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JAN. 1, 2010

VOL. 6, NO. 1

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A LOOK BACK

A recap of some of the most important Rancho Santa Fe stories covered in 2009 **19**

SNOW DAY IN PALM SPRINGS?

"Hit the Road" columnist E'Louise Ondash has a snow day in the desert **9**

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SNOW IN THE RANCH! Above, from left, Kat Amsinger and Amy Dunn have a ball ... well, perhaps a snowball, at the Winter Critter Carnival on Dec. 19. Right, Isobel Maehler gets her face painted by artist Alice Clifford. Photos by David Wiemers

Winter Critter Carnival entertains children, brings help to animals

By David Wiemers

RANCHO SANTA FE — The Helen Woodward Animal Center hosted a Winter Critter Carnival on Dec. 19. Children of all ages were entertained with games, contests, interactive puzzles, and even fresh snow! There were artists there to draw humor-

ous caricatures of people and to paint the faces of children.

Santa Claus made a rare appearance and photo ops were available with him, but many children wanted their pictures taken with the horses, sheep and other animals

TURN TO **CARNIVAL** ON 23



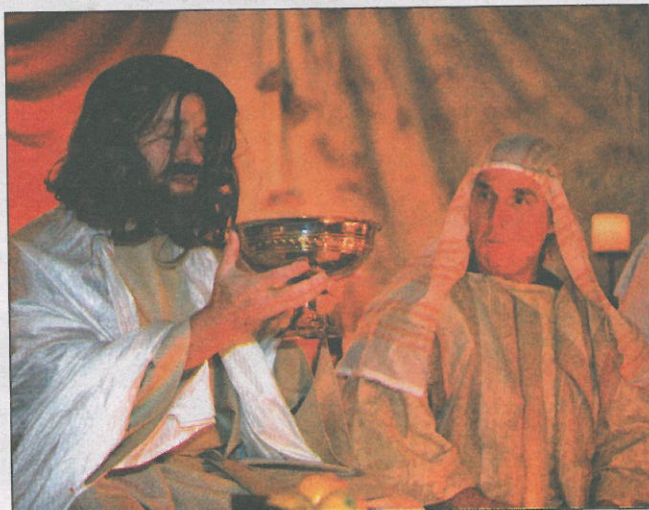
Living Nativity, Fire Dept. overcome emergencies

By David Wiemers

RANCHO SANTA FE — Horizon Christian Fellowship hosted its 15th annual Living Nativity, a pageant that recreates the life of Jesus Christ, and is undoubtedly the most popular and highly-attended event in Rancho Santa Fe every year.

This year the four-day event faced a unique challenge, however, as the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District moved into temporary headquarters on the same grounds where the pageant takes place. On several different occasions during the four days the Fire Station was called into action, a situation that could have been strife with conflict, but went very smoothly, thanks to good planning.

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District has four stations throughout Rancho Santa Fe and the Fairbanks Ranch Station 3 is



DRESSING THE PART Rancho Santa Fe resident Sandy McElfresh as Jesus, and Carmel Valley resident Robert Wahl as one of His apostles. Photo by Daniel Knighton

about to be rebuilt. A temporary station was built on the land behind the Horizon Christian Fellowship. "We're very happy to work with the Fire Department," said Ray Ramage, who is chaplain for

the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and assistant pastor at the Horizon Christian Fellowship. "They needed the space and we were happy to provide it. They

help protect us, so it works well for both parties." Timing was critical, though, as both parties needed the land behind the church at the same time — the week before Christmas.

To avoid potential problems should an emergency arise, plans were coordinated and the route into the Living Nativity was altered. "We changed the ingress," said Horizon Christian Fellowship Assistant Pastor Gary MacCartie. "We had volunteers directing traffic from the entrance to the Horizon Prep School and cars then exited in the same direction as a fire truck might have to take." Indeed, several times during the four-day run of the Living Nativity, fire trucks were called out. "But it all went surprisingly smooth," MacCartie said.

The Living Nativity is a

TURN TO **NATIVITY** ON 23

Historical Society lays out its policy

By David Wiemers

RANCHO SANTA FE — The Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society has put a Collections Policy into place, establishing guidelines for documents, artifacts and photographs donated to the organization. Board members David and Peggy Brooks have spent the past year archiving artifacts and photos in the La Flecha house for the Historical Society and David put together the guideline policy. The policy states that documents, photographs, and artifacts should be "... historic, unique, useful, and/or meaningful."

David Brooks created the guidelines after studying and researching how other museums and historical societies have solved similar problems. "There's only so much room in La Flecha house," he said, believing that the merits of future pieces should be weighed to see if they meet the Historical Society's criteria.

In the past year, both Brooks came across items that were questionable. "We found that golf head covers had been donated, and magazines that had nothing to do with Rancho Santa Fe," Peggy Brooks said. "Some of the stuff was ridiculous."

The couple has now archived the majority of items donated and recorded postings in a PastPerfect program. In recent months, the Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society has also undertaken the enormous task of digitizing all photographs. Gijs Hanselaar has volunteered time and energy to convert hundreds of thousands of photos.

The Collections Guidelines was adopted by Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society board members at their meeting Dec. 15. After the meeting, the group had a potluck dinner party at the La Flecha house. Spouses were invited and President John Vreeburg said, "It was fun. It gave the board members a chance to get to know each other a little better."

The Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society board members were concerned because Administrator Sharon Fabry suffered a stroke on Dec. 10. She is currently at Scripps Hospital in

TURN TO **POLICY** ON 23

NATIVITY

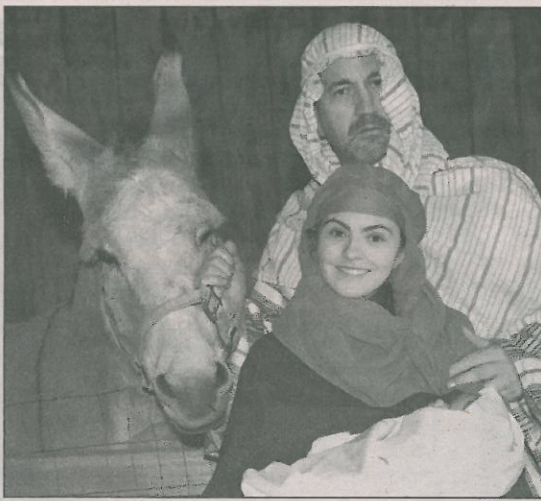
CONTINUED FROM 1

massive undertaking for the church, which accommodates close to 12,000 visitors every season. More than 900 volunteers, including 100 members of staff, work together to stage the pageant. "We hit the ground running during the month of November," MacCartie said. Props and sets are removed from storage units, costumes are brought out and made presentable and a carnival-type setting is created from scratch every year. More than 800 church members volunteer to pull off the incredible feat. "It's truly a

labor of love," MacCartie said.

Mother Nature cooperated with this year's event — no rain or cold weather damped the spirits of those attending. The economy, however, took its toll on the festivities this year. "We cut costs where we could," MacCartie said. Food services, in particular, were cut. Meals were reduced to cookies and hot drinks. "We quickly came to realize that people were here for the pageant, not the food," MacCartie said.

From the smiling faces on the children riding live camels and interacting with donkeys and sheep, they certainly didn't seem to mind at all.



LIVING IT UP Left, Carlsbad resident Georgie Wentz as Mary, and San Diego resident Mark Young. Right, Roman Centurions, from left, Encinitas resident Kim Healy, Carlsbad resident Jay Wentz, and Rancho Santa Fe resident Edward Hayes. *Photos by Daniel Knighton*

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Wake me up when life gets less interesting



JEAN
GILLETTE

Small Talk

Nearly dropping from lack of REM, I have worked out my epitaph. Currently, the winning entry is, "Life was always interesting. Now let me sleep."

Besides living in the proverbial "interesting times," the past week has been one for the memoirs. I was pretty much ready and organized for Christmas and feeling smug. The gods

grinned and thanked me for my hubris. That very night, I heard a quiet dripping noise, which I optimistically and sleepily attributed to the shower. Oh no, no, no. Had I my wits and some daylight about me, I would have realized my daughter's waterbed in the attic had sprung a leak and was now dripping into the master bathroom.

The next hour found me in my pajamas and soggy slippers as I dragged the garden hose and most of the garden up the stairs. I then scrambled to remember how to empty a water bed, to find the attachments to do it, hook up the hose to the washing

machine faucet (bad idea, but the hose wouldn't reach the outside faucet), wrenching open very frozen faucet washers, overflowing the washing machine (it has to be on to drain), flinging water in every direction and finally, with some help from equally sleepy housemates, getting the wounded mattress drained and dragged outside. Later I would laugh, but at 6 a.m., I wanted to crawl into a hole and pull it in after me.

Four days, three blowers, two humidifiers, a new rug pad and a hefty check later, life is calm and dry again. As I continue to live my life as a lesson to others, I offer this

moral. Spend the \$500 for a waterbed frame. It will cost you thrice that to fix things later. OK, so everybody else already knew that. Just shut up.

Carrying on the theme of sleep deprivation and unexpected morning adventures, yesterday at 4 a.m., I awoke to odd thumpings and bonkings under my bed. Puzzled, I finally heard the pitter-patter I have come to know as a chin-chilla on the loose. This very fuzzy creature, given to my daughter by a lucky-to-still-be-alive ex-boyfriend, is the master of midnight escapes. This doe-eyed, puffball has teeth like a chainsaw. She can

eventually chew through absolutely everything, including the wire that secures her cage door. I did roust my daughter and no sleep was had until we had chased the pet through several rooms and finally cornered her.

I strive for serenity. I try for a simple, predictable life. I am clearly wasting my time. Instead, I get interesting. Let's raise those glasses in a toast to the absence of boredom, except maybe between 10 p.m. and noon.

Jean Gillette is a part-time editor and freelance writer expecting her artificial Christmas tree to catch fire. Contact her at jgillette@coastnewsgroup.com.

COMMUNITY COMMENTARY

The Community Commentary section is open to everyone. Opinions expressed in the Community Commentary section are in no way representative of The Coast News Group. Send submissions no longer than 700 words to lsutton@coastnewsgroup.com. Submission does not guarantee publication.

Quit smoking with research and a plan

By Liliana Sandoval

The current debate over national healthcare and the increasing price of cigarettes has many people thinking about their health and the benefits of quitting smoking. According to the 2008 National Health Interview Survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 21 percent of Americans 18 or older are smokers. Taking all of this into consideration, quitting smoking will likely be a popular resolution this year. Setting a goal to quit smoking is a good first step, as studies have shown that people are 10 times more likely to follow through with goals when they explicitly set

them for themselves. Figuring out what to do after making the decision to quit smoking is often more difficult and this is where people tend to get lost.

The most important step to take (after deciding to quit) is to do some research and make a plan. Whether you are considering cessation classes, using nicotine replacement therapy, or going "cold turkey," it is best to have a plan that is as specific to your needs as possible. Talk to your family and friends; let them know what you are doing and lean on them for support. If possible, try finding a buddy who is also trying to or who has recently quit smoking. Next you must set a plausible quit

date. You don't want to quit on a date that will only cause you extra stress. Make a specific list of reasons why you want to quit smoking. Instead of saying "I want to quit smoking for my family's health," say "I want to quit smoking because my son has asthma." Keep this list with you so that you can refer to it when you feel the urge to smoke. Also make a list of rewards that you will give yourself for every milestone.

Maybe you will use the money you would have spent on a week's worth of cigarettes to buy a CD or lunch.

Once your quit date approaches, you must get rid of every cigarette you have in your house, car, desk, etc. Don't hide any for emergen-

cies because you will only be setting yourself up for failure. Have your patches ready or your first smoking cessation class scheduled before your quit date. Once you have all your tools in place you will have to follow through with the hardest part, actually quitting smoking. Remember that you are taking the first step in improving your life and the lives of others, because smoking harms the health of everyone around you.

Finally, there are many resources available to you, especially living in the state considered to be "America's non-smoking section." A great resource is the California Smoker's Helpline, which is based on

of UCSD. The helpline is a free resource to anyone who wants more information on quitting smoking and they have counselors available in six different languages, as well as TDD/TTY for the deaf and hearing impaired. Counselors at the helpline can help you find a smoking cessation class near you or you can get free over the phone counseling through them. Whether you are ready to quit or just thinking about it, call 1-800-No-Butts. Give yourself the gift of better health for the New Year.

Liliana Sandoval is a cessation facilitator at Vista Community Clinic. For more information, call (760) 631-5000, ext. 7142 or visit www.vistacommunity-clinic.org.

Fire station relocates to temporary facility

RANCHO SANTA FE — In preparation to begin the process of rebuilding the Fire District's Fairbanks Ranch Station 3, the firefighters and equipment have been relocated

to a temporary facility to the rear of Horizon Christian Fellowship Church's property.

The new street address is 6365A El Apajo, Rancho Santa Fe. The mailing

address will remain P.O. Box 410, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067.

To access the facility, enter the Horizon Christian Fellowship parking lot via the south entrance and pro-

ceed straight back behind the facilities.

"This is an exciting time for our district," Fire Chief Nick Pavone. "On behalf of the Fire District, I would like to thank

Horizon Christian Fellowship for allowing us to use their property while we are in transition and constructing a new facility to better serve our community."

2009

CONTINUED FROM 19

blossom as workers strive for its completion next year.

It was plans for another construction job that divid-

ed the village. The Lilian Project is an ambitious renovation of the downtown area that had its supporters and opponents. Scaled back by its developers on several occasions, when the project

came to a vote by the Association, it divided its board of directors. President Lois Jones and Director Steve Shillington agreed with many vociferous residents that the project was simply too large in scale. Still, the project moved forward, subject to county approval. In the end, however, it still may boil down to the economy. Since the vote, the developer has put the property up for sale and/or is looking for other investors to minimize its risk.

The Dacus Property also divided the community. The land adjacent to the school was owned by the

Association, but in 2009 both the Fire Department and the school felt the need to acquire the property. A battle ensued concerning access and parking, and soon The Inn stepped forward to help resolve the dilemma. The school district ended up with the property and a solution for parking for the school, the Association, the Fire Department and The Inn is still being hammered out.

In the fall of 2009, two teenagers were tragically and recklessly killed in two separate vehicle accidents. Grief counselors helped students and family members cope with the losses.

An infestation of eucalyptus trees continued in 2009 with the lerp psyllid taking its toll on the Ranch's beloved landmark trees. Due to fire regulations, many residents were forced to remove dead or diseased

trees. The Forest Task Force was reinstated and there is now a push to re-beautify Rancho Santa Fe. An arboretum is under development near the Golf Club that will feature numerous trees and shrubs that residents can plant to help make the area the forest showcase it once was.

A top priority of the Association's board of directors was to reinvent the parks in the village. Four different plans were discussed and presented to the public to enhance and improve the parks. In the end, despite support from the public, the improvements will proceed on a scale far less than even the first minimal proposal offered. The board of directors slashed the budget on the project. That's the kind of year it was.

Blame 2009 on the economy.

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DR. GOTT

Second Opinion

Can bee stings help MS patients?

Dear Dr. Gott: I have had multiple sclerosis (MS) since I was in my late 20s. I'm now in my early 50s and have been in remission for a while.

What can you tell me about MS and bee stings? I got stung a couple of days ago, and I started walking much better and feeling perkier. I have energy that I haven't had in years. One of my daughters told me about bee-sting therapy.

Dear Reader: The medical use of honeybee products is known as apitherapy. Bees have played a role in alternative health care since the Egyptians used their byproducts to cure arthritis. Those byproducts have since been used to treat chronic pain, a number of skin conditions, burns of the skin, coughs and a great deal more.

Researchers have found that specific compounds in the venom, namely melittin and adolapin, can work toward reducing pain and inflammation through a process that allows the body to release natural healing compounds in its own defense. It is rumored that thousands of multiple-sclerosis patients in the United States appear to be using bee venom as an alternative to interferon, corticosteroids and other drugs. I don't know how so many have tapped into this approach, because there are only about 50 physicians nationwide who use bee-venom therapy to relieve the symptoms of MS.

There certainly is a great deal to be said about alternative approaches to almost any condition. In this instance, though, there is always the risk of potentially life-threatening allergic reactions, so any undertaking should be under the strict guidance of a qualified physician.

Your daughter is cutting edge on the information circuit. Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., has begun a preliminary one-year study funded by the Multiple Sclerosis Association to research apitherapy as a potential treatment. I don't know whether any clinical trials are under way, but you might want to follow that road to determine whether you meet their guidelines.

Dear Dr. Gott: I have been diagnosed with sciatica.

TURN TO **SECOND OPINION** ON 24

- San Diego News Network - <http://www.sdn.com> -

Heat lamp sparks garage fire

Posted By [joseph.pena](#) On January 2, 2010 @ 9:04 am In [Local News](#) | [No Comments](#)

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A fire apparently started by a dog heat lamp damaged a Rancho Santa Fe garage, it was reported Saturday.

The fire on Camintio Vientecito near Artesian Road was reported about 11:30 p.m. Friday, according to *The San Diego Union-Tribune*.

No injuries were immediately reported. No damage estimate was available early today.

This story was written and edited by City News Service.



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NORTH COUNTY TIMES | THE CALIFORNIAN

RANCHO SANTA FE: House fire destroys garage, three cars in RSF

By EDWARD SIFUENTES - esifuentes@nctimes.com | Posted: Saturday, January 2, 2010 3:45 pm

RANCHO SANTA FE ---- A fire in a Rancho Santa Fe home Friday night destroyed three cars and the garage where they were stored, according to the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District.

The fire was apparently caused by a heating lamp in the garage, according to a news release issued by the department.

About 50 firefighters responded to the fire at 16000 block of Caminito Del Vientecito at about 11:24 p.m., said Julie Taber, the department's spokeswoman.

The woman who owns the house suffered a minor injury but declined treatment, Taber said. Damages to the home were estimated at about \$400,000.

NORTH COUNTY TIMES | THE CALIFORNIAN

ENCINITAS: Two injured in head-on crash

By SARAH GORDON - sgordon@nctimes.com | Posted: Wednesday, January 6, 2010 3:30 pm

ENCINITAS ---- Two people were injured Wednesday in a head-on collision on a windy, two-lane road that connects Encinitas to Rancho Santa Fe, authorities said.

A Ford F-150 pick-up truck and a Lexus crashed about 10:25 a.m. on El Camino Del Norte, near Flores De Oro, the California Highway Patrol said.

One vehicle's engine compartment caught fire, but the driver was able to get out, Ranch Santa Fe Fire Protection District spokeswoman Julie Taber said. Firefighters had to extricate the other driver, she said.

Both drivers were taken to Scripps Memorial Hospital, La Jolla, one with minor trauma and one with major trauma, Taber said.

El Camino Del Norte was closed in both directions for about 90 minutes following the crash, Taber said.

The CHP is investigating.

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VOLUME 29 NUMBER 20 *Providing The Ranch with Three Decades of Quality Journalism*

JAN. 28, 2010

CHP officers continue to make speed reduction on RSF roads a top priority

By Karen Billing

Speeding continues to be a problem on Rancho Santa Fe roads, but California Highway Patrol officers on overtime shifts in the Covenant are working to curb commuters' fast-driving habits. As the CHP kicks off a new year of enforcement, the Rancho Santa Fe Association board Jan. 21 heard what its contracted overtime officers did in 2009, mostly issuing expensive speeding tickets.

Putting the pedal to the metal can now cost a driver about \$300 a pop.

"They make our roads so much safer," said board president Bill Beckman. "Given the events of the past year on our roads, we wish they could be

everywhere because scary things like that still happen."

Beckman was referring to the two fatal crashes on Rancho Santa Fe's roads in 2009, both involving teenagers. Since 2004, the RSF Association has contracted with the CHP to provide overtime traffic enforcement in Rancho Santa Fe, in addition to the CHP's regular shifts. The Association renewed the CHP's two-year contract last year, ensuring the service through 2011.

"Overall, we are very happy with the work the CHP is doing," said Liz Avalon, associate planner. "Matt (Wellhouser, the Rancho Santa Fe Patrol Chief) and the CHP

See *ROADS*, page 29



RAINY RSF — Like the rest of San Diego County, Rancho Santa Fe took quite a pounding from a series of storms last week. The photo above shows a flooded field — where horses usually roam — in the Fairbanks Ranch area on San Dieguito Road.

"It was a very busy period of time for the [RSF Fire District], we had to bring in additional staffing to meet the demands," said Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District Chief Nick Pavone. The Fire Chief said some minor damage occurred from fallen trees and a few problems arose with flooding on Artesian Road, but nothing the fire department couldn't handle. "We had [several] traffic collisions," Pavone said, noting that there were more than normal but none were too serious. — *Karen Billing*

Photo/Beau Brown

Veterinarian's death now being investigated as 'suspicious'

The death of veterinarian Robert Frank Stonebreaker, owner of the Animal and Bird Hospital of Del Mar and FreeFlight exotic bird sanctuary, is now being investigated as a suspicious death, according to Sheriff's Lieutenant Dennis Brugos.

On Jan. 16, Stonebreaker's silver Porsche Carrera was discovered on Paseo Delicias near Caminito de Conejos in Rancho Santa Fe, according to Brugos. Evidence at the scene suggested that the vehicle had been involved in a single car crash so the case was initially investigated as a traffic collision by the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Brugos said.

See *VETERINARIAN*, page 30

Only one in three SD County school districts decides to race after federal money

By Marsha Sutton

(First published on San Diego News Network, www.sdnnews.com, this newspaper's media partner)

Jan. 19 was the deadline for states to apply for federal education money from a U.S. Department of Education program called Race to the Top (RTTT). But in order to be considered, states first had to ensure that their laws are consistent with RTTT requirements.

The scrambling to meet the qualifications to apply for this pot of relatively limited federal education money had the state of California, its lawmakers, the California Department of Education and

all the state's 1,000 school districts in a panic the past few months.

In the end, laws were hurriedly passed that aligned California's goals with controversial federal objectives, and school districts were then called upon to sign on in support. But many districts were wondering, "In support of what?"

The accelerated manner with which districts were asked to endorse the effort made many uneasy. And commitments the state would require of districts, in exchange for the money, were fuzzy at best.

"They said initially, 'Just trust us,'" said Leslie Fausset,

superintendent of the kindergarten through sixth-grade Solana Beach School District.

Fausset, whose district did not sign the state's Memorandum of Understanding, said the agreement read like a blank sheet. Solana Beach was hardly alone.

Signing the MOU to agree to the state's conditions for the federal Race to the Top money were only 14 of the county's 42 school districts.

Those 14 are: Bonsall, Cardiff, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, Encinitas, Mountain Empire, National, Ramona, Rancho Santa Fe,

See *MONEY*, page 31

RSF Historical Society publishes new book, celebrates 25th anniversary at Feb. 7 event

By Diane Y. Welch

Last November, the Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society completed 25 years of existence. To recognize this major milestone, current society members will now remember and honor founding members who had the vision to start the organization and the will to put their ideas into action.

A celebratory, free event is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 7, from noon until 3 p.m., at the historical society's location in the historic La Flecha House, located in the heart of the village on the corner of La Flecha and Via de Santa Fe. Hot refreshments will be

See *ANNIVERSARY*, page 30



The RSF Historical Society's anniversary event is Feb. 7.

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VETERINARIAN

continued from page 1

The next morning, Jan. 17, Stonebreaker's body was discovered on the driveway of a private residence in the same general area as the collision.

Brugos said that during the course of the post mortem examination, evidence revealed that the fatal injuries sustained by Stonebreaker were not consistent with injuries normally associated with this type of traffic collision. It was at this time that the Medical Examiner's Office contacted

the Sheriff's Homicide Detail.

At presstime for this newspaper, Sheriff's Homicide investigators are working in conjunction with the CHP on the case. Brugos cautioned that not all the information released by the Sheriff's Deptment on this incident has been completely verified and the investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Homicide Detail at (858) 974-2321/after hours at (858) 565-5200 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-TIPS(8477).

ANNIVERSARY

continued 1

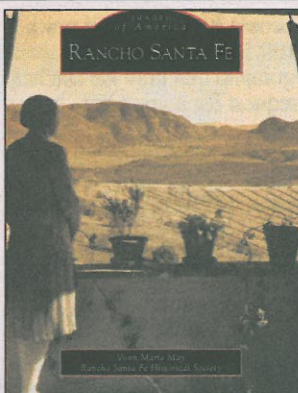
served and the program of events will be led by the society's current president, John Vreeburg.

Of the five founding members — Gwen Whitehead, Pat Cologne, Eleanor Shefte, Sandy Somerville, and Marcia Van Liew — three will be present to be recognized in person. Cologne, Somerville and Van Liew will each receive a commemorative certificate in honor of their past accomplishments and their recollections will be shared with those present. Several longtime charter members of the society will also be recognized, as will current board members, said Susan Bartow who is the chair for the committee established to organize the celebration.

"On October 30, 1984 the articles of incorporation were signed and that was the beginning of a great adventure!" said Gwen Whitehead, the society's inaugural president, on the home page of the historical society's Web site. By Nov. 29, 1984, the corporation was recorded and the historical society became a reality, with 350 people signing up as charter members.

Through the efforts of the Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society, in 1989 the community of Rancho Santa Fe was designated a California Historic State Landmark. Two years later the Historic American Buildings Survey documented several of the Ranch's historic buildings and from its findings a book was published in 1993. A five-person book committee led by Cologne and Somerville produced the book "Rancho Santa Fe, A California Village."

Now a new generation of historical society members has published a pictorial book titled simply, "Rancho Santa Fe." The book will be available for purchase at the event and was officially released Jan. 25, 2010. One of the "Images of America" series published by Arcadia Publishing, the book contains more than 200 vintage black and white photographs culled from the collection held in the historical society's archives. Board members Peggy and David Brooks helped with the organization and documen-



Images of America:
Rancho Santa Fe/
Vonn Marie May

tation of the photographic images; Gijs Hanselaar scanned and digitized the images; and authorship was contributed by board member Vonn Marie May, an expert in historic preservation.

The book contains seven chapters that trace the history of the Ranch from its former Spanish land grant days, through its era as a vast eucalyptus grove, to its current status as an exclusive, restricted residential enclave. May volunteered to author the book as a gift to the society and all proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit the nonprofit organization, she said.

The Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society is known for its dedication to the preservation, documentation and the education of its members, the local community and visitors to the area. It's location in La Flecha house was made possible by the donation of the home by E.L. Bus and Margarita Reitz. The building was designated Historic Landmark #1 and commemorated on July 4, 1989, according to the society's website. The house, a Lilian Rice design, built in the 1920s, now serves as a museum which has helped preserve artifacts, documents and photographs of Rancho Santa Fe for future generations.

Call (858) 756-9291 if you plan to attend the anniversary event. All are welcome and the event is free.

Signed copies of the newly published book, "Rancho Santa Fe", will be on sale for \$21.99 which includes tax. There is also a companion calendar for sale at \$10. All proceeds benefit the Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society which is a nonprofit organization.

MONEY

continued from page 1

San Marcos, San Ysidro, Sweetwater and Vista.

Missing from the list are some heavy hitters, the biggest being San Diego Unified. But also not signing were: Cajon Valley, Carlsbad, Escondido, Grossmont, La Mesa-Spring Valley, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, South Bay and 18 others.

"Districts were asked to sign an MOU with no information about the commitment that we might have to do to qualify for the money," said Bernie Rhinerson, chief district relations officer for the San Diego Unified School District.

"The state doesn't have a plan done, so we weren't able to analyze what the implication or commitments or costs might be," he said. "There was a total lack of information. So all of that taken together, the district decided not to sign the MOU."

In addition, Rhinerson said the process was too rushed and was poorly timed, with decisions needing to be made over the December holidays. "The deadline was the eighth [of January], and there was still no information," he said.

Rhinerson said the school board held a brief discussion of the issue before the holidays at a budget workshop. "There was never a vote," he said. "So it really was the superintendent's decision, but certainly the board was in agreement with it."

The amount of RTTT money that California might qualify for, if its application is approved, would be \$350 million to \$700 million.

Of that, Rhinerson estimated that only a tiny portion might find its way to San Diego Unified, which has been struggling with debilitating financial shortages and has been straining to find ways to cut tens of millions of dollars in expenses.

"That money is not the solution to our budget crisis," he said. "It's probably less than \$5 million for us out of a \$1 billion budget."

Needed reform measures, or extortion?

The competitive grant program, according to a Calif. Dept. of Education news release issued Jan. 4, was designed to encourage and reward states and local educational agencies (LEAs) that are "creating the conditions for education innovation and reform."

Landmark California education reform legislation was signed recently by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger after bills passed Jan. 5 in the

Assembly and Jan. 6 in the Senate. Schwarzenegger had been agitating for many of these changes since last August, when the RTTT conditions were being formulated.

The bills were written to allow California, with its six million kindergarten through 12th-grade students, to compete for the RTTT money, which totals about \$4.35 billion. This money is provided through the U.S. government's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

If its application is approved, California stands to receive between \$350 million and \$700 million. Of this amount, 50 percent would be awarded to participating LEAs based on Title I formula counts. The remaining 50 percent would be used by the state, some of which may be provided to participating LEAs, according to School Services of California, an education advocacy organization in Sacramento.

Four core areas of focus needed to be addressed for states to apply for RTTT funding:

- Standards and assessments: Adopt internationally benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace.

- Data systems: Build data systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals how they can improve their practices.

- Teachers and leaders: Recruit, develop, retain and reward effective teachers and principals, and find ways to use student achievement growth data as one of multiple teacher evaluation methods.

- Low-performing schools: Focus attention on ways to identify and turn around each district's lowest performing schools, and give students at these schools more school-choice options.

The laws that passed give state officials the power to close failing schools, convert them to charter schools, or replace the principal and half the staff. Students stuck in low-performing schools would have greater access to other schools. And perhaps most controversially, prohibitions against linking student performance to teacher evaluations have been removed.

Not all lawmakers were receptive to the measures, with some saying that forcing states to make radical changes to their education codes to meet federal conditions was nothing less than extortion.

Is the race worth running?

A vigorous campaign to get school districts and all the state's LEAs to sign on to the program by the Jan. 8 deadline

See MONEY, page 31

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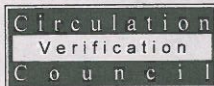
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Local News

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Two Drivers Hurt in Fiery Head-On Crash

Last Update: 1/06 5:40 pm



RANCHO SANTA FE - Two motorists were injured, one seriously, in a fiery head-on collision Wednesday on a North County road.

The crash in the 3000 block of El Camino del Norte was reported shortly before 10:30 a.m., said Julie Taber of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District.

Emergency crews arrived to find the engine compartment of one of the two involved vehicles ablaze, Taber said. The driver of that car was only superficially hurt and able to get out on his own, but firefighters had to extricate the other motorist, who had suffered "major trauma," the spokeswoman said.

Medics took both patients to Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla.

The wreck forced a complete closure of the roadway in the area for about 90 minutes, Taber said.

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2 Drivers Hurt In Fiery Head-On Collision

POSTED: 4:07 pm PST January 6, 2010

UPDATED: 4:08 pm PST January 6, 2010

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Fiery North County crash injures two

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Fiery, head-on collision in RSF critically injures two people

On Jan. 6, at 10:25 a.m., Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District, with the assistance of Encinitas Fire Department, responded to the report of a traffic collision in the 3000 block of El Camino Del Norte in Rancho Santa Fe. When units arrived on scene, firefighters found two vehicles had collided head-on with the engine compartment of one vehicle involved in fire. The driver of the burning vehicle, while injured, was able to exit the vehicle on his own, but the driver of the other vehicle was trapped and needed to be extricated. Both drivers were transported

by ambulance to Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, one as a major trauma and the other as a minor trauma.

El Camino del Norte was closed in both directions for approximately one and a half hours while crews worked to extinguish the fire, rescue the victims, and clear the roadway. The emergency response included three fire engines, two San Diego Medical Services Enterprise (CSA-17) ambulances, and a battalion chief. California Highway Patrol also responded and is investigating the cause of the accident. — RSF Fire District

Concerns linger at major intersection

By Jonathan Horn

The intersection of Interstate 5 and Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach was a work in progress for most of the past decade. To Safer Solana, a group of concerned residents pushing for increased pedestrian and bicyclist safety, it still is.

Sharp turns, drastic changes in speed limits from the freeway onto city streets, and exposed bikers near I-5 onramps highlight cautions they have raised. But much to their consternation, the department of transportation, not the Solana Beach City Council, has the final say.

"Caltrans people are unfailingly polite. They listen, but they're very difficult to move," said group member Steve Goetsch. "There are three ways to do things: The right way, the wrong way and the Caltrans way. Two of them don't count."

An ad hoc City Council committee has effectively kept the lines of communication open between residents and the department of transportation.

"Caltrans, I believe, has really tried working with our community," said Councilman Dave Roberts. "Of course you

have to remember they're coming along with the freeway widening project and they want to keep all the coastal communities happy."

In a testament to this, Caltrans has already made some changes at the request of Solana Beach. They constructed a raised median along westbound Lomas Santa Fe to separate the bike lane from traffic turning onto the freeway. Also, to protect pedestrians, they will make it illegal to turn sharp left onto I-5 from the eastbound side.

"They've actually done quite a bit," said City Manager David Ott. "This is the most I've ever seen Caltrans actually do. They have been very, very much cooperative."

But Roger Boyd, founder of Safer Solana, said there are further safety improvements needed. These include installing photo enforcement cameras at the intersection, as well as removing a 55 mph speed-limit sign from one of the exit ramps since it leads directly into a 25 mph zone if the traffic light below is green. The department of transportation is currently evaluating the requests.

"They don't think too much about other modes of transportation like bicycles and

See INTERSECTION, page 31

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community CALENDAR

Got an item for the calendar?
Send the details via e-mail to
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JAN. 15

TOUGH CLIMB LIFE at MiraCosta will meet at 1 p.m. Jan. 15, MiraCosta College, Room 1068, 1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside. Bill Burke will recount his successful trek to the top of Mt. Everest last May. Call (760) 721-8124 for more details.

JAN. 16

BE THRIFTY MiraCosta Horticulture Club will meet at 12:45 on Jan. 16, Alta Vista Gardens, 1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. Gardener and author Aenne Carver will present a program on "The Thrifty Gardener." Call (760) 729-8172 to learn more.

PRUNING 101 A free fruit tree pruning and care demonstration will be held at 11 a.m. Jan. 16, Weidners Gardens, 695 Normandy Road, Encinitas. Topics include training the young fruit tree, taming the old fruit tree, blueberries, and more. Call (760) 436-2194 or visit www.weidners.com to learn more.

JAN. 17

WATERCOLORS San Diego Botanic Garden will hold a watercolor workshop with Helen Shafer Garcia from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 17, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. Helen will teach a contemporary approach to watercolor focusing on the sculptural design of succulents. Advanced registration and payment are required for all classes. Call (760) 436-3036, ext. 206 to learn more.

JAN. 18

ONE MAN'S TRASH San Marcos-Vista Christian Women's Club will meet at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 18, Lake San Marcos Country Club, 1750 San Pablo Drive, San Marcos. Motivational speaker C.J. Rapp will share how to turn trash into treasure. Call Donna at (760) 432-0772 for details.

JAN. 19

GET IT RIGHT The California Coastal Rose Society will meet at 7 p.m. Jan. 19, Heritage Hall, 2650 Garfield, Carlsbad. Dr. Roger English who will discuss soil, irrigation and fertilizer. Visit www.californiacoastalrose.com for more details.

SAVE WATER Olivenhain Municipal Water District will hold a free irrigation workshop from 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 19, San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. Topics include how to save water and keep a green lawn during the drought. Call (760) 632-4236 or e-mail watersaver@olivenhain.com for more details.

VERDI'S LIFE The Encinitas Library will host Dr. Nicolas Reveles for the second part of a three-part series of lectures and operatic performances at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 19, library Community Room, 540 Cornish Drive. Reveles will speak on the early career and works of Giuseppe Verdi and how he changed the world of opera. Call (760) 753-7376 for

TURN TO **CALENDAR** ON 27

Del Mar prioritizes city projects

By Bianca Kaplanek

DEL MAR — Presented with a to-do list of 31 projects and not nearly enough money or staff to complete them all, City Council spent more than four hours discussing its priorities for the current and upcoming fiscal years during a Jan. 8 retreat with department heads at Sbicca Bistro.

City Manager Karen Brust said trying to complete all projects in the next year is unrealistic, while Mayor Richard Earnest said the community would be better served if the city focused on completing a few projects well.

In the end, council members directed staff to continue moving forward with half of the projects, deferring the others for at least six to 12 months. Most of the projects that will receive immediate attention are already under way, important to the city's financial solvency, crucial to public safety or public service delivery or mandated by local, state or federal laws.

The 15 projects staff will be devoting time to are construction of the Torrey Pines Bridge and 21st Street pump station, revenue

recovery from the Del Mar Fairgrounds, the housing element update, a pedestrian and bicycle circulation element plan, utility undergrounding in the North Hills and Sunset neighborhoods, retiring the Shores property debt, renewing the Winston School lease, creating an ordinance that would broaden the transient occupancy tax to include short-term vacation rentals, reviewing the fairgrounds master plan and environmental impact report, fire safety, the 17th Street beach safety center, adopting form-based code for downtown revitalization, developing a model landscape ordinance and the Southern California Edison beach access.

Council members also want to push forward with a request for proposals to replace City Hall, which Councilman Mark Filanc described as "embarrassing," although they acknowledged staff time and funding for the project are not available. The Finance Committee will be directed to continue its work on that project until staff can focus more attention on it at the end of the year.

"I'm not for deferring it,

period," Councilman Carl Hilliard said, adding that the city should increase its use of citizen advisory committees.

"Ask not what your city can do for you, but what you can do for your city," he said.

Council did, however, defer action on a pilot program that would narrow Camino del Mar to one southbound lane and add angled parking between 12th and 15th streets. Brian Mooney, interim planning director, will still present updated details on that project next month.

Brust said the number of projects council opted to move forward with "is a work plan (staff) can handle."

"It's ambitious but it's doable," Brust said. "We need staff to be focused so we can have success this year." Brust cautioned against adding any more projects because with the bridge, utility undergrounding, beach safety center, pump station and downtown streetscape improvements it will look like the entire city is under construction.

"We may have to go to boats to get people in and out of here," she joked.

Council members said they would also like to see form-based code, which requires voter approval, on the ballot this November. But before that can happen, the project will require a certified environmental impact report, which was estimated to cost between \$125,000 and \$150,000. The ballot measure is due to the registrar of voters by Aug. 6, which means the EIR would have to be completed by June. With no current funding and only \$50,000 available in the 2010-2011 fiscal year budget, it seems likely that project will not move forward this year.

Council also opted to defer its decision on a Tourism Business Improvement District that is being developed by the city's hoteliers. The district would add a 1 percent fee to all hotel room stays. The money would be used to, among other things, promote tourism within the city.

Overall, Earnest said he was pleased with the results of the meeting. "Nobody likes to say no to things people want, but we have to deliver services within our means," he said.

Beth Am offers new and ongoing classes

CARMEL VALLEY — Congregation Beth Am's Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning, sponsored by the Mizel Family Foundation, has several new classes starting in February.

To Cry Laughing: Jewish Comedy will be held Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. from Feb. 16 to March 16. In this multimedia class, Rabbi David

Kornberg will lead the group through the many avenues of Jewish comedy. He will use stories, video clips and listen to well-known comics to see how the Jewish experience is expressed in this genre. The cost is \$35 per person.

Fine Wine and Refined Rabbis will be held on Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. from Feb. 3 to Feb. 24. Rabbi

Matthew Earne, along with one of Beth Am's premier sommeliers, Steve Hochberg, will host the class that combines wine tasting and meaningful Jewish learning. A kosher wine will be introduced in each session with a commentary written by a rabbi. This class is \$15 per session and each session can be attended separately.

Basic Judaism, Beit Midrash Program, Intermediate Conversation Hebrew, Book Club and Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Earne are ongoing classes.

For more information about the entire schedule of classes, visit www.betham.com and click on education, or call Bonnie at (858) 481-8454 or e-mail to bonnie@betham.com.

Fire department urges seat belt use in 2010

RANCHO SANTA FE — The importance of wearing seat belts when driving or in a vehicle has long been the focus of safety messages by emergency responders.

They see firsthand just how devastating traffic accidents can be, especially when the occupants have chosen to not use their seat belts. Yet not everyone appears to be heeding the warnings.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one out of every five Americans does not use a seat belt on a regular basis. While seat

belts appear to have saved more than 15,000 lives in 2007, it is estimated that another 5,024 lives could have been saved if seat belts had been worn.

The problem is especially great among young people. Nearly 7,570 15- to 20-year-olds were killed in car accidents in 2007. Of those individuals, 2,762 were driving the vehicle and 58 percent were not wearing their seat belts.

The communities of Rancho Santa Fe and

Fairbanks Ranch have felt the impact of such a scenario twice within the last several months. Two teenagers have been killed while riding as unrestrained passengers in their friends' vehicles.

"We cannot emphasize enough the importance of

using your seat belt," said Fire Chief Nick Pavone. "Seat belts should be worn correctly by every passenger every time you get in the car. They may be the primary source of protection from serious injury in the event of an accident."

Principal admits to theft from district

By Randy Kalp

OCEANSIDE

Paulette Thompson, an elementary school principal accused of stealing thousands of dollars from the Oceanside Unified School District, pleaded guilty Jan. 5 to charges relating to the crime.

Thompson, 59, admitted to one count each of grand theft and misappropriation of public funds in connection to stealing more than \$50,000 between 2005 and 2008 from the district and Parent-Teacher Organization.

In accordance to her plea agreement, prosecutors dismissed 17 other charges relating to the crime, including identify theft and grand theft charges.

Thompson, who has been with the Oceanside Unified School District since 1990, faces up to three years and eight months in prison, Deputy District Attorney Robert Eichler said.

A Feb. 4 sentencing date was set.

Because the plea agreement contains a Harvey waiver, Eichler said that the judge will take into account all of the charges for her sentence and for determining a restitution amount.

Eichler said the plea deal gives "sufficient parameters" for an appropriate sentence and a chance for the victims to receive full restitution. "She's admitted to her criminal behavior," the

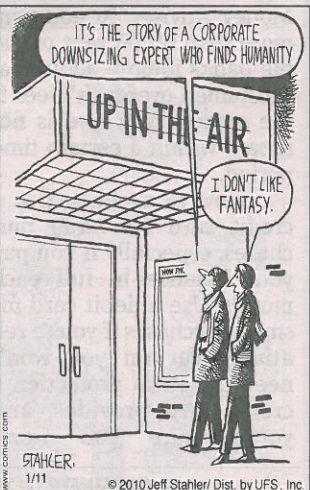
TURN TO **PRINCIPAL** ON 19

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L. 6, NO. 3

MAKING WAVES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

JAN. 29, 2010

THIS WEEK

Valuable
coupons on
Page 26



TEAM SPIRIT

Horizon Prep students
joined the rest of San
Diego in supporting the
 Chargers' bid at a
 Super Bowl slot against
 the Jets

3

INSIDE

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PUPPY LOVE

Travis Burns and Nedra Abramson from the Helen Woodward Animal Center with Harry and Peaches, who are up for adoption, at L'Auberge's canine cocktail party Jan. 16 in Del Mar. For more information about adopting these pups, visit animalcenter.org.
Photo by Machel Penn



THE VACANT PLOT THICKENS The fight over the use of this empty lot in Whispering Palms will continue as local residents continue to fight its current development plans. Photo by David Wiemers

Whispering Palms continues fight against mixed-use

By David Wiemers

RANCHO SANTA FE — The decision by the county Board of Supervisors to approve the mixed-use development at the entrance to

Whispering Palms did not sit well with residents of the Whispering Palms community.

At a special meeting by the Whispering Palms

Community Council held the evening of Jan. 20, the board of directors asked counsel Julie Hamilton to prepare a petition of writ of mandate. This action will force a court

decision.

According to David Nugent, president of the Alcala Homeowners Association and

Osuna property lot split

By David Wiemers

RANCHO SANTA FE — The Association board of directors approved a lot split on the Osuna property at the Jan. 21 meeting.

Parcel 1, on the southern portion of the site, is 3.3 gross acres with a 10,500-square-foot single-family residence. Parcel 2 encompasses the remainder of the 24.6 acres, which contains a majority of the horse keeping facilities as well as the Osuna Adobe.

The debate centered around whether the smaller parcel should be allowed two or three horses on the property. The Art Jury recommended two horses; Director Tim Sullivan wanted three. "It makes the property more desirable for a buyer with horses," Sullivan insisted. In the end, Sullivan, an avid horse lover, simply didn't have the support of the

TURN TO OSUNA ON 22

Homicide suspected in vet's death

By David Wiemers

RANCHO SANTA FE — The death of Del Mar veterinarian Robert Frank Stonebreaker is now being investigated as a homicide, according to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

There are tire tracks veering off the road where Stonebreaker's vehicle plunged 15 feet into an embankment off of Paseo Delicias. The vehicle was found on Saturday evening, Jan. 16. It wasn't until the following morning that Stonebreaker was found dead in the driveway of 6792 Paseo Delicias. The case was initially investigated as a traffic collision by the California Highway Patrol.

During the course of the post-mortem examination, however, evidence was revealed that the fatal injuries sustained by victim were not normal for this type of traffic collision. The Medical Examiner's Office contacted the Sheriff's Homicide Detail.

"He appears to have been hit by a blunt object on the head," said Public Information Officer Eric

TURN TO MIXED-USE ON 22

TURN TO DEATH ON 22

America is focus of upcoming concert

LA JOLLA — The La Jolla Symphony & Chorus presents a concert of perspectives on and about America at 8 p.m. Feb. 6 and 1 p.m. Feb. 7 in Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD. Individual tickets are \$29 general, \$26 senior, and \$15 student. Group discounts are available. Parking is free. A pre-concert lecture is offered one hour prior to concert times. To purchase tickets or for more information, call the LJS&C at (858) 534-4637 or visit www.lajollasympphony.com.

The concert will include Charles Ives' "Three Places in New England," Lou Harrison's "Concerto for Pipa & String Orchestra" with soloist Wu Man on pipa (Chinese lute), and Antonin Dvořák's "Symphony No. 9 in E minor." La Jolla Symphony & Chorus Music Director Steven Schick conducts.

"One of the salient points about this concert is the idea of a 'shrinking world,'" Schick said. "We start the program with a piece by Charles Ives, the grandfather of American composition. Lou Harrison worked with Ives, but his path led towards the musical structures of Asia. In one of the last pieces before his death he sought out Wu Man and created Chinese music — not as it would have or could have been heard in China, but really the music of Chinese-Americans. We conclude with the piece Dvorak wrote about his time in America."

The La Jolla Symphony & Chorus, San Diego's oldest and largest community orchestra and chorus, is a nonprofit musical performing group dedicated to inspiring San Diego with the joy of music. Its 110-person orchestra and 130-voice chorus perform groundbreaking orchestral and choral music along with traditional favorites from the classical repertoire. During the 55th season, maestro Steven Schick shares the podium with David Chase, choral director.

GUILTY

CONTINUED FROM 11

realize the odds are against them.

She said her office felt the penalty was appropriate based on all factors of the case and that it would be the quickest way to get restitution to the victims.

"This is the fastest way to get the money released to the victims 100 percent guaranteed," Winn said. "They'll have their money by Easter."

The prosecutor said each victim gets the same percentage back off their investment, which will be about 50 percent.

Antibiotic not to blame for high blood pressure



DR. GOTT

Second Opinion

Dear Dr. Gott: I am an 80-year-old woman in good health. I am not overweight, walk at least two miles every day, and my blood pressure is normally within the accepted range.

I had foot surgery for a hammertoe and got a small infection in it. The doctor gave me the antibiotic cephalixin, and my foot healed well. Three weeks after taking the antibiotic, I developed a twitch in my left eye, and the following day, the left side of my face was twitching and felt strange. I went to my primary-care doctor to find out what was happening, and he told me that my blood-pressure medicine was not working. He increased the dosage from 25 milligrams to 50 milligrams per day. I told my doctor that I thought it was a reaction to the cephalixin, but he said that it couldn't be from the drug because too much

time had passed from when I last took it to when my symptoms began.

My blood pressure continued to spike, especially in the middle of the night. I felt bad and went to the emergency room at my local hospital and told the doctor there that I thought my problem was from the cephalixin. She asked if I had vomited when I took the medication, and I told her that I hadn't but did have some stomach upset, which had gone away when I ate soda crackers and cheese to settle it.

Two days later, I went back to the emergency room. My blood pressure this time was 224 over 100 and something. I was immediately admitted because they said I could have a stroke due to having such a high blood pressure. This time I underwent an electrocardiogram (EKG), a chest X-ray and an MRI. They all came back fine and showed no damage, but the doctor thought that I had had a transient ischemic attack (TIA). I was given a prescription for hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ) and sent home.

I will never take penicillin

or cephalixin again, but I would like to know whether there is an antidote for an adverse reaction to the drugs. I even called the 800 number on the bottle to ask for an antidote and was told to call the emergency room.

Dear Reader: I am afraid that you are not going to like my response any more than you liked that of your primary-care physician, the ER physician or the person at the 800 number.

If your symptoms did not start until three weeks after stopping the medication, the cephalixin was not to blame. It would have cleared out of your system by then. According to my "Physicians' Desk Reference," 90 percent of cephalixin is excreted in the urine within eight hours of ingesting it.

Reactions to medications occur primarily during the course of treatment or shortly thereafter. Those that induce problems following treatment are typically the result of long-term steroid or narcotic use and due to abrupt cessation, causing withdrawal symptoms.

Adverse effects from tak-

ing cephalixin include allergic reaction (hives, swelling, rash), dizziness, fatigue, muscle or joint pain, headache, hallucinations, agitation, confusion, abdominal pain, stomach upset, heartburn/indigestion and more. Typically, stomach upset can be avoided by taking the medication with food or on a full stomach. Allergic reactions should be reported immediately to a physician to determine whether over-the-counter antihistamines can be used or whether the reaction is severe enough to warrant hospitalization.

Any side effects experienced should resolve within a few days to a week after discontinuing the antibiotic. (You'll note that I did not mention anything about fluctuating blood pressure. This is because I could not find reference to this as a known side effect.)

Now, to your refusal to take penicillin. Rarely, those allergic to penicillin may also be allergic to the cephalosporin class of antibiotics that cephalixin belongs to; however, this is not always the case.

Stop blaming the antibiot-

ic for your current problems, and start working with your physician to determine what the problem is. Are you on any other medications that may be interacting with your blood-pressure medications? Have you changed your diet or exercise habits? Were you experiencing any abnormal stress just prior to your symptoms? Perhaps you should be under the care of a cardiologist, who can examine and test you for a variety of cardiac conditions that may be the culprit.

I am unclear as to what you mean by an antidote for cephalixin. Stopping the medication should eliminate any side effects experienced, and for those who develop an allergic reaction, antihistamines typically reduce side effects until the drug is excreted from the body. Severe cases may require stronger drugs and hospitalization, but this is rare.

Doctor Gott is a practicing physician and the author of the book "Live Longer, Live Better." Write him at Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016.

TASTE OF WINE

CONTINUED FROM 11

and wine event from 7 to 10 p.m. Jan. 29. More than 30 wineries will participate, including many from Temecula Wine Country. Call (877) 711-2946 for details.

"Exploring Wine" is the first class in the current series certificate programs at San Diego State. It starts from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 9 on campus. Contact Rhonda Beard at (619) 594-6924 or e-mail her at rbeard@mail.sdsu.edu.

—The Museum of

Photographic Arts in Balboa Park San Diego is staging a Fine and Rare Wine Tasting at a private residence from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Feb. 20. These are the world's highest rated wines and they are at their prime. Contact Sue George to RSVP at (619) 238-7559,

ext. 202.

— A premier Southern California winery, the new Lorimar Winery, has just opened a trendy tasting room in Old Town Temecula, prior to its Tuscan-style winery location. Well-known winemaker Mike Tingley will make

the wines. Learn more at (951) 270-5177.

Frank Mangio is a renowned wine connoisseur certified by Wine Spectator. His library can be viewed at www.tasteofwinetv.com. (Average Google certified 900 visits per day) He is one of the top five wine commentators on the Web. Reach him at mangiompc@aol.com.

MORE ODD FILES

CONTINUED FROM 20

was an accident: "We're both obese, middle-aged men."

Update

President Obama's figurine was expected to lead in sales for the second straight year in the traditional "cagan-

er" craft industry in Spain's Catalonia region. As Odd Files reported in 2008, the popular statuettes are typically modeled on famous people, each with pants down, squatting to answer a call of nature. They are ubiquitous in Nativity scenes, playfully hidden to encourage children's where's-waldo-type guessing, and

believed to symbolize "equality" through the universality of bodily functions. Another figurine expected to do well this season is the brand-new Queen Elizabeth.

Odd Files Classic (September 1993)

In August 1993, Pentecostal preacher Sammy

Rodriguez, 29, and 19 relatives from Floydada, Texas, set out in one vehicle on a pilgrimage, but as they passed through Vinton, La., Rodriguez sped away from police trying to make a traffic stop. When the chase ended, police discovered that all 20 people in the vehicle were naked. Rodriguez explained

that the Holy Spirit had ordered him and his family on a journey and that they were to leave behind all possessions (supposedly to confuse Satan), which Rodriguez took to mean clothing, also. He pleaded guilty to the traffic charge, and, with donated clothing, the group went on their way.

DEATH

CONTINUED FROM 1

Newberry of the California Highway Patrol.

Stonebreaker, 53, was

the owner of Animal and Bird Hospital of Del Mar and FreeFlight, an exotic bird sanctuary.

He is survived by his wife, Pamela, and their two

children. There has been an outpouring of love and support from friends and pet owners who valued Stonebreaker as a veterinarian.

Investigators have already ruled out suicide as the trauma to the head isn't consistent with a suicide.

If you or anyone you know has information that

can help in the investigation, you're encouraged to contact the Homicide Detail at (858) 974-2321 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-TIPS (8477).

OSUNA

CONTINUED FROM 1

board and the lot was split as recommended by staff and the Art Jury.

The directors also approved a renovation on the Osuna apartment, which is used by the ranch foreman. The renovation is necessary to make it habitable and will not exceed \$15,000.

Associate Planner Liz Avalon provided an update on the California Highway

Patrol contract for overtime enforcement. The Association has an agreement with the CHP for 20 hours of overtime per week to help supplement the regular enforcement provided by the CHP and Sheriff's Department. The overtime workers help deter speed violators in the Ranch as well as those talking or texting on cell phones while driving. President Bill Beckman thanked the CHP officers. "We appreciate all that you do," he said.

However, Director Deb Plummer expressed concern that officers should focus on safety first and not, what she called "nuisance tickets."

"Since we (Association residents) are paying for this, we should direct what our priorities are," Beckman agreed.

Manager Pete Smith agreed and there will be further discussion in the near future. The directors also agreed to purchase a new patrol vehicle to replace a

vehicle that now has more than 93,000 miles.

At the meeting, Chief Financial Officer Steve Comstock gave a financial update on the Association. According to Comstock, the Association is operating with a \$900,000 surplus.

"Considering the economic times we live in, this is very good news," he said. Even the Golf Club, which was a big economic concern to the Association just last year, is operating in the

black. "This is an excellent report card from Steve Nordstrom," said Comstock. Nordstrom manages the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club.

The biggest area of concern, per Comstock's report, was the Rancho Santa Fe Tennis Club. Enrollments are down and dues don't cover the costs of operating the club. "We've got to take a good, hard look at this," Comstock said.

The next Association meeting is scheduled for Feb. 4.

MIXED-USE

CONTINUED FROM 1

board member on the Whispering Palms Community Council, the writ "... is directed against the county Board of Supervisors for never asking for an environmental impact report."

On Jan. 13, the county Board of Supervisors approved the controversial mixed-use development with a unanimous vote. This came

after many years of disagreements between developer Richard Cavanaugh and his Newport Pacific, Inc., which plans to build a complex that has both commercial and rental residential units. Residents in the community have long opposed the project feeling it is too large a project for the empty lot and that the rental units will bring down home values in the upscale neighborhood. Residents attending the

meeting wore red to show their unity.

Cavanaugh felt otherwise. "I think people will be tickled to death once it's built. They'll love it," he said, after the Board of Supervisors meeting. The project intends to provide services such as a beauty parlor, bakery and deli, and office space.

The empty lot at the entrance to Whispering Palms has been a source of conflict for many years, if not

decades. Residents in the community want something built on the lot, but want it to work well with the community. "It's such an eyesore, but we want it to be responsible," said Karen Nugent, resident of Whispering Palms.

David Nugent expressed frustration due to Cavanaugh's refusal to meet with the Whispering Palms Community Council and work with the residents of the community to develop a project

that is beneficial to all parties concerned. "He could have had a good cash flow on the property by now, but instead he dug in his heels," he said.

Will a writ of mandate stop Cavanaugh from developing the property? "I don't believe so, but we would probably be allowed a temporary restraining order," David Nugent said.

It appears the battle over the empty lot at Whispering Palms isn't over yet.