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## Father Of Newborn Killed In DUI-Related Crash

POSTED: 1:06 pm PST January 1, 2009

UPDATED: 7:38 am PST January 2, 2009

**RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif.** -- A 21-year-old Camp Pendleton Marine was in police custody Friday on suspicion of causing the county's only fatal, drunken driving crash on New Year's Day.

Quintin Garza III of Oceanside was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving Thursday morning after he allegedly caused a two-car crash that killed a 29-year-old father of a newborn baby girl, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Guadencio Reyes-Guaintana of San Marcos was killed after his vehicle and another vehicle driven by Garza both veered off El Camino Real at La Orilla, on the western edge of Rancho Santa Fe, shortly before 5 a.m. Thursday, according to a North County Fire Protection District dispatcher and the San Diego County medical examiner's Office.

According to the medical examiner's Web site, Reyes-Guaintana's 2001 GMC Jimmy went off the roadway first and Garza's 2008 Dodge Caliber followed and landed on the first vehicle's roof. Both vehicles were traveling northbound.

Reyes-Guaintana died at the scene. Garza suffered minor injuries, the CHP reported.

Garza was booked into the Vista jail in lieu of \$200,000 bail. He will be arraigned Jan. 5, according to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department's Web site.

Reyes-Guaintana is survived by his live-in girlfriend and newborn daughter, according to the medical examiner's Web site.



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# Marine Arrested For Deadly Crash

Updated 7:30 AM PST, Fri, Jan 2, 2009

**Related Topics:** [Quintin Garza](#)



A Marine has been arrested for investigation of driving under the influence and manslaughter after he allegedly slammed his car into another driver and killed him.

The [California Highway Patrol](#) says [Quintin Garza](#), 21, of Oceanside is suspected of speeding his sedan at a sharp right turn early Thursday, causing the vehicle to go off the road and strike an SUV that went off the same road moments earlier.

The driver of the SUV, a 29-year-old [San Marcos](#) man, was killed.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, [CHP Sgt. Tom Greenstone](#) said. He says speed and alcohol may have been factors in both accidents.

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**THE CALIFORNIAN**

Last modified Thursday, January 1, 2009 9:07 PM PST

**RANCHO SANTA FE: Marine arrested on felony manslaughter, DUI charges**

By North County Times

RANCHO SANTA FE ---- A 21-year-old Camp Pendleton Marine was arrested early New Year's Day on felony manslaughter and DUI charges after he allegedly slammed his car into another man, killing him at the scene, authorities said.

Quintin Garza III, of Oceanside, is suspected of speeding his 2008 Dodge Caliber off El Camino Real at a sharp right turn sometime before 4 a.m. Thursday. The Dodge went airborne and struck a 29-year-old San Marcos man who had driven his SUV off the same road moments earlier, a California Highway Patrol press release said.

Gaudencio Reyes-Guaintana, the father of a newborn girl, was killed, according to the county medical examiner's office. The Dodge also struck Reyes-Guaintana's GMC Jimmy, before it overturned in a muddy, marshy area at the edge of the San Elijo Lagoon near La Orilla, CHP Sgt. Tom Greenstone said.

Investigators are looking at speed and alcohol as factors in both drivers going off the road, he said. They believe Garza was traveling faster than Reyes-Guaintana when he drove off the road, Greenstone said.

It's not clear exactly when the drivers went off the road. CHP officers did not know about the crash until a passerby called 911 just before 4:15 a.m., Greenstone said.

It was foggy and both cars were cold when officers arrived, he said.

Reyes-Guaintana was pronounced dead at the scene. Garza suffered minor injuries.

There were no passengers in either vehicle.

Along with the felony manslaughter charge, Garza faces a felony DUI causing injury charge, the CHP press release stated.

He was booked into the Vista jail Thursday.

The crash remains under investigation.

## Man killed when SUV leaves road, is hit by car

RANCHO SANTA FE: A 29-year-old San Marcos man was killed after his SUV and another vehicle went off the road early yesterday.

Gaudencio Reyes-Guaintana was driving north on El Camino Real near La Orilla in a 2001 GMC Jimmy about 4:10 a.m. when the SUV went off the road, the Medical Examiner's Office said.

Reyes-Guaintana was then struck by a 2008 Dodge Caliber speeding in the same direction, authorities said. That vehicle also went off the road. One of the vehicles ended up over the side of the hill.

A passer-by reported the crash to authorities. Reyes-Guaintana was pronounced dead at the scene, authorities said.

He was the father of a newborn girl, a Medical Examiner's investigator said.

Authorities arrested the other driver on suspicion of driving under the influence. — A.M.

*Staff writers Debbi Baker, Angelica Martinez and Pauline Repard contributed to this report.*

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**THE CALIFORNIAN**

Last modified Thursday, January 1, 2009 11:37 PM PST

**RANCHO SANTA FE: Major injury in single-car crash**

By North County Times

RANCHO SANTA FE ---- One person was flown by helicopter to a local trauma center with a broken neck following a single-car crash Thursday afternoon, according to a written statement from the California Highway Patrol.

About 1:35 p.m., a speeding minivan overturned while traveling west in the 5600 block of Linea del Cielo, injuring three of the four passengers inside. All four are Escondido residents.

The driver, Carlos Aguilar-Sanchez, 36, suffered minor cuts and was arrested on suspicion of DUI. He was booked into the Vista jail, officials said.

Adrian Gonzalez, 28, suffered a broken neck and was flown to Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla.

He was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash.

Another passenger, Isis Santiago, 37, suffered cuts to his right hand and elbow.

A 2-year-old boy, Brian Aguilar, was in a car seat and was not injured in the crash, officials said.

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## Public review for RSF Village's Lilian Project is Jan. 15

The Lilian Project is currently scheduled to be heard by the Association board at a public hearing on Jan. 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the RSF Association boardroom.

A mixed-use residential and commercial project on a 41,211 square-foot lot in the RSF Village at the corner of El Tordo and Avenida de Acacias, The Lilian had previously been met with concern by the Association board due to the project's proposed bulk.

After extensive review and member input, the Art Jury completed its review of the Lilian Project on Dec. 9 and forwarded a recommendation of conditional approval on the revised project to the Association board. The project has been the subject of several community meetings, numerous Art Jury submittals, and extensive design review and modifications since it was originally conceived over two years ago. Because the project is a commercial development, the Association board must give the final approval.

## Santa Fe Irrigation District elects new board president

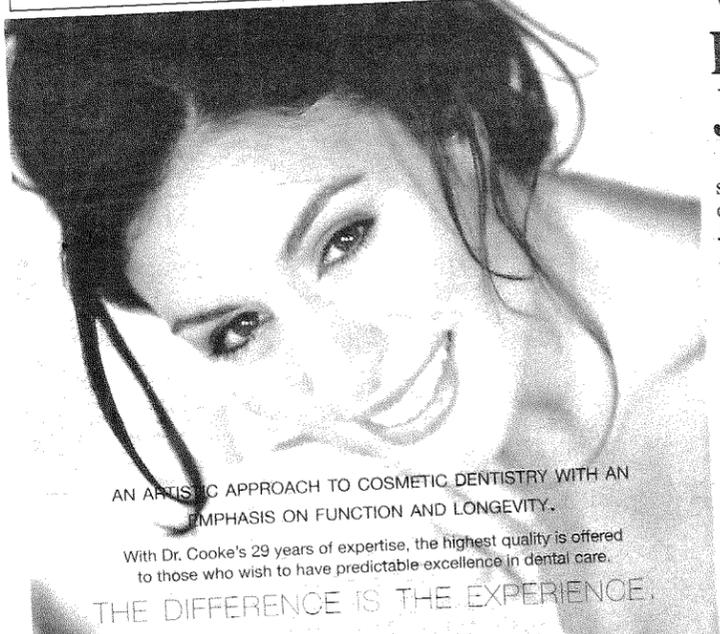
Michael T. Hogan has been elected to serve as the president of the board of directors of the Santa Fe Irrigation District. At the Dec. 18 board of directors meeting, Hogan was unanimously elected by fellow board members to serve a two-year term as the board president. As president of the board, he will chair the monthly board of director meeting, establish board member committee assignments, and serve as chairman of the Executive Committee which is responsible for setting the agenda for board meetings.

Hogan is a life-long resident of Solana Beach and has worked in the water utility industry for over 30 years. He currently serves as the district's representative to the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) where he is a member of the Administrative and Finance Committee and Engineering and Operations Committee. He has previously been elected and appointed to numerous leadership positions at both the state and national level in water industry professional associations, including the California Water Environment Association and Water Environment Federation. Following his election to the position of president of the board, Hogan commented that he was, "honored to receive the support of his fellow board members and that his primary objectives would be sustainability of district infrastructure and water supply resources."

Hogan succeeds Robert "Bud" M. Irvin as board president. Irvin served two terms as board president and was a former SDCWA representative and serves as the chairman of the District Finance Committee. Irvin nominated Hogan for the office of president and noted that, "Mike's leadership abilities and knowledge of the water business will serve the district and community well." He expressed his appreciation for the support of the board and staff during his tenure as president, noting progress the district has made over the past several years and the many challenges currently facing the water industry.

The Santa Fe Irrigation District Board of Directors meet monthly at the district administration office in Rancho Santa Fe. Members of the public are invited to attend the meetings which are held on the third Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m., or view meeting agendas which are available on the district Web site at [www.sfidwater.org](http://www.sfidwater.org). For more information about the district you can also call 858-756-2424.

The Santa Fe Irrigation District was formed in 1923 under the California Irrigation District Act. The District provides water and related services to residential, commercial and agricultural customers in the San Diego County communities of Rancho Santa Fe, Solana Beach and Fairbanks Ranch. The District provides service to about 22,000 customers in a 16-square-mile area. The district supplies over 4.5 billion gallons (or 13,500 acre feet) of water per year to its customers, utilizing a blend of local water from Lake Hodges and imported water purchased through the San Diego County Water Authority. The district administers and operates the jointly owned R.E. Badger Filtration Plant, a 40 million gallon per day water treatment plant. The district has historical rights to local water supplies from Lake Hodges and the San Dieguito Reservoir.



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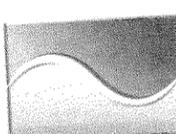
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## CERT training helps man save life of companion

A man who graduated from Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training in November found himself putting his training to use when he saved a life by performing the Heimlich maneuver. Daniel Waldorf was out to dinner with friends on Dec. 1 when a member of his party began choking when a bite of pizza became lodged in her throat. Waldorf quickly put his training into action and was able to successfully dislodge the obstruction from his companion's throat.

Waldorf saw Tania Andrade inhale a piece of pizza and instantly knew she was choking. Her hands went up to her throat, she sat straight up, her face turned red, and she gasped for air. He asked Andrade if she was choking and she nodded, so Waldorf pulled her out of her seat, wrapped his arms around her middle, and gave three upward thrusts to her stomach, dislodging the pizza.

"Because of CERT I was able to notice her choking right away and react quickly," said Waldorf. "The whole event was very scary for all of us there. Honestly, I hope to never have to see that happen again but, if it does, I know I am prepared to deal with it calmly."

CERT is an all-hazard, all-risk training program designed to teach you how to protect yourself, your family, your neighbors and community during a disaster situation. The Rancho Santa Fe Fire District's CERT program is absolutely free; however, you must be over 16 years of age and live or work within the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District to join the RSF CERT program. To obtain more information on upcoming training, please visit [www.rsffire.org](http://www.rsffire.org), or call (858) 756-5971, ext. 149.

## Local residents continue to grapple with issues regarding I-5/State Route 56 connector project

By Max Sutton-Smolin

Tempers flared Dec. 18 at the Carmel Valley Library, where officials from the California Department of Transportation and the city of San Diego met with community planning boards and homeowners associations to discuss new developments and review new Caltrans visuals for the Interstate 5/State Route 56 connector project.

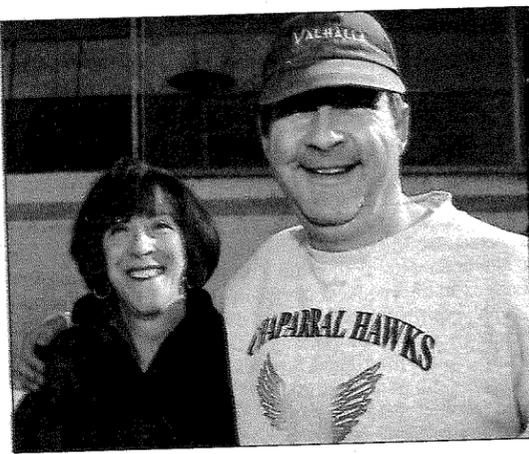
Five alternatives were discussed at the Steering Committee meeting for the connectors, but

residents were more concerned with the widening of the 56, said Dennis Ridz, a member of the Torrey Pines Planning Board and co-chair of the subcommittee for the I-5/SR-56 connector.

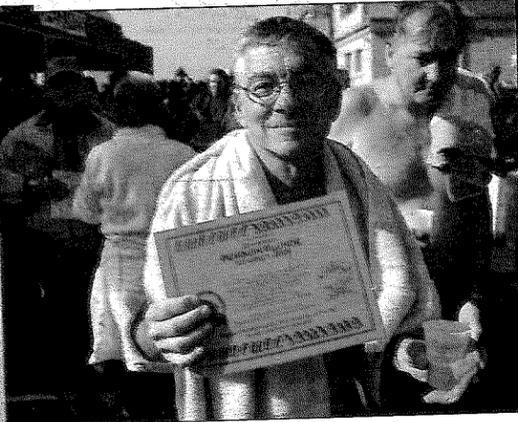
The Caltrans Steering Committee consists of planning board members and Caltrans officials and is separate from the Torrey Pines Planning Board subcommittee, Ridz said.

"It's the impression of the

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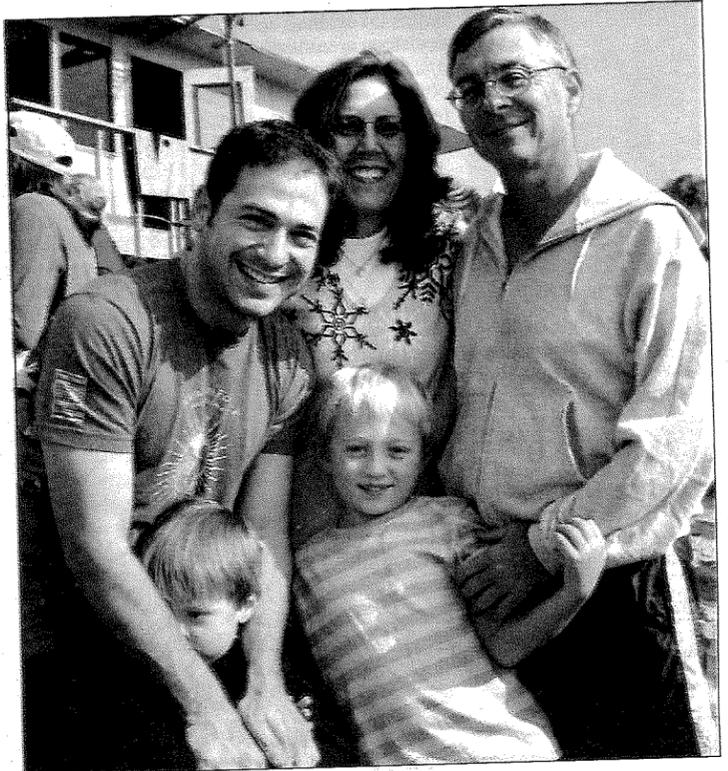
Beverly Tenke, Alan Levis



Harold Cohn picks up his Penguin Plunge certificate.



Rebecca Jan, Vanessa Madruaga



Jason, Caden, Lisa, Tyler, and Harold Cohn  
**MORE POLAR BEAR PLUNGE!**

## Philanthropy Year in Review — January 2008-June 2008



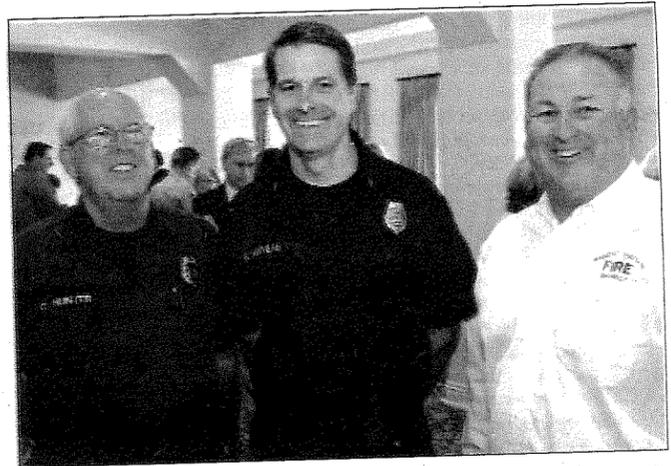
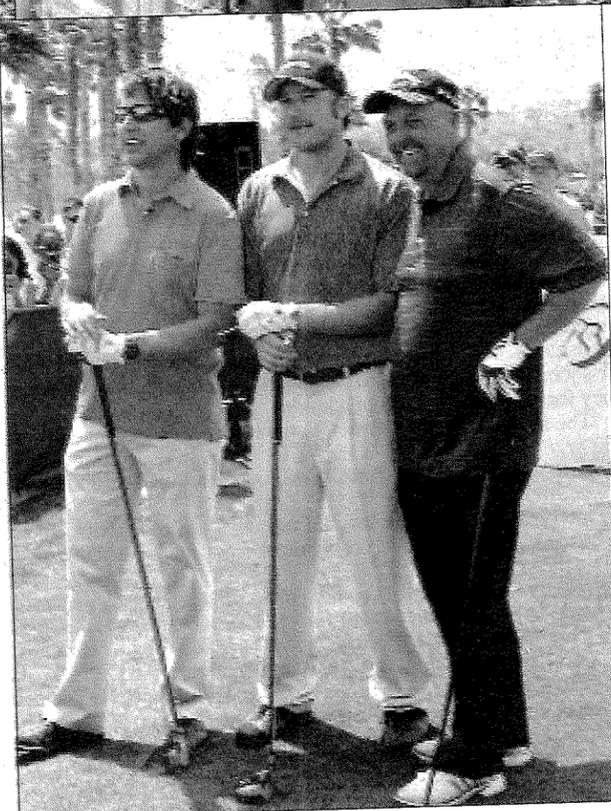
### Studio 54 in RSF!

(Above) Disco divas and dudes had the opportunity to get down at the Rancho Santa Fe Community Center's Studio 54 fundraiser held April 26 at The Inn.

The event also featured a terrific silent auction with fantastic opportunities, including title sponsor Jet Source's \$20,000 charter travel gift card, and the opportunity for someone's child to spend the day with the NFL Draft Pick players.

Getting in the spirit of Saturday Night Fever are Barry Bailey, Bob Spears, Carolyn and Darryl Flaming.

(Left) CELEBRITY CLASSIC — Checking out the competition at the 10th Annual Stan Humphries Celebrity Classic, held April 23 through April 27 at Morgan Run Resort and Club in Rancho Santa Fe, are Ray Romano, Bode Miller and John Ashton.  
Photos/Jon Clark



**A COMMUNITY-WIDE THANK YOU!** The Fire Recovery Coordinating Committee sponsored one last major community event to honor first responders and fire volunteers at the Inn (which hosted the event) at Rancho Santa Fe on Jan. 27. The event was attended by residents of the entire RSF Fire District. The event featured a short program honoring firefighters, medical personnel, law enforcement, dispatchers and others — including those in the Rancho Santa Fe community who helped recover from the fires in other ways. (Above) Among those honored were Cliff Hunter, Greg Rainville and Tony Michel. Photos/Jon Clark



**SCHWARZENEGGER IN RSF** — Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger visited the home of Amy and Steve Finley Feb. 7 to discuss his 2008 agenda, San Diego's recovery from the recent wildfires. The Governor thanked Supervisor Ron Roberts for his help in leading the local government's response and New Majority Chairman Mick Pattinson, for his recent visit to Sacramento to advise on the building industry. (Above) Joey DeMarco and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

## YEAR, FROM PAGE A6

small-group discussions about philanthropy to engage giving minds with the foundation and share best practices. These breakfast meetings will continue in 2009.

Green will also continue his active role as an ambassador for the Elementary Institute of Science, participating in the World President's Organization and mentoring young people. He also plans to visit Kenya to see the work of Free the Children firsthand.

The Rancho Santa Fe resident retired 10 years ago, but said he has never been busier. Watch for his contagious enthusiasm to make the community better in '09.



David Maxwell

## David Maxwell

Cielo Village was completed in early 2008. However, the shopping center is only half full. Leasing brokers of Cielo Village, including Dave Maxwell and his partner Bill Schrader, have had

a tough job wooing retail tenants in a down economy and the coming year is not going to be much easier.

However, Maxwell said he is optimistic that after Harvest Ranch Market and Decanter Wine Lounge and Restaurant open this year, other community services will fill the picturesque center by the end of 2009. With a café, restaurant, market, post office, dry cleaner and gift shop already on the way, Maxwell said they have their eye on attracting a full service day spa, another restaurant and perhaps an art gallery.

Residents are eagerly watching Cielo

Village become a vibrant part of the neighborhood.



Tim Cusac

## Tim Cusac

Every town needs its coffee shop, where neighbors can gather and catch up. The owner of Café Positano loves providing that environment at his two cozy shops in the Village and De Reyo Shopping Center. But he doesn't stop there.

Cusac is spreading the warmth throughout Rancho Santa Fe, donating coffee to community events and hosting new community gatherings, such as a festive evening of music at the Del Rey center during the holidays.

We expect Cusac has a few more ideas up his sleeve and can't wait to see what he brews up next — not to mention the tasty coffee.



Mike Arms

## Mike Arms

As president of Helen Woodward Animal Center, Mike Arms rules one the best-known animal centers in the country. Arms is entering into his 10th year at Helen Woodward, a place that

helps pets find new homes, hosts dog surf contests and is a venue for countless community service projects. And they're about to grow even bigger.

The animal center is currently raising money as part of its capital campaign for the expansion of its El Apajo home.

## New father killed in DUI crash

By City News Service

A 21-year-old Camp Pendleton Marine was arrested today on suspicion of causing the county's only fatal, drunken driving crash on New Year's Day.

Quintin Garza III of Oceanside was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving Jan. 1 after he allegedly caused a two-car crash that killed a 29-year-old father of a newborn baby girl, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Guadencio Reyes-Guaintana of San Marcos was

killed after his vehicle and another vehicle driven by Garza both veered off El Camino Real at La Orilla, on the western edge of Rancho Santa Fe, shortly before 5 a.m. Jan. 1, according to a North County Fire Protection District dispatcher and the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office.

According to the Medical Examiner's Web site, Reyes-Guaintana's 2001 GMC Jimmy went off the roadway first and Garza's 2008 Dodge Caliber followed

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Reyes-Guaintana died at the scene. Garza suffered minor injuries, the CHP reported.

Garza was booked into the Vista jail in lieu of \$200,000 bail. He will be arraigned Jan. 5, according to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department's Web site.

Reyes-Guaintana is survived by his live-in girlfriend and newborn daughter, according to the Medical Examiner's Web site.

## Skatepark changes set

As of Jan. 1 there is no supervision at the Carmel Valley Skatepark due to city-wide budget cuts. Without supervision, this means the park will be open to the public free of charge.

The same safety gear requirements will still apply and the San Diego Police Department next door asked for skaters to please comply with the rules. The police also said parents need to make sure children are in adequate safety gear and be aware that the park is unsupervised.

The Skatepark will now be open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The forum will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

## Crime forum upcoming

The San Diego Police Department's Northwestern Division is holding a community crime forum on Jan. 15 at the Carmel Valley Recreation Center. Local officers will talk about issues such as traffic, burglaries, juvenile crime, graffiti and crime prevention efforts. The officers take these meetings seriously as it helps them tailor their patrol of Carmel Valley neighborhoods, a division representative said.

## Jewish classes offered

Congregation Beth Am's Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning, sponsored by the Mizel Family Foundation, has several classes.

A Bisele of Yiddish class designed for those with a basic knowledge can learn and practice the Yiddish language is Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

For more information visit [www.betham.com](http://www.betham.com) or call Bonnie (858) 481-8454 or e-mail [bonnie@betham.com](mailto:bonnie@betham.com).

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## Q. Are my headaches related to diet?

A. Everybody who suffers from migraine headaches knows that stress, lack of sleep, bright lights, weather changes and strong odors are all potential headache triggers. What many people don't realize is that some of the most common causes of headaches are ordinary foods that most of us eat every day.

Migraine attacks have been linked to the presence of certain naturally occurring amines in foods. These nitrogen containing substances occur universally in animals, plants and bacteria, and many contribute to the characteristic flavors and aromas of foods. The amines in foods that are known to have significant effects are tyramine, phenylethylamine and histamine. It seems that migraine sufferers may not be able to metabolize these substances quickly enough, so they remain in the body longer, thus causing headaches.

Food reactions with headaches are not allergies. If you suspect that what you eat is the source of your pain, work with your doctor to track your headaches for two months while eliminating all known food triggers at the same time. Then, reintroduce one potentially troublesome food into your diet every two weeks as you continue to track your headaches. If the foods do not cause any change in your headache pattern, you are not sensitive to them. Unfortunately, avoiding specific foods seldom cures migraines, which are often the result of a complex combination of risk factors.

If you suffer from migraines, please call Torrey Pines Headache Center at Del Mar Neurology for a free 15-minute phone consultation.

Sources: [www.relieve-migraine-headache.com](http://www.relieve-migraine-headache.com), [www.cufic.org](http://www.cufic.org), [www.healthtoz.com](http://www.healthtoz.com)

## Common Trigger Foods:

- Cheese (except cottage, farmer's, ricotta and cream)
- Alcohol (red wine is the worst, due to high levels of tannins)
- Caffeine
- Chocolate
- Aged foods with tyramine (ie cold cuts, sauerkraut, or leftovers older than 24-48 hours)
- Soy beans, Italian green beans, broad bean pods
- MSG (monosodium glutamate, an additive)
- Nuts (especially peanuts)
- Yeast (especially in homemade bread and sourdough)

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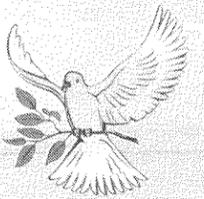
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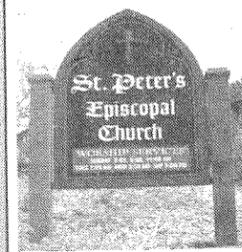
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(Right) New Year's Eve at the RSF Golf Club! See page 23.



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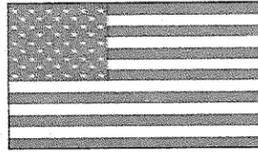
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## Helen Woodward Animal Center victim of another break-in

By Matt Liebowitz

The main building of the Helen Woodward Animal Center was broken into on Sunday, Jan. 4, reported Public Relations Manager John Van Zante.

The break-in occurred in the main building on El Apajo Road, at 11:20 p.m. Van Zante said the vandal or vandals slit through a screen and entered the building through a window. Once inside, the criminals broke into the Development Manager's office by kicking the door in, but nothing was reported missing from the office.

The Animal Center's retail store, Pawsitively Pets, was also broken into. The store's cash box was taken, which contained approximately \$600 in cash, as well as checks made out to the Animal Center. Van Zante said the Animal Center is in the process of notifying those whose checks had been stolen to cancel them with their banks.

The first alarm, at 11:20 p.m., was followed by two more alarms. At some point in the robbery, the keypad for the alarm device was ripped

See BREAK-IN, page 33



Cash and checks were taken from the Helen Woodward Animal Center's retail store, Pawsitively Pets.

## Marine killed, others injured in two RSF car accidents Jan. 1

The new year started off in Rancho Santa Fe with a pair of unrelated car accidents in which one man, a Marine, was killed and another was seriously injured.

The first accident occurred at 4:57 a.m. on Jan. 1. Firefighters responded to a two-vehicle accident near the intersection of La Orilla and El Camino Real. Upon arrival, they found two vehicles off the side of the road. They assessed two victims and confirmed that one was deceased. The other patient refused medical aid.

Officer Mark Latulippe, of the California Highway Patrol, said the CHP is still investigating the accident, but at present it appears that the first car, driven by a Marine who was DUI (driving under the influence), drove off the roadway and his car was stuck in a marshy area. He got out of his car and was making a phone call when he was struck by a second speeding car that went off the road, airborne, and struck the Marine and his car. That driver was also DUI, according to Latulippe. The second vehicle overturned and continued on before landing.

When they arrived at the scene, CHP officers found the driver of the second vehicle sitting in the passenger front seat of the Marine's vehicle, but they do not know why he was in the Marine's vehicle, Latulippe said.

A second incident happened at 1:40 p.m. on Jan. 1. Firefighters responded to a traffic collision in the 5600 block of Linea Del Cielo. When they arrived on scene they discovered one vehicle was overturned and there were multiple victims. One patient was transported by air ambulance to a trauma center and three patients were transported by ambulance to local hospitals.

"These accidents serve a reminder to all of us to be safe on the roads," said Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District Deputy Chief Tony Michel. —RSF Fire District and Review staff report

## Helen Woodward Animal Center to embark on expansion project in February

By Matt Liebowitz

The Helen Woodward Animal Center is set to begin the first stage of a new \$50 million expansion project, reported Public Relations Manager John Van Zante.

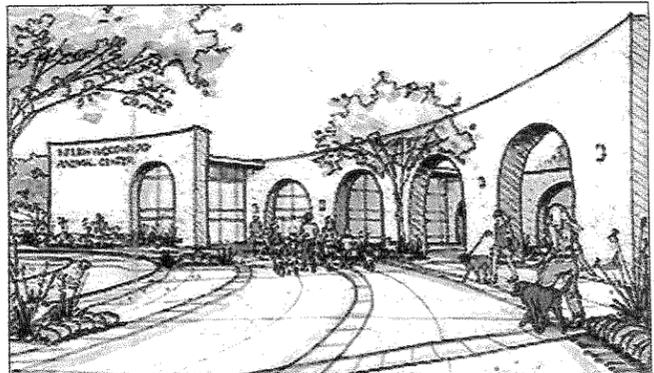
Beginning in February, the Animal Center, with Tucker Sadler Architects and Starrett Construction, Inc., will break ground on phase one of the construction project.

The start date is contingent upon county approval of the project's building permits. The duration of the project depends on fundraising, said Van Zante. The Animal Center will remain in full operation during construction.

The current indoor square footage of the Animal Center is 63,000-square feet. Completed, the indoor square footage of the new Animal Center will be 115,000 square feet.

The actual construction costs are estimated at \$35 million; soft costs, which would include items such as indoor equipment, upgrading computers, telephone systems, and furniture, is estimated to cost another \$15 million.

The first, \$6 million phase, will see the construction of a new



A rendering of one exterior of the proposed Helen Woodward Center expansion.

www.animalcenter.org/capitalcampaign/building.aspx

small animal veterinary hospital with two surgery rooms, an X-ray room, eight exam rooms, a cat ward, and an exotic ward.

With a cost of \$16 million, (the Animal Center has to date already raised \$14 million), phase two will include a new entrance circle courtyard, and commemorative statue in the entrance circle. Also constructed in the second phase will be a new lobby and reception, large and small conference rooms, a CEO office, and individual offices.

The Adoptions and Club Pet facilities will be expanded in phase two; in the Adoptions Wing there will be new surgery and isolation areas, feline and kitten play rooms, resting areas, and individual cubicles. There will also be 28 small to mid-sized canine runs, four small to mid-sized banks of kennels, 28 large canine runs, four large canine banks of kennels, and a canine outdoor playground.

As part of the Club Pet renovation, there will be a new outdoor

See EXPANSION, page 20

## Residents lose power after truck crashes into pole

Shortly after 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31, Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District (RSFFPD) personnel responded to the report of a vehicle into a power pole on Via de la Valle west of Las Palomas. When they arrived on the scene, emergency personnel found the driver, a male in his 50s, trapped inside his vehicle. They were able to extricate him and he was transported via ambulance to Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla with moderate injuries.

Sabra Moallem, a spokesperson for SDG&E, said a pick-up truck hit the pole, knocking it over, along with power lines. One RSF resident said she was walking west on Las Palomas when she heard a crackling sound and saw a power line coming down. The resident said she dove "head first" into the bushes to avoid being hit by the power line which, after it hit the ground, burst into flames, according to the res-

ident. She said a homeowner then came out of his house and said the power was out. He called 911 and then proceeded to direct traffic until emergency personnel arrived.

As a result of the accident, 1,607 SDG&E customers lost power, but power was restored within an hour to all but three customers, Moallem said. Via de la Valle was also shut down in both directions for several hours as the scene was cleared and San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) worked to restore power.

Four fire engines and one ambulance were called to the scene. Responding agencies included RSFFPD, Del Mar Fire Department, San Diego Medical Services Enterprise, SDG&E, and California Highway Patrol. RSFFPD Battalion Chief Mike Gibbs served as the Incident Commander.

—RSF Fire District and Review staff report



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# Should You Stay and Defend? Local firefighters discuss providing real information for homeowners who choose to stay and fight the flames

Updated 5:54 PM PST, Tue, Jan 13, 2009

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[Rancho Bernardo](#) homeowner [Fred Gahm](#) was one of the lucky ones. His home survived when the Witch Fire destroyed so many homes in his neighborhood on October 22, 2007.

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## Should You Stay and Defend?



Like many of his neighbors he evacuated but he now says if there is a next time, he'll stay and do what he can to protect his property.

"As far as I know the ones who stayed were successful," said Gahm "The houses were saved."

Devastating fires force each homeowner to make the decision to stay and defend or evacuate.

"People are staying behind, and doing so in sort of a seat-of-the-pants decision making process, uninformed, unprepared, and we're seeing that kind of happen and that concerns us," said [Maurice Luque](#), [San Diego](#) Fire and Rescue spokesperson.

Now, local fire fighters and county leaders are investigating a stay and defend program that would help homeowners make an informed decision.

A pilot program is already moving forward in Ventura County. A wildfire action plan that provides details for homeowners on not only how to make the right decision, but also what they'll face as a consequence of that decision.

"What it's going to mean in terms of their physical and mental wellbeing to stay through a wildfire, with all the noise and the smoke and distractions and all the other issues that come up," said Luque.

It's the new hot topic in fire prevention. One that firefighters promise will only become more important as wildfire danger becomes more common in Southern California.

One of the big problems at this point is money, most fire departments and agencies don't have the extra finances to fund a public awareness campaign - like the one underway in Ventura County.

### Find this article at:

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/Should-You-Stay-and-Defend.html>

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## Calif fire officials mull over stay-defend policy

By GREG RISLING, The Associated Press

2:03 p.m. January 14, 2009

BURBANK, Calif. — When a raging wildfire is racing toward your home, is it best to flee or stay and try to protect your house?

For most people, the answer is obvious, but in Southern California where there are many stubborn homeowners unwilling to leave or have grown indifferent to the year-round threat of flames, fire officials are considering a policy that would allow some people to stay and defend their homes rather than simply ordering neighborhoods evacuated.

On Wednesday, fire chiefs from throughout California attended a meeting of Firescope, a panel representing fire services statewide where the tactic was briefly discussed. While no action was taken, board members stressed the plan will take some time to develop.

"This is not a program we say, 'Here,' and just put it on a piece of paper," said Ventura County Fire Chief Bob Roper. "This will take a long-term dedication."

Modeled after a concept in Australia, where homeowners in rural areas fight fires on their own, the program would teach people how to make their homes more fire-safe and how to save their property if firefighters are unable to respond. It also would be up to individual fire agencies to adopt the policy.

Fire officials who support the program said it's not meant to train people to replace firefighters, but rather to have them snuff out embers and other burning material that may land on a house before the flames arrive.

"We are not telling you to stay," Roper said. "We are giving you the tools and you take personal responsibility if you want to stay and defend (your home)."

The ideal candidate for the program would be someone who is physically fit; has cleared brush from

around their home; has a stucco-walled home with fire-resistant roof tiles; and who has decided prior to the fire on whether to leave or stay.

Not everyone is convinced such a program would work in their communities. The challenge for fire agencies will be providing a clear and pointed educational campaign so people aren't confused.

"My concern is expecting residents to react correctly in the extreme conditions of a wildfire, particularly a wind-driven firestorm, is asking too much, perhaps, and could lead to injury or worse," said Los Angeles County Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman said.

Freeman recalled a fire in 1996 in Malibu where several firefighters were burned by flames because a jittery resident who evacuated at the last-minute accidentally blocked a road that fire trucks were trying to access.

"If people stay, then lose confidence and they decide to evacuate when it's too late, then they are very vulnerable," Freeman said.

The paradigm shift comes just months after another round of major wildfires that ravaged neighborhoods from Santa Barbara to Orange County. Officials in Ventura and Orange counties said they have taken steps to inform the public about the new approach and want to create instructional materials.

But getting to change people's mindset might be too big of an obstacle for fire officials to overcome. During a fire in October in a tony gated community of Porter Ranch in the San Fernando Valley, a long line of cars crawled down a road because many residents waited until the last possible moment to get out of the neighborhood's only open exit.

"When we call for the evacuation order, we want you to go," said Ventura County fire Capt. Ron Oatman. "I think people don't realize the urgency until it happens in their backyard."

Ruben Grijalva, director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said he would like to see how the policy change would work at a fire agency before endorsing it. Roper said outside of the meeting that the earliest his department could have the program in place would be sometime early next year.

Freeman said no two fires are the same and whatever decision is made by fire officials it shouldn't be a blanket approach.

"What might be good for one area, may not be good for 10 others," Freeman said. "One size does not fit all in this case."

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## Comments

### Post a comment

Commenting requires [registration](#).

# Maestro's Podium

## Resolution to be happy

By Jung-Ho Pak, artistic director and conductor, San Diego Chamber Orchestra, [www.sdco.org](http://www.sdco.org)

I was once speaking to a therapist about his philosophy of treatment, and he said it was to help people be happy. I thought it was a bold comment because the concept of searching for happiness seems to be such a passé and even impossible goal. How did happiness become underrated?



Jung-Ho Pak

If you look at the media that surrounds us, our culture is based upon being dissatisfied and finding happiness in a new car, or even with a new face. Unfortunately, these are transitory fixes that are not rooted in spiritual and intellectual fulfillment which are much more rewarding and enriching.

This is where art can play an important role in creating a fulfilling life. In these difficult economic times, experiencing something profoundly beautiful or meaningful gives our own lives greater meaning. Sharing a human experience connects us to a larger entity that is expressed through the gifted messages of a Beethoven or of a Picasso. Some may call this entity a Muse or Inspiration, and some may simply describe it as the human spirit.

Today, finding opportunities to experience art is surprisingly difficult. With so much "junk food" entertainment available in inexhaustible amounts on the Internet and television, art that demands more than three minutes worth of attention is deemed not commercial enough to warrant exposure. Convenience has replaced curiosity. As a result, we have a society that is hungry for deep joy and fulfillment.

There's an unexpected reason to start on a path to happiness. A recent scientific study proved that being happy is actually contagious, "infecting" those around you.

So, along with deciding to make a resolution to lose ten pounds or to learn a new language, why not think about making a resolution to be happy? That means surrounding yourself with things that make you happy, including loved ones, people who need you, and beautiful art. Seek it out, celebrate it, and share it with others.

# Sign up now for RSF Fire Protection District's free CERT training

CERT is a nationally-recognized program designed to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations and workplaces in basic disaster response skills. During natural or man-made disasters, emergency personnel are stretched thin, and may be unable to help residents in a timely manner. If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the community's professional emergency crews, CERT members can assist others by applying their skills learned in training.

This free CERT class will be a 25-hour Web-based program with an introductory meeting and four meetings for skills assessment on the following dates:

- Feb. 25 - 6-9 p.m., Class introduction
- Feb. 28 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Questions and Answers, skills instruction
- March 4 - 6-9 p.m., Questions and Answers, skills instruction
- March 7 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Questions and Answers, Skills instruction
- March 14 - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Questions and Answers, Final drill and Graduation

### CERT training includes the following modules:

- Introduction & Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety & Cert Organization
- CERT Training Kicks Off
- Disaster Medical Operations part 1 & Disaster Psychology
- Light Search & Rescue Operation-Terrorism and CERT
- Disaster Medical
- Final Drill and Graduation

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire District's CERT program is absolutely free; however, you must be over 16 years of age and live or work within the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District to join the RSF CERT team. To obtain more information, or to receive an application, please visit our web site at [www.rsffire.org](http://www.rsffire.org), or call (858) 756-5971, ext. 149. Bring a neighbor and get involved today!

The mission of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is "To protect life, property, and environment through prevention, preparedness, education and emergency response." Formed in 1946, the Fire District now spans approximately 42-square miles and protects over 26,500 citizens. The Fire District currently operates out of four full-time fire stations and serves the communities within and surrounding Rancho Santa Fe and 4S-Ranch.

# Voices of Women and Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice to present 'Misfortunes of Wealth' Jan. 22

Voices of Women, in collaboration with Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, will hold "Misfortunes of Wealth" on Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m.

"Misfortunes of Wealth" portrays the "schizophrenia" of people ricocheting between vast opportunity and the inability to make a life in the shadow of great wealth. It explores one of American society's endlessly fascinating scenarios, the one where inherited wealth and family intersect, and not always for the good.

The event will be held at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, Peace & Justice Theatre, located at 5998 Alcalá Park, on the University of San Diego campus.

The event is free. RSVP today at [rsvp@voicesofwomen.org](mailto:rsvp@voicesofwomen.org)

# Author to speak on new cookbook

On Sunday, Jan. 18, from 2-4 p.m., Deborah Szekely, founder of the world-famous spas Rancho La Puerta and The Golden Door will be at The Book Works to promote her new cookbook "Cooking with the Seasons" at Rancho La Puerta.

This event is free to the public. The Book Works is located just east of I-5 at Via de la Valle: in the Flower Hill Mall, on the second level.

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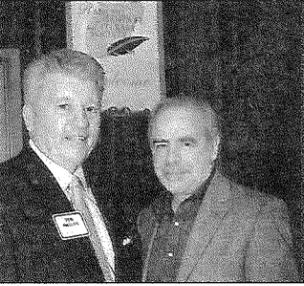


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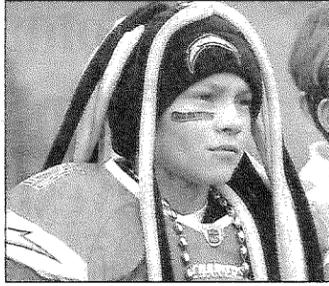
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(Left) Meet Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Russo. See page 10.



## PHOTOS

For society photos, see pages 1-32, B1-B12.  
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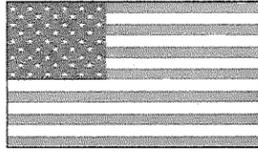
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## RSF School District firms up schedule for school renovation

By Matt Liebowitz

Significant milestones in the renovation of the R. Roger Rowe school will be met in the upcoming months, reported the board of the Rancho Santa Fe School District at its Jan. 8 meeting.

The team behind the renovation — construction management company Gafcon, Inc., and architectural firm Trittipio Architecture and Planning — has been working on an aggressive schedule, planning to finish the \$37 million project by the start of the 2010 school year. Construction on the school's upgrade is expected to begin this spring.

At the meeting, Gafcon Pro-

ject Manager Katy Wright presented to the board an updated project schedule. Wright said general contracting company C.W. Driver, working with Gafcon, is currently compiling a trade-by-trade list of all the companies working on the renovation.

Once completed, Gafcon will present a preliminary maximum cost estimate to the board. Wright said that estimate will be ready for a board meeting in March.

After the project goes before the Division of the State Architect in May, C.W. Driver and Gafcon will come up with a final maximum guaranteed price. The bud-

See RENOVATION, page 30

## RSF Patrol Chief nabs man suspected of indecent exposure incidents

A man suspected of at least two incidences of indecent exposure was arrested Jan. 12, thanks to the quick action of RSF Patrol Chief Matt Wellhouser.

RSF Patrol and Encinitas Sheriff's officers have been on the lookout for the suspect since a RSF resident, who regularly walks the trails around the RSF Golf Club, said the suspect exposed himself to her on Dec. 16 at the entrance to the trail in the upper parking lot at the Golf Club (5800 Via De La Cumbre). The

woman then saw the suspect again, in the same spot, on Dec. 19.

Wellhouser said he was driving through the Golf Club parking lot when he noticed a vehicle and a driver that matched the description of the suspect and the vehicle he had been driving.

Wellhouser said he made contact with the suspect who said he was waiting for his boss. The suspect could not provide Wellhouser with any identification.

See INCIDENTS, page 30

## RSF resident injured by utility pole accident; SDG&E still investigating cause of pole fall

By Matt Liebowitz

Rancho Santa Fe resident Dr. Charles Graham is clearing the air about an incident that occurred on New Year's Eve that ended with a fallen utility pole, a totaled car, and more than 1,500 power outages.

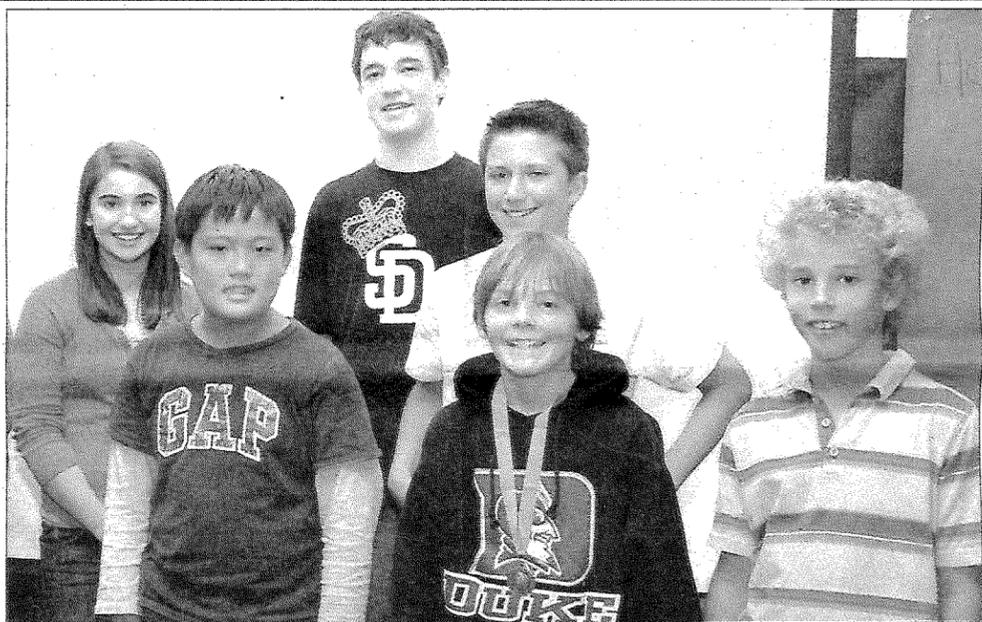
At 12:05 p.m. on Dec. 31, Graham was driving in his four-door Honda Accord, traveling west on Via de la Valle from his

office in the Rancho Santa Fe Professional Building toward Solana Beach. He was driving approximately 40 mph.

About 100 yards past the entrance to Morgan Run Club & Resort, Graham heard a loud noise.

"I was not sure where it was coming from," he said. Seconds

See POLE, page 30



Some of the participants in the RSF Middle School Geography Bee and include; Delaney McComb, David Pan, Brendan Kaiser, Noah Zelkind Thomas Marren (winner with medal) and Gunnar Moseman. Photo/Jon Clark

## Sixth grader Thomas Marren wins title in RSF School's 2nd Annual National Geography Bee

By Matt Liebowitz

On Monday, Jan. 12, Thomas Marren was crowned the champion in Rancho Santa Fe School's 2nd Annual Geography Bee.

Outlasting 10 rivals in the National Geographic-sponsored competition, Marren, a 6th grader, took the title in a heated showdown versus 8th grader Brendan Kaiser.

To win, Marren had to pass through a final round, in which contestants were eliminated after two incorrect answers, and a championship round, which saw Marren face off one-on-one with Kaiser in a three-question test.

The first question asked: One of the longest sand deserts in the world, known as Rub' al-Khali, or Empty Quarter, covers much of what peninsula? The answer, The Arabian Peninsula, was correctly provided by both Marren and Kaiser.

The second question asked: The Gulf of Guinea is a major offshore oil exploration and drilling zone off the coast of what continent? Marren correctly answered Africa, while Kaiser did not.

Neither student could answer the final question about which empire, once on the site of what is now Mexico City, was conquered by Spanish explorers in the 16th century. (The answer is the Aztec empire).

But two out of three was enough for Marren to win. And in doing so, he kept the title in the family; last year, his sister, Rachel, won the same contest.

The other finalists in the geography bee were: Miles Ahles (8th) Nick Stiker (7th) Gunnar Moseman (6th), David Pan (7th), Noah Zelkind (8th), and Delaney McComb (8th). Two more students were finalists but their names cannot be made pub-

lic.

To reach the finals of the contest, the 10 finalist students passed through preliminary and semi-final rounds the previous week, answering questions prepared by the National Geographic Society. All students from fifth to eighth grade participated.

History teachers Steve Rossier (7th grade) and Corrine Faciane (8th grade) organized the school's participation in the national contest.

"We're always looking for interesting things to do to enhance social studies."

With questions covering everything from U.S. states — Acadia National Park is in which state? — to continents and cultural geography — Wittenberg, which saw the beginning of Martin Luther's Protestant Reformation, is in which country? — Rossier was surprised by the students' knowledge, and pleased to know they retain what he teaches.

"It's amazing," he said. "I've been very impressed with what they know. I'm always happy when they get a question we studied in class, and they say, 'I remember that.' That, to me, shows that what I'm doing is sticking a little bit."

Rossier said history teachers did no extra preparation for the bee.

"It's just a fun way to get things rolling again after break," he said.

After winning, Marren took a paper quiz to qualify for the state-wide competition, to be held April 3; the national competition is May 19 and 20 in Washington,

D.C. At press time, it was not known if Marren will proceed further in the contest.

# Letters to the Editor/Opinion

## POLE

continued from page 1

later, Graham said, "I was just crushed from above."

What happened, Graham explained, was that a power pole on Via de la Valle fell, and a 500-pound transformer that had been attached to the pole fell directly on the roof of his car. The impact occurred where the windshield and roof meet, Graham said, and his car was totaled.

"It took off most of the roof and crunched the rest of the car. It squashed it in a split second."

Graham's car, which automatically shut off as a result of the impact, drifted across the road, ending up facing westbound on the eastbound shoulder.

People that had been nearby at the time of the accident called paramedics; Graham was removed from his car using the Jaws of Life, and taken to Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla, where he was treated for bruising on the top of his head. The bruising, Graham said,

has since spread down to his face and neck.

Graham said he wasn't scared, just "stunned and momentarily confused" after the incident.

"I could see blood dripping on my clothes, but it wasn't painful," he explained. "I wasn't out of my wits."

His 5-year-old black Labrador retriever, Toby, was in the backseat, and escaped from the accident unscathed.

From information given by officers at the scene, SDG&E originally reported that a car had hit the phone pole and caused the accident, as well as the fallen power lines which caused power outages for 1,607 SDG&E customers. On Jan. 12, Sabra Moallem, an SDG&E spokesperson, confirmed that it was not a car that caused the power pole to fall. She said SDG&E is still investigating what caused the incident.

## RENOVATION

continued from page 1

get has allotted \$32 million for hard construction costs, and \$5 million for soft costs.

Speaking to the process of bidding for contractors for the project, Wright assured the board, "Our timing is going to be fantastic. It's an aggressive marketplace. You'll get, if not all, than a vast majority of the things you want."

Said Superintendent Lindy Delaney, "Things are moving along at a record pace."

Delaney said the teachers and kids are "thrilled about the project."

She also expressed her gratitude to the larger RSF community for the help they've already begun offering with regards to finding temporary parking for the school's staff and employees during construction.

"The Library, Garden Club, Community Center, and Association have all been phenomenal," Delaney said. "We appreciate the community's spirit and generosity to the district. It's been a wonderful outpouring of support."

## Vote to establish a 'Global Challenges Wikipedia'

President Obama is going to inherit the most daunting set of challenges since FDR. There are the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Israelis and Palestinians are engaged in a bloody confrontation. The global economy is in shambles. It's not a pretty picture, and it's not certain how he's going to tackle all of these issues. What is certain, however, is that he can't come up with all the answers himself as much as people might think that he can. That's why he's making sincere efforts to engage the American people to be proactive and help him generate solutions: "I will open the doors of government and ask you to be involved in your own democracy again," he has declared.

A Web site called Change.org has taken him at his word and is inviting Americans to come up with proposals for how to improve America. The 10 ideas that get the most votes will be announced at the National Press Club on Jan. 16 and will receive the support of a national lobbying campaign run by Change.org, MySpace, and leading NGOs.

I'd like to encourage all my readers to read and vote for one of the proposals that's in the running, "Establish a 'Global Challenges Wikipedia' to Empower Problem Solvers," by Ali Wyne, an Institute for Education Fellow. It's a creative, nonpartisan approach to addressing every single global challenge that we face -- climate change, infectious diseases, you name it. He has already garnered the support of some big names like Seth Green, the founder of Americans for Informed Democracy, and there's every indication that Obama would support Wyne's proposal given his vision of a tech-driven government.

Support Wyne, support civic engagement, and support America, support our world community. Click away and vote by Jan. 15!

Kathy Kemper is founder and CEO of the Institute for Education, a nonprofit foundation that recognizes and promotes leadership and civility locally, nationally and in the world community. Coach Kemper resides in Rancho Santa Fe, California and Washington, DC.

## INCIDENTS

continued from page 1

Wellhouser notified the sheriff's department and officers were sent to the scene. After interviewing the suspect, Wellhouser said, the sheriff's department officers determined that he was not a legal resident of the U.S. as he could not provide them with proof of legal residency status, so he was turned over to border patrol for deportation and his vehicle, which he did not own, was impounded.

Wellhouser said a sheriff's department investigation is ongoing.

## Scripps La Jolla offers variety of events/discussion programs

The following programs are offered at Scripps La Jolla:  
**Achy Breaky Heart:** Join cardiologist Brian Carlos, M.D., to learn about congestive heart failure. Learn about the symptoms, if it can be prevented and treatment options available. Presentation is on Tuesday, Jan. 20, with a light reception at 5:30 p.m. and the program beginning at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Schaezel Center at Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla. To register, please call 1-800-SCRIPPS (1-800-727-4777). There is no charge for the program or parking.

**Pelvic Floor Incontinence:** Join pelvic floor expert Natalie Herback, to discuss prevention and treatment options for urological conditions. Presentation will be held on Thursday, Jan. 22, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Noble Room of the Schaezel Center at Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla. To register, please call 1-800-SCRIPPS (1-800-727-4777). There is no charge for the program or parking.

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A local group of dedicated dog lovers with many years of rescue experience has been formed to fulfill a desperate need in the community to "Rescue, Rehabilitate & Re-home" homeless dogs from overcrowded local shelters and from families who can no longer take care of their animals due to financial distress.

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We encourage you to contact us if you would like to help us or donate much needed supplies. We are always seeking new foster families, volunteers for events, transport, donations, and short term weekend fosters. Please visit our Web site to learn how you can help dogs needing a Second Chance! [www.SecondChanceDogRescue.org](http://www.SecondChanceDogRescue.org)

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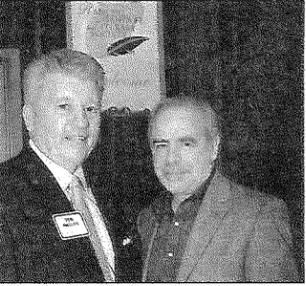




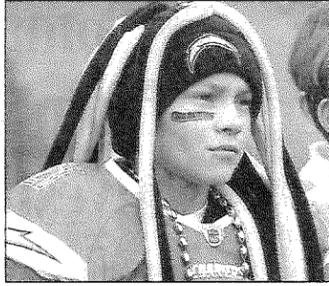
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(Left) Meet Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Russo. See page 10.



## PHOTOS

For society photos, see pages 1-32, B1-B12.  
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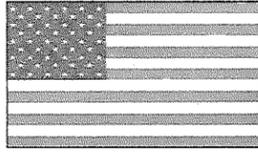
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## RSF School District firms up schedule for school renovation

By Matt Liebowitz

Significant milestones in the renovation of the R. Roger Rowe school will be met in the upcoming months, reported the board of the Rancho Santa Fe School District at its Jan. 8 meeting.

The team behind the renovation — construction management company Gafcon, Inc., and architectural firm Tritipo Architecture and Planning — has been working on an aggressive schedule, planning to finish the \$37 million project by the start of the 2010 school year. Construction on the school's upgrade is expected to begin this spring.

At the meeting, Gafcon Pro-

ject Manager Katy Wright presented to the board an updated project schedule. Wright said general contracting company C.W. Driver, working with Gafcon, is currently compiling a trade-by-trade list of all the companies working on the renovation.

Once completed, Gafcon will present a preliminary maximum cost estimate to the board. Wright said that estimate will be ready for a board meeting in March.

After the project goes before the Division of the State Architect in May, C.W. Driver and Gafcon will come up with a final maximum guaranteed price. The bud-

See RENOVATION, page 30

## RSF Patrol Chief nabs man suspected of indecent exposure incidents

A man suspected of at least two incidences of indecent exposure was arrested Jan. 12, thanks to the quick action of RSF Patrol Chief Matt Wellhouser.

RSF Patrol and Encinitas Sheriff's officers have been on the lookout for the suspect since a RSF resident, who regularly walks the trails around the RSF Golf Club, said the suspect exposed himself to her on Dec. 16 at the entrance to the trail in the upper parking lot at the Golf Club (5800 Via De La Cumbre). The

woman then saw the suspect again, in the same spot, on Dec. 19.

Wellhouser said he was driving through the Golf Club parking lot when he noticed a vehicle and a driver that matched the description of the suspect and the vehicle he had been driving.

Wellhouser said he made contact with the suspect who said he was waiting for his boss. The suspect could not provide Wellhouser with any identification.

See INCIDENTS, page 30

## RSF resident injured by utility pole accident; SDG&E still investigating cause of pole fall

By Matt Liebowitz

Rancho Santa Fe resident Dr. Charles Graham is clearing the air about an incident that occurred on New Year's Eve that ended with a fallen utility pole, a totaled car, and more than 1,500 power outages.

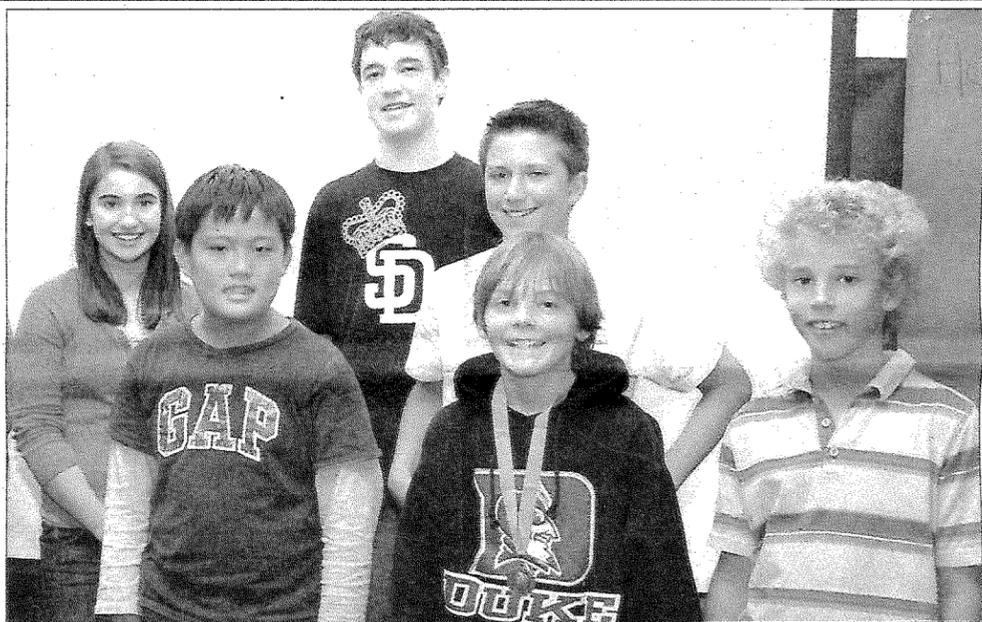
At 12:05 p.m. on Dec. 31, Graham was driving in his four-door Honda Accord, traveling west on Via de la Valle from his

office in the Rancho Santa Fe Professional Building toward Solana Beach. He was driving approximately 40 mph.

About 100 yards past the entrance to Morgan Run Club & Resort, Graham heard a loud noise.

"I was not sure where it was coming from," he said. Seconds

See POLE, page 30



Some of the participants in the RSF Middle School Geography Bee and include; Delaney McComb, David Pan, Brendan Kaiser, Noah Zelkind Thomas Marren (winner with medal) and Gunnar Moseman. Photo/Jon Clark

## Sixth grader Thomas Marren wins title in RSF School's 2nd Annual National Geography Bee

By Matt Liebowitz

On Monday, Jan. 12, Thomas Marren was crowned the champion in Rancho Santa Fe School's 2nd Annual Geography Bee.

Outlasting 10 rivals in the National Geographic-sponsored competition, Marren, a 6th grader, took the title in a heated showdown versus 8th grader Brendan Kaiser.

To win, Marren had to pass through a final round, in which contestants were eliminated after two incorrect answers, and a championship round, which saw Marren face off one-on-one with Kaiser in a three-question test.

The first question asked: One of the longest sand deserts in the world, known as Rub' al-Khali, or Empty Quarter, covers much of what peninsula? The answer, The Arabian Peninsula, was correctly provided by both Marren and Kaiser.

The second question asked: The Gulf of Guinea is a major offshore oil exploration and drilling zone off the coast of what continent? Marren correctly answered Africa, while Kaiser did not.

Neither student could answer the final question about which empire, once on the site of what is now Mexico City, was conquered by Spanish explorers in the 16th century. (The answer is the Aztec empire).

But two out of three was enough for Marren to win. And in doing so, he kept the title in the family; last year, his sister, Rachel, won the same contest.

The other finalists in the geography bee were: Miles Ahles (8th) Nick Stiker (7th) Gunnar Moseman (6th), David Pan (7th), Noah Zelkind (8th), and Delaney McComb (8th). Two more students were finalists but their names cannot be made pub-

lic.

To reach the finals of the contest, the 10 finalist students passed through preliminary and semi-final rounds the previous week, answering questions prepared by the National Geographic Society. All students from fifth to eighth grade participated.

History teachers Steve Rossier (7th grade) and Corrine Faciane (8th grade) organized the school's participation in the national contest.

"We're always looking for interesting things to do to enhance social studies."

With questions covering everything from U.S. states — Acadia National Park is in which state? — to continents and cultural geography — Wittenberg, which saw the beginning of Martin Luther's Protestant Reformation, is in which country? — Rossier was surprised by the students' knowledge, and pleased to know they retain what he teaches.

"It's amazing," he said. "I've been very impressed with what they know. I'm always happy when they get a question we studied in class, and they say, 'I remember that.' That, to me, shows that what I'm doing is sticking a little bit."

Rossier said history teachers did no extra preparation for the bee.

"It's just a fun way to get things rolling again after break," he said.

After winning, Marren took a paper quiz to qualify for the state-wide competition, to be held April 3; the national competition is May 19 and 20 in Washington,

D.C. At press time, it was not known if Marren will proceed further in the contest.

# Letters to the Editor/Opinion

## POLE

continued from page 1

later, Graham said, "I was just crushed from above."

What happened, Graham explained, was that a power pole on Via de la Valle fell, and a 500-pound transformer that had been attached to the pole fell directly on the roof of his car. The impact occurred where the windshield and roof meet, Graham said, and his car was totaled.

"It took off most of the roof and crunched the rest of the car. It squashed it in a split second."

Graham's car, which automatically shut off as a result of the impact, drifted across the road, ending up facing westbound on the eastbound shoulder.

People that had been nearby at the time of the accident called paramedics; Graham was removed from his car using the Jaws of Life, and taken to Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla, where he was treated for bruising on the top of his head. The bruising, Graham said,

has since spread down to his face and neck.

Graham said he wasn't scared, just "stunned and momentarily confused" after the incident.

"I could see blood dripping on my clothes, but it wasn't painful," he explained. "I wasn't out of my wits."

His 5-year-old black Labrador retriever, Toby, was in the backseat, and escaped from the accident unscathed.

From information given by officers at the scene, SDG&E originally reported that a car had hit the phone pole and caused the accident, as well as the fallen power lines which caused power outages for 1,607 SDG&E customers. On Jan. 12, Sabra Moallem, an SDG&E spokesperson, confirmed that it was not a car that caused the power pole to fall. She said SDG&E is still investigating what caused the incident.

## RENOVATION

continued from page 1

get has allotted \$32 million for hard construction costs, and \$5 million for soft costs.

Speaking to the process of bidding for contractors for the project, Wright assured the board, "Our timing is going to be fantastic. It's an aggressive marketplace. You'll get, if not all, than a vast majority of the things you want."

Said Superintendent Lindy Delaney, "Things are moving along at a record pace."

Delaney said the teachers and kids are "thrilled about the project."

She also expressed her gratitude to the larger RSF community for the help they've already begun offering with regards to finding temporary parking for the school's staff and employees during construction.

"The Library, Garden Club, Community Center, and Association have all been phenomenal," Delaney said. "We appreciate the community's spirit and generosity to the district. It's been a wonderful outpouring of support."

## Vote to establish a 'Global Challenges Wikipedia'

President Obama is going to inherit the most daunting set of challenges since FDR. There are the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Israelis and Palestinians are engaged in a bloody confrontation. The global economy is in shambles. It's not a pretty picture, and it's not certain how he's going to tackle all of these issues. What is certain, however, is that he can't come up with all the answers himself as much as people might think that he can. That's why he's making sincere efforts to engage the American people to be proactive and help him generate solutions: "I will open the doors of government and ask you to be involved in your own democracy again," he has declared.

A Web site called Change.org has taken him at his word and is inviting Americans to come up with proposals for how to improve America. The 10 ideas that get the most votes will be announced at the National Press Club on Jan. 16 and will receive the support of a national lobbying campaign run by Change.org, MySpace, and leading NGOs.

I'd like to encourage all my readers to read and vote for one of the proposals that's in the running, "Establish a 'Global Challenges Wikipedia' to Empower Problem Solvers," by Ali Wyne, an Institute for Education Fellow. It's a creative, nonpartisan approach to addressing every single global challenge that we face -- climate change, infectious diseases, you name it. He has already garnered the support of some big names like Seth Green, the founder of Americans for Informed Democracy, and there's every indication that Obama would support Wyne's proposal given his vision of a tech-driven government.

Support Wyne, support civic engagement, and support America, support our world community. Click away and vote by Jan. 15!

Kathy Kemper is founder and CEO of the Institute for Education, a nonprofit foundation that recognizes and promotes leadership and civility locally, nationally and in the world community. Coach Kemper resides in Rancho Santa Fe, California and Washington, DC.

## INCIDENTS

continued from page 1

Wellhouser notified the sheriff's department and officers were sent to the scene. After interviewing the suspect, Wellhouser said, the sheriff's department officers determined that he was not a legal resident of the U.S. as he could not provide them with proof of legal residency status, so he was turned over to border patrol for deportation and his vehicle, which he did not own, was impounded.

Wellhouser said a sheriff's department investigation is ongoing.

## Scripps La Jolla offers variety of events/discussion programs

The following programs are offered at Scripps La Jolla:  
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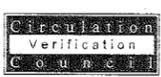
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by CHUCK SHEPHERD **ODD FILES**

**'Genetic modification'**

Sounds like frighteningly complicated lab work, but amateurs are routinely doing it in garages and dining rooms across the country, according to a December Associated Press report. Hobbyists (some terming themselves "biohackers") are busy creating new life forms and someday, observers say, may turn up a cure for cancer or an accidental environmental catastrophe. The community lab DIYbio in Cambridge, Mass., has patrons who typically work on vaccines and biofuels, but might also whimsically create tattoos that glow. One amateur bought jellyfish DNA containing a green fluorescent protein (for about \$100), and built a DNA analyzer (less than \$25) so she could alter yogurt bacteria to glow green when it detects melamine (the substance recently discovered in deadly Chinese baby formula and pet food).

**Compelling Explanations**

— As the British government was poised in November to re-classify lap-dancing clubs from "entertainment" to "sexual encounter establishments" (thus imposing tougher licensing standards), the industry's trade association insisted to a Parliamentary committee that the clubs are not sexual. "(T)he entertainment may be in the form of nude ... performers, but it's not sexually stimulating," the chairman of the Lap Dancing Association said. That would be "contrary to our business plan."

— Not My Fault: (1) Bruce George, 20, admitted to police that he had molested a 6-year-old girl in Anchorage, Alaska, in October but said he needed to do it to acquire the courage to kill himself. He said he needed motivation for suicide by doing something that totally disgusted him. (2) In October, a man unnamed in news reports filed a lawsuit in Selkirk, Manitoba, against the woman who supposedly caused him mental distress by suing for child support. The man said he had been sound asleep during that 2006 encounter, but awoke to discover the woman having sex with him. He ordered her to "cease and desist," he said, and she complied (but nonetheless, a pregnancy resulted).

**Ironies**

— Karma: A few animals were rescued from an early morning fire at a Humane Society shelter in Oshawa, Ontario, in December, but cats suffered heavy casualties, with nearly 100 perishing. The Fire Marshal's office said the blaze was probably started by mice chewing through electrical wires.

— In December, Lorraine Henderson, the port director for the federal Customs and Border Protection agency's southern New England area, was charged with hiring illegal immigrants to clean her home and instructing them how to avoid detection by her agency. According to court documents, she told one worker, "You have to be careful, 'cause they (meaning, her

**Group makes wreaths for troops**

VISTA — Rancho Buena Vista Chapter members of Daughters of the American Revolution participated in the third annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony with Chapter Regent Jeanette Shiel reading a special poem. The ceremony took place Dec. 13 at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, located in Point Loma. The U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Merchant Marine personnel each placed a wreath in honor of their fallen comrades. The Red White & Blue Society, Children of the American Revolution, represented the POW/MIA's. United States Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego provided a brass quintet, and the rifle detail gave a 21-gun salute. The U.S. Coast Guard made a helicopter fly-over. The wreaths were brought forward through a corridor of American flags provided by the Patriot Guard Motorcycle Riders Club.

Regent Joanne Murphy of the De Anza Chapter organized the event. The Wreaths Across America story began during the holidays more than 15 years ago when the Worcester Wreath Company began a tradition of placing wreaths on



**IN HONOR OF** From left, Jeanette Shiel, Regent, Rancho Buena Vista Chapter; Jackie Staehling; Pat Blair, Past Regent; and Jill Scott participated in the Wreaths Across America Ceremony. Courtesy photo

the headstones of the nation's 2008 ceremony, 100,000 fallen heroes at Arlington wreaths were placed at 350 National Cemetery. For the locations.

**Sprinter service rolls on in new year**

By Gideon Marcus

COAST CITIES — The Sprinter light rail system, carrying travelers along the 22-mile route paralleling Highway 78 since last March, is now the backbone for the North County Transit District, or NCTD.

A minimum of 6,000 trips have been logged every day on the Sprinter, most of them employees commuting to work. The largest constituent of riders may soon be college students. While the Sprinter opened too

late to attract many students during the spring 2008 semester, there was a surge of more than 2,000 additional daily trips at the beginning of the fall semester in September. A similar increase is expected this month.

"I've heard very positive comments about the service," Joe Madrigal, Palomar College's Vice President of Student Services, said. "I'm the complaint department and I haven't heard anything."

According to Madrigal, it's

not just students who use the train, but also college employees. They, like the other working commuters, are drawn to the Sprinter for its reliability — the train has an on-time percentage of more than 99 percent.

People also use the Sprinter for casual travel. "We got a pleasant surprise over the summer," NCTD spokesman Tom Kelleher said. "There were a lot of people using the Sprinter to

TURN TO **SPRINTER** ON 16

**2 plead guilty to teen's death, 1 still at large**

By Randy Kalp

ESCONDIDO — On his last report card, Irwin Valdez received straight As and outstanding marks for his effort and citizenship. One of his supervisors described Irwin Valdez as an "honest" and "supportive" young man who has the ability to see things from another's perspective.

Unfortunately, those accolades stem from Irwin Valdez's time in juvenile hall, where he has been confined since April for the murder of a 17-year-old high school student and the beating of another teen in a gang-related attack in

Escondido.

Prosecutors allege last April 10 around 11 p.m., Adan Valdez, 26, drove the car that pulled up to where the two teenagers were standing on the corner of Mission Avenue and Midway. It was then that Irwin Valdez, 16, and his brother, Alexander Salazar, 18, attacked the victims. Irwin Valdez, who was charged as an adult, assaulted one teen with a baseball bat and Salazar stabbed the other teen, Valley High Student Gerardo "Danny" Medina, to death.

Neither victim was associated or documented with a gang, Deputy District Attorney Cal Logan said in a phone interview.

However, he said Irwin Valdez and Salazar were both documented members of an Escondido street gang.

As a shackled Irwin Valdez made his way into the courtroom Jan. 8, his chains rattled and he flashed a fleeting smile to the handful of his supporters in the audience. Less than 30 minutes later, Irwin Valdez was led out of the courtroom, still shackled, still wearing his bright orange jumpsuit, but now a convicted felon who will be spend the next two decades behind bars.

"He's a good person,"

TURN TO **GUILTY** ON 16

**San Diego Sockers are back again**

By Bianca Kaplanek

DEL MAR — The San Diego Sockers, one of the most successful indoor soccer teams in the sport's history, are hoping the third time's a charm. Purchased by David Pike and Carl Savoia in August, the team will begin its third revival playing at the renovated Del Mar Arena as part of Premier Arena Soccer, a 54-team, 10-division national league.

A passion for local professional sports and a desire to give back to the community prompted Pike to buy the team, which began in 1974 as the Baltimore

Comets. A year later, the group moved to San Diego and was renamed the Jaws. The team relocated to Las Vegas in 1977, but returned to Southern California a year later, when it was ultimately christened the San Diego Sockers.

Ten-time champions in the Major Indoor Soccer League and North American Soccer League between 1982 and 1992, the team folded first in 1996. It was revived in 2001 but financial woes led to its second demise in 2004.

Led by head coach and former player Phil Salvagio, the

Sockers will kick off the season at 6 p.m. Nov. 7 at the Del Mar Arena, which is currently undergoing a \$14 million upgrade that should be completed in March.

Additional games are scheduled for Nov. 19 and Nov. 21, and Dec. 5, Dec. 28 and Dec. 30. Six games are also scheduled in January, February and March 2010.

A contest will be held to select a fight song, and the team is planning a meet-and-greet next month. Visit <http://www.sdssockers.com/> for more information.

**CERT-trained man saves a woman's life**

RANCHO SANTA FE — A man who graduated from Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District's Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, training in November found himself putting his training to use when he saved a life by performing the Heimlich maneuver.

Daniel Waldorf was out to dinner with friends Dec. 1 when a member of his party began choking on a bite of pizza. Waldorf saw Tania Andrade inhale the pizza and instantly knew she was choking. Her hands went up to her throat, she sat straight up, her face turned red and she gasped for air. He asked Andrade if she was choking and she nodded, so Waldorf pulled her out of her seat, wrapped his arms around her middle, and gave three upward thrusts to her stomach, dislodging the pizza.

"Because of CERT I was able to notice her choking right away and react quickly," Waldorf said. "The whole event was very scary for all of us there. Honestly I hope to never have to see that happen again, but if it does I know I am prepared to deal with it calmly."

CERT is an all-hazard, all-risk training program designed to teach how to protect yourself, your family, your neighbors and community during a disaster situation. The Rancho Santa Fe Fire District's CERT program is free for adults 16 years of age and older who live or work within the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District. To obtain more information on upcoming training, visit [www.rsf-fire.org](http://www.rsf-fire.org), or call (858) 756-5971, ext. 149.

**Season of jazz begins at Athenaeum**

LA JOLLA — The Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, 1008 Wall St., will once again sponsor its Jazz at the Athenaeum series through March.

It is the season of the piano, featuring rare San Diego appearances by four jazz pianists. Series tickets are \$68 for members and \$88 for non-members. Individual tickets are \$18 for members and \$23 for nonmembers.

Marilyn Crispell, known for coruscating, percussive solos, full of dense, ringing chords and lightning glissandos, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17.

The Hoenig Pilc Project will headline at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 29, featuring Ari Hoenig on drums, Jean-Michel Pilc on piano, and Hans Glawischnig on bass.

At 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23, the St. Lawrence String Quartet will be featured. The quartet was nominated for two Grammy Awards, in the categories of Best Chamber Music and Best Classical Contemporary Composition, for its recording, Yiddishbuk.

The final concert in January will offer the Salon Series with Jacquelyne Silver's three-part salon series, this time with a look at movies at 2 p.m. Jan. 25.

# Rancho Santa Fe Record

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## Rancho Santa Fe Community Calendar

- Jan. 17**
- The Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club presents a Palomar Orchid Society orchid event. 9:30 a.m.
- Jan 19**
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no school.
- Jan. 20**
- Inauguration Day
- Jan. 21**
- Rancho Santa Fe Community Concerts presents "Pavlo" at the Village Church, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$60. For more information call (858) 756-2250.
- Jan. 23**
- Rancho Santa Fe Community Center presents Sunset Soiree, from 7 to 10 p.m. in conjunction with Kids Night Out. For more information call (858) 756-4000.

## Man credits CERT in life-saving act

A man who graduated from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) recently put his training to use, saving a life by performing the Heimlich maneuver.

Daniel Waldorf was dining out on Dec. 1 when his friend Tania Andrade began to choke on a bite of pizza. Waldorf quickly jumped into action to dislodge the food from her throat.

Waldorf credited CERT for being prepared to act.

"The whole event was scary for all of us there," Waldorf said. "Honestly I hope to never see that happen again. If it does I know I am prepared to deal with it calmly."

CERT is an all-hazard, all-risk training program designed to teach people how to protect themselves, their families and their communities during a disaster situation. Participants must be



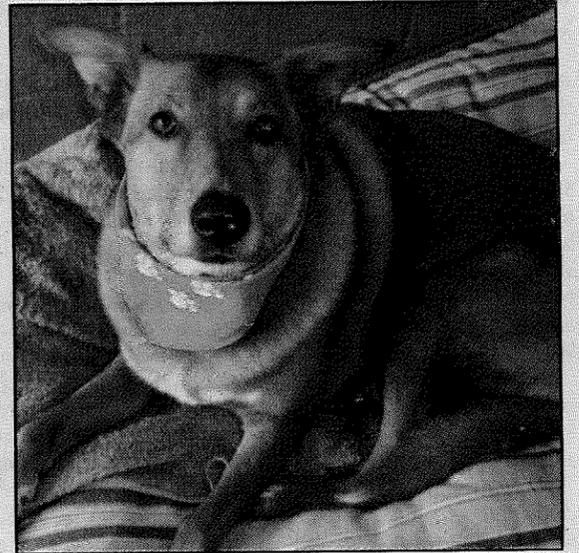
Daniel Waldorf and Tania Andrade are shown. Waldorf recently saved Andrade from choking using skills he learned in a CERT training class. COURTESY

over the age of 16 and live or work within the fire protection district to become certified through the Rancho Santa Fe CERT program. For upcoming training sessions, visit [www.rsfire.org](http://www.rsfire.org) or call (858) 756-5971 ext. 149.

— Karen Billing

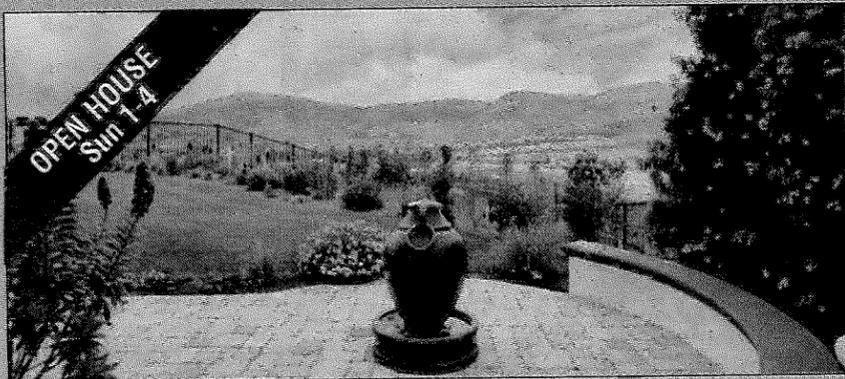
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# Sign up now for RSF Fire Protection District's free CERT training

CERT is a nationally-recognized program designed to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations and workplaces in basic disaster response skills. During natural or man-made disasters, emergency personnel are stretched thin, and may be unable to help residents in a timely manner. If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the community's professional emergency crews, CERT members can assist others by applying their skills learned in training.

This free CERT class will be a 25-hour Web-based program with an introductory meeting and four meetings for skills assessment on the following dates:

- Feb. 25 - 6-9 p.m., Class introduction
- Feb. 28 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Questions and Answers, skills instruction
- March 4 - 6-9 p.m., Questions and Answers, skills instruction
- March 7 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Questions and Answers, Skills instruction
- March 14 - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Questions and Answers, Final drill and Graduation

**CERT training includes the following modules:**

- Introduction & Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety & Cert Organization

- CERT Training Kicks Off
- Disaster Medical Operations part 1 & Disaster Psychology
- Light Search & Rescue Operation-Terrorism and CERT
- Disaster Medical
- Final Drill and Graduation

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire District's CERT program is absolutely free; however, you must be over 16 years of age and live or work within the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District to join the RSF CERT team. To obtain more information, or to receive an application, please visit our web site at [www.rsffire.org](http://www.rsffire.org), or call (858) 756-5971, ext. 149. Bring a neighbor and get involved today!

The mission of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is "To protect life, property, and environment through prevention, preparedness, education and emergency response." Formed in 1946, the Fire District now spans approximately 42-square miles and protects over 26,500 citizens. The Fire District currently operates out of four full-time fire stations and serves the communities within and surrounding Rancho Santa Fe and 4S-Ranch.

# Santa Fe Irrigation District receives AAA credit rating from S&P

The Santa Fe Irrigation District announced recently that a recent review by Standard & Poor's (S&P) resulted in an upgraded credit rating. Standard & Poor's Dec. 22, 2008 Ratings Direct reports the Santa Fe Irrigation District (SFID) has been upgraded to a AAA credit rating. The district's previous rating was AA-. The District's Administrative Manager, Jeanne L. Deaver issued the following statement: "The District is extremely pleased to receive the AAA credit rating issued from S&P. This rating means that bonds issued by SFID are considered to be of the highest quality investment grade. This rating is the result of a review by S&P that recognizes not only our sound financial condition, but the strong policies and practices in place at the District."

S&P reexamined several credit factors and the current challenges facing western water utilities in preparing its report. S&P reported that agencies such as SFID have exhibited stable credit profiles, and in general demonstrate one or more of the following characteristics:

1. Strong financial metrics, including debt coverage and cash reserves;
2. Good economic fundamentals, such that they are expected to handle pressures such as housing market vulnerabilities, employment softness, or cost of service inflation; and
3. Solid management, which includes a demonstrated willingness to adjust rates, long term planning to fund key service components, and the ability to serve the needs of growing communities.

District General Manager Michael Bardin stated, "While we believe the current economic climate may not be the most attractive time for the district to go to the capital market for a new bond issuance, we are excited nonetheless by the AAA rating." He noted that the district is nearing completion of a comprehensive Asset Management Master Plan which will prioritize capital improvement projects and that bond issuance is a financing option that would be considered. Bardin said that important elements noted by S&P in its review were that the district has a well-planned rate structure and proactive long term-planning for funding of capital programs for aging infrastructure.

For more information about the district you can contact us at 858-756-2424 or visit the district Web site at [www.sfidwater.org](http://www.sfidwater.org). Copies of the district's award winning Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) can be viewed on the district Web site.

The Santa Fe Irrigation District was formed in 1923 under the California Irrigation District Act. The district provides water and related services to residential, commercial and agricultural customers in the San Diego County communities of Rancho Santa Fe, Solana Beach and Fairbanks Ranch. The district provides service to about 22,000 customers in a 16-square-mile area. The district supplies over 4.5 billion gallons (or 13,500 acre feet) of water per year to its customers, utilizing a blend of local water from Lake Hodges and imported water purchased through the San Diego County Water Authority. The district administers and operates the jointly owned R.E. Badger Filtration Plant, a 40 million gallon per day water treatment plant. The District has historical rights to local water supplies from Lake Hodges and the San Dieguito Reservoir.

- Submitted by Santa Fe Irrigation District

## Health and Wellness Series begins at RSF Community Center Jan. 29

Join Missy Costello, personal chef and founder of Karma Chow, as she leads you through this special New Year's series that is sure to change your life and your eating habits! Join us for a four-part class series. The first class, Healthy Delicious Lunches: learn how to make healthy, wholesome snacks and lunches for your kids that they will love, will be on Jan. 29 from noon-2 p.m. Cost is \$200 for all four classes; \$55 for members, \$65 for nonmembers. Other classes offered in the series are Entertaining Made Easy and Healthy, Keep the Sweet in your Life and Simple and Tasty One-Pot Meals. Please call the Community Center at 756-2461 register or if you have any questions, contact Liz Armstrong [larmstrong@rsfcc.org](mailto:larmstrong@rsfcc.org).

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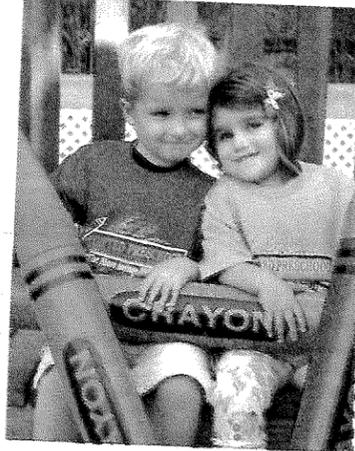
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## PHOTOS

For society photos (including pre-Kids Korps Eco Ball reception, left) see pages 1-36, B1-B12. editor@sdranchcoastnews.com

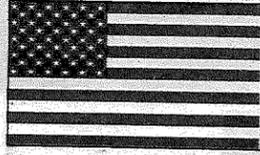
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# Rancho Santa Fe REVIEW



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VOLUME XXVIII / NUMBER 19 • Jan. 22, 2009

## Residents voice opinions, concern over The Lilian Project in Village; RSF Association board vote postponed to Feb. 5

By Matt Liebowitz

Concerns and uncertainty about the size and potential negative impact of The Lilian Project in the RSF Village caused the Rancho Santa Fe Association board, at its Jan. 15 meeting, to postpone making a decision on the project. The board put the item on the agenda for the Feb. 5 Association meeting at 9 a.m. Dozens of people attended the Jan. 15 public hearing at the RSF Garden Club for the project.

The Lilian, designed by Allard Jansen Architects, Inc., is a mixed-use residential and commercial project on a 41,211 square-foot lot at the corner of El Tordo and Avenida de Acacias. The project includes five residential units, occupying 9,492 square-feet, and 4,070 square-feet of commercial/retail space. Joe Pisonneault is the owner of the property.

Each residential unit, explained Association Building Commissioner Robert Green, ranges from 1,795 to 1,937 square-feet. There are an additional 1,713 square-feet of stairways,

walkways, and elevators resulting in 15,275 of total above ground square footage.

The design allots for three, 17,577 square-foot levels of parking, which are all underground. (Previous designs included one level of above ground parking.) The Lilian will include 62 parking spaces, 10 more than the required amount.

On Dec. 9, the RSF Art Jury recommended the preliminary application of The Lilian for approval by the Ranch Santa Fe Association (the project had been scaled down from previous proposals). The Art Jury's recommendation for approval came with 19 conditions.

Some of those conditions are: that the developers maintain consistency with the Lilian Rice-style design of Rancho Santa Fe's buildings; that adequate parking be allotted; that a "Construction Management Report" be submitted to address temporary parking and hours of operation during construction; that all mechanical

See LILIAN, page 32

## Rancho Santa Fe Art Guild in need of new home, community help sought

By Lee Schoenbart

Cultural "what ifs" are about to be pondered by Rancho Santa Fe residents, business and visitors over the fate of potentially losing its coveted art guild.

If the Ranch were to lose the art guild before a new home is found, what would happen to its outreach program for San Pasqual Academy and ARTS - A Reason to Survive, the annual A Finer Art Affaire, unique exhibitions such as the Miniatures For Gifts show, fundraisers including the Celebration of Art gala and educational presentations for the public, for the artists by the artists?

In a two-hour meeting attended by the 2009 board on Jan. 12, the guild revealed it was given notice the gallery's donated space in the Union Bank building on Paseo Delicias since 1996 was being redeveloped and the organization would have to vacate within the next six months.

"Our No. 1 priority right now is just get the word out there and let people know that we're looking for a new space," said guild member and its pub-



The new RSF Art Guild board: Elaine Trei, Dr. Tim Lueker, Toni Williams, Pam MacLaird, Peter Fay, Cindy Klong, Robert Ferguson, Cherry Sweig. For more photos of a recent RSF Art Guild reception, see page 25. Photo/Jon Clark

licist Robert Ferguson. "We don't have a choice. "It's 99 percent sure that we're going to have to be out by May or June.

"We really have to get the word out there so everybody knows that this 20- to 25-year-old organization may disappear from the Ranch altogether. There's a sense of urgency because we do not have a home base anywhere. We have nowhere to go," he said.

Ferguson noted that since the Jan. 12 meeting, most of the community was still unaware of the guild's plight.

"We're trying to find out if they know and, if they do, is there a con-

See SPACE, page 33

## RSF School District, Fire District both need Dacus property; Fire District takes preliminary steps toward legally acquiring property owned by Association

By Lorine Wright

Perhaps nothing is more coveted than space in and around the RSF Village and the need for extra space has led the RSF Fire District to take the initial steps toward eminent domain proceedings on a 1.28-acre piece of property on El Fuego — known as the Dacus property — owned by the RSF Association and promised by the Association to the RSF School District. (Eminent domain allows the seizure of private property, with due monetary compensation, but without the owner's consent. The property is taken either for government use or by delegation to third parties who will devote it to public or civic use.) The property is located to the west of RSF School and just north of the fire

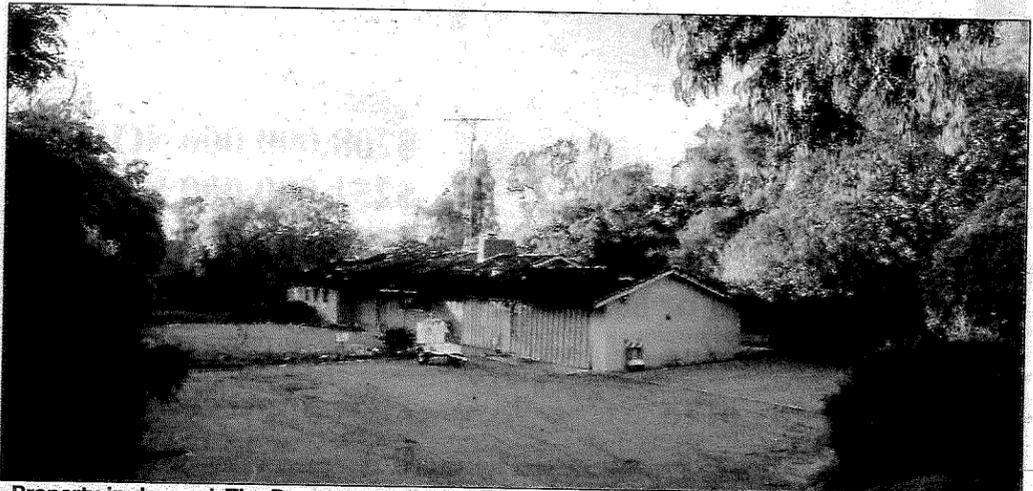
department.

RSF Fire Chief Nick Pavone said the fire district approved a "resolution of necessity" at the board's Dec. 29 meeting, which, he says, is a "precursor to any legal action."

"We continue to discuss the issue with the RSF Association and the School District and we hope a resolution can be found before [the process moves further down the eminent domain path]."

The problem is that both the RSF Fire District and the RSF School District need more space. Pavone said the fire district needs the Dacus property for parking and expansion of administrative facilities.

See DACUS, page 33



Property in demand: The Dacus property is located on El Fuego near the RSF Village. Photo/Jon Clark

## DACUS

continued from page 1

The RSF School District needs the property for parking, a storage area during construction of the Rowe campus upgrade, and more.

Even the RSF Association needs additional space to house the RSF Patrol.

RSF Association Manager Pete Smith said the Association's understanding with the RSF School District that the Dacus property would ultimately be used by the school goes back to 2000.

Pavone said that after attempts to acquire other area properties met with failure for various reasons, the only avenue left for the district is to pursue the Dacus property.

"We have offered to keep the Patrol at the Fire Station if we can meet our goals," Pavone said. "We are pretty optimistic we can work together to find a compromise. While there will not be a perfect solution we hope we can find a way to meet everyone's needs as much as possible."

RSF School District Superintendent Lindy Delaney said the Dacus property is a crucial piece of the upcoming Rowe renovation project.

"We have been in an ongoing discussion with the Association about the Dacus property for many years," Delaney said. "We want to acquire the property to help with parking and traffic circulation for the school area. We feel the school has a greater need for the property as our primary goal is a quality education and the safest environment possible for our students. We will continue to work collaboratively with the RSF Association on this issue."

"One of the reasons we've been wanting to purchase the Dacus property in a timely manner was to assist us with the Rowe renovation project — that property is a key component of the project. It will help save us money or else we'll have to find another lay down area during construction."

RSF School District President Carlie Headapohl agreed, saying, "It has been a long-standing objective of the school to acquire additional property — and specifically this parcel — for additional parking and space for the school."

"We need it, in part, to address parking and circulation issues created by parents and teachers coming to and from school every day. We've always said we've like to acquire this parcel and others to achieve our goals, that has been a long-term objective."

"I think it is incumbent upon the three community bodies to work together to find solutions for the overlapping needs of the community. I have a strong bias against spending taxpayer money [on eminent domain], especially in this current economic climate. There will never be a perfect solution and compromises will have to be made by everyone, but I feel strongly we can work together to find a solution."

"Finding extra space in the Village is very complex because of zoning. If it were easy this wouldn't be a problem because we have very smart, capable people working on it. It will take time to work through all the pieces, like a puzzle."

RSF Fire District board president Jim Ashcraft said, "We are at a very preliminary stage on the eminent domain process. We have utmost respect for everyone involved and we are trying to work with the school and the Association to find better solutions. I am optimistic that we

will find a solution that works for everyone.

"We need parking and future administrative space. We've even offered to put the RSF Patrol offices on the property, if necessary. We have also talked about the possibility of all three (fire department, school and the Association) using the Dacus property for parking. We are open [to various possibilities]."

The RSF Association board, which was not aware of a Dec. 29 meeting by the RSF Fire District board on the topic, also hopes a solution to the issue can be found.

"I'm pretty surprised they took such a drastic step without first allowing the three parties to come together to try to find a solution," said Association board president Lois Jones. "The school board has been making plans for that property all along as part of its planned campus upgrade. The Association's position is to continue negotiating to find a satisfactory resolution for all three parties."

RSF Association Manager Pete Smith said, "We understand that the fire department has a responsibility to provide for the needs of the entire district, including the areas that lie outside the Covenant boundaries. The RSF Association, the school and the fire department are all working closely to reach a resolution that is in the best interests of all the parties."

Pavone said the funds to buy the Dacus property, if it comes to that, would come from a combination of the district's general fund and fire mitigation fee money. Below are the minutes from the fire district board's Dec. 29 meeting regarding the Dacus property.

**Ordinance No. 2008-14 – entitled a Resolution of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District Board of Directors to Acquire Certain Real Property by Eminent Domain Proceedings and Directing the District Counsel to Commence an Action in the Superior Court for the Purpose of Acquiring Said Real Property**

Attorney Stephen Fitch reported that the resolution being considered is the first step necessary to acquire real property by eminent domain proceedings. He also reported that if adopted by the Board, this item would be scheduled for discussion and/or ratification at the next regular Board meeting to allow the property owner an opportunity to comment on the Board's action. Chief Pavone reminded the board members (prior to the vote) that the District has worked diligently in the past two years to work with Rancho Santa Fe Association and Rancho Santa Fe School District to seek a solution that would address all parties' interest. He believes that the district has exhausted all options, and he summarized the numerous discussions that he has had with Rancho Santa Fe Association and Rancho Santa Fe School District. The discussions included:

- Since the Board of Directors authorized notifying the tenants, Rancho Santa Fe Association Patrol, to vacate their leased space in December 2006 in order to address the immediate parking needs of the District, there have been two attempts to purchase property in the adjoining area — there is no willing seller.

- Since receiving notification from Rancho Santa Fe School District to cease parking across the street from the HQ station during school hours, the District has negotiated a two-year lease with Santa Fe Irrigation District to lease land for seven parking spaces. The Irrigation District has informed the Fire District that there is no option of purchasing any of their property and there is no desire at this time by SFID to enter into a long-term lease.

- The vacant property owned by Rancho Santa Fe Association is the only private property that is available which causes the least injury and impact to the public.

MOTION BY DIRECTOR HICKERSON, SECOND BY DIRECTOR TANNER, to adopt Resolution No. 2008 -14 authorizing the acquisition of real property (APN: 266-182-21) and directing District Counsel to commence action in Superior Court for the purpose of acquiring real property to address the District's immediate need for parking. Motion approved on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Ashcraft, Hickerson, Hillgren, Malin, Tanner  
 NOES: None  
 ABSENT: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

## San Diego Photography Meetup.com group raises money for breast cancer

Stuart Allman, the son of a breast cancer survivor and avid photographer, has organized a silent auction of photographic art at Hennessey's Pub in the Gas Lamp District of downtown San Diego. His inspiration comes from the feeling that just about everyone he meets knows someone who is battling, survived, or has lost a loved one to breast cancer. The way to find a cure is to step up and try to make a difference.

The silent auction event will feature photographic prints from local artists who are members of the San Diego Meetup.com Photography Group. These talented photographers have donated their art from travels around the country and abroad for the purpose of benefiting breast cancer research. The select group of photographic prints being auctioned includes works of nature, classic architecture, modern art, religion, sports, and historic photos. The Morrison Hotel Gallery in La Jolla has also donated a very special print by the renowned music photographer Henry Diltz. All proceeds from the auction will go to Susan G. Komen for the Cure®.

The public and the media are encouraged to attend the auction on Wednesday, Feb 4, at 7 p.m. at Hennessey's Pub in downtown San Diego. The auction winners will be announced shortly after 10p.m. that evening. Live music is provided by Brooklyn and other special guests to be announced. Attendees are encouraged to wear pink in support of the fight for breast cancer. To download the event flyer and learn more, please go to the San Diego Komen Foundation events Web page at: <http://www.sdkomen.org/events/>

## SPACE

continued from page 1

cern," he said. "We're kind of hoping for some help or for some advice from an outside source."

Ferguson also noted that if the community knew of the guild's vision from its founder, Marianne Champlin, the village might come forward to save the organization.

Champlin, a former arts educator with a master's from San Diego State University, stated the vision is essentially about education and outreach to the Ranch's youngest citizens on up to art therapy for its seniors.

While many locals believe the guild came to be in 1996 following a series of meeting the previous year, Champlin recalled, "We had our first meeting at the Association office in 1967."

"We had the art show that the Garden Club was putting on and I realized here in Rancho Santa Fe there were a lot of what I considered excellent artists and it would be nice if we could support one another and encourage our art," she said.

"And I was thinking that I was surprised that there wasn't already an art association of some kind for an area like Rancho Santa Fe that had a marvelous library, a marvelous garden club and a beautiful Association office," she said, "and I just thought it would be a real asset if the community had an emphasis on the visual arts."

Champlin, who works in oil, water color and tempera said, "I've always been amazed that San Diego was a little bit reticent supporting the visual arts. They do a wonderful job on the performing arts with the symphony and the opera, but how could we self-support the visual arts."

"So the main function was to not necessarily just have another art guild and a place for artists to sell their work," she said, "it was an art association or guild established to encourage people in their artwork plus raise funds for art scholarships. And these funds would go to establish activities to encourage the visual arts, helping in the school systems, giving talks and art classes."

"The new location would provide all these things," she said.

Champlin added that other folks suggested the guild "could have an area where someone in our community could lend an unusual or spectacular type of art piece, not only for our own members to study, but for the community to drop by and view."

Ferguson said, "We're even thinking of going beyond just the visual arts and we would like to talk about a cultural center that would embrace other arts in addition to the visual arts."

"We do want the local community as well as the local school to have access to this cultural center," said Ferguson who used the phrase "art and cultural center."

The guild is looking for a space with least 1,000-2,000 square feet with windows for displaying artwork. Ferguson said Champlin would like to see a community library within the guild specifically for the visual arts.

The guild's gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 6004 Paseo Delicias.

For inquiries, call the gallery's manager Pam MacLaird at (858) 759-3545 or e-mail [ranchoart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ranchoart@sbcglobal.net).

To learn more, visit [www.ranchosantafeartguild.org](http://www.ranchosantafeartguild.org).

## Ronald McDonald House raffles off \$1.9 million dream house

An exquisite \$1.9 million Encinitas home is up for grabs, along with thousands of dollars in cash prizes, in Ronald McDonald House of San Diego's annual Dream House Raffle fundraiser.

Individuals can now purchase their \$150 raffle tickets for a chance at the house and prizes. The grand prize, a luxurious, 4,600 s.f. coastal estate, has five bedrooms, five and-a-half-baths, is solar powered, boasts a gourmet kitchen and a lush backyard with a pool and spa. All proceeds will help Ronald McDonald House of San Diego (RMHCSD) provide a new "home away from home" to families of sick children.

Ronald McDonald House expects to sell out 35,000 tickets to this fifth annual event for charity. The Grand Prize winner can choose between the house or \$1.6 million cash. As incentive to purchase tickets early, the raffle also includes three early bird drawings for cash prizes of \$25,000 or less for tickets purchased before three deadlines on Feb. 13, March 13 and April 24. The grand prize drawing is on June 20. All ticket holders have a one in 100 chance of winning a prize of \$300 or more.

Those who purchase more than one ticket are eligible for the Multi-ticket drawing to win a Toyota Prius or \$25,000 cash, a European vacation or \$10,000, or a Hawaiian vacation or \$5,000. If ticketholders refer a friend to purchase a ticket, they will be included in the Refer-a-friend drawing and given the chance to win \$15,000.

Proceeds from the raffle will go to operate a new 47-bedroom Ronald McDonald House now under construction across from Rady Children's Hospital. The new 65,000 s.f. home for families with seriously ill children in the hospital will have four times the number of bedrooms in the current house. Completed in spring 2009, it will serve as a much-needed resource for the community as the critical need for services for these families grows.

To enter the Raffle, call 888-433-0331, or go to [www.sdraffle.com](http://www.sdraffle.com) and print out a registration form. Forms can be mailed or dropped off at Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego at 3101 Berger Avenue, San Diego 92123. Entrants may also fax ticket forms to 619-456-0018. Ticket purchasers must be 18 years or older, have US residency and meet other requirements in the Rules and Regulations as specified on [www.sdraffle.com](http://www.sdraffle.com).

## Del Mar Workout shuts down unexpectedly; members caught by surprise

By Matt Liebowitz

On Friday, Jan. 16, Del Mar Workout closed its doors with no warning to its members or staff. Rancho Santa Fe residents were among the gym's members.

Previously called Workout4Life, Del Mar Workout was purchased in July 2008 by Dave and Sonya Stauffer. The Stauffers, from Cedar City, Utah, bought Del Mar Workout from previous owner Jeff Nason, who had owned the gym since 1997.

The notice of the gym's closure came by way of a single typed printout taped to the door of the 11,000-square-foot gym located just south of the racetrack on Jimmy Durante Boulevard. The notice read:

"Attention Members and Employees. We wholeheartedly regret to inform you that Del Mar Workout has closed its doors for good as of 12:01 a.m. on 1/16/09.

"This is a decision that did not come easy. We apologize for no notice but we were left with no other choice.

"This gym has been the heart of the community for many years and the friendships/good people made it the hardest to have to close. We kept it open as long as we could, but financially this gym was closed in July when we bought it.

"We tried hard to bring the members back and make it the 'hometown' gym that it used to be but it did not come fast enough.

"With the economy in its current state, the ranks refused to lend us any further working capital to a business they could see could not hold its own from day 1.

"Dave and I spent thousands and thousands of our personal funds to keep this place open as long as we could in hopes that the people of Del Mar would see the changes and return.

"To the employees of Del Mar Workout, the deepest apologies as you all were the #1 reason I kept it open this long. I did not want to put anybody out of a job and I know everyone was counting on this place. We are deeply sorry for any financial hurt this may cause you. We wish the best to you all."

The abrupt closing came as a shock to gym members.

Deciding to leave Del Mar Workout and join Carmel Valley's Pacific Athletic Club, Del Mar resident Jane Quinn canceled her membership with Del Mar Workout on Dec. 20; her contract went through Jan. 5. She said she decided to leave Del Mar Workout because the quality of the classes had gone down.

Around the 5th, however, Quinn received a call from Del Mar Workout's credit agency informing her that her membership had not been cancelled. She called Sonya Stauffer, who set up an appointment on Friday, Jan. 17, for Quinn to come into the gym and cancel her membership.

"I think they did the best they could," said Quinn, "but they got themselves into something way over their heads. I think they were overwhelmed."

Another member wasn't as lucky as Quinn. Del Mar resident Debbie Buccigrossi believes the Stauffers acted in bad faith toward her and other clients, taking membership payments with the knowledge they wouldn't be open long enough to honor the contracts.

On Dec. 30, Buccigrossi paid \$549.82 for a year membership for her and her 13-year-old daughter.

The day she joined, Buccigrossi said, "I asked Sonya 'How do you know you'll be in business in a year?' She said that they'd just bought the place in July and it was being refurbished."

See SURPRISE, page 32



Del Mar Workout members reading the sudden notice of closure.

## RSF Fire District urges residents to install, maintain and test smoke alarms

In response to a national call for action by Homeland Security, the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District (RSFFPD) is asking everyone to install, maintain, and test their smoke alarms. This effort is in response to one of the deadliest holiday seasons in recent years related to fire. Since Thanksgiving 2008, more than 200 people have died in fire-related tragedies in the United States.

"The 2008 holiday season and the start of 2009 may be recorded as one of the deadliest for residential fires in recent memory of the fire service," said Greg Cade, United States fire administrator. "Not only has there been a significant number of preventable fires, but the occurrences of multiple fatalities resulting from these fires are simply unacceptable within our nation. There should be a smoke alarm protecting every person in this nation today, particularly as we sleep."

While there have been no such devastating fires with the RSFFPD, firefighters urge everyone to do their part of help keep such incidents from occurring. "Everyone should test each smoke alarm in their home once a month to ensure it is functioning," said Nick Pavone, RSFFPD fire chief. "In addition, the batteries in each smoke alarm should be changed once a year, even if the alarm is still working. This includes the backup batteries for alarms that are hard-wired."

For more information about smoke alarms and fire safety, please visit our Web site at [www.rsf-fire.org](http://www.rsf-fire.org) or <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/>.

## One-of-a-kind iPhoto and iMovie Class starting at RSF Community Center

Do you have photos just sitting on cameras, thumb drives and/or photo sharing Web sites? The Rancho Santa Fe Community Center is offering an Adult Mac Computer class beginning from 12:30-2 p.m. Compile all your pictures into a book of family memories, or create a beautiful table-top display book of your artistic creations. iMovie is the fastest and easiest way to turn home movies into dazzling Hollywood-style hits. Now with more cinematic tools, you'll find your creative talents come to the screen.

There are four iPhoto classes on Tuesdays running now through Feb. 10. There are four iMovie classes starting Feb. 17 and running through March 17.

Join instructor Matthew McColm and his 15 years of Mac experience; call 756-2461 to register today!

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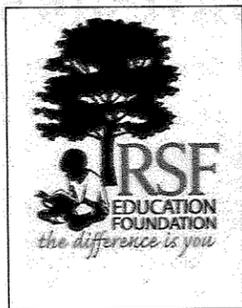
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# RSF Education Foundation continues to attract new families to Scholar's Circle of donors, special event to be held Feb. 19

Scholar's Circle families of the RSF Education Foundation believe "We must continue to invest in our children's education - perhaps now more than ever."



Despite uncertain financial markets, the RSF Education Foundation continues to attract new families to its Scholar's Circle of donors. So far this year, nine new families have pledged donations at the Scholar's Circle level. "What were hearing is that while it is a tough economic year and certain adjustments have been necessary, many of our school families feel strongly that we must all continue to invest in our children's education - perhaps now more than ever," said John Capetta, RSF Education Foundation co-chair.

Scholar's Circle members continue a tradition that began in 1997 when a group of 25 Rancho Santa Fe school families, came together to provide considerable funds to supplement the RSF School District annual budget allowing for an enriched public education. Today's Scholar's Circle is made up of parents and members of the community who pledge at least \$30,000, usually over a three-five year period. The funds that The Education Foundation provides to the

RSF School District, \$800,000 this year, are used to support the "Five-Star Education" campaign, over half of which is spent to help the district meet its small class size objective of 20 students or fewer per class, grades K-8.

The rest of the monies fund teaching specialists across science, Spanish, arts, athletics, math and music in addition to special programs such as the Columbia University Reading & Writing Program and Global Literacy. Getting multi-year pledges of a significant level is important as they not only allow the RSF School District to more accurately plan and make staffing and program commitments, but they also help families that are not able to cover the cost of their children for the benefits provided from "Five-Star Education." As co-chair Barbara Edwards notes, "With historic cutbacks coming out of Sacramento and swooning financial markets affecting us all, it is now more important than ever that families who are able to make significant contributions do so to maintain 'Five-Star Education' programs."

On Feb. 19, The RSF Education Foundation will be hosting "An Extraordinary Evening of Discerning Taste" as a special recognition for Scholar's Circle level donors. Jeffrey Strauss, executive chef at Pamplemousse Grill, will prepare the food with wine pairings selected by past and current chairs of The RSF Education Foundation. For more information on becoming a Scholar's Circle member or the RSF Education Foundation, please call 756-1141 x468 or visit the Foundation page at [www.rsfschool.net](http://www.rsfschool.net)

## Crime Log

Jan. 6: Vandalism, 16400 La Gracia, lawn damaged by vehicle

Jan. 12: Grand theft, 7000 La Valle Plateada, car stereo taken

- Source: RSF Patrol

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## Sprinkler, firefighters save home

Fire crews from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District responded recently to a residential fire in the 6400 block of Primero Izquierdo. Upon arrival they found a large residential structure with a heavy odor of smoke. Upon investigation, it was found that a single sprinkler head had activated, confining the fire to the room of origin. The activation of the sprinkler head, combined with fast action by firefighters, resulted to minimal damage to the structure

and its contents. The structure was occupied at the time of the fire but no injuries were reported.

The mission of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is "To protect life, property, and environment through prevention, preparedness, education and emergency response." Formed in 1946, the Fire District now spans approximately 42-square miles and protects over 26,500 citizens.

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**SPORTS**  
For sports news, see pages 32-34



**PHOTOS**

For society photos see pages 1-40, B1-B12.

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**Merchants weary of Village parking woes**

By Joe Tash

Retailers in the Rancho Santa Fe Village say the time may be coming when the only businesses to be found in the community's central core will be banks and real estate offices.

The reason for the merchants' heartburn? It's not the sluggish economy, although that isn't helping. Rather, it's a chronic lack of parking spots in the pedestrian-friendly village, which merchants say is sending their customers elsewhere.

"Parking is everything. If you can't park near a business, you don't go there," said Marion Dodson, chairwoman of the Village Business and Merchants Association.

Bertrand Hug, owner of Mille Fleurs restaurant, put it more bluntly: "People refuse to come over. They tell me flat out, 'We can't park.'" Hug said the lack of parking in the village has been an ongoing problem since he bought the restaurant, a village institution, in 1985.

According to Connie McNally, who has run an antique furniture store in the village with her husband for 18 years, the parking crunch is only getting worse.

"There's no place to park. It's gotten worse, not better," McNally said. The business owners say they think the Rancho Santa Fe Association is not doing enough to find a solution to the problem.

"They're pushing us out of business, is what the Association is doing by refusing to react," said Hug. The situation is bad enough, he said, that as of Feb. 1 he will only open for lunch on Thursdays and Fridays, although Mille Fleurs will continue to be open for dinner every night.

McNally said her business's parking woes recently took a turn for the worse when her husband and the driver of a moving truck both received parking tickets, totaling more than \$400, while they were moving a large piece of furniture. The antique shop has no loading zone, and the piece was too large to move through the shop's back door, McNally said.

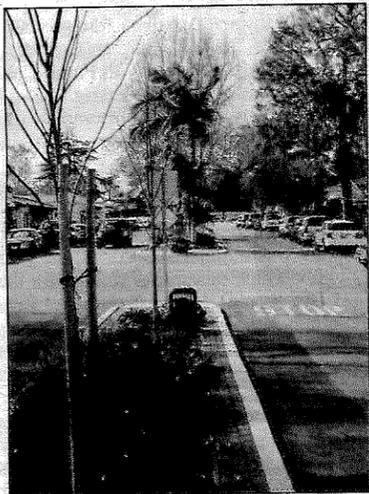
"I'm telling you Rancho Santa Fe has become business-unfriendly," said McNally. "They don't want anyone to be in retail business here. They're running out of retailers here and we'll have nothing but Realtors."

One long-standing complaint by merchants is that employees of banks and real estate offices park in prime spaces for the entire day. To combat this problem, the Association has created timed spots limiting parking to two hours at a stretch on streets around the village such as Paseo Delicias.

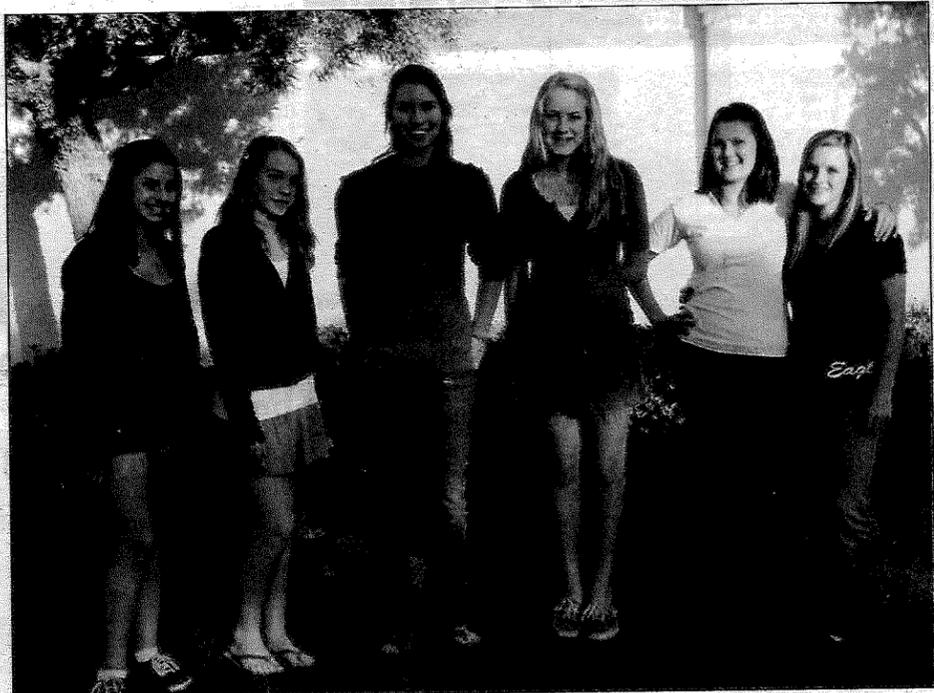
However, enforcement of the time limit has also been an issue, because Rancho Santa Fe Patrol officers can issue only warnings, and Sheriff's deputies and California Highway Patrol officers have little time to devote to writing parking tickets.

Ivan Holler, Association planning director, said the Association conducts annual parking surveys to assess the availability of parking spaces

See PARKING, page 39

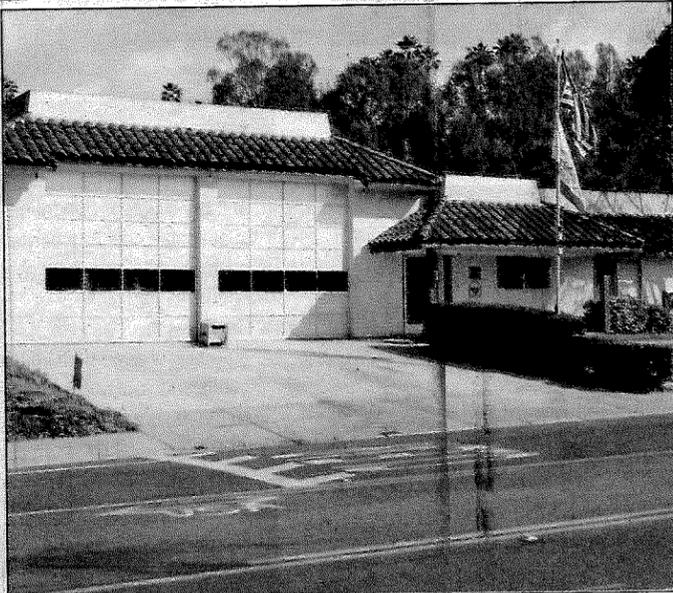


Village business owners say lack of parking continues to be a problem in the Village. Photo/Jon Clark



**'Get Smart with Our Hearts'**

The San Diego Del Norte Chapter of National Charity League is preparing for its first annual All Ticktocker Philanthropy Day on Feb. 6. "Get Smart with Our Hearts" will be serving two philanthropies. For San Pasqual Academy, the girls will be making Valentine's bags and for Family Recovery Center they will be creating hygiene kits. The ticktocker council reps planning this fun service day are Jaclyn Bailey, Amanda Roesser, Samantha Hardage, Emily Baratta, Skyler Okey and Vanessa Jensen.



**Changes coming for Fairbanks fire station**

RSF Fire District Chief Nick Pavone says the fire district has hired an architect and is working on developing a plan for the new Fairbanks Ranch-area fire station (on El Apajo Rd.). Pavone said the district plans to demolish the existing station (in photo at left) and build a new one that will accommodate current demands. He added that the district has begun the permit process with the county. If all goes as planned, Pavone said the district hopes to move the fire station temporarily to a nearby property and begin the demolition process in about six to eight months.

Photo/Jon Clark

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## Fire Department set to offer emergency response training

RANCHO SANTA FE — The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is looking for residents interested in becoming part of the Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT.

Applications are now being accepted for the spring session, which begins Feb. 25, at the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Station 1, 16936 El Fuego.

CERT is a nationally-recognized program designed to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations and work-

places in basic disaster response skills. During natural or man-made disasters, emergency personnel are stretched thin, and may be unable to help residents in a timely manner. If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the community's professional emergency crews, CERT members can assist others by applying their skills learned in training.

This free CERT class will be a 25-hour Web-based program

TURN TO TRAINING ON 17

## Ranch student accepted into national leadership program

RANCHO SANTA FE — Grant Daniels, a student at Earl Warren Middle School in Solana Beach, has been accepted into the People to People World Leadership Forum. Daniels will join a group



GRANT DANIELS

of students in Washington, D.C. from April 6 through April 12 to study leadership and explore some of the United States' most prominent monuments and institutions.

From Capitol Hill to the Smithsonian Institution, and from Gettysburg National military Park to the International

TURN TO LEADERSHIP ON 17



### TOP KICKS

Above, the Rancho Santa Fe Attack Girls-Under-9 team. Standing from left, Kathryn Miller, Brittany Reppenhagen, Abby Gausepohl, Coach Mike Jones, Anna Kochanek, Camryn Tastad, Emily Ross and Elle Schneider. Kneeling from left, Cate Jones, Billy Anderson, Chloe Crochet and Rachel Askari. The team members were named the San Diego Presidents Cup Tournament champions. The 8- and 9-year-old girls live in Rancho Santa Fe, Solana Beach, Encinitas and Carlsbad. The girls were undefeated in the Presidents Cup played at Rancho Bernardo Middle School, finishing the tournament with four wins, no losses, and one tie. The team won the Copa Del Mar, Pegasus Cup and now the Presidents Cup tournaments and was also a finalist for the Encinitas Rotary Cup. *Courtesy photo*

## Taxpayers should scrutinize stimulus bill

COAST CITIES — As the economy continues to suffer the effects of the current recession, and as we enter the tax filing season, it may be worth noting that this year especially may be a year that all taxpayers take additional time to review all income, expense, and deduction items reported on their tax return. Important information regarding new tax incentives, tax credits, and increased benefits can be found in the Emergency Economic

Stabilization Act of 2008. According to Kasey Ortiz at Jes Taxes in Oceanside, the extra time spent in reviewing the tax return may in fact provide many times more in the way of benefits resulting from the recently signed stimulus bill. Some highlights of the Stimulus Bill include: — More than 200 new tax law changes, incentives and credits for most taxpayers filing their 2008 tax return. A few important items included in the many changes are

state and local tax deductions, Higher Education tuition deduction, deduction for Real Property Taxes Paid, and Teacher's Classroom deduction — State and local tax deductions. This deduction was a part of the Jobs Creation Act of 2004 and expired at the end of 2007. Under the new stimulus bill, this deduction has been extended retroactively back to Jan. 1, 2008. — Higher Education Tuition

TURN TO STIMULUS ON 18



INTERIOR BEAUTY From left, Kelly Crook, Janet Christ and Joe McCarter are eager to "unlock the personality" in their homes. *Photo by David Wiemers*

### GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM 2  
your personality." Coseo showed a picture of a chair her mother had passed down to her. It looked as comfortable as a worn slipper. "I wouldn't go anywhere without it," Coseo said. "This is where I sit and drink my morning coffee." After the slideshow pres-

entation, the room was opened to questions and answers. Attendees shared problems, solutions and design tips. The next presentation, scheduled for Feb. 11, is "Color Revolution: igniting the need for self-expression through the distinctive use of color." Reservations are required. Call (858) 756-1554 for more details.

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**LASHING**

CONTINUED FROM 14

lead, Discover, Learn at your library," according to a city of Oceanside press release.

Blane Bizzaro, who remains in custody on \$400,000 bail, is scheduled to be back in court Feb. 17 for a readiness conference. A trial date has been set for March 10.

If convicted on all charges, Bizzaro faces up to 10 years in prison and a strike, Deputy District Attorney Keith Watanabe said in an interview following the hearing.

Prosecutors allege last Nov. Blane Bizzaro slashed his wife's face across the forehead with a 12-inch machete slicing two to three inches of skin off her forehead and leaving Eugenia Bizzaro with a gash that required numerous stitches and plastic surgery. She then fled from the residence with the weapon, prosecutors said. Oceanside police Officer

Scott Hunter testified Blane Bizzaro turned himself in to authorities the following day. He told them he stashed the machete across the way from the department station, the officer said. Hunter said the knife was located buried under some brush behind several businesses across the street from the police station. He said the weapon still had blood on it, as well as some water.

After his arrest, Blane Bizzaro told police he'd been on a two-day drinking binge when the attack occurred. He said his wife was on the phone when he struck her with the machete, Hunter said. He told authorities he thought his wife might attack him with the phone, the officer said.

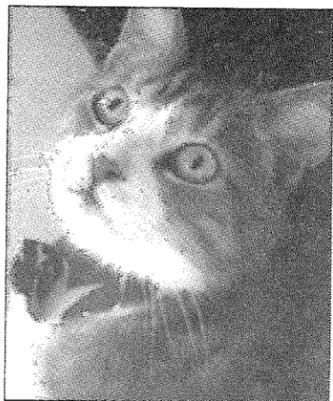
Following the hearing, Eugenia Bizzaro, who testified against her husband, said the incident is a "tragedy" for their family, and she hoped the case could be resolved with her husband receiving treatment for his alcoholism and manic depression.

Unlike other domestic violence cases where the victim covers for their significant other, Eugenia Bizzaro made it clear she's not "negating" or "minimizing" what happened, she said she just wants her husband to get the help he needs, which a prison sentence won't afford him.

Blane Bizzaro's attorney, Sloan Ostbye, said she is hoping to negotiate a deal for him that would require him to serve a year or less of jail time before being enrolled in a court ordered residential treatment center.

Watanabe said he couldn't comment on any future plea offers or resolutions for the case. "Often times DV victims minimize the seriousness of the crime against them, however, it is the District Attorney's duty to ensure that victim's are protected even if they don't think they need protection," Watanabe said.

**PET OF THE WEEK**



Chester is a 3-year-old, neutered male, classic domestic shorthair feline. He sports stripes along with winter white trim and jade eyes. He would be happiest with no other kitties in the home as he is very loyal. Chester uses the litter box like a pro but also enjoys the great indoors. You can adopt Chester for \$80.

All pets adopted from Helen Woodward Animal Center have been spayed or neutered, have up-to-date vaccinations and have microchip identification.

Helen Woodward Animal Center kennels are open

everyday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Applications are accepted until 5:45 p.m. at 6461 El Apajo Road. For more information call (858) 756-4117, option #1 or log on to [www.animalcenter.org](http://www.animalcenter.org).

**TASTE OF WINE**

CONTINUED FROM 10

California and their premier Pinot Noir. He recommended Golden Gate and its 2006 vintage. Come to find out it's one of only two wines served at the President Obama Inaugural Luncheon. You will taste the plum, spice, cherry and raspberry notes. It was served with pheasant and duck. The featured wine was a Duckhorn 2007 Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc paired with a seafood stew of line lobster, scallops and shrimp.

**Wine Bytes**

San Diego State's Business of Wine course opens its Spring semester with "Exploring Wine" from 6 to 9 p.m. starting Mon. Feb. 23 on campus. For fees and registration, call (619) 594-6924.

Holiday Wine Cellar of Escondido has "Wine Down Mondays" starting Feb. 2 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for just \$5. Enjoy Robert Nenow from his winery in Napa. He's pouring Cab and his new Syrah/Cab blend. More info is available at (760) 745-1200.

Jack's La Jolla has a Blind Wine Tasting in the Ocean Room from 3 to 7 p.m. Feb. 3 for \$25 each. Is it a Cab or a Zin? Test your skills. Details are available by calling (858) 456-8111.

Restaurant Acqua Al 2 in the Gaslamp downtown San Diego launches "AA2 Uncorked," a new wine tasting series to share the passion of fine Italian wines. The first class is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Feb. 4 with the theme of Amore, a Toast to Love. Learn about and try fine Italian wines and authentic Italian appetizers for participants. Cost is \$15 per person.

Call (619) 230-0382 to RSVP.

Pechanga Casino in Temecula inaugurates its first annual Wine Festival from noon to 5 p.m. Feb. 7 to benefit the Red Cross. In addition to wine tastings with ZD, Miner, Chateau St. Michelle, Erath, Ferrari Carano, Mondavi, Falkner, Keyways, La Cereza, Pedroncelli and more, Pechanga has its great chefs prepare samples of their cuisine. Tickets are \$65 each. A 6 to 9 p.m. bonus of more wineries with a Chocolate Decadence event costs \$100 for the two events. For tickets, call (877) 711-2WIN or call [www.pechanga.com](http://www.pechanga.com).

*Frank Mangio is a renowned wine connoisseur certified by Wine Spectator. His library can be viewed at [www.tasteofwinetv.com](http://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 [mangiofmp@aol.com](mailto:mangiofmp@aol.com).*

**COACH**

CONTINUED FROM 3

Sunstorm Volleyball Club, Antony taught special education and coached boys and girls volleyball teams at Escondido's San Pasqual High School since 2004, said Steve Boyle, assistant superintendent of human resources for the Escondido School District.

The victims had no relation to

the high school, authorities said.

Antony was placed on paid administrative leave in September because of the investigation, Boyle said. But now that he has been officially charged, Boyle said Antony's status will most likely change.

A preliminary hearing has been set for Feb. 11. Antony's next scheduled court appearance is a Feb. 3 readiness conference.

**SMALL TALK**

CONTINUED FROM 16

are about." I'll just bet he doesn't read a lot of Jackie Collins or People magazines.

He goes on to speak harshly to those who use "viability" as a pretentious and nonsensical, vogue word for "validity or feasibility." Ouch. The article goes on to chastise those who confuse "parameter" and "perimeter." He calls "between you and me" ghostly. He even bragged that he had

caught the book's author in a "rare lapse."

I know there are plenty of word watchers out there who have cut me a goodly amount of slack up until now. I want you to know I appreciate your forbearance. Meanwhile, I am truly glad Simon is out there fighting the good fight, but I'm dad-blamed tickled that he doesn't hang out in these parts.

*Gillette is a freelance writer busted to buck private in the Language Guardian Brigade. Contact her at [jgillette@coastnewsgroup.com](mailto:jgillette@coastnewsgroup.com).*

**CRIMINAL**

CONTINUED FROM 10

Crishan came out three days later, rambling and pleading to be shot, according to court documents. Police used seven air bag rounds and a police dog to subdue him.

As a result of the shooting, Crishan said he suffered a shattered jaw, as well as spinal complications, which required multiple surgeries.

Vivian, who had lived at the residence for more than a decade, said she first met Crishan when an elderly man moved into Wiesemeyer's residence in 2006

from a Las Vegas assisted-care facility where he had been following a debilitating car accident.

"We were all friends," Vivian said when asked about the atmosphere in the house.

He said Crishan and Wiesemeyer both had a propensity for alcohol and arguing for the sake of arguing.

However, Crishan's attorney painted a more hostile scenario for the jury in his opening statement. Cotzirilos said both men were verbally and physically abusive toward Crishan. According to the lawyer, Wiesemeyer had made threats about kicking his client out of the house, while

Vivian threatened to poison Crishan with potassium chloride, a chemical used in lethal injections.

Both Vivian and Wiesemeyer have misdemeanor convictions stemming from battery charges. In 1996, Vivian was convicted of a misdemeanor charge stemming from striking his son, according to court documents. Wiesemeyer was arrested in 2005 for domestic violence against his wife; he pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace, court records show.

Crishan remains in custody on \$1 million bail. He is expected to testify at the hearing.

**NOT ABOUT THE MONEY**

CONTINUED FROM 8

The firm is big, spends a lot of money on advertising, and therefore will serve my best interest. Corporate cultures have fostered corporate profits and big bonuses. The massive adjustments we are now experiencing are a culmination of years of bad management. But, it is not just Wall Street. We the people have shared the mistaken belief that fundamentals don't matter. How else could we explain the housing bubble following so closely on the dotcom bubble?

In a recent client survey, we asked our clients to tell us what

they thought of us. Here are some words they used: honest, integrity, thoughtful, caring, keeps their word, thorough, forward thinking, helpful. They did not focus on investment returns. They spoke to what matters most to them — having someone they can trust. There will always be Madoffs and Dominellis promising what they can't deliver as they take your money. Will you be the next victim? Or, will you focus on what is really important? It is not about the money.

*Pete Wheeler is CEO of Wheeler/Frost Associates, Inc. a San Diego wealth advisory firm and can be reached at (619) 491-0225. E-mail him at [info@wheelerfrost.com](mailto:info@wheelerfrost.com).*

**WINE'S NEWS?**

CONTINUED FROM 10

Oceanside nonprofit offer child abuse treatment and prevention programs.

**Barbershopper**

**COAST CITIES** — The Oceanside men's chorus member Len Schaffner was named Barbershopper of the Year. He was chosen for outstanding leadership in the field of computer technology, communication networking among the chapter members, and being an all-around helpful member of the Barbershop Chapter.



LEN SCHAFFNER

offering \$9 green fees. Through Feb. 28, guests who book a room at La Costa Resort can add on up to two rounds of golf per room, per stay at the \$9 rate.

The rate is offered on a space-available basis for individual play (no group tee times). Reservations can be made at (800) 854-5000 or at [www.lacosta.com](http://www.lacosta.com).

**New face at mission**

**SOLANA BEACH** — Historic Mission San Juan Capistrano announced that Megan Caughey of Solana Beach is its new development assistant. In this role, she will assist with the presentation of onsite Mission events. Her previous work experience includes working in the Special Events Department of the California



MEGAN CAUGHEY

Film Institute.

**Newest members**

**ENCINITAS** — At its Jan. 14 meeting, the board of directors of Olivenhain Municipal Water District swore in Edmund K. Sprague as its president, Robert F. Topolovac as vice president, Mark A. Muir as treasurer, Jacob J. Krauss as secretary and Susan J. Varty as director.

**Academy earns USD award**

**CARMEL VALLEY** — San Diego Jewish Academy has been awarded this year's USD's Kaleidoscope Award for Exceptional Governance on Jan. 9 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice.

The award is to recognize, celebrate, promote and inspire excellence in nonprofit governance and recognizes board excellence in ensuring accountability and safeguarding the school's mission.

**Green fees**

**CARLSBAD** — To celebrate the 50th anniversary of La Costa Resort and Spa is

a s r a e d y e e n e e r i s s. y il-n re ll-ill of 18

# Automated sprinkler saves Ranch home from fire

RANCHO SANTA FE — Automatic sprinklers went far to help fire crews from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District save a home Jan. 16.

The residential fire was in the 6400 block of Primero Quierdo. Upon arrival, firefighters found the large residential structure surrounded by a heavy odor of smoke. Upon investigation, it was found that a single sprinkler head had activated, confining the fire to the room of origin. The activation of the sprinkler head, combined with fast action by firefighters, resulted in minimal damage to the structure and its contents. The structure was occupied at the time of the fire but no injuries were reported.

In addition, the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is asking residents to install, maintain and test their smoke alarms. This effort is in response to one of the deadliest holiday seasons in recent years related to fire. Since Thanksgiving 2008, more than 200 people have died in fire-related tragedies in the United States.

"The 2008 holiday season and the start of 2009 may be recorded as one of the deadliest for residential fires in recent memory of the fire service," said United States Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "Not only has there been a significant number of preventable fires, but the occurrences of multiple fatalities resulting from these fires are simply

unacceptable within our nation. There should be a smoke alarm protecting every person in this nation today, particularly as we sleep."

While there have been no such devastating fires with the local fire department, firefighters urge everyone to do

their part to help keep such incidents from occurring.

"Everyone should test each smoke alarm in their home once a month to ensure it is functioning," Chief Nick Pavone said. "In addition, the batteries in each smoke alarm should be changed once a

year, even if the alarm is still working. This includes the backup batteries for alarms that are hard-wired."

For more information about smoke alarms and fire safety, visit [www.rsf-fire.org](http://www.rsf-fire.org) or [www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/).

## INAUGURATION

CONTINUED FROM 3

...sing there was memorable. There was lots of enthusiasm."

"It was such a great experience to see the patriotism of the country and all the people getting very excited about the future," said Katie, a freshman who lives in Carlsbad.

"It was really fun to actually be there and capture the excitement and be at the event to experience and witness a great moment in history."

In addition to attending the inauguration, the Santa Fe Christian group took part in several planned activities that began shortly after their rival Jan. 17. One of the first events was a trip to the University of Maryland to listen to speakers such as former Vice President Al Gore, former Secretary of State Colin Powell and Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer and historian Doris Kearns Goodwin.

"I thought the speakers did a good message encouraging kids to get out there and influence the world," said Kristin, a freshman from Carmel Valley.

But for the students, the most impressive speakers were not politicians. "My favorite was Desmond Tutu because he's so funny," said Nelson, referring to the South

African cleric and 1984 Nobel Peace Prize-winner known for his opposition to apartheid.

"Eric Weinmeyer was very inspirational," Brandon said. "I liked his story of how he never gave up." Weinmeyer is a blind climber who reached the summit of Mount Everest.

"I didn't really like the speakers," said Andrew, a freshman from Rancho Santa Fe. "I didn't like their views on politics. It was cool to see the inauguration, but they booed (George W.) Bush. You shouldn't boo a president."

"I just was shocked at how rude people could be to a president," added Brandon, a sophomore who attended Bush's second inauguration in 2005.

Some of the students were also put off by the commercialism. They said vendors were selling everything from T-shirts to Obama hot sauce.

Negative experiences aside, all the students said they would encourage anyone to attend a future inauguration.

"I would definitely go again," said Lauren, a senior from Santaluz. "Whether it's a president you support or not, it's still really important. To have the opportunity to see the next leaders of our country is a really cool experience. I would definitely recommend it."



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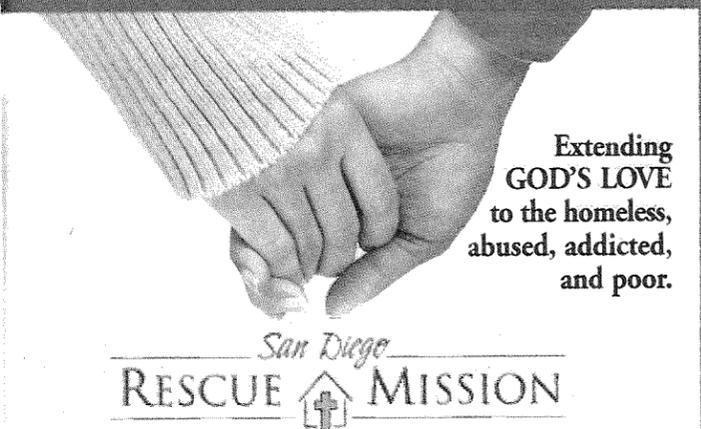


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