including OB People’s Food, Winston’s and OB Green Center — will be greatly missed. A celebration of his life will be held in a couple of weeks. If you would like to be notified, please email oceanbeachgreencenter@gmail.com.

Our next SCAC meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Carlos branch library, 7265 Jackson Drive. Local community, city and state representatives will speak to us about their latest news and address your concerns.

Follow San Carlos Area Council on Twitter and Facebook.

—Patricia Mooney is vice president of the San Carlos Area Council. Have a San Carlos story to tell? Email patti@csrgstpyramid.com.
**San Carlos Library news**

Do Your Homework @ the Library returns to San Carlos on Aug. 26. Our Homework Center is open to all K-8 students and provides free assistance with homework assignments. Tutor learning coordinators are available to guide and support students between 2-3 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays 3-6 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3-7 p.m.

**The impossible railroad:** In celebration of this railroad line’s centennial year, Reena Deutsch will be presenting on Aug. 16 from 2-3 p.m. Despite its drau-ta-filled history of floods, fires, tunnel collapses, and other disasters, the 148-mile-long and 100-year-old San Diego & Arizona Railway still operates over parts of the line. No need to be a train buff to learn about this colorful part of San Diego’s history.

**Art show:** We are excited to present the art of multimedia artist Carlos Castrejon. Carlos will be showing his richly colored landscapes, sketches, and other pieces in the art gallery from Aug. 5, Sept. 5. His artist reception will be Aug. 17, noon-2 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

**Author talk:** Author Huda Al-Marashi will discuss her book, “First Comes Marriage.” on Aug. 23 from 2-3 p.m. When Huda meets Hadi, the boy she will ultimately marry, she is 6 years old. Both are the American-born children of Iraqi immigrants, growing up on opposite ends of California. Follow Huda on her candid and heart-warming journey to reconcile her religious and cultural traditions with Western notions of romantic love.

**Poetry open mic:** Join People Enjoying Poetry (PEP) on Aug. 24 from 1-3 p.m. for the quarterly poetry open mic. Share your own work or read someone else’s poetry. We’ll collaborate to create a collection of poetry and the group will offer feedback at the poet’s request.

**One Book, One San Diego:** Themed to this year’s One Book, One San Diego, OASIS will be presenting “Life’s Sunset: Plan Before the Sun Goes Down” on Sept. 11 from 2-3:30 p.m. The end of one’s life can be tragic or warm and fulfilling. A good end takes knowledge and planning. Learn your options from attorney Bill Simonds. Included will be advance directives, POLSTs, California’s End of Life Option Act, other options, and why family conversations are so important.

**Summer reading:** Our final show will be on Aug. 14 from 2:30-3:15 p.m. Brought to life with handmade puppets and original songs, “The 3 Little Pigs: The Puppet Musical” teaches the timeless lesson that hard work and dedication pay off. Includes live singing presented by Noteworthy Puppets.

**Paws to Read:** This program will be moving to the first Wednesday of every month from 2:30-3:30 p.m. starting on Sept. 4. Studies show that children can improve their confidence and reading skills by reading aloud to animals. Dogs make the perfect nonjudgmental audience! All therapy dogs are provided courtesy of Love on a Leash, a foundation for pet-provided therapy.

—David Ege is branch manager of the San Carlos Branch Library. ■

**Events happening at Allied Gardens Library**

By KEVIN TRAN

**Library displays:** In August, we will put together books and other materials as your office on get-ready-for-back-to-school corner. From what your students need-to-know to fractions and multiplication and everything in between.

In September, we are compiling books and information on service dogs and guide dogs, to explain their rights as well as that of their owners.

There still time to check out the art show featuring climate art from our affiliated artists and local youth in our Climate Kids program, as well as collaborative pieces made at community events. The display and community room will be filled pieces from this exhibit through the end of September.

**Homework Club:** Homework Club will be here for all your schoolwork questions. This will be on a first-come, first-served basis with tutors that have the knowledge and skills to assist with your questions. Please bring all homework and necessary materials to be completed during the session. A few basic supplies will be made available upon request.

**Club hours at the library are:** Mondays, 2-4 p.m. and Wednesdays from noon-3 p.m. The Homework Club is looking for helpful tutors. We need help for students from elementary through middle school. If you can help on either or both days, please let a staff member know and we will set you up with a tutor to help you. Let us know if you are helping kick off the new school year on a positive note.

**Tween Scene and Tween Café: Welcome Back!** Starting back up with a timeless classic: Tween Scene, where students will participate in crafts and other fun projects.

Another program, Tween Gaming, gives you a chance to fulfill your virtual gaming needs. Tween Gaming systems to challenge friends or the online community. Both programs are at 3 p.m. Tween Scene is on Tuesday and Tween Gaming is on Thursday.

**Labor Day:** We will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day. We will reopen Tuesday, Sept. 3, at 11:30 a.m.

**Food:** September’s Vegan Adventures presentation will feature hot vegan deli sandwiches on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 6-7 p.m. This bimonthly program has been very well attended. Samples and hands-on demonstrations will all be a part of the vegan magic.

**Art from one of our own:** The children’s section wall is getting a fresh overhaul. The wall has been outfitted with chalk paint, turning our ordinary wall into a chalk canvas. Our very own Sara Shepherd is putting together a piece featuring a Labrador retriever, an owl, and a book. Come and see how this piece will turn out in the children’s section.

**A cuddly follow up:** For all the friends and families that brought in a stuffed animal for the toy and stuffed animal drive. We wanted to follow up with how it all went. From the libraries, we collected over 1,600 toys and stuffed animal donations! When added to the donations we collected at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, we were able to distribute over 12,850 donations to eight local organizations serving health and welfare needs of children in the region. Thank you, Allied Gardens, for always coming out and stepping up. We couldn’t do it without you!

—Kevin Tran is library assistant III at the Allied Gardens/Benjamin Branch Library. ■

**DCAC continues field trip Page 18**

73 years. Your information is protected for 73 years. There are very severe penalties for any information leaks,” Garcia added.

There are 2020 census jobs, which can last from four months to four years. The movement is the biggest mobilization in the time of peace.

“Were hiring and will have three offices,” Garcia said. “Most of the work will be from home. Enumerators will be paid $23.50 per hour. We are looking for individuals at all levels. Pay is $20 to $27.50 per hour depending upon the job assignment. You must be 18 or over and have a valid email address.”

The offices will open on Sept. 1 and are hiring right now. The census works with United Way and 150 nonprofit organizations speaking to people one to one. Fifteen of 18 cities in San Diego County will be helping support the census count.

“Our dollars often go to other states,” Garcia added. “Let’s keep as much as we can.”

There are only 10 questions for the 2020 census, including name, age, ethnicity, and homeownership.

You may reach Garcia at Roberto.Garcia@2020census.gov. The next DCAC meeting will be Oct. 24, 7 p.m. at Temple Timone-B.


**GET READY TO MOVE**

If you’re planning to buy or sell a home or property, we would like to help complete your transaction. Here are some properties that are currently on the market, but they’ll be going fast.

Give one of us a call! It’s your move....

**First Comes Marriage** author Huda Al-Marashi (Courtesy San Carlos Library)

**DCAC CONTINUES FIELD TRIP Page 18**

**3BR/2BA/2000SF Large Lot/Views San Carlos $639,000**

Mary Jane Harris
(619) 215-1159
Allison James Estates & Homes
DRE#00990886

**2BR/2BA/1514SF Incredible Townhouse San Carlos/$449,000-$475,000**

Kassy & Lindy Kaiser
(619) 265-0454
Keller Williams Realty
DRE#1899753

**“First Comes Marriage” author Huda Al-Marashi (Courtesy San Carlos Library)**
A growing youth sports organization

By JEFF CLEMETSON | Mission Times Courier

When San Carlos Patriots Football and Cheer president Teshawn Johnson first joined the organization as a coach seven years ago, it had been “weak for years.”

“There was no vision over there. It wasn’t rich in talent, per se,” he said.

As Johnson moved up to vice president and then president of the Pop Warner organization, he teamed up with fellow coach Rod Williams and together they transformed the Patriots into a year-round youth sports organization that offers football practice, games and training as well as track and field and cheerleading. There is even a Challenger program for athletes with special needs.

“We linked up together and it’s been like a match made in heaven. We came up with our own workout regimen for the kids and it’s been pretty nice,” Johnson said. “We implemented that system. [the players] took to it, it worked. And we came up with an offseason program to train them to go with it. We were successful, coming one game away from a national championship two years in a row. So we figured, ‘Hey this has got to be working so let’s keep it going.’”

In recent years, the San Carlos Patriots have grown from only having maybe two teams and a flag football team to fielding teams in every division for the last three or four years, Johnson said. “We’ve been seeing consistent growth the last couple years and we’re projecting to be even bigger next year,” he added.

A big part of the Patriots’ growth is the training program, which focuses on more than just football. “A lot of kids stay with us year-round,” Johnson said. “They go from football to track and field to seven on seven. So we try to have an all-inclusive program to keep the kids active for most of the year. They train pretty hard.”

The hard-training team is developing and attracting standout talent. Talent like Isaiah “The Rocket” Rodriguez — the fastest 7-year-old runner in San Diego, who is ranked as one of the top 10 sprinters in the West Coast. Quarterback Mathew Barton made the 14U U.S. National Football Team last season. Patrick Henry High athletes Jaydin Cook and Omar Hammond both came through the program as well.

“We’ve been blessed to have real good talent the last couple years and it looks like it’s going to stay strong the next few years to come,” Coach Williams said.

Johnson said the Patriots organization is now even attracting young athletes from outside of the Navajo area.

“They’re recognizing what’s going on in the San Carlos community and now we’re getting ball players,” he said. “When we started out, we were just a little local organization in the community of San Carlos, but now people from all over the city are starting to make the trek to come over and be a part our organization — so it’s something to be proud of.”

Football season for the San Carlos Patriots is currently underway and runs into November. For more information about the team, visit pwsancarlospatriots.com.

—Reach editor Jeff Clemenson at jeff@sdnews.com.
Fri Aug 9
Heiva San Diego Through Aug. 11
Escape to a tropical paradise at the ninth annual Heiva San Diego Cultural Festival celebrating the islands of Tahiti. Heiva San Diego 2019 will feature dancers from Japan, Mexico, the South Pacific, and the U.S. while showcasing Tahitian communities representing all five archipelagoes in French Polynesia. Friday events include a Miss and Mr. Heiva San Diego pageant, exhibition group from Tahiti and the Siva Af Fi Fire Knife exhibition. Saturday highlights include a dance competition featuring solo artists and group competition followed by a spectacular Tahitian dance performance by a group from the island of Tahiti. Sunday events include the solo finals, awards ceremony and a performance by Teiva U.C. Friday tickets are $5. General adult tickets are $20 and children ages (6-12) are $10. Saturday hours are 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday hours are 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at Viejas Casino, 5000 Willows Road, San Diego. For more information, visit heivasandi-ego.com.

Sat Aug 10
heART of Mt. Helix
One of San Diego’s most spectacular outdoor venues is transformed by this one-of-a-kind festival of art, music, and samplings from some of San Diego’s best restaurants and beverage companies, while benefiting one of the county’s most unique nonprofit nature parks and outdoor amphitheaters. Now in its 12th year, the heART continues to draw many of the same guests year after year and is known as “The Party on the Hill” and a not-to-be-missed event! 5-10 p.m. at Mt. Helix Park, 4901 Mt. Helix Drive, La Mesa. Tickets range $65 to $220. For more information, ongoing updates or to purchase tickets, visit MtHelixPark.org or call 619-741-4363.

Fri Aug 16
St. Dunstan’s Rummage Sale Through Aug. 17
Two days of bargains with thousands of items: books, furniture, clothes, shoes, toys, bedding, housewares, jewelry, art, collectibles, and so much more! Please tell your friends, neighbors, co-workers and families! Proceeds from this event support vital programs such as the Interfaith Shelter Network, El Nido Transitional Living Programs, The StoreFront (teens shelter), and many other programs locally, nationally, and worldwide. 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Aug. 16-17 at St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church, 6556 Ridge Blvd. Visit stdunstans.org.

Sat Aug 18
Second Sunday Community Concerts: Allison Adams
Born in San Diego, California, multi-lingual jazz vocalist Allison Adams Tucker began singing before she could speak. Allison was raised by classically trained musical parents, and began performing in front of audiences at age 5. She studied piano, flute, violin, dance and voice from elementary school and holds a BA in linguistics/music vocal performance and an AA in Italian. Allison’s vocal palette has been colored by her experience in a variety of musical genres throughout her life, from a cappella Elizabethan madrigals to punk rock to country to commercial jingles. Since 2005, Tucker has found the most natural fit to be a Miss and Mr. Heiva San Diego pageant, exhibition group from Tahiti and the Siva Af Fi Fire Knife exhibition. Saturday highlights include a dance competition featuring solo artists and group competition followed by a spectacular Tahitian dance performance by a group from the island of Tahiti. Sunday events include the solo finals, awards ceremony and a performance by Teiva U.C. Friday tickets are $5. General adult tickets are $20 and children ages (6-12) are $10. Saturday hours are 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday hours are 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at Viejas Casino, 5000 Willows Road, San Diego. For more information, visit heivasandi-ego.com.

Sat Aug 10
Civita Sundown Sunday: The Mighty Untouchables
The Mighty Untouchables play a mix of Top 40, Motown, doo-wop, rock and more. This Civita concert also features food trucks Aunty Lynne, Chameleon Greek and Blue Grass Grill. 6–7:30 p.m. at Civita Village, 7960 Civita Blvd. in Mission Valley. Free.

Fri Aug 23
San Diego Summer Movies in the Park presents Disney’s live-action version of its classic movie “Dumbo.” 6:30 p.m. at Civic Park, 7964 Civita Blvd. in Mission Valley. Free.

Sat Aug 31
Summer Concert Series: The Cat-illacs
Final performance of Grossmont Center’s Summer Concert Series features variety music act The Cat-illacs. 5-7 p.m. at Grossmont Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Drive, La Mesa. Tickets range $18-$23 available at lamplighters-mlesama.com.

Sat Sept 7
AG First Fridays: High Tide Society
AG First Fridays summer concert series continues with the yacht rock stylings of High Tide Society. 6-8 p.m. in the Allied Gardens Community Park, 5155 Greenbriar Ave. Concerts are free and hot dogs are served courtesy Ideal Plumbing, Heating & Air. For more information, visit agfirstfridays.com.

Sat Sept 21
Summer Concert Series: The Cat-illacs
Final performance of Grossmont Center’s Summer Concert Series features variety music act The Cat-illacs. 5-7 p.m. at Grossmont Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Drive, La Mesa. Tickets range $18-$23 available at lamplighters-mlesama.com.

Sat Sept 21
Traveling Stories
Visit Grossmont Center each Sunday for an interactive story time for 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.

Mon Sept 23
Movies
Visit the College Avenue Cen- ter on Mondays at 1 p.m. for an afternoon movie! Free for members, $2 for nonmembers. 6299 Capri Drive. Visit jfsd.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 for a list of participating trucks.

Wednesdays
Grossmont Center Farmers Market
Grossmont Center hosts a produce-only farmers market, 2-6 p.m. in the back lot in front of the Dollar Tree.

Fri Sept 27
Hike Cowles Mountain
Looking for an adventure? Come Join Saturday 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 (local- ed 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/2VCHiK.

Shop Local Market
Last Saturday of the month at Grossmont College. Participating shops set up tables outside and offer markdowns and new product showcases. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 5500 Grossmont Center Drive, La Mesa.
PHHS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Matthew Thomas: Matthew volunteers his time each Sunday as the pianist for the Mt. Eire Baptist Church choir. He has been with the choir since he was 12. He enjoys helping others, particularly those in need. He appreciated being able to assist with the Christmas Vivo concert and to provide music to others in the community.

Alessio Kovacevic: Alessio is currently a member of the Interact Club, the Environmental Club, and the BAPS Tifereth Israel Torah School. He was thrilled to be able to provide leadership in expanding membership and increasing involvement.

Nicole Lackenbacher: Nicole is a phenomenal young lady who has dedicated many hours to the Tifereth Israel Torah School. This year, she was an aid in Michelle Barbour’s fifth-grade classroom.

Naman Pandadnya: Naman is a long-time volunteer in the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha spiritual organization that promotes harmony between families and diverse communities. Naman volunteers at the BAPS Walkathon that benefits the Nature Conservancy and Plant a Billion Trees organizations.

Toria Tolley: Toria has been refreshing and, more importantly, vital to the PHHS. She has two passions: helping patients and their families at Sharp Memorial Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House. At Sharp Hospital, Kayla works for four hours each week as a guest concierge. She also plays piano once a week during the dinner service at the Ronald McDonald house that serves Rady’s Children’s Hospital. Victoria Tolley: Victoria volunteered with the Patrick Henry Circle of Friends club, she worked as a Baseball Athlete for the San Diego Padres and contributed to the A Night to Remember Prom. Earlier this year Tavia volunteered in the annual Tennis Festival. She also volunteered to be an actress with San Diego County Crime Stoppers and the San Diego FBI Teen Academy. She used her acting skills to educate local students on the dangers of making false threats on social media.

Lily McDonald: Patrick Henry teacher Mr. Mylete, one of Lily’s Triple Honor Award nominators wrote: “The joy, the pride, and the insight that Lily has brought to her classes and me regarding the impact of waste and consumerism has been refreshing and, more importantly, vital to the PHHS community. As an integral part of the Patrick Henry Tennis Team and the Environmental Club, Lily has passionately spread the word about the importance of the club’s work and has taken a leadership role in expanding membership and increasing involvement.”

Eliza Rosales: Eliza is currently president of the Interact Club whose mission is to make sure that the Patrick Henry foster-ter family and students that have needs met. Her club raises money to make sure that students have food, school supplies, and hygiene products and that all seniors have a way to be able to attend all of the senior activities. Eliza also volunteers off campus at a friendship garden near the Mexican-American border and she spends time working at neighborhood elementary schools.

Katie Tu: Katie is one of the Patrick Henry student monitors in the front office and is also a volunteer at the Vietnamese Alliance’s English Ministry for the last year and a half.

SUDOKU

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle.

{to be continued on page 13...}

SDUSD EXTENDS CONTRACT FOR MARTEN

The San Diego Unified School District Board of Education voted to extend the contract for Superintendent Cindy Marten and approve a new teachers contract, which includes a 3.7 percent pay raise. The teachers contract was ratified with 99 percent of the vote by the members of the San Diego Education Association.

The contract extension for Marten means she will continue to lead the city’s second-largest school district through the 2022-23 school year.

“The key to the ongoing ability of students in the district to succeed and thrive is around stability - not just stability for the sake of stability, but stability around a very clear strategy that has been designed to help each and every one of our students achieve to their fullest potential,” said Trustee Richard Barrera.

In explaining their votes, Board of Education trustees talked about the academic progress being made by San Diego Unified students. San Diego Unified schools were recognized last year for outperforming other big-city districts in the nation on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), known as the Nation’s Report Card.

The extension approved for Marten’s contract keeps the education leader in place for another four years, the maximum length allowed under state education code. The board vote on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), known as the Nation’s Report Card.

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September Concert

Friday, September 6th
6-8pm

High Tide Society

Allied Gardens Community Park
5155 Greenbrier Ave.

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

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

agfirstfridays.com

Title Sponsor

Sept 30-19

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