

# Fire season: Preparation is key for a safe evacuation

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District contains multiple communities nestled within the wildland urban interface, areas where wildland vegetation is intermixed with structures. As we saw in October 2007, warm climate, dense brush, flammable vegetation, drought conditions, and steep terrain combine for a volatile wildfire equation.

When living within the wildland urban interface, planning ahead for wildfires is a necessity. Fire strikes without warning and moves alarmingly fast, often leaving residents with limited time to gather household belongings and mementos. Preparing for wildfires before they happen is your best defense against the flames.

Even with careful preparation and preventative measures in place, wildfires can still threaten the area and necessitate evacuations. The following tips will help make the process smooth and safe should you be told to evacuate your home:

- Wear cotton or wool long pants, long-sleeve shirts or jackets, gloves and a damp cloth to cover your nose and mouth.
- Back your car into the garage (facing out) keeping the windows closed and keys in the ignition.
- Close the garage door, but leave it unlocked. Disconnect the automatic garage door in case of power failure. Place valuable documents, family mementos, pets and other valuables in your car in the garage for a quick departure.
- Move yard furniture, firewood, or other combustible materials away from the exterior of the house or store it in the garage.
- Attach garden hoses to spigots. Place hoses so they can reach any area around your home. Fill sinks, bathtubs and buckets with water to serve as extra water reservoirs.
- Close all windows and doors to prevent sparks from blowing inside. Close all interior doors to slow interior fire spread. Close window shutters if they are fire resistant and cover windows, attic openings, eave vents and sub-floor

vents with fire resistant material such as 1/2-inch or thicker plywood.

- Turn porch and yard lights on and turn on a light in each room of your home.
  - Shut off liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or natural gas valves.
  - Evacuate early. Most communities within the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District have narrow roads, which can cause traffic congestion leading to panic for those evacuating.
  - You do not need to wait for an evacuation order. If at any time you feel threatened, leave. If you are evacuating with small children, dependent adults, or large animals, allow yourself extra time to safely evacuate.
  - If you are told to evacuate, do so immediately. While having your home damaged or destroyed by fire can be devastating, it is not worth risking your life or the lives of firefighters.
  - Evacuate in the opposite direction of the fire.
  - Call your out-of-town contact and let them know you are evacuating and where you are going.
  - Once you have left, stay out of the area until authorities permit re-entry. This may take a while as fire and safety personnel have to make sure it is safe and the infrastructure is in place for residents to repopulate the area.
- Large wildfires are extremely unpredictable. Planning ahead is crucial for survival. For more information, visit our website at [www.rsffire.org](http://www.rsffire.org).
- 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 29,000 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. — Submitted by RSF Fire District.

# Local board adamant El Camino Real widening include wildlife undercrossing

By Suzanne Evans

Because a vital wildlife undercrossing and habitat corridor is not part of the city's recent application to widen El Camino Real Road between San Dieguito Road and Sea Country Lane, the project is running into stiff opposition from the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board, as it continues to monitor the widening and to protest the city's assertion the undercrossing can in the future be built by unspecified and "phantom others" after the road widening is completed.

Ducks now flock to a deteriorating culvert under the road, with drainage so poor, rainfall forms stagnating and mud-filled pools, pre-

venting drainage northward. Since the mid-1990s, the board has urged an updated wildlife crossing to replace the debris-trapping culvert, a critical link in the city's Multiple Habitat Planning Area (MHPA), before El Camino is widened.

In a letter the board circulated last week to the city Development Services Center and concerned organizations such as the San Dieguito River Park staff, the board stated it "finds the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration [assessing development impacts] and its underlying project inadequate and flawed (perhaps fatally so) because proper engineering design and the stated benefits to wildlife and

connectivity in the [Multiple Species Conservation Plan] (MSCP) Preserve and the City's regional trail system depend on a "phantom wildlife/trail undercrossing."

Among additional objections, the board's letter, signed by chair Frisco White, vice chair Manjeet Ranu, regional issues co-chairs Jan Fuchs and Anne Harvey, and board member Scott Tillson, discussed "failure to identify potential significant impacts; the project is described as adjacent to the MHPA, when in fact, it crosses the MHPA; insufficient study regarding the movement of wildlife across this roadway; the seven-foot height of the cul-

See WIDENING, page 29

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center will incorporate a flexible "black box" format similar to their La Jolla Playhouse design and an outdoor stage with seating for 500.

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With the help of our generous donors, we have reached 94% of our \$9.7 million campaign goal. The students, parents and faculty of San Dieguito Academy are grateful for their support of our capital campaign.

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For details on giving or to hear about naming opportunities, please visit [www.sdafoundation.net](http://www.sdafoundation.net) or contact Sheila Durkin, Executive Director, at 760-753-1121 ext. 5152.

Gifts of stock and appreciated securities may be made through the SDA-Performing Arts Center Fund at the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation.

## Firefighters host pancake breakfast during Rancho Days

The Rancho Santa Fe Professional Firefighters Association (RSFFPA) and Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District (RSFFPD) are hosting an Open House and Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 11, from 7 - 11 a.m., at Station 1, 16936 El Fuego in Rancho Santa Fe. District firefighters will be on hand to serve pancakes, eggs, sausage, orange juice, and coffee for a requested donation of \$5 for adults or \$3 for kids. In addition to breakfast, the open house, which will be part of this year's Rancho Days celebration, will include station tours, photos with the firefighters, fire engine rides, and informational displays. For more information, please visit [www.rsffire.org](http://www.rsffire.org) or call 858-756-6008.



**Dallas Rose Conner and Rick Conner**



**Jim and Alyce Ashcraft at a recent Rancho Days pancake event.**

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 29,000 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.

## First Annual Village Faire Health, Beauty and Wellness Expo taking place Oct. 17

Skinsational Skin and Body Spa along with the Village Faire Shopping Center in Carlsbad will host the inaugural Village Faire Health, Beauty and Wellness Expo on Oct. 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visitors attending the free community event will enjoy mini massages and treatments from Skinsational, as well as natural and organic food samples, interactive health exhibits, fitness demonstrations, financial wellness guidance, live music and more, from additional participating vendors.

The event will take place at the Village Faire Shopping Center located at 300 Carlsbad Village Drive in Carlsbad, CA 92008. For more information, log on to [www.skinsationalspa.com](http://www.skinsationalspa.com).



**Jane and Paul Woody at last year's Hoedown.**

## Rancho Days Hoedown at the RSF Golf Club Oct. 10

The Hoedown returns to the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club on Saturday, Oct. 10, when the club kicks off the annual Rancho Days festivities. All Association members and their guests are welcome. It will be a night of dancing and entertainment to the popular country and western band, "Nitro Express." We will be serving a Western-style BBQ that will be sure to please every appetite including BBQ ribs, roasted tri-tip, chicken, spuds, salads, cowboy beans, corn bread and hot peach cobbler. Wear your cowboy/Western best!

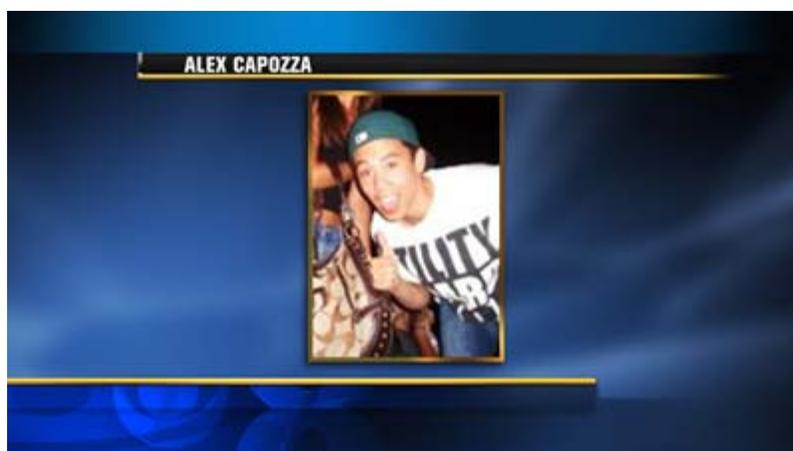
Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club is at 5827 Via de la Cumbre. Call the clubhouse today to make your reservations at 858-756-1182.



## Rancho Santa Fe DUI crash victim identified

Posted: Oct 04, 2009 11:14 AM PDT

Updated: Oct 05, 2009 4:39 PM PDT



RANCHO SANTA FE - Dozens of students from Torrey Pines High School came to a winding Rancho Santa Fe road yesterday to mourn the death of a 17-year-old student in a car crash hours before.

Sage Flynn, 16, picked up a green San Diego Padres hat that had been placed atop flowers in an impromptu roadside memorial along La Granada near Rambla de las Flores, near the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Course.

"He always wore this hat," Sage said. "They found it this morning."

All five students in the car that crashed at about 1:45 a.m. were 17-year-old seniors at Torrey Pines High School. One passenger died and another, from San Diego, was hospitalized last night with blunt head trauma and upgraded to fair condition Monday. The two other passengers - one from Del Mar and the other from Carlsbad - suffered minor injuries.

The boy who died was identified by officials as Alexander Michael Capozza of San Diego.

The 17-year-old driver, from San Diego, was taken to Juvenile Hall and held on suspicion of felony driving under the influence and gross vehicular manslaughter, California Highway Patrol Sgt. Lew Hall said. The driver

was not injured, Hall said.

Capozza and the boy who was critically injured were not wearing seat belts, Hall said. The other three teens in the car were wearing seat belts.

The CHP said the 2008 Mazda 3 was speeding northbound on La Granada when the driver failed to negotiate a curve and drifted into the southbound lane. The Mazda went off the road and crashed through bushes, trees and a wooden split-rail fence before swerving back onto the northbound lane and overturning, the CHP said.

A combination of impaired driving and speeding led to the wreck, according to a preliminary CHP report.

Smashed wooden rails that provided a border for a walking and horse trail lay on the ground near bits of plastic and glass left behind by the car. Flowers and a sign that read "Rest In Peace Homie" made up an impromptu roadside memorial.

Students came to the crash site yesterday to grieve. One group of students sat quietly by the road until a Rancho Santa Fe security officer asked them to move.

Students said Capozza was a popular senior at the school.

"Everybody loved him. He was a really outgoing person," said Cyrus Rahimi, 18, a senior.

"He just liked to enjoy life," said Bobby Keller, 15, a sophomore. "Everybody liked him. It was such a shock."

Brooke Flynn, 15, also fondly remembered the crash victim. "He was just a really sweet kid," she said.

Brett Killeen, principal of Torrey Pines High School, said counselors and a school psychologist will be at the school today to meet with distressed students.

"These are well-liked students on our campus," Killeen said. "We do expect that it will impact a lot of kids."



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# 10News.com

## Teen Killed In Rancho Santa Fe Rollover Crash

POSTED: 9:01 am PDT October 4, 2009

UPDATED: 2:26 pm PDT October 5, 2009

**SAN DIEGO --** A Torrey Pines High School senior was in custody Monday on suspicion of driving drunk and causing a crash that killed a classmate and critically injured another in Rancho Santa Fe, authorities said.

The solo-vehicle crash occurred around 1:45 a.m. Sunday in the 5000 block of La Granada, along the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club, according to the San Diego County Medical Examiner.

A 17-year-old San Diego boy died at the scene when the speeding 2008 Mazda 3 crashed and rolled several times into bushes, the Medical Examiner's Office reported. His name was not immediately released.

An autopsy on the boy's body was tentatively scheduled for Monday.

The California Highway Patrol said the vehicle was full of Torrey Pines students who had just left a party, including a 17-year-old boy later hospitalized in critical condition with blunt head trauma. Neither he nor the boy who was killed were wearing a seatbelt, the CHP reported.

The driver, whose name and gender were not released, faces charges of drunken driving and gross vehicular manslaughter. CHP Sgt. Lew Hall said the driver and two passengers, both 17, were wearing seatbelts and escaped injury.

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Related To Story



**Video: Students Mourn After Fellow Student Killed In Rollover Accident**

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# Friends, Family Mourn Teen Killed in Crash

## Five people were in Mazda when it crashed early on Sunday

By [NICOLE WARD](#) and [ERIC S. PAGE](#)

Updated 1:56 PM PDT, Mon, Oct 5, 2009



His fellow students are grieving after a 17-year-old [Torrey Pines High School](#) student was killed in a crash over the weekend.

Hearts were heavy at school on the the first day back at classes after the wreck in [Rancho Santa Fe](#). Students are mourning the death of [Alex Capozza](#). Capozza was in the rear passenger seat and not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash, [according to the North County Times](#).

Even those who didn't personally know Capozza or the others in the vehicle sounded deeply affected, and it was easy to see why.

"All of these kids are well-known seniors on this campus -- gregarious, likable kids," [Principal Brett Killeen](#) said.



[LOOK](#)

Alex Capozza, 1992-2008

Crash Victims, Driver All From Same School



[WATCH](#)

Crash Victims, Driver All From Same School

Over the weekend an automated message went out to all 2,626 students enrolled at Torrey Pines High.

"In generic terms, that our community has suffered a tragic loss," Killeen said. "We did not name names out of respect for the families."

Students, however, knew the names -- word spread quickly through Facebook.

A student who was hospitalized after the crash, [Jamie Arnold](#), who was identified by numerous sources, was described by one friend as a good kid. Arnold, too, is 17 years old.

The students were traveling in a speeding Mazda about 1:45 a.m. when the car crashed and rolled several times on La Granada. The driver, also 17, was arrested on suspicion of DUI. Police have not yet identified the driver.

Extra psychologists will be on hand for students for as long as they need, according to school officials.

**First Published: Oct 5, 2009 11:54 AM PDT**

**Find this article at:**

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local-beat/Friends-Family-Mourn-Teen-Killed-in-Crash-63541392.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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## RANCHO SANTA FE: One dead, one injured, one arrested in crash involving Torrey Pines students

SARAH GORDON - [sgordon@nctimes.com](mailto:sgordon@nctimes.com) | Posted: Sunday, October 4, 2009 8:10 pm

Five 17-year-old Torrey Pines High School students were involved in a rollover crash in Rancho Santa Fe early Sunday that left one boy dead, another hospitalized with critical injuries and a third booked into Juvenile Hall on suspicion of driving under the influence and vehicular manslaughter, authorities said.

The deceased boy's name was not released Sunday. An investigator with the medical examiner's office said the teen's parents were out of the country, and authorities were having trouble reaching them.

California Highway Patrol Sgt. Lew Hall said the boy, like all the teens involved in the crash, had attended Torrey Pines High School. He lived in Carmel Valley, Hall said.

Jamie Arnold, also of Carmel Valley, suffered serious injuries and was taken to Scripps Memorial Hospital, La Jolla, Hall said.

He was listed in critical condition Sunday evening, a hospital official said.

The crash happened about 1:45 a.m. when the five friends were going north on La Granada near the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club in a Mazda 3, Hall said.

The car was speeding as it entered a curve, and the driver failed to make the turn, Hall said. The car went into the south lane, then off the road, hitting a wooden spilt-rail fence, bushes and trees before overturning and coming to rest on the road.

The teen who died had been a backseat passenger, Hall said. Wearing no seat belt, he was thrown part-way out of the car and had died before medics arrived, the medical examiner's office said.

Jamie was also not wearing a seat belt, Hall said.

Two other passengers and the driver were not injured.

The 17-year-old driver, a Carmel Valley resident, was arrested and booked into Juvenile Hall. He was not identified because he is a minor.

Lew said the CHP is investigating where the teens had been before the crash. He said Torrey Pines Principal Brett Killeen told him trauma counselors would be available for the school's students on Monday.

Call staff writer Sarah Gordon at 760-740-3517.



**Related Terms:** [Carlsbad](#), [Del Mar](#), [Padres](#), [Rancho Santa Fe](#), [Torrey Pines](#)



# Torrey Pines student killed in crash is identified

## 5 Torrey Pines students in car; one hospitalized

By [Anne Krueger](#)  
Union-Tribune Staff Writer

Originally published 2:00 a.m. October 5, 2009, updated 3:42 p.m., October 5, 2009

### Update

The teen who was killed has been identified as Alexander Capozza.

RANCHO SANTA FE — Dozens of students from Torrey Pines High School came to a winding Rancho Santa Fe road yesterday to mourn the death of a 17-year-old student in a car crash hours before.

Sage Flynn, 16, picked up a green San Diego Padres hat that had been placed atop flowers in an impromptu roadside memorial along La Granada near Rambla de las Flores, near the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Course.

“He always wore this hat,” Sage said. “They found it this morning.”

All five students in the car that crashed at about 1:45 a.m. were 17-year-old seniors at Torrey Pines High School. One passenger died and another, from San Diego, was critically injured and hospitalized last night with blunt head trauma. The two other passengers — one from Del Mar and the other from Carlsbad — suffered minor injuries.

The name of the boy who was killed has not been released by the Medical Examiner's Office because his family has not been notified. He was from San Diego.

The 17-year-old driver, from San Diego, was taken to Juvenile Hall and held on suspicion of felony driving under the influence and gross vehicular manslaughter, California Highway Patrol Sgt. Lew Hall said. The driver was not injured, Hall said.

The boy who was killed and the boy who was critically injured were not wearing seat belts, Hall said. The other three teens in the car were wearing seat belts.

The CHP said the 2008 Mazda 3 was speeding northbound on La Granada when the driver failed to negotiate a curve and drifted into the southbound lane. The Mazda went off the road and crashed

through bushes, trees and a wooden split-rail fence before swerving back onto the northbound lane and overturning, the CHP said.

A combination of impaired driving and speeding led to the wreck, according to a preliminary CHP report.

Smashed wooden rails that provided a border for a walking and horse trail lay on the ground near bits of plastic and glass left behind by the car. Flowers and a sign that read "Rest In Peace Homie" made up an impromptu roadside memorial.

Students came to the crash site yesterday to grieve. One group of students sat quietly by the road until a Rancho Santa Fe security officer asked them to move.

Students said the boy who died was a popular senior at the school.

"Everybody loved him. He was a really outgoing person," said Cyrus Rahimi, 18, a senior.

"He just liked to enjoy life," said Bobby Keller, 15, a sophomore. "Everybody liked him. It was such a shock."

Brooke Flynn, 15, also fondly remembered the crash victim. "He was just a really sweet kid," she said.

Brett Killeen, principal of Torrey Pines High School, said counselors and a school psychologist will be at the school today to meet with distressed students.

"These are well-liked students on our campus," Killeen said. "We do expect that it will impact a lot of kids."

Union-Tribune

In the Union-Tribune on Page B1

**Find this article at:**

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/oct/05/crash-kills-teen-driver-arrested/?uniontrib>

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# 10News.com

## Elderly Man Kicked, Trampled By Horse

POSTED: 6:28 pm PDT October 6, 2009

UPDATED: 6:29 pm PDT October 6, 2009

**SAN DIEGO --** A 74-year-old man was seriously injured Tuesday when a horse kicked and trampled him at a North County stable, authorities reported.

The accident on Camino Santa Fe in the 4S Ranch area was reported about 3:40 p.m., according to the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District.

Emergency crews arrived to find the victim unconscious, district spokeswoman Julie Taber said.

"It appeared as though he had sustained head (injuries) when the horse he had been working with kicked him and ran him over," Taber said.

Medics airlifted the man to a trauma center. His name and medical condition were not released.

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NORTH COUNTY TIMES | THE CALIFORNIAN

## RANCHO SANTA FE: Horse kicks man in the head

the North County Times | Posted: Tuesday, October 6, 2009 9:55 pm

RANCHO SANTA FE ---- A 74-year-old man had to be flown to the hospital with a head injury after being kicked by a horse, said Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District spokesman Julie Taber.

At about 3:40 p.m. Tuesday afternoon, firefighters were called to the 4S Ranch area after a horse kicked and ran over the man.

Firefighters sent the man to Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla. It's not clear yet how the animal got out of control.

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 SECTION B

# Rancho Santa Fe REVIEW

VOLUME 29 NUMBER 4 *Providing The Ranch with Three Decades of Quality Journalism*

OCT. 8, 2009

## Car crash in RSF leaves one Torrey Pines student dead; driver arrested

By Matt Liebowitz

A car crash early Oct. 4 in Rancho Santa Fe left one Torrey Pines High School student dead, another in critical condition, and the driver arrested for driving under the influence and gross vehicular manslaughter, reported California Highway Patrol Sgt. Lew Hall.

The accident occurred about 1:45 a.m. Sunday, when five 17-year-old Torrey Pines seniors were headed west in a Mazda 3 sedan on La Granada, near the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club.

Sgt. Hall said the driver was believed to be speeding, and failed to navigate a corner between Avenida Maravillas and Rambla Del Las Flores. The car then went off the road, hitting a wooden split-rail fence; Sgt. Hall said the car went through 200 feet of fence before it overturned.

According to Hall, the student who was killed, Alex Capozza, 17, a Carmel Valley resident and top surfer, was sitting in the rear passenger seat, and not wearing his seatbelt. He was thrown from the car, and pronounced dead at the scene.

Another passenger, Jamie Arnold, was sitting in the front passenger seat, also without a seatbelt. He suffered severe



**Alex Capozza**  
 (Photo taken a few years ago)  
 Photo/  
 David  
 Buccigrossi



**Flowers left at the accident site.**  
 Photo/Jon Clark

injuries in the accident, and was taken to Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, where he was initially listed in critical condition but has since improved somewhat, according to sources.

The two other passengers

See CRASH, page 41

## RSF Association staff to provide recommendations on Village Park proposal at Oct. 15 meeting

By Matt Liebowitz

The Rancho Santa Fe Association staff will take the public's input into consideration in its analysis of which Village Park proposal to pursue, reported Ivan Holler, Association planning director.

Holler said the Association has received about 30 letters from residents since the Sept. 22 public meeting, at which four conceptual designs for improvements to the Village Park in front of The Inn were

presented to the public.

The first, with a total park area of 55,841 square feet, calls for minimal changes from what currently exists, and includes 16 parking spaces along Avenida de Acacias and nine along El Tordo. At the Sept. 22 meeting, Holler estimated the cost of option one at \$400,000.

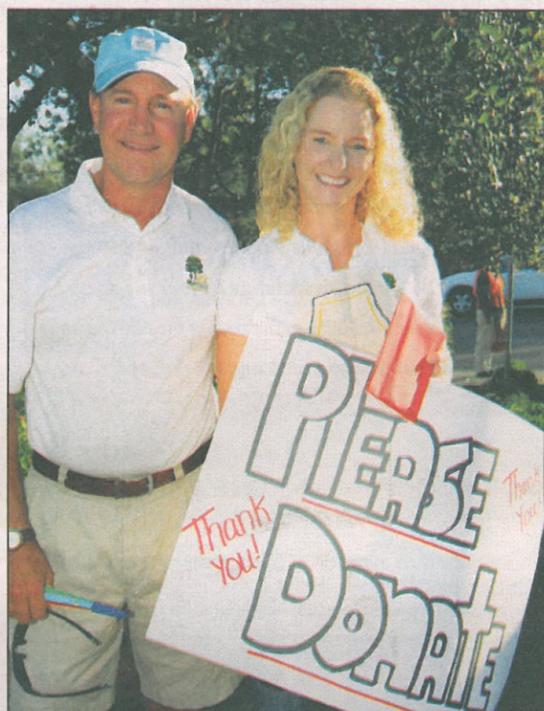
The second design, with a total area of 44,562 square feet, includes minor street realignment to remove the triangular island at Linea del Cielo/El Tordo, and textured

crosswalks with popouts at pedestrian access points. The second design is estimated at \$750,000.

The third design, estimated at \$1.5 million, includes a total park area of 76,710 square feet, with major street realignment and closures to segments of Linea del Cielo and La Gracia in front of The Inn to form one large park.

Option three includes interior paved off-street parking lots of the north and south

See PARK, page 39



**RED ENVELOPE DAY** — The Rancho Santa Fe Education Foundation celebrated its traditional "Giving Week" Sept. 28 – Oct. 2 with a parent education marketing campaign: "The Difference is You." On Oct. 2, also known as "Red Envelope Day," volunteers (above) collected contributions in the red envelopes that had been distributed. (Top) Todd McKinney, Carolyn Flaming; (Bottom) Elise Molin, Carey Cimino. Photos/Jon Clark

## Fundraising campaign proceeds for new performing arts center at RSF School

By Matt Liebowitz

The RSF School District board received an update at its Oct. 1 meeting from Bibbi Herrmann Conner and Carol Warren, who are spearheading the fundraising campaign for the new performing arts center at RSF School.

The 400-seat facility, explained Herrmann Conner and Warren, co-chairs of the Performing Arts Center Campaign Committee (PACCC), will be called The Performing Arts Center at Rancho Santa Fe.

Owned by the school district, the 400-seat center will be located on the new \$32 million campus, which is currently being constructed and expected to be completed by the 2010-2011 school year.

Expected to cost between \$1.6 million and \$2 million, the Performing Arts Center at Rancho Santa Fe will be shared between the school and the community-at-large.

The objective of the fundraising campaign, which was announced when the school was demolished in June and begun at the start of the school year in September, is to raise \$2 million.

See SCHOOL, page 41

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# CRASH

continued from page 1

and the driver were all wearing seatbelts, and suffered minor or no injuries.

The driver, 17, whose name this newspaper will not publish as he is a minor, was taken into custody at the scene and held for suspicion of driving under the influence and vehicular manslaughter. Sgt. Hall said the driver had a blood alcohol limit above the adult legal limit of .08.

Charges on the driver are pending with the district attorney as of press time, said Sgt. Hall.

CHP is still investigating where the kids were coming from at the time of the accident; Hall said he believes they were coming from a house party in Rancho Santa Fe. Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) is investigating whether an adult served alcohol to the underage driver; if so, the adult could face charges. ABC is also investigating whether illegal drugs may have been involved, and what the driver's exact blood alcohol content was.

Brett Killeen, Torrey Pines High School principal, said the school is helping its students deal with the tragic loss of one of its students.

At 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon, Killeen sent out a connected phone message to the families of all 2,600 students with general information

about the accident.

On Monday (Oct. 5), an 18-person network, including five school psychologists, counselors, district employees and administrators, was set up at the school to help students cope with grief.

On Monday afternoon, Killeen reported that 80 students had already come out of class to speak with a counselor.

Killeen said counselors were also visiting classrooms to talk about the incident.

"We're going hour by hour monitoring students needs," he said. "Grief manifests itself in different ways," he added. "A lot of the kids just want to be together. Some are in small groups, some are making cards, some are crying. We're there for them."

The grief counseling, Killeen said, will last, "As long as it takes."

By Monday afternoon, a makeshift vigil had been set up at the accident scene. Throughout the day, Torrey Pines students gathered, placing flowers and notes to Alex Capozza on the roadside.

One note, written on a copy of *The Surfer's Journal*, read, "Hey Bud, I'll miss seeing you in the water and at PAC. 'Only the Good die Young.' Hope you're getting some great barrels upstairs. We will miss you bud."

# PICKENS

continued from page 4

do that much, but I can buy two tickets for a Sunday matinee.' So there's always a way to contribute."

Since 1961, Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County has provided mentors to children ages 7 through 18. In addition to Operation Bigs, its programs include Amachi, for children with an incarcerated parent; Bigs in Schools and High School Bigs, afterschool one on one mentoring at school sites; community mentoring; Big Brothers Big Sisters' traditional mentoring program; and Sports Bigs, an active lifestyle-focused program. As an interesting aside, Amachi is Nigerian Ibo that approximately translates to mean "Who knows what God has brought us through this

# SCHOOL

continued from page 1

Superintendent Lindy Delaney explained that the school district has already received approximately \$810,000 in pledged funds for the facility.

Warren said the PACCC will send out a letter to the community in the next few weeks informing people of the details of the performing arts center and different fundraising opportunities, such as naming rights, to offset the

child," which seems particularly apropos for this organization.

The evening's highlights are slated to include a hosted seafood cocktail party, the VIP reception with the Pickenses and former NFL and Pittsburgh Steelers great Lynn Swann, the gourmet dinner emceed by Swann, a special tribute to the Operation Bigs Program for children of deployable military, the Honorees' Address by T. Boone and Madeleine Pickens and the live auction followed by a cigar and brandy after-party. Individual tickets are \$450 each.

For information and event registration, call (858) 536-4900 and visit [www.BBBS.org/GourmetDinner](http://www.BBBS.org/GourmetDinner).

To learn more, visit [www.BBBS.org](http://www.BBBS.org) and [www.SDBigs.org](http://www.SDBigs.org).

remaining \$1.2 million. She said the PACCC is not solely targeting RSF School parents, but the North County community as well. Of the new facility, which will include "state-of-the-art" sound and host arts programs such as Mainly Mozart, Warren said, "I think this community needs it. Everybody will use it."

The board will hear an progress report from the PACCC at its Nov. 5 meeting.

# TORREY PINES

continued from page 16

thing for sure with Joe (Driscoll), he is willing to put in the time. We have a great group of kids here who really like to compete, and a great deal of that stems from the leadership of our older guys. Joe (Driscoll) is a big part of that, and he will continue to be as we go forward."

On the defensive end, TP was again able to overwhelm their opponent with swarm tackling and an aggressive gameplan. Senior cabinet linebacker Josh Mendoza (5'10" / 210lbs) was all over the field for the Falcons, but was not anywhere more than the Wildcat Backfield. Over the early stretch of this season Mendoza has been the heartbeat of the Falcon defense, the way he plays is fearless and fast, often blowing up lead blockers so that his teammates can clean up a nice play. Coach Harrison has seen nothing but grit from his Senior LB.

"Josh (Mendoza), well, he sure does play with everything he's got. He is a player who leaves it all on the field, every time he laces it up, whether it be practice or a game. I am proud of the toughness he showed against El Camino, he has really

become the right kind of leader for our D. In any of the games we have played up to this point, you would be hard pressed to say that someone had played harder than Josh (Mendoza) in any one of them."

Another standout performance on the Falcon D Front came from junior linebacker Kevin Cuff (6'1" / 220lbs), who had an interception return for a Touchdown called back on a clip. On top of that, Cuff played a physical game in the battle at the line, and was a major part of the pressure applied by the Torrey Pines defense. Coach Harrison was impressed with his instinct on the field.

"Kevin (Cuff) has great football instinct, he is becoming a very talented player for our side. He is good at the point of impact and in the box stopping the run, but he is also very good in coverages and reads offenses well. Kevin (Cuff) has really become a complete player through hard work and a dedication to the team, and seeing him and our guys play with that fire is really fun to watch. As we always say, if we can continue to get better each week, then when it's all said and done we will have something to be proud of."



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by CHUCK SHEPHERD

## ODD FILES

### Lead story

Beneath the luxury hotels on the Las Vegas Strip is a series of flood tunnels that are home to dozens of people who work odd jobs such as hustling leftover change in casino slot machines. A correspondent for London's *The Sun* gained the trust of a few and even photographed their "apartments" for a September dispatch, showing well-stocked quarters, with scrounged appliances and furniture and even one makeshift shower rigged from a water cooler. "Amy," who has lived in the tunnels with her husband, "J.R.," for two years, said she "love(s)" the Vegas lifestyle and appears in no hurry to leave her setup. "Kathryn" (who lives with boyfriend "Steven") also appears content except, she says, for the fragrance, the black widow spiders, and the periodic rush of water through their home (threatening any "valuables" not stacked on crates).

### Latest Religious Messages

— David Cerullo came to prominence after purchasing the television studios abandoned by Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker and established what is perhaps the boldest of all Christian "prosperity gospel" ministries (that pays him an annual base salary of \$1.52 million). With his father, semi-retired Pentecostal preacher Morris Cerullo, they assure followers that the more they give, the more God will return to them. In a recent TV spot, Morris, speaking first in tongues and then addressing the currently credit-challenged: "When you (donate), the windows of heaven ... open for you ... 100 fold." "Debt cancellation!" (The on-screen message: "Call now with your \$900 offering and receive God's debt cancellation!")

— In September, a judge in Stuart, Fla., was about to sentence pastor Rodney McGill for real estate fraud, but McGill was undaunted, addressing a courtroom prayer for his enemies: "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, for every witness called against me, I pray cancer in their lives, lupus, brain tumor, pancreatic cancer." The judge then sentenced him to 20 years in prison.

### Questionable Judgments

— The cheap-drink Tuesday night special at the Attic bar in Newcastle, England, in early September was a money-back guarantee at the end of the night to anyone who could still legally drive (measured by the bar's breathalyzer), with the evening's most-alcohol-saturated customer drinking free the following week. The

TURN TO ODD FILES ON 30

# Ranch community asked to pick a park

By David Wiemers

RANCHO SANTA FE — On Sept. 22, the residents of Rancho Santa Fe were invited to the Garden Club to look at four conceptual drawings for Village Park improvements. More than 50 people took the opportunity to listen to a presentation by Planning Director Ivan Holler and review the proposed concepts for in front of The Inn.

The chairman of the Planning Committee, Jerry Block, introduced Holler. "This is one of the top priorities for the present board of directors," Holler told the crowd. "The Village Park is not very pedestrian-friendly. We asked ourselves, 'Can we improve that situation?' We're trying to work within the Village Master Plan." Holler explained that the conceptual drawings for the parks have been in progress for the past 18 months and were recently given to the Art Jury for their input. Challenges that the Art Jury and board of directors were to consider were lack of sidewalks, uneven surfaces and slopes, insufficient parking, eucalyptus infestation and overall too much pavement in front of the Inn along Avenida de Acacias.

The first alternative that Holler introduced was the least expensive and required



**PARK PROPOSALS** From left, Ranch residents Donna Ferrier, Ken Dunford and Jim Simpson were among 50 who took time out to consider Village Park proposals. Photo by David Wiemers

only minimal improvements. Landscaping changed, but little else. The cost was approximately \$400,000.

The second alternative featured realignment of the intersection at Linea del Cielo and El Tordo. There would be a gain of 14 parking spaces and there would be pop-outs at the crosswalks, much as there are now at El Tordo and La Granada, in front of the pharmacy. The second alternative also featured an amphitheatre that would allow approximately 200 people to congregate on the lawn area for special

events. The cost for this concept was approximately \$750,000.

The third alternative dramatically changes the look of the village and is, perhaps, the most controversial. It closes segments of La Gracia and Linea del Cielo. It gains 31 parking spaces, but would require a traffic study. It would also require many of the slopes to be graded to accommodate the parking. It comes at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million.

The fourth alternative was proposed by the Art Jury and

features decorative paving, yet minimal improvements to the streets and crosswalks. There would be a gain of six parking spaces and La Gracia headed east would be made a one-way street with parallel parking allowed. This, too, would require a traffic study. Many cosmetic improvements would be made to the Village Park and the cost would be approximately \$550,000.

According to Holler, the next step is to take the public comments back to the

TURN TO PARK ON 21

# Local woman honored for community service

By Bianca Kaplanek

RANCHO SANTA FE — Martha McCarter said she was "honored and surprised" to receive the Community Service Award from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for serving more than 20 years as a member of the San Dieguito Planning Group.

Joanne Murphy, regent of the De Anza chapter, recognized McCarter for her achievement Oct. 3 during the organization's first meeting of 2009-2010 at the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club.

In nominating McCarter, Murphy said her colleague worked "tirelessly and always with the community's best interests in mind."

"Martha has a way of working with great enthusiasm, professionalism and appreciation of those working with her," Murphy said. "Martha will bring honor to this award."

McCarter is a longtime member of the Daughters of the American Revolution who served as a regent with the Los Angeles chapter before moving to San Diego in the early 1980s. But she received the award solely for her work with the San Dieguito Planning



**TWO DECADES OF SERVICE** Joanne Murphy, left, regent of the De Anza chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, presents Martha McCarter with the organization's Community Service Award for her 20-plus years as a member of the San Dieguito Planning Group. Photo by Bianca Kaplanek

Group.

She was a member from the mid-1980s until 2006 and was the organization's representative to the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority since its inception in 1989. McCarter was instrumental in refurbishing the Sikes

adobe farmhouse before it was destroyed in the 2007 fires.

Because time spent as a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution is not considered when selecting award recipients, Murphy said it is harder for its members to receive the award than other

community members.

"This is a well-deserved award for Martha," Murphy said. "She is a multitasking woman who makes people working around her feel comfortable and competent. She rarely criticizes, but when she does, she has a wonderful way of doing it so that it comes out as a compliment. She's just a peach of a gal and is just a pleasure to be around and work with."

Founded in 1890, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is a nonprofit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education for children.

Membership is open to women 18 and older who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. It is one of the most inclusive genealogical societies in the country, with 165,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and internationally.

For membership information for the De Anza chapter, contact Marti Meiners at mcmeiners@gmail.com.

# RSF Education Foundation launches 'Giving Week'

By David Wiemers

RANCHO SANTA FE — The Rancho Santa Fe Education Foundation celebrated its traditional "Giving Week" from Sept. 28 to Oct. 2. Aimed at parents, the campaign was titled "The Difference is You."

The campaign consisted of four informative cards that were sent home with students Monday through Thursday. Each of the four cards con-

tained a contribution form on the back and was delivered with a red envelope encouraging parents to contribute by the Oct. 2 deadline. Volunteers were at the drop-off and pick-up to collect the tax-deductible contributions.

Chairs for the campaign were Lynda Clerke and Dana Knees. "Our goal is to have 100 percent participation from parents," Clerke said. The foundation's goal is to raise

\$800,000 which will help assist the school with many programs it offers students. "Giving Week" is an annual effort to receive at least 25 percent of the foundation's yearly goal. In addition to accepting cash, the foundation also received many pledges from families who planned to contribute at a later date.

"We have a very supportive community and we want to thank everyone who gave

so generously," Clerke said. Even a member of the community who happened to pass by at the time volunteers were collecting, stopped and asked what was going on. When the resident learned of the campaign, she took out her checkbook and wrote a check. "She didn't even have children in the school, yet that just shows what kind of support we have in the community," Clerke said.

# Ranch pushes fire safety

By David Wiemers

RANCHO SANTA FE — It's October and fire season is upon us. As we approach two years since the devastating Witch Creek Fire that swept through the Covenant and much of San Diego County, the board of directors is urging residents to do what they can to prevent another catastrophic fire. On Oct. 1, the board passed a motion to once again send residents information about what to do in the event of a fire, including evacuation procedures and fire safety tips.

"This is intended as a timely update," Covenant Administrator Ivan Holler said.

"We can't be overcomplacent," President Bill Beckman said. "The possibility of fire scares me to death."

Since October 2007, the Association has taken several steps toward educating residents about fire safety, including the Association Web site, which provides a link on its home page titled "RSF Fire Information." The Association has also taken steps to reduce potential for wildfires to spread into the Ranch. Working with Fairbanks Ranch and the engineering firm Dudek and Associates, the Association created the San Dieguito Canyon Wildfire Hazard Reduction Project to reduce fuels in the San Dieguito River Canyon area. Removing brush from the 80 acres Arroyo Property greatly reduced such a threat.

After the 2007 fires, the Association also encouraged residents to register their cell phone numbers with the county's reverse 911 emergency notification system. A plan to test the effectiveness of such a notification system is to be scheduled for late January. According to Holler, several small neighborhoods will be asked to participate in this test.

The Association urges residents to be prepared for another disaster and there are many steps that can be taken to prevent another fire from being a disaster. These steps include:

— The removal of leaves and other debris from your roof and rain gutters.

— Keeping 100 feet of "defensible space" around your home. Trim trees and vegetation away from the exterior of your home, rooftop, and chimneys.

— Thin out combustible vegetation within 30 feet of roadways and driveways.

— Remove dead, dying, and diseased trees. "And replace them," Director Dick Doughty said. "We've got to remind residents to replace them with healthy trees."

— Combustible material should be kept at least 10 feet away from propane tanks.

— Firewood should be neatly stacked with a minimum of 30 feet of clearance

TURN TO FIRE ON 21



## REGION: Four fire departments set to join forces

**EDWARD SIFUENTES - [esifuentes@nctimes.com](mailto:esifuentes@nctimes.com) | Posted: Wednesday, October 14, 2009 10:10 pm**

Four North County fire departments will join forces to provide services in the coastal cities of Encinitas, Solana Beach and Del Mar, according to a news release issued Wednesday by the agencies.

The cities' fire departments and the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District are set to sign a joint fire services agreement Thursday that officials said would enhance fire protection in the area.

Under the agreement, Encinitas would provide administrative services for the Solana Beach and Del Mar fire departments. The Solana Beach Fire Department would keep its deputy fire marshal to provide operational oversight, according to the agreement.

The Encinitas Fire Department also would provide Solana Beach a training chief to coordinate training for the department's firefighters. Rancho Santa Fe would provide battalion chiefs, who would manage fire captains for the cities of Del Mar, Encinitas and Solana Beach.

"It's very much a win-win for everybody," said Solana Beach City Manager David Ott, who also is the city's fire chief.

The agreement, which would last two years, was approved on a unanimous vote Wednesday night by the Solana Beach City Council. The two other cities had already approved the agreement, Ott said.

The agreement will cost Solana Beach \$205,000 a year, Ott said. However, if the city had to hire personnel to fill the positions covered by the agreement, it would cost more than \$750,000 a year, Ott said.

Call staff writer Edward Sifuentes at 760-740-3511.

# DEL MAR TIMES

## Officials sign join fire management agreement

Friday, October 16, 2009

Elected officials from the cities of Del Mar, Encinitas and Solana Beach and the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District gathered Oct. 15 to sign a joint fire services cooperative agreement.

The officials expect to see long-term financial benefits, an improvement in efficiency and reduction in redundancy from the agreement. They also hope to develop consistent policies and procedures leading to greater interoperability.

"I'm extremely proud of how Del Mar and Solana Beach have worked together for several years and have improved services and saved money for both communities," said.

Del Mar Deputy Mayor Richard Earnest on behalf of Mayor Crystal Crawford. "This collaboration, which now includes Encinitas and the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District, took several years to develop, but it's a great example of what can be accomplished when we keep talking, keep working, and never give up on creating the right solution for our communities."

Through the two-year agreement, which went into effect Thursday, Oct. 15, Encinitas will provide operational oversight for Del Mar's emergency services including day-to-day management of fire department operations, training, support services and fire prevention support.

Solana Beach has permanent staff overseeing day-to-day operations. Encinitas would provide Solana Beach with management of training and support services.

Rancho Santa Fe will provide battalion chief coverage for Encinitas, Del Mar and Solana Beach.

"This is a very significant event for all of our communities and fire agencies. Our Fire District has embraced other types of cooperative efforts over the years," said Jim Ashcroft, RSFPD board president. Ashcroft said this agreement has been in the works for three years. "This is a win-win for all of our communities," he said.

"The idea for this agreement has technically been in the works since November 12, 1969, when the four organizations began sharing ambulance services through the County Service Area No. 17 (CSA-17) - San Dieguito Emergency Services District," said Encinitas Mayor Maggie Houlihan. "That original cooperation enabled the agencies to adopt common policies dealing with emergency medical situations."

"Local agencies need to be forward thinking in order to provide the quality service the public deserves at a reasonable cost and I think this agreement is an excellent example of forward thinking," said Solana Beach Mayor Mike Nichols.



From left, Del Mar Deputy Mayor Richard Earnest, Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District Board President Jim Ashcroft, Encinitas Mayor Maggie Houlihan and Solana Beach Mayor Mike Nichols sign a joint fire services cooperative agreement on Oct. 15.

Photo by: Courtesy

# Cities reach fire management agreement

The fire departments for the cities of Encinitas, Solana Beach and Del Mar along with the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District announced the signing of a Joint-Fire Management Services Agreement on Monday.

Through this cooperative agreement, Encinitas will provide operational oversight for Del Mar's emergency services, including day-to-day management of fire department operations, training, support services and fire prevention support.

Since Solana Beach has permanent staff that performs fire department operations and fire prevention support, Encinitas would provide day-to-day management of training and support services. Rancho Santa Fe will provide battalion

chief coverage for Encinitas, Del Mar and Solana Beach.

Officials said benefits of the cooperative agreement include enhanced supervisory effectiveness, increased communication with emergency personnel and improved chief officer response

times. Battalion chiefs working 24-hour shifts will be available to supervise personnel, resolve operational issues and make budgetary decisions promptly, they noted.

They also pointed to the historic significance and

long-term benefits for all agencies, which a news release stated provides a financial benefit, a means to reduce redundancy, improve efficiency and develop consistent policies and procedures leading to greater interoperability.

## Surfrider Foundation holds beach cleanup



Sarah Swan collects trash on Torrey Pines State Beach with Noah Oliver, 10, and Destinee Williams, 8, during the beach cleanup on Saturday organized by the Surfrider Foundation. PHOTOS BY WILL PARSON



Zoe Stathis and Sarah Larson pick up trash at Torrey Pines State Reserve.



Steven Clark picks up trash along with a group from USE Credit Union during the beach cleanup.

## Teen drug, alcohol seminar upcoming

The San Dieguito Union High School District's Recovery Education Alcohol Drug Instruction program, known as READI, is holding a parent seminar on Oct. 20 to help parents learn about drug and alcohol use trends and potential consequences.

The event will be held at 6 p.m. at La Costa Canyon High School theater, 1 Maverick Way in Carlsbad.

The guest speaker will be Anthony Jucenas, a Carlsbad police officer. Parenting expert Fred Beck will follow with an open discussion on how parents can work with their children toward preventing their involvement with drugs and alcohol.

The event is open to students and parents, and information will be provided in English and Spanish.

For more information, contact Tiffany Findell at tiffany.findell@sduhsd.net.

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From left, Del Mar Deputy Mayor Richard Earnest, Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District Board President Jim Ashcroft, Encinitas Mayor Maggie Houlihan and Solana Beach Mayor Mike Nichols sign a joint fire services cooperative agreement on Oct. 15.



**Related Terms:** [Del Mar](#), [East County](#), [El Cajon](#), [Encinitas](#), [La Mesa](#), [Lemon Grove](#), [North County](#), [Rancho Santa Fe](#), [Solana Beach](#)



# Four fire agencies merging managing

## Cities to preserve their own crews

By [Tanya Mannes](#)  
Union-Tribune Staff Writer

2:00 a.m. October 16, 2009

NORTH COUNTY — In a step toward consolidation, four North County fire agencies have decided to share the cost of a management team to save taxpayers money and provide better service.

The announcement comes the same week as news that a coalition of East County cities is merging fire services.

Beginning immediately, Encinitas, Del Mar, Solana Beach and the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District will share one fire chief and other management positions, such as battalion chiefs. Each area will retain its own firefighters.

The estimated savings is \$1.43 million a year for the combined four areas, versus each city having its own fire management team, said Encinitas Fire Chief Mark Muir, who will be in charge of all four jurisdictions.

It has taken about two years for the agencies to work out the details.

“This is an example of what happens when you keep talking, when you keep working, and you never give up on creating a solution that will work for each of our communities,” Del Mar Deputy Mayor Richard Earnest said.

Representatives of the agencies signed the historic agreement yesterday in a ceremony at Seaside Parking Lot in Encinitas. Encinitas Mayor Maggie Houlihan, Solana Beach Mayor Mike Nichols, Rancho Santa Fe district board President James Ashcraft and Earnest said the agreement reduces redundancy.

Encinitas will provide management, and Rancho Santa Fe will provide battalion chiefs for all the areas. That will allow Solana Beach to outsource all its fire management except one position. Del Mar will rely on the outsourcing. Each agency's cost is calculated on a formula based on population, calls for service, geographic area and other factors.

The arrangement will provide more consistent service, improved communication and a quicker response time for the duty chiefs, Muir said. Encinitas Councilman Jerome Stocks said that if all goes well, the agencies might consider merging fire departments entirely.

Encinitas will save \$282,300; Solana Beach, \$608,400; Del Mar, \$173,600; and Rancho Santa Fe, \$367,500 compared with the cost of separate management teams, Muir said.

Positions have already been eliminated by this arrangement. Solana Beach and Del Mar have cooperated on fire service for about three years, with Solana Beach City Manager David Ott serving part time as the fire chief for both cities.

El Cajon, La Mesa and Lemon Grove announced this week the sharing of some services and a fire chief beginning in January. Officials said the increased coordination will improve services and lead to an estimated \$560,000 in annual savings.

Union-Tribune

**Find this article at:**

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## Witch Creek, two years later



The Ruiz family is laying the foundation for a new home on Zumaque after their old house burned down in the Witch Creek Fire of 2007. For more photos, see page A7. KAREN BILLING

## Family still recovering

BY KAREN BILLING  
Staff Writer

Two years after the Witch Creek Fire roared through Rancho Santa Fe, the residents on Zumaque are still in rebuilding mode.

Zumaque was the street hardest hit by the wildfire that arrived in the Ranch on Oct. 22, 2007. Of the 21 Covenant homes lost in the fire, six of them were on Zumaque.

Construction has started on all six lots, but Omer Ruiz's home was the last to get going. Omer's son David is working on the new home and is on site daily.

Their previous home — the family home where everyone would go for holidays and family gatherings — was built in 1977, said the younger Ruiz as he talked about the fire and the future.

"It's going to be really exciting when it's done," said David Ruiz, hoping the family will be able to back in the house by Christmas next year.

With the new home, they are following a similar floor plan but taking the opportunity to add some modern improvements and relocating their pool to the edge of the canyon.

SEE FAMILY, PAGE A10

## LJ's 'typical' house price tops in U.S.

Four-bedroom averages more than \$2 million

BY JONATHAN HORN  
Contributor

It costs the prettiest penny to live in coastal San Diego County.

A study by Coldwell Banker concluded single-family homes in La Jolla — the only local community in the survey — are the least affordable in the United States. Specifically, a

2,200 square-foot, four-bedroom, two-and-a-half bathroom house would on average cost \$2.125 million (\$965 per square foot) here, \$150,000 more than runner-up Beverly Hills.

The most affordable neighborhood came out to be Grayling, Mich., known as the canoe capital of the world, where a similar house would cost \$112,675 — \$56 a square foot.

"I'd rather be in La Jolla Boogie boarding than in Michigan canoeing on a river," said Rick

Hoffman, president and chief operating officer of Coldwell Banker.

Local Realtors contacted couldn't come up with a matching "typical" house in Del Mar, Rancho Santa Fe, Solana Beach or Carmel Valley. But comparing price-per-square-foot of some home gives a sampling of market values:

A four-bedroom, four-bathroom home with 4,000 square feet in Carmel Valley recently

SEE HOUSE, PAGE A13

## RSF group picks plan for park

BY KAREN BILLING  
Staff Writer

Rancho Santa Fe Association has plans to make their village "parks" an actual park. Right now the triangular, grassy slopes have no sidewalk that leads people there. It's mostly used by people walking their dogs — but there's no place to sit down to eat a lunch or enjoy the village ambience.

"The parks are an unfinished jewel sitting in the center of town that really need to be polished," resident Marion Dodson said.

More trees, benches and improved sidewalks could be coming soon now that the board of

SEE PARK, PAGE A10



From left, Del Mar Deputy Mayor Richard Earnest, Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District Board President Jim Ashcroft, Encinitas Mayor Maggie Houlihan and Solana Beach Mayor Mike Nichols on Oct. 15. COURTESY

## Officials sign joint fire pact

Elected officials from the cities of Del Mar, Encinitas and Solana Beach and the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District gathered Oct. 15 to sign a joint fire services cooperative agreement.

The officials say they expect to see long-term financial benefits, an improvement in efficiency and reduction in redundancy from the agreement. They also hope to develop consistent

SEE PACT, PAGE A10

■ A guide to Halloween fun,  
Story on page B1

■ TPHS celebrates homecoming,  
Photos on page A15

■ New task force targets painkiller addiction, Story on page A3

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**PACT, FROM PAGE A1**

policies and procedures leading to greater interoperability.

"I'm extremely proud of how Del Mar and Solana Beach have worked together for several years and have improved services and saved money for both communities," said Del Mar Deputy Mayor Richard Earnest on behalf of Mayor Crystal Crawford.

"This collaboration, which now includes Encinitas and the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District, took several years to develop, but it's a great example of what can be accomplished when we keep talking, keep working, and never give up on creating the right solution for our communities," Earnest said.

Through the two-year agreement, which went into effect Oct. 15, Encinitas will provide operational oversight for Del Mar's emergency services including day-to-day management of fire department operations, training, support services and fire prevention support.

Solana Beach has permanent staff overseeing day-to-day operations. Encinitas will provide Solana Beach with management of training and support services.

Rancho Santa Fe will provide

battalion chief coverage for Encinitas, Del Mar and Solana Beach.

"This is a very significant event for all of our communities and fire agencies. Our fire district has embraced other types of cooperative efforts over the years," said Jim Ashcroft, Rancho Santa Fe fire board president.

Noting that the agreement has been in the works for three years, he said, "This is a win-win for all of our communities."

Encinitas Mayor Maggie Houlihan said the idea for the agreement "has technically been in the works since Nov. 12, 1969" when the four organizations began sharing ambulance services through County Service Area No. 17, the San Dieguito Emergency Services District.

"That original cooperation enabled the agencies to adopt common policies dealing with emergency medical situations," she said.

Solana Beach Mayor Mike Nichols said, "Local agencies need to be forward thinking in order to provide the quality service the public deserves at a reasonable cost and I think this agreement is an excellent example of forward thinking."

**FAMILY, FROM PAGE A1**

The gorgeous view of the canyon and hills on a sunny Tuesday this week was quite the different scene two years ago when fire roared through it at about 70 miles an hour, Ruiz said.

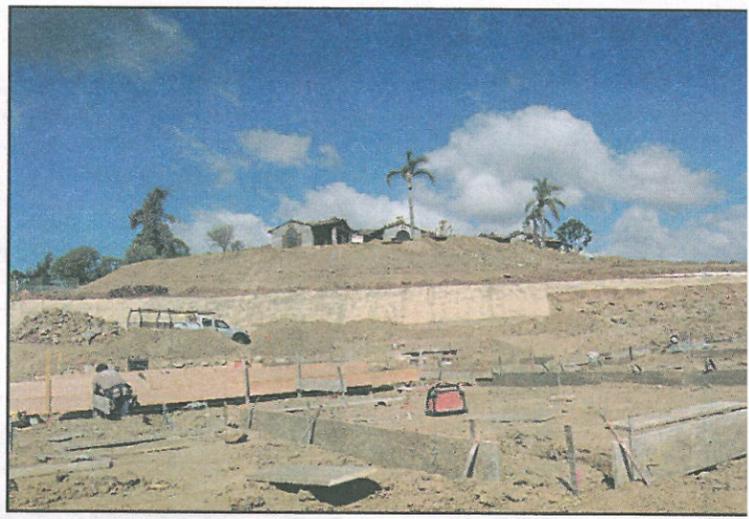
As the fire approached the Ranch on Oct. 22, Ruiz said he called his father around 5:30 a.m. and told him to get ready to evacuate. By 10 a.m., Omer left but wasn't able to take much with him.

The Ruizes then had to go through what many residents did, two to three days of waiting, not knowing the fate of their home. Monitoring the television coverage, the Ruiz family watched as a news reporter stood at the top of their driveway — the home that used to be at the end of that driveway no longer existed.

"Everything burned," Ruiz said. "I was hoping more of our stuff would've gotten removed but they're just material things. My dad and the dog survived and that's the important thing. Life goes on."

Firefighters told Ruiz that the fire had moved up from the bottom of the canyon to Zumaque homes in just three minutes. The house next door was spared, Ruiz thinks by the redwood trees he and his father planted as seedlings in the 1970s.

They burned in 2007 but have grown back proud and full, proof



Homes on Zumaque are still being built two years later. KAREN BILLING



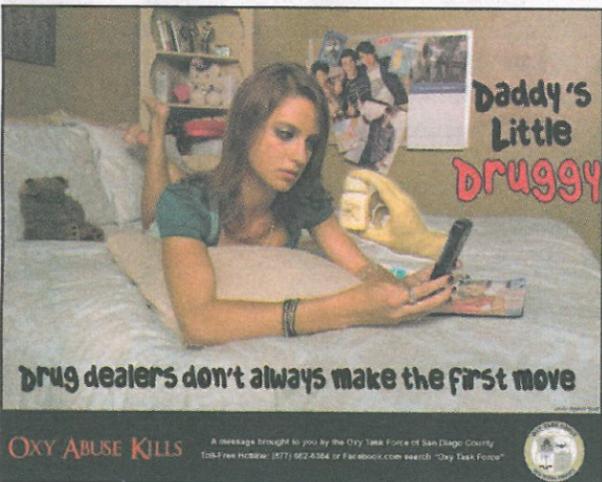
Firefighters rest at the Village Church after fighting the Witch Creek Fire in 2007. FILE



A firefighter surveys damage after the Witch Creek Fire in 2007. FILE

that it may take some time but slowly things are returning to normal.

"This is a great place to live," Ruiz said.



A poster relays the message of the Oxy Task Force. COURTESY

**ADDICTION, FROM PAGE A3**

Oxycontin, which is derived from Oxycodone, is a painkiller prescribed for moderate to severe pain. Oxycontin is a highly addictive opiate and can be lucrative for drug dealers, said Ralph Partridge, special agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's San Diego field office. Oxycontin can be sold on the street for \$65 a pill — nearly twice its wholesale price, according to Partridge.

The problem with Oxy-

contin is that children can first be exposed to it from a home medicine cabinet, he said. Once the pills are gone, it's not hard for addicts to switch to heroin, which is cheaper, Partridge said.

San Diego County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price said Oxycontin "seems to be quasi-legitimate and innocent, but Oxycontin is the most potent."

Children and teens who are hooked on Oxycontin don't "meet your normal profile," said Dr. Sean O'Hara, an addiction specialist with Alvarado Parkway Institute Hospital.

The average profile of an Oxycontin addict is 15 to 30 years old. It's not unusual for an addict to be a college student or an athlete, he said.

Because Oxycontin doesn't have a lingering smell like marijuana or leave addicts with track marks on their arms, it's also difficult at times for parents to monitor their children for possible drug abuse, O'Hara said.

Oxycontin is seen as the drug of choice among middle to upper middle class teens, experts said.

Slater-Price, whose district includes neighborhoods such as Torrey Pines and Rancho Bernardo, said Oxycontin abuse is a growing problem in her district.

"It's a big problem in Torrey Pines High School," she said, but did not provide hard numbers.

The task force, which includes area law enforcement agencies, rehabilitation centers and local universities, will meet several times a month. Its focus includes law enforcement but also education and prevention.

**PARK, FROM PAGE A1**

directors has opted to go for a combination of ideas in the alternatives known as two and four, putting a priority on amenities deemed important by residents.

Ivan Holler, covenant administrator, said the park work would be done in phases. Phase one would construct pop-outs, crosswalks and sidewalks along the park on Avenida de Acacias.

Phase two would reconfigure Linea del Cielo and El Tordo, primarily removing

the island on Linea, and creating parallel parking on Linea ad La Gracia.

In the proposed third phase, decorative pavement would be installed in the five-way intersection with low walls put in the northern park along with benches and trees.

As the 40 submitted comments overwhelmingly supported benches, trees and sidewalk paving above all other options, Director Deb Plummer said they should consider making phase three their phase one.

"Those are the things that will have the biggest impact," Plummer said.

Association staff will come back with a final design as well as cost estimates at a future meeting. Preliminary estimates for the first phase would be \$210,000, phase two would be \$220,000 and phase three \$394,000.

According to the surveys, respondents did not support adding pop-outs, the sidewalk enhancements like the one in front of the Rancho Santa Fe Pharmacy.

"I don't know their func-

tionality," said Dodson, noting she prefers more parking over pop-outs.

People also wanted to see parts of the sloping parks be flattened out to make it easier to host special events like the 4th of July picnic.

Of the plans, alternative three got the most support with 14 of 39 votes. The option proposed joining the two parks in the middle and eliminating portions of Linea del Cielo and La Gracia in front of the Inn.

However, the Rancho Santa Fe Fire District told the as-

sociation that closing those roads would make fire response very difficult, so the association decided not to pursue that option further.

Director Dick Doughty said he wasn't so sure they should toss out alternative three when the majority of people said they liked it.

Director Jack Queen said while alternative three did get the highest numbers of support, the sample size was very small.

"We may have to earn our pay by making a decision on what we feel is best," Queen

said. Residents at the Oct. 14 board meeting worried about the effects of alternative three on the streets, concerned it would push more traffic onto El Tordo. One resident also said fire department access is very important.

"I don't want to change the traffic flow, but I love the idea of shrinking it," said Director Kim Higgins.

Higgins said the important thing is to keep Rancho Santa Fe's character and not make any changes too big or "glitzy."

# RSF Review writers win eight San Diego Press Club journalism awards

The staff of the *Rancho Santa Fe Review/Carmel Valley News/Del Mar Village Voice* won eight San Diego Press Club Awards, including five first place wins at a ceremony held Oct. 20 in Balboa Park.

Education writer/columnist Marsha Sutton won a first and third place award for education writing in the nondaily category, and a second place award for her education column in the nondaily category. Sutton recently won a national first place award for this newspaper group.

Writer Joe Tash won two first place awards for this newspaper group in sports and features in the nondaily category.

Profile writer Arthur Lightbourn won first and second place in the profile category for his stories on Nezi Arbib and Jeffrey Church. Garden columnist Frank LaRosa won first place in the Gardening category for nondailies.

This newspaper group and its writers have won numerous journalism awards over the years, including several national IFPA first place "General Excellence" awards.

Sutton also won a first place award for education writing from the San Diego Press Club for San Diego News Network, a media partner of this newspaper, in the daily newsprint and web category.

# Interim Fairbanks Ranch Fire Station receives building permit

By Matt Liebowitz

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District was granted a building permit for its interim Fairbanks Ranch Fire Station on Monday, Oct. 5, reported RSF Fire Chief Nick Pavone.

Trailers for the interim station, located at a vacant portion of the Horizon Christian property on El Apajo Road, are expected to be

delivered in the next few weeks, Pavone said.

On Oct. 21, the plans for the new 10,500-square-foot Fairbanks Ranch Station will go before the County Board of Supervisors, said Pavone.

It is estimated that the new station, which will replace the current station on El Apajo Road, will be completed in 18-24 months from the date of approval.

# RSF Education Foundation to hold annual Halloween Parade & Carnival

RSF Education Foundation will hold its *Halloween Parade & Carnival* on Friday Oct. 30.

The fun kicks off with a parade starts at 1 p.m. followed immediately with the carnival held on the upper field of the school from 1:15 p.m.-4 p.m. As always, the carnival will include a wide variety of events and games put on by the various classes with the help of countless parent volunteers and this

year's sponsors Abbey Party Rents, Rancho Sandwich and Stumps Village Market. For questions about the carnival, contact Halloween Chairs Lori Vitale vitale-home@gmail.com and Kelly Graham thegrahams5@gmail.com



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**Robin D.**

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**Kris R.**

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After

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Before



After

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# TOP haunts

A rundown of where to get scared this Halloween

## CARNIVAL FUN

A Halloween Carnival will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 24, Ada Harris Elementary, 1508 Windsor Road, Cardiff-by-the-Sea. Families are invited to enjoy games, prizes, a scary haunted house, a costume contest, a cakewalk and pumpkin carving.

Children's Garden in the San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. Free with admission or membership. No registration required. Adults, \$12; seniors, active military, students \$8; children ages 3 to 12, \$6; and children age 2 and under are free.

## STORY TIME

The Oceanside Public Library will host Pumpkin Patch story times at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Oct. 27, Civic Center Library, and at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 30, Mission Branch Library. These special holiday story times include fun, non-scary Halloween tales, songs and treats. All Pumpkin Patch story times are free and are geared for children 7 years old and younger. Costumes are welcome. For more details, call the Civic Center Library Children's Desk at (760) 435-5600 or visit [www.oceansidepubliclibrary.org](http://www.oceansidepubliclibrary.org).

## HOWLING

The Leucadia 101 MainStreet Association will sponsor Leucadia Nights "Howl O'ween," an after-hours walkabout along Leucadia's Highway 101 business district from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 24. The event will include a Halloween costume contest for pets with a \$5 entrance fee. This entry fee will be donated to Rancho Coastal Humane Society. Pet trick-or-treat bags will be available through Oct. 24 at Leucadia 101 Main Street office, 386 N. Coast Highway 101; Grateful Dog, 802 N. Coast Highway 101, and Embellishments in the Gold Coast Plaza, 644 N. Coast Highway 101. For more details, visit [www.leucadia101.com](http://www.leucadia101.com).

## SCARECROW CENTRAL

October is the time for scarecrows and from 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 25, they will be in Hamilton



**SCREAMING IN THE SUBURBS** Above and to the right are pictures from previous Uncle Jeepers haunted houses. Visit this year at a new location, 3384 Corte Panorama in the Copperwood development of La Costa Oaks. Visit [www.carlsbadhouseofhorrors.com](http://www.carlsbadhouseofhorrors.com) for more information. *Courtesy photos*

Johnson at (760) 687-6453 or at (760) 434-2553.

## COSTUME CORNER

Bates Nut Farm at 15954 Woods Valley Road invites the entire family to compete in their best costume contest, with four separate age ranges. The annual costume contest begins at 1 p.m. Oct. 24. Registration begins at 11 a.m. The age categories run from infant to adult. First place is a \$50 Bates gift certificate. For family dogs, at 11 a.m. Oct. 25, Bates will host its third annual Doggie Costume Contest. Registration is from 10 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Prizes are the

same as for the people's costume contest. Bates Nut Farm General Store and Pumpkin Patch are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information and directions, visit [www.batesnutfarm.biz](http://www.batesnutfarm.biz) or call (760) 749-3333.

## SPOOKY HOUSE

After three years of mayhem in Pavoreal on All Hallow's Eve, Uncle Jeepers has taken his family of miscreants to this new haunted location in Carlsbad, 3384 Corte Panorama in the Copperwood development of La Costa Oaks

TURN TO TOP HAUNTS ON 34



## Evacuation advice during annual fire season

**RANCHO SANTA FE** — When living within a wildland urban interface such as the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District, planning ahead for wildfires is a necessity. Preparing for wildfires before they happen is your best defense against the flames.

Even with careful preparation and preventative measures in place, wildfires can still threaten the area and necessitate evacuations.

The following tips will help make the process smooth and safe should you be told to evacuate your home:

Wear cotton or wool long pants, long-sleeve shirts or jackets, gloves and a damp cloth to cover your nose and mouth.

Back your car into the garage (facing out) keeping the windows closed and keys

in the ignition.

Close the garage door, but leave it unlocked. Disconnect the automatic garage door in case of power failure. Place valuable documents, family mementos, pets and other valuables in your car in the garage for a quick departure.

Move yard furniture, firewood, or other combustible materials away from the exterior of the house or store it in the garage.

Attach garden hoses to spigots. Place hoses so they can reach any area around your home. Fill sinks, bathtubs and buckets with water to serve as extra water reservoirs.

Close all windows and doors to prevent sparks from blowing inside. Close all interior doors to slow interior fire spread. Close window shutters

if they are fire resistant and cover windows, attic openings, eave vents and sub-floor vents with fire resistant material such as 1/2-inch or thicker plywood.

Turn porch and yard lights on and turn on a light in each room of your home.

— Shut off liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or natural gas valves.

— Evacuate early. Most communities within the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District have narrow roads, which can cause traffic congestion leading to panic for those evacuating.

— You do not need to wait for an evacuation order. If at any time you feel threatened, leave. If you are evacuating with small children, dependent adults, or large animals, allow yourself extra time to safely evacuate.

— If you are told to evacuate, do so immediately. While having your home damaged or destroyed by fire can be devastating, it is not worth risking your life or the lives of firefighters.

— Evacuate in the opposite direction of the fire.

— Call your out-of-town contact and let them know you are evacuating and where you are going.

— Once you have left, stay out of the area until authorities permit re-entry. This may take a while as fire and safety personnel have to make sure it is safe and the infrastructure is in place for residents to repopulate the area.

Large wildfires are extremely unpredictable. Planning ahead is crucial for survival. For more information, visit [www.rsffire.org](http://www.rsffire.org).

## Large animal evacuation guide now on Web

**DELMAR** — Evacuation instructions and a large-animal intake form have been placed on the Del Mar Fairgrounds Web site at [www.sdfair.com](http://www.sdfair.com) to assist animal owners in the event of a fire or other emergency. Look for the link, "In the event of a

emergency: Animal Evacuation Instructions," under News/Noticias on the home page.

Because San Diego County is often under a high alert for fire danger, the Del Mar Fairgrounds has created an easy access to the evacua-

tion instructions and the intake form for large animals. Should an emergency occur, horse owners and trainers can quickly check the Web site for instructions and the form. The fairgrounds recommend that during times of high fire danger, horse own-

ers download the form (one for each horse) and have them ready.

The Del Mar Fairgrounds was the main evacuation center for large animals during the 2007 wildfires, safely sheltering more than 2,200 horses and other animals.

## Berstein's 'Mass' in December concert

**LA JOLLA** — Grab your tie-dyes and love beads and come back to the Age of Aquarius as La Jolla Symphony & Chorus presents the San Diego premiere of Leonard Bernstein's "Mass," one of the icons of the 1970s. There will be three performances at 8 p.m. Dec. 4 and Dec. 5 and at 3 p.m. Dec. 6 in the Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD.

Commissioned by Jackie Kennedy for the opening of The Kennedy Center, "Mass" follows the liturgy through the Celebrant, portrayed by UCSD Gospel Choir Director

Ken Anderson, with frequent interruption and commentary from the "congregation." The production includes three choruses, rock and jazz bands, orchestra and pre-recorded music. Steven Schick conducts.

The concert is directed by Charlie Oates of the UCSD Theater Department. Guest artists include members of the UCSD Gospel Choir and Jazz Ensemble. A free pre-concert lecture is offered one hour prior to curtain. Parking is free. Tickets are \$18 to \$36. Call (858) 534-4637 or visit [www.ljollasymphony.com](http://www.ljollasymphony.com).

## Get your holiday shopping done locally

**COAST CITIES** — Boutiques for a Cause, which works with schools and charity organizations for fundraising, is hosting several shopping opportunities in the coming weeks.

On Nov. 2, a Holiday Boutique and raffle will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at

Santaluz Willow Grove Elementary School, 1472 Via Azul.

The Boys & Girls Club of San Dieguito is hosting a Holiday Shopping Spectacular from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 7, at 3800 Mykonos

TURN TO SHOPPING ON 34

# DEL MAR TIMES

## Santa Fe Christian student, 16, dies in crash

Monday, October 26, 2009

By Karen Billing

Just three weeks after Torrey Pines senior Alex Capozza died in an accident on La Granada in Rancho Santa Fe, an early morning crash claimed the life of Santa Fe Christian junior William Wardrip, 16, on San Dieguito Road in Fairbanks Ranch.

Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District was first on the scene in the 17000 block of San Dieguito Road on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 3:35 a.m. The single-car crash occurred close to the firehouse in Fairbanks Ranch where the vehicle went off the roadway on a curve and rolled over.

Upon arrival, the firefighters found one vehicle off the road with three occupants outside. A fourth needed to be extricated from the car, a 1999 Lexus GL 470 SUV.

The fifth passenger, William, had been ejected from the vehicle and was pronounced dead at the scene. The young man, a resident of Encinitas, had been riding in the backseat and was not wearing a seat belt.

The driver and three other passengers were unhurt but were taken to a hospital for a precautionary evaluation because of the rollover, he said. A dispatcher with the Northcomm fire dispatching agency said three were taken to hospitals.

Alcohol and drugs were not deemed factors in the crash and it is unknown how fast the vehicle was going when the driver, 16, lost control, according to California Highway Patrol Officer Eric Newbury.

On Monday morning, mourners brought flowers to the crash site, still heavily littered with glass. One friend left a rock with a Bible verse written on it.

The roadway was completely closed for about four hours, California Highway Patrol Officer Eric Newbury said.

*City News Service contributed to this report.*



A roadside memorial was set up for 16-year-old William Wardrip, who died in an early morning crash in Rancho Santa Fe on Sunday.

Photo by: Karen Billing



A Bible verse, written on a rock, was left at the scene of the crash.

Photo by: Karen Billing

### Karen Billing

Karen is a writer for the Del Mar Times, Carmel Valley Leader, Rancho Santa Fe Record and Solana Beach Sun. Karen can be reached by [e-mail](#).

fox5sandiego.com /news/kswb-fairbanks-fatal,0,4236774.story

## KSWB

### Unbelted teen dies when SUV rolls over

FOX 5 San Diego Staff

7:19 AM PDT, October 26, 2009

Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

A teenager was killed and several others injured in a single-vehicle traffic accident allegedly caused by a 16-year-old driver who lost control early Sunday in Fairbanks Ranch, authorities said.

The crash happened around 3:30 a.m. in the 17000 block of San Dieguito Road and resulted in the roadway being completely closed for about four hours, California Highway Patrol Officer Eric Newbury said.

A 16-year-old boy was driving a 1999 Lexus GL 470 that went off the roadway on a curve and rolled over, Newbury said.

The officer said William Wardrip, a rear-seat passenger who wasn't wearing a seat belt, was thrown from the car. The 16-year-old Encinitas resident was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver and three other passengers were unhurt but were taken to a hospital for a precautionary evaluation because of the rollover, he said. A dispatcher with the Northcomm fire dispatching agency said three were taken to hospitals.

Alcohol or drugs were not factors, and it was unknown how fast the driver was going when he lost control of his vehicle, Newbury said.

The crash comes just three weeks after 17-year-old Torrey Pines High School student Alexander Michael Capozza died when a speeding car driven by a classmate went out of control and crashed in nearby Rancho Santa Fe.

That driver, also 17, is being prosecuted in juvenile court for gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and driving under the influence.

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## Teen killed in SUV rollover crash in Rancho Santa Fe

Posted: Oct 25, 2009 11:00 AM PDT

Updated: Oct 26, 2009 7:52 AM PDT



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# 10News.com

## Teen Killed In Fairbanks Ranch Rollover Crash

### ***William Wardrip, 16, Died In Crash***

POSTED: 11:11 am PDT October 25, 2009

UPDATED: 8:38 am PDT October 26, 2009

**SAN DIEGO** -- A teenager was killed and several others injured in a single-vehicle traffic accident allegedly caused by a 16-year-old driver who lost control Sunday in Fairbanks Ranch, authorities said.

The crash happened around 3:30 a.m. in the 17000 block of San Dieguito Road and resulted in the roadway being completely closed for about four hours, California Highway Patrol Officer Eric Newbury said.

A 16-year-old boy was driving a 1999 Lexus GL 470 that went off the roadway on a curve and rolled over, Newbury said.

The officer said William Wardrip, a rear-seat passenger who wasn't wearing a seat belt, was thrown from the car. The 16-year-old Encinitas resident was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver and three other passengers were unhurt but were taken to a hospital for a precautionary evaluation because of the rollover, he said. A dispatcher with the Northcomm fire dispatching agency said three were taken to hospitals.

Alcohol or drugs were not factors, and it was unknown how fast the driver was going when he lost control of his vehicle, Newbury said.

The crash comes just three weeks after 17-year-old Torrey Pines High School student Alexander Michael Capozza died when a speeding car driven by a classmate went out of control and crashed in nearby Rancho Santa Fe.

That driver, also 17, is being prosecuted in juvenile court for gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and driving under the influence.

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# Encinitas Teen Killed in Crash

## A teenager is dead after the car he was in rolled

By [JACQUES SPITZER](#)

Updated 10:08 AM PDT, Mon, Oct 26, 2009



Students arriving to Santa Fe Christian in Solana Beach showed up Monday morning grieving the loss of a classmate in a car crash over the weekend.

William Wardrip, 16, was killed and three others were injured in Fairbanks Ranch after the car they were in went off the roadway on a curve and rolled over.

The crash happened around 3:30 a.m. Sunday in the 17000 block of San Dieguito Road, according to the [California Highway Patrol](#).

Officers said [Wardrip](#) was seated in the back and was not wearing a seat belt when he was thrown from the car and died at the scene. Wardrip lived with his parents in [Encinitas](#). The junior played football and lacross for Santa Fe Christian.



William Wardrip

## Teenager Killed in SUV Crash



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## Teenager Killed in SUV Crash

Following an assembly Monday at 8 a.m., the football coach and Wardrip's teammates will have a prayer session.

Classes for the upper school, grades 9 through 12, were canceled Monday.

San Dieguito Road was closed for about four hours for an investigation, according to the California Highway Patrol. A 16-year-old boy was driving the 1999 [Lexus](#) GL 470. Officers said alcohol or drugs were not factors.

The crash comes just three weeks after [Alex Capozza](#), 17, died when a [speeding car driven by a classmate at Torrey Pines High School crashed](#) in nearby Rancho Santa Fe.

First Published: Oct 25, 2009 4:14 PM PDT

### Find this article at:

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local-beat/Encinitas-Teen-Killed-in-Crash-65951982.html>

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NORTH COUNTY TIMES | THE CALIFORNIAN

## RANCHO SANTA FE: Encinitas teen dies in solo-vehicle crash

By SARAH GORDON - [sgordon@nctimes.com](mailto:sgordon@nctimes.com) | Posted: Sunday, October 25, 2009 10:20 pm

An Encinitas 16-year-old died early Sunday after the teenage driver of the car he was in lost control on a curvy Fairbanks Ranch road.

The medical examiner's office identified the boy as William Wardrip. Prep sports reports and friends on the Internet identified him as a student at Santa Fe Christian High School in Solana Beach.

The teen was one of four young passengers in a 1999 Lexus GL 470 with a newly licensed 16-year-old boy behind the wheel, California Highway Patrol Officer Eric Newbury said. The car was going west in the 17000 block of San Dieguito Road in Rancho Santa Fe about 3:35 a.m. when the driver failed to negotiate a curve and crossed into eastbound lanes before hitting an asphalt curb, Newbury said. The car rolled over numerous times.

William, who was in the back seat and not wearing a seat belt, was thrown out of the car, Newbury said. The boy was pronounced dead at the scene.

Firefighters had to free one teen who was trapped in the wreckage. Newbury said the four survivors appeared to be uninjured but were taken to the hospital as a precaution.

The road was closed for about four hours for an investigation, Newbury said. Neither drugs nor alcohol is believed to have been a factor in the crash.

He did not say whether any charges were expected. The 16-year-old driver was apparently violating the terms of his provisional driver's license.

For a year after getting a license, California drivers younger than 18 cannot give friends younger than 20 a ride or be on the road between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless they are accompanied by a licensed driver older than 25.

Sunday's crash came less than a month after a teen driver wrecked his car on a windy Rancho Santa Fe Road, killing fellow Torrey Pines High senior Alex Capozza, 17, the CHP said.

In that case, the car's 17-year-old driver was charged with driving under the influence and vehicular manslaughter.

Call staff writer Sarah Gordon at 760-740-3517.

NBC 7/39 video: [Santa Fe Christian student mourned](#)

## Teen Dies in Fairbanks Ranch Rollover Crash; Victim ID'd



Contributor: San Diego 6 News Team

Email: [newstips@sandiego6.com](mailto:newstips@sandiego6.com)

Last Update: 7:59 am

RANCHO SANTA FE - A teenager was killed and several others injured in a single-car traffic accident in Fairbanks Ranch Sunday.

A passenger was thrown from the SUV and killed, 16-year-old William Wardrip of Encinitas. The teen, known as Will, was a student at Santa Fe Christian High School in Solana Beach where he played on the football team.

Wardrip was a in the rear seat of the SUV and not wearing a seat belt, according to California Highway Patrol officer Eric Newbury.

Investigators think he was in the third seat or possibly the cargo area at the time of the crash. Wardrip was thrown from the vehicle and it rolled over on him.

The crash happened around 3:30 a.m. in the 17000 block of San Dieguito Road (map A) and resulted in the roadway being completely closed for about four hours.

Another 16-year-old male was driving the 1999 Lexus GL 470, lost control of the SUV, went off the roadway on a curve and rolled over, Newbury said.

The driver and three other passengers, all believed to be Sata Fe Christian students, were unhurt but were taken to a hospital for a precautionary evaluation because of the rollover, he said.

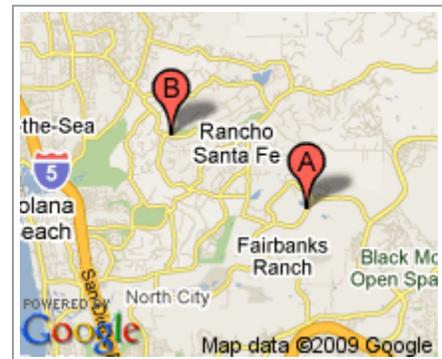
Alcohol or drugs were not factors, and it was unknown how fast the driver was going when he lost control of his vehicle, Newbury said.

The crash comes just three weeks after 17-year-old Torrey Pines High School student Alex Capozza died when a speeding car driven by a classmate went out of control and crashed in nearby Rancho Santa Fe (map B).

That driver, also 17, is being prosecuted in juvenile court for gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and driving under the influence.



Will Wardrip





**Related Terms:** [Fairbanks Ranch](#), [El Cajon](#), [Encinitas](#), [Rancho Santa Fe](#), [San Diego County](#), [Solana Beach](#), [Torrey Pines](#)



## Teen riding with new driver dies in crash

By [Craig Gustafson](#), [Jose Luis Jiménez](#) and [Debbi Baker](#)  
UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

2:00 a.m. October 26, 2009



**William Wardrip**



An SUV came to rest here after rolling over yesterday, killing a teen. (Eduardo Contreras / Union-Tribune) -

**FAIRBANKS RANCH** — A 16-year-old Encinitas boy who was a starting safety for the Santa Fe Christian High School football team was killed in a crash early yesterday morning in Fairbanks Ranch.

William Wardrip, a rear-seat passenger, died in the single-vehicle crash on San Dieguito Road near Circa del Norte about 3:30 a.m., the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office said.

The driver, who had recently received his license, was heading west in a sport utility vehicle when he lost control on a curve, crossed into the eastbound lane, hit a curb and rolled several times, California Highway Patrol spokesman Eric Newbury said.

William was the only person in the 1999 Lexus GL470 not wearing a seat belt; he was thrown from the SUV, Newbury said. The driver and three other passengers, all younger than 18, were not injured but were taken to a hospital as a precaution.

Authorities said alcohol and drugs were not a factor in the crash. The CHP said the SUV was traveling at

an unknown speed. Just before the curve is an electronic speed sign that would have told the driver how fast the SUV was going.

Santa Fe Christian head football coach Nick Ruscetta said William and his friends made a “huge error in judgment” by being out so late. But Ruscetta also said they were involved in nothing more serious than throwing water balloons and toilet paper at friends' houses.

“You could not say a bad word about William,” Ruscetta said. “William embodied what our team is all about: small but with a big heart.”

The crash occurred about 11 hours after Santa Fe Christian won its seventh straight game of the season, a 33-13 victory over El Cajon's Christian High School on Saturday afternoon. William, a junior, played on both sides of the ball, starting at right guard and strong safety, and made several tackles in the home game in Solana Beach.

More than 150 students, friends and family members visited the Wardrip home yesterday after hearing the news.

Eric Wardrip, William's father, called his son a “great kid” and said the family is in shock.

“If he had a seat belt on he'd still be with us,” Wardrip said. “It's a senseless thing. We're just devastated by it and happy to have the support of our family and friends at this time.”

Eric Wardrip, an anesthesiologist, directed all questions about the circumstances of the crash to authorities.

New drivers younger than 18 are issued provisional licenses for the first 12 months that prohibit them from carrying passengers younger than 20 unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Additionally, they are prohibited from driving between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Newbury said 65 percent of all vehicular teenage fatalities happen when another teenager is driving.

Skid marks at the crash scene showed the trajectory of the SUV before it rolled over, and shards of glass and pieces of a broken taillight remained on the side of the road. Smashed trees marked where the Lexus came to rest in an area known for its expensive homes.

This is the second incident this month in which a teenage passenger was killed in an early-morning crash.

On Oct. 4, Alex Capozza, 17, a senior at Torrey Pines High School, was in a car with a group of friends when the driver lost control on a winding road in Rancho Santa Fe about 1:30 a.m. Capozza was thrown from the car and died at the scene.

Investigators said the 17-year-old driver in the Rancho Santa Fe crash had been drinking and his blood-alcohol level was 0.10 percent an hour after the crash. That exceeds the 0.08 percent legal limit for adult drivers in California. He has been charged with one count of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence while intoxicated and two counts of drunken driving causing injury.

Yesterday, William Wardrip's football teammate and close friend Henry Johnson said William was the best friend anybody could ever ask for.

“He could always, always cheer you up,” Henry said. “He would always back you up. I feel like a lot of my support is gone and I’m never going to be able to replace it. But I do know he is in a better place.”

In addition to his father, William Wardrip is survived by his mother, Sara; his brother, Edward, who attends New York University; and his younger sister, Elizabeth.

Union-Tribune

**[Craig Gustafson](#): (619) 293-1399;**  
**[Jose Luis Jiménez](#): (619) 293-1865;**  
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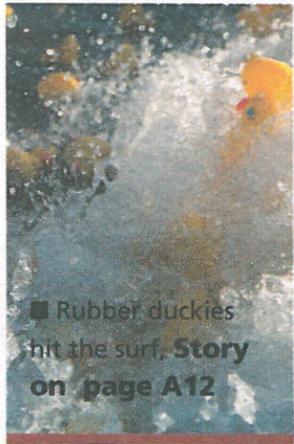
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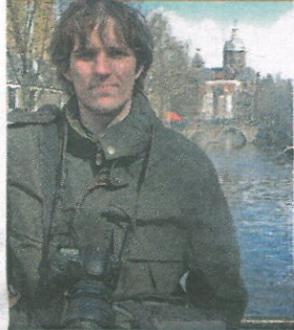
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■ Rubber ducks hit the surf. Story on page A12



■ Photographer travels the world. Story on page B1

■ Decision on mapping marine protection area delayed. Story on page A5

## Golf tournament held 'fore' charity



Gary Hamilton and Jeff Rydin rode in a super deluxe golf cart. PHOTOS BY KAREN BILLING



Lori Cooper and Alchera Ayyad formed two of a foursome.



Rancho Santa Fe Foundation's Christy Wilson handed out goodie bags.

The Rancho Santa Fe Community Center's 17th annual All Fore the Community golf tournament was held at the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Course on Monday afternoon. Golfers were treated to a very sunny day to hit the links and raise money for 'the heart of the community.' An All For Fun after-party and dinner followed the day of golf at the club. For more photos, see page 19.

— Karen Billing

## Group calls for change to freeway plans

BY KAREN BILLING  
Staff Writer

The Interstate 5/Highway 56 steering committee process may be coming to a close next week as Caltrans prepares its Environmental Impact Report. But issues surrounding the interchange project continue to heat up. Representatives from Pacific Highlands Ranch are calling to get disconnected from the 5/56 connector project so they might

be able to grow as a community.

Pacific Highlands Ranch resident Karen Dubey came before the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board this month to request that they look into changing the language of Proposition M. Prop M was approved in 1998 and limits the amount of development in PHR prior to the connector's completion.

"Our community is not going to be able to move forward,"

Dubey said. "I don't see us getting any schools, parks or shopping."

Dubey said PHR residents bought their homes under the guise of moving into a "walking community," close to grocery stores, a library and parks.

She says the dirt lots with faded signs will stay that way until the connectors are built, which

SEE CHANGE, PAGE A14

## Student dies in collision

BY KAREN BILLING  
Staff Writer

Just three weeks after Torrey Pines senior Alex Capozza died in a collision on La Granada in Rancho Santa Fe, an early morning crash claimed the life of Santa Fe Christian junior William Wardrip, 16, on San Dieguito Road in Fairbanks Ranch.



William Wardrip

Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District was first on the scene in the 17000 block of San Dieguito Road on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 3:35 a.m. The single-car crash occurred close to the firehouse in Fairbanks Ranch where the vehicle went off the roadway on a curve and rolled over.

Upon arrival, the firefighters found one vehicle off the road with three occupants out-

SEE STUDENT, PAGE A14

## RSF Historical Society bell stolen

Over the weekend, someone stole one of the Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society bells. The bell, which was located on La Orilla and

El Camino Real, marks the historic El Camino Real route that linked the California missions.

"We are very sad that someone would take one of these wonderful bells," said Sharon. Fabry of the historical society.

It took the society three years to raise the money to buy the bells and have the locations approved by the

county. It had only been hung in June of this year.

If anyone has any information about the stolen bell, they can contact the historical society at 756-9291.

— Karen Billing



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A roadside memorial was set up for 16-year-old William Wardrip, who died in a crash in Rancho Santa Fe over the weekend. PHOTOS BY KAREN BILLING

STUDENT, FROM PAGE A1

side. A fourth needed to be extricated from the car, a 1999 Lexus GL 470 SUV.

The fifth passenger, William, had been ejected from the vehicle and was pronounced dead at the scene. The young man, a resident of Encinitas, had been riding in the backseat and was not wearing a seat belt.

The driver and three other passengers were unhurt but were taken to a hospital for a precautionary evaluation because of the rollover, a dispatcher with the Northcomm fire dispatching agency said.

The roadway was completely closed for about four hours, California Highway Patrol Officer Eric Newbury said.

Alcohol and drugs were not deemed factors in the crash and it is unknown how fast the vehicle was going when the driver, 17,



lost control, according to California Highway Patrol Officer Eric Newbury.

On Monday morning, mourners brought flowers to the crash site, still heavily littered with glass. One friend left a rock with a Bible verse written on it.

City News Service contributed to this report.

# Noise from trains a topic of concern

BY KAREN BILLING  
Staff Writer

Del Mar residents are looking to hush some of their loudest tourists — the trains. Trains are passing through the city more frequently with Amtrak, Coaster and freighters alike, and as more trains rumble through, the sound of horns blaring is increasing and getting louder, residents complain.

"It's getting to the point where it's no longer romantic," said 29-year resident Hershell Price. "It's absolutely terrible."

Residents with ringing ears asked that City Council pursue establishing a quiet zone in Del Mar or perhaps acquiring a waiver to allow a ban during evening hours or on trains headed in a specific direction. A new committee made up of concerned citizens and council members will study the feasibility of railroad ruckus relief.

The issue has come before the council before, last in 2007, but the cost was

too great. North County Transit District (NCTD) charges \$1,075,000 to establish a quiet zone and while many areas in San Diego County have tried, no such zones have been granted.

The cost covers enhanced safety measures like signage and warning bells at crossings.

Mayor Crystal Crawford asked the residents present if they would be willing to "hit leather" to try and fund some improvements. Several residents said they would.

In the past two years the noise has gotten worse, Price said, noting that about 55 trains pass through during the day and two to three freighters in the middle of the night.

The blasts vary between an engineer laying on the horn for a long extended blow or giving it numerous taps.

Larry Richards, who for 11 years has lived "a football-field length" away from the tracks said the noise has

gotten so bad "it just makes you want to jump right out of your skin."

Another resident, Mark Whitehead, said the horns have gotten erratic and seem to be loud for no reason.

Council member Mark Fillanc said the issue of imposing a quiet zone is complicated by the fact that the horns are needed for safety. There is only one track crossing in Del Mar and without stopping trespassing, people crossing to surf or get to the beach, there will always be the need for horns.

Resident Lee Stein agreed that safety always wins but said it doesn't make sense that the sound needs to echo through in a 360-degree radius when it's meant to warn just people near the intersection.

Stein will be part of the community group and hopes to get more empirical data about how much of a nuisance the noise truly is and what the conductor is actually seeing to prompt such blasts.

CHANGE, FROM PAGE A1

could be 2013 or beyond.

Dubey's effort has drawn support from neighbors to the west in Torrey Pines, who have long fought the necessity of the 5/56 connectors and what a proposed 70-foot fly-over linking 5-South to 56-East would do to their community.

"Proposition M is totally

flawed, it doesn't meet the requirements of today's conditions," said Bob Davis, former Torrey Pines Planning Board chairman.

Current chair Dennis Ridz, echoed his sentiments.

"I have no problems with Pacific Highlands Ranch. Our problem is the way Proposition M is structured and the way Caltrans is pushing this project," Ridz said.

With the direct connectors linking 5 and 56, Ridz said Torrey Pines neighborhoods such as Portofino and Point Del Mar will be destroyed.

"Why have such a severe impact on one area to build another area?" Ridz asked.

Just last year, San Diego City Councilman Scott Peters attempted to change the language of Prop M. Torrey Pines planning board supported it

but Carmel Valley Community Planning Board did not, causing Peters to can the effort.

The 5/56 steering committee, made up of Caltrans representatives and residents, will wrap up their meeting schedule on Nov. 4 at 2 p.m. at the Carmel Valley Library. At their last meeting, they will show visual simulations of the alternatives to the direct connector proposal.

The draft Environmental Impact Report on the 5/56 project, expected to be one of the longest in the state's history, is due out in fall of 2010. But coming in January is the EIR to widen Interstate 5, another project that Ridz opposes.

In response, the planning group formed a committee called PLAGUE, Prevent Los Angeles Gridlock Usurping Environment. PLAGUE takes

aim at the environmental damage the widening of the freeway will do to the 3 miles between La Jolla and Oceanside, and say it will discourage the development of alternative public transit options.

Ridz said it would have a huge impact on the whole region and hopes to keep the public informed and active around the issue.

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