



Plaques for pancakes

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District recently thanked Rancho Santa Fe community members who helped out during their Rancho Days pancake breakfast in October. **From left to right, recipients were Matt Basham of the Village Market, Tim Cusac of Caffè Positano, Hank Mendez with Chief Nick Pavone and Capt. Mike Shore.** COURTESY

ATTORNEY, FROM PAGE A3

transplant. "But as it turned out, I was diagnosed with a chronic form of the leukemia, chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML), which meant I had additional time to get things in order, find a (matched) donor and undergo the treatment."

A bone marrow transplant is the only known cure for CML.

However, locating a matching donor was not easy. Lewis had no known siblings, who would ordinarily be considered possible donor candidates.

A search of the national data bank for potential genetically matching donors came up zero. An international search located a donor 5,756 miles away in Germany.

In November 2000, almost a year after his diagnosis, he was hospitalized for 32 days at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle for radiation and

chemotherapy conditioning in preparation for his bone marrow transplant, followed by three months of outpatient care.

Within a month, the transplanted marrow was producing fresh, new cancer-free blood.

He later learned that his donor was a female university graduate student in Cologne, Germany. They have never met, but have talked on the phone and exchanged photos and e-mails.

"This is a wonderful person. She donated to a complete stranger," he said. He hopes someday to meet and personally thank her for saving his life.

He also credits his wife, Susie, for her solid, unwavering support throughout the whole ordeal.

Today, at 43, a fit-looking Lewis has been cancer-free for nine years.

He was recently named "2009 Man of the Year" by The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society San Diego/Hawaii Chapter for personally rais-

ing \$23,000 from friends and family during the society's 10-week campaign to help blood cancer research and patient services.

Lewis spends part of his free time as a Big Brother to a 10-year-old Carmel Valley boy and as a board member and a "first connector" volunteer with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society offering support counsel to newly diagnosed CML patients.

His idea is simple — "pay it forward" by continuing what others before him started, until there is a cure for blood cancers.

His philosophy: "Enjoy the moment. I recognize how wonderful it is to be happy in the moment and cherishing a smile because we're all only one call away from possibly not being in such a nice place."

For information on the work and services of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's San Diego/Hawaii Chapter, you are invited to call (858) 277-1800 or visit the Web site: www.lls.org/sd.



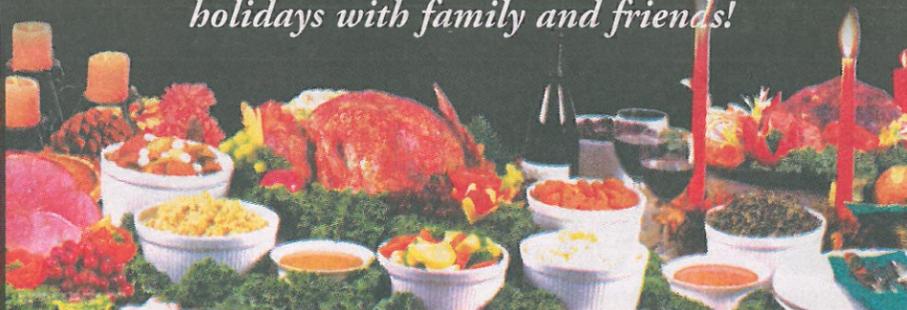
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CALENDAR, FROM PAGE A3

Christmas Tea and Tree Raffle: 2 to 4:30 p.m. The event features a raffle of trees and wreaths, a performance by the R. Roger Rowe School Choir and crafts for children. Proceeds support the Rancho Santa Fe Library.

Saturday, Dec. 12

- Rancho Santa Fe Chanukah Celebration: 7 p.m. Del Rayo Village Shopping Center in front of GSB Men's Clothier. The event features the lighting of a 6-foot-tall ice menorah, ice sculpting, potato latkes and doughnuts, gelt and crafts for the children. Free.

- Teen Club Holiday Dance: 7 to 9 p.m. Rancho Santa Fe Community Center. Seventh- and eighth-graders can enjoy a night of dancing. Permission required; visit rsf.cc.org for more information.



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Longtime RSF firefighters retire; Two new firefighters join district

At its Dec. 9 meeting, the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District (RSFFPD) Board of Directors recognized two firefighters who are retiring from the fire service. The board also introduced two new firefighters joining the Fire District.

Captain Bill Lutz has spent his entire 31-year career serving the communities within the RSFFPD.

Driver/Operator Rich Foster has been with the fire district for 19-and-a-half years. Both will work their last shift on Dec. 23, 2009.

"It has been a pleasure working with both Bill and Rich over the years," said Fire Chief Nick Pavone. "I appreciate their service to the community and to our district and I wish them well in this new phase of their lives."



Left to right: Rich Foster, Bill Lutz, and Nick Pavone

Joining the Fire District are Kyle Carranza and Grant Smith. Carranza, whose first shift will be Dec. 25, had been with Valley Center Fire Protection District prior to being hired at RSFFPD.

Smith previously worked at Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Protection District. His first shift will be Dec. 27.

The mission of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is "To protect life,

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

Barbara Groth elected president of San Dieguito Union High School District Board of Trustees

At a recent meeting, the San Dieguito Union High School District Board of Trustees approved their meeting schedule for 2010 and elected the following officers:

- Barbara Groth, Board President
- Beth Hergesheimer, Vice President
- Joyce Dalessandro, Board Clerk
- Linda Friedman, Board Trustee
- Deanna Rich, Board Trustee

The meeting schedule is available on the district website: www.sduhsd.net.

DUI crash leaves one dead

A man described as a designated driver was in custody Monday — booked for alleged DUI and vehicular manslaughter — following a fiery crash that killed a man in Torrey Pines, police said.

Michael Patrick Landri was driving an Infiniti G35 that rear-ended a Volkswagen Passat at Genesee Avenue and Torrey Pines Road around 10 p.m. Sunday, causing both vehicles to burst into flames, according to the San Diego Police Department.

A bystander pulled Landri and a "very drunk" male passenger from the burning Infiniti but was unable to rescue the driver of the Passat, police said. The men in the Infiniti were on their way home from an employee Christmas party, according to police.

The San Diego man driving the Passat died at the scene, according to the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office. Another person was taken to a hospital, according to a San Diego fire-rescue dispatcher. Landri was arrested on suspicion of gross vehicular manslaughter and drunken driving counts and booked into San Diego Central Jail, according to jail records.

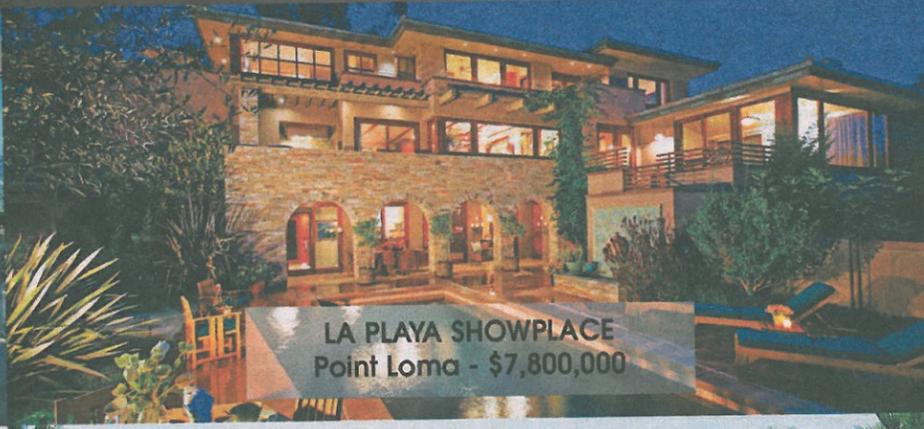
Police said Landri was supposed to be a designated driver — a person who refrains from consuming alcohol in order to safely drive home passengers who have imbibed.

— This story was written and edited by City News Service staff. More news on www.SDNN.com (San Diego News Network)

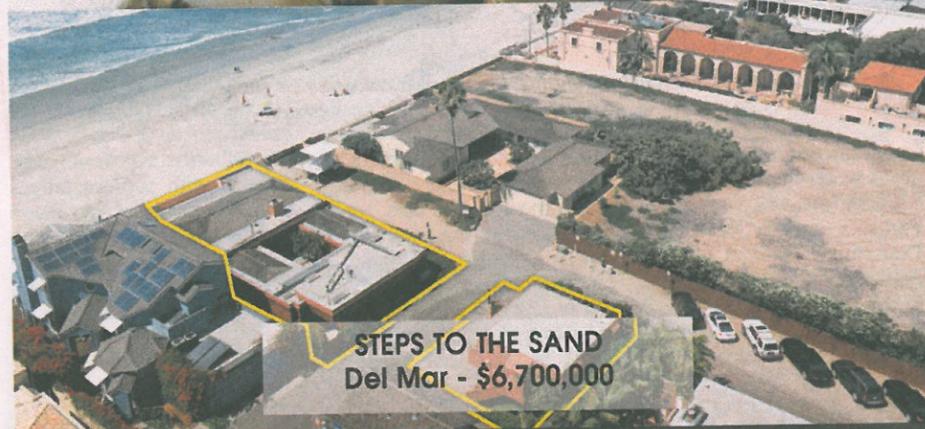
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The Country Friends host annual holiday tea

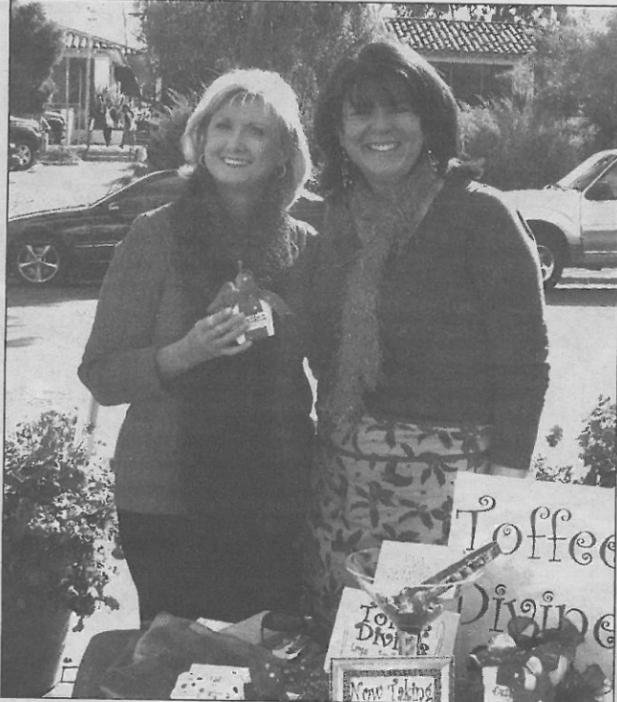
By David Wiemers

RANCHO SANTA FE — The Country Friends hosted their 14th annual Holiday Tea on Dec. 9, a chance for locals to luncheon together during this festive time of year, but most importantly, to help benefit Voices for Children. Voices for Children is a local nonprofit organization which aims to assist abused, neglected and abandoned children who have become dependents of the San Diego County Court System. Voices for Children ensures that these children will have a safe and permanent home.

The money was raised during last fall's Art of Fashion show in the park, but the check was presented at the recent tea. Co-chairs for the event were Heidi Timlake and Devin Lucia, who said, "We're very pleased with the turnout today. It's an honor to be able to help Voices for Children."

In addition to the Holiday Tea, it was also an

TURN TO FRIENDS ON 31



IN THE SPIRIT Above, Debra Tenhoff, better known as one of the "Handbag Hags" and Lauren Mitchell, of "Toffee Divine" are just two of many vendors who came to support the Country Friends. Right, Heidi Timlake and Devin Lucia co-chaired this season's Holiday Tea. Photos by David Wiemers



Encinitas family brings poinsettia to new heights

By Lillian Cox

ENCINITAS — Ecker poinsettias are everywhere this holiday season including "The Tonight Show," "The Jay Leno Show" and many American homes.

In 1923, Paul Ecke put Encinitas on the map when he relocated his poinsettia ranch from Hollywood to North County. Native to the jungles of Mexico, the plant was introduced into the United States in the early 1800s by Joel Roberts Poinsett. But it was Ecke who made the poinsettia as synonymous with the Christmas season as pine trees.

"Poinsettias bloom when the nights are long and the days are short which is why my grandfather turned them into the Christmas flower," explained Paul Ecke III. "He said, 'Wow, look at this plant! It blooms in the winter!'"

Today the younger Ecke continues to take the company to new heights.

"The poinsettia has become the living symbol of Christmas," he said. "It's the No. 1 one flowering potted plant in America, even though it's only sold six weeks out of the year." He added that Ecke poinsettias corner 70 percent of the market.

For most of its history, poinsettias were raised locally contributing to Encinitas' reputation as "the flower capital of the world." In 1997, Paul III moved part of



POPULAR PLANT Almost 90 years after Paul Ecke introduced poinsettias to the world, the family's poinsettias still have 70 percent of the market. "The poinsettia has become the living symbol of Christmas," said Paul Ecke III. "It's the No. 1 flowering potted plant in America, even though it's only sold six weeks out of the year." Ecke holds "Ice Punch," one of about 65 varieties that have been developed at the Ecke Ranch in Encinitas. Photo by Lillian Cox

the operation to Guatemala where they produce cuttings for growers. In 2007, he licensed Armstrong Growers to produce Ecke-brand poinsettias.

Today the Ecke Ranch is exclusively a research and development operation that

has produced about 65 varieties of poinsettias to date.

"We have the best genetics for growing," Ecke said. "It's not enough that they look pretty in the greenhouse, they have to be pretty in the consumer's home."

Ecke boasts about an onsite torture chamber where new varieties of poinsettias are tested.

"The leaves fall off most varieties," he said. "The ones that look good we grow commercially. Our poinsettias are the toughest. We also

think they are the prettiest."

Recently the company introduced a line of fuel-efficient poinsettias that can grow in cold weather, saving growers thousands — even millions — of dollars in energy costs.

Last week Ecke traveled to the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas where he launched the new Polar Bear variety, touted as the whitest poinsettia available. A percentage of sales will benefit Polar Bears International, a nonprofit dedicated to the worldwide conservation of the polar bear and its habitat through research and education.

Ecke claims to have about 10 poinsettias in his Encinitas home during the holidays. He offers these tips for maintaining their beauty:

1. Place the pot where you are comfortable, avoiding extremes. "If you need to wear sunglasses, it's too bright," he said. "If you need to turn on a light, it's too dark. If you need to wear a sweater, it's too cold."

2. Water the plant when it's dry to the touch. "My dad would say that poinsettias like dry feet," Ecke said. "Too many people water them too much — they love them too much."

Most importantly, Ecke wants consumers to enjoy the holidays with the knowledge that poinsettias aren't poisonous to either people or their pets.

City outlines issues with fairground expansion

By Bianca Kaplanek

DEL MAR

Sometimes time is on the side. Sometimes it's not. With the deadline one month away, Del Mar officials found the latter to be true as they discussed plans at the Dec. 7 Council meeting to sue over comments on the environmental impact report for expansion at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

The 22nd District Agricultural Association, which operates the site, is proposing to renovate a 340-acre facility by adding a hotel, new exhibit hall, rooftop sports facility, health club, a parking structure and office buildings. Immediately after the draft EIR and master plan were released for public review on Oct. 9, portions of the 4,500-plus-page document were given to various city departments for review based on each area of expertise.

Officials are also soliciting input by working with other agencies and organizations focusing on environmental effects they relate to the issues they oversee. A nine-member ad hoc citizen advisory committee is reviewing two-volume documents.

That group wants to see the city's comments before drafting and voting on its letter. But once the city releases information from the advisory group, it becomes public and officials don't want to release comments based on incomplete data.

City staff plans to present its draft comments to council members at a special meeting Jan. 13, three days before the deadline, when City Council would be expected to approve the letter for submission. Staff said it would plan to get its draft letter to the advisory committee Dec. 23 and to council members prior to the Jan. meeting.

All groups were concerned with the tight deadlines, especially after interim Planning Director Brian Mooney highlighted a dozen problem areas in the document. For starters, he said, the draft EIR provides an insufficient description of the project. "If they haven't given adequate information, how can you analyze the effects of that?" Mooney asked.

He said comments submitted by the city and other agencies during the notice of preparation that was released last year were not responded to adequately or at all. Mitigation measures also "appear to be problematic," Mooney said. For example, traffic and transportation are deferred to other agencies.

TURN TO FAIRGROUNDS ON

Two firefighters retire, two welcomed to the district

RANCHO SANTA FE — On Dec. 9, the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District Board of Directors recognized two retiring firefighters and introduced two new firefighters joining the Fire District.

Retiring Capt. Bill Lutz has spent his entire 31-year career serving the communities within the RSFFPD. Retiring Driver/Operator Rich Foster has been with the fire district for 19-and-a-half

years. Both will work their last shift Dec. 23.

"It has been a pleasure working with both Bill and Rich over the years," said Fire Chief Nick Pavone. "I appreciate their service to the com-

munity and to our district and I wish them well in this new phase of their lives."

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Jan / Feb 2010

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A Personalized Approach to Fitness



RANCHO SANTA FE FIRE DEPT.

a look at 4S Ranch's
"STATION #2"

photos by Tiffany Pond

Q&A with the RSF fire chief

Editor's Note:

4S Ranch neighborhoods and businesses are protected and serviced by the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District, for both fire and medical emergencies. Among the four RSFFPD stations is Station #2, which is responsible for 4S Ranch neighborhoods and is located at 16930 Four Gee Road. For this issue, we talked to RSFFPD Fire Chief Nicholas Pavone.



1



2

Q What is the structure for Station #2, which is located in 4S Ranch?

A As Fire Chief, I manage and oversee all four Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District stations, including Station #2. Each station has 3 shifts, and each shift has a captain, engineer, firefighter paramedic. The station also has two medics/emergency medical technicians.

Q Do fire station personnel work at a single station, or do they move around among the four Fire District stations?

A Typically (station personnel) rotate once per year; however, employees bid on stations, based on seniority. The workers need to be familiar with all stations in the district, (and are) typically limited to two years at a given station – regardless of seniority.

Q The Fire District is governed by an elected five-member Board of Directors. Are any of the board members residents of the Zip Code 92127 area?

A Yes, Tom Hickerson. The five member board members are elected at large, with three members elected November 2008. Two positions will be selected in November 2010.

Q When was Station #2 in 4S Ranch opened, and how does it compare to the other stations in the Fire District?

A The 4S Ranch Station on Four Gee Road was dedicated in January 2003, and opened late 2002. It is very typical of other stations, and approximately 10,000 square feet of space. It sets on 2.5 acres (of land), which is not typical.

Q How and why was the decision made to include the district training facility at the Station #2 location?

A The developer (Kellwood) provided the site and construction of the station as a condition of the 4S Ranch development. The area is a good place for training due to the open space that surrounds it, and the acreage at the location (2.5 acres).

1. Firefighter/Paramedic Trever Krueger, Engineer John Kinney, and Captain Dan Carey
2. Local Rancho Santa Fe Fire Dept. conducting a drill at the local 4S Ranch Station #2
3. Carlsbad Fire Dept. invited to participate in drill at the local 4S Ranch Station #2

Q What equipment is permanently or typically operating out of Station #2 in 4S Ranch?

A (Equipment at the station includes a) "Type 1" fire engine, a "Type 3" brush engine, and a Medical Transport Unit. This is typical of most stations (although not all stations have a Medical Transport Unit).

Q How large is the area served by Station #2?

A All four stations of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District serve a 42 square-mile area. The response time is typically five-to-seven minutes maximum.

Q Many fire stations include pets or mascots, such as a Dalmatian; are there any at Station #2?

A No (chuckle).

Q What is the typical shift for firefighters at Station #2?

A Personnel work an average of 10 24-hour shifts per month (8 a.m. to 8 a.m.). This averages to a 56-hour work week.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Q Firefighters are often known for their cooking skills -- does Station #2 have a resident "top chef", someone who has a reputation for good meals?

A Well, let's just say that some are experts in cooking, while others should focus on cleanup. (laughing).

Q How many emergency calls are dispatched from Station #2 per month on average?

A Approximatley 80-to-90 calls per month. Station #2 is the second busiest station in the Fire District.

Q What is the most common type of call to which personnel at Station #2 responds?

A Emergency Medical Services amounts for 70-80% of the calls to Station #2.

Q Is there any type of on-going training for personnel at Station #2 that occurs on a regular basis?

A A minimum of two hours per shift is for training (probably two-to-four hours realistically). Personnel focus on basics, career development, technical training, drills, and continuing education. They also participate in rotating education training through teleconferencing.

Q What is the most common misconception about firefighters and emergency personnel?

A That they are sitting around all day when they are not out on a call. The reality is that they are very busy with mandatory training and inspections.

Q Describe the best or most gratifying aspect of serving the residents of 4S Ranch in Station #2?

A Being a public servant and providing for the community. Each person knows that on any given day, they could have the ability to save a life and make a huge difference. This is something that all of our personnel take very seriously.

92127 Magazine would like to thank Chief Nicholas Pavone and the rest of the RSF Fire Dept. for allowing us to tour the facilities and witness their training drills. ■

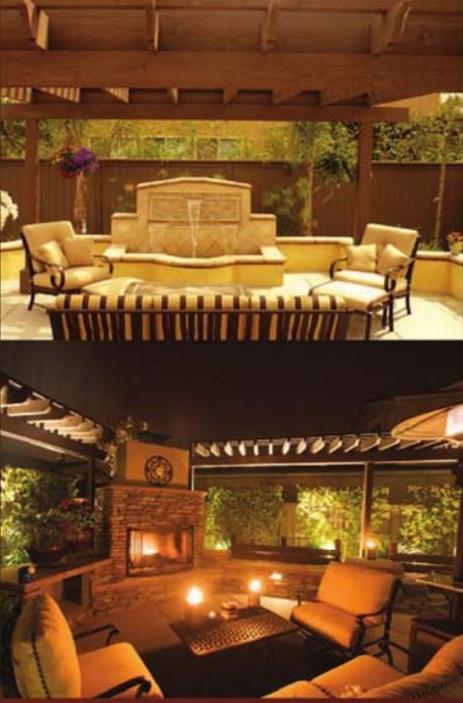
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NORTH COUNTY TIMES | THE CALIFORNIAN

RANCHO SANTA FE: Fire Station 3 temporarily moved

By EDWARD SIFUENTES - esifuentes@nctimes.com | Posted: Thursday, December 24, 2009 7:00 pm

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department has temporarily relocated one of its fire stations, officials announced Thursday.

While Fire Station 3 is rebuilt, firefighters and their equipment will operate out of the Horizon Christian Fellowship Church's property on 6365 El Apajo in Rancho Santa Fe, according to a news release. The mailing address will remain at P.O. Box 410, Rancho Santa Fe, CA, 92067.

To access the temporary facility, enter the church parking lot through its south entrance and drive towards the back and to the rear of the building.



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Press Release – SEAT BELTS SAVE LIVES

30 December 2009



-Courtesy of Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District

RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. — The importance of wearing seat belts when driving or riding in a vehicle has long been the focus of safety messages by emergency responders. They see first-hand just how devastating traffic accidents can be, especially when the occupants have chosen to not use their

seat belts. Yet not everyone appears to be heeding the warnings. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), one out of every five Americans does not use a seat belt on a regular basis. While seat belts appear to have saved over 15,000 lives in 2007, it is estimated that another 5,024 lives could have been saved if seat belts had been worn.

The problem is especially great among young people. Nearly 7,570 15- to 20-year-olds were killed in car accidents in 2007. 2,762 of those individuals were driving the vehicle and 58% were not wearing their seat belts. The communities of Rancho Santa Fe and Fairbanks Ranch have felt the impact of such a scenario twice within the last several months. Two teenagers have been killed while riding as unrestrained passengers in their friends' vehicles.

“We cannot emphasize enough the importance of using your seat belt,” said Fire Chief Nick Pavone. “Seat belts should be worn correctly by every passenger every time you get in the car. They may be the primary source of protection from serious injury in the event of an accident.”

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.

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Del Mar Fairgrounds extends EIR public review period

By Jonathan Horn

In a reversal that came as a welcome surprise to city leaders and interested parties, the Del Mar Fairgrounds' governing body extended the public review period for its expansion's environmental impact report.

After receiving written requests from the city of Del Mar, State Sen. Christine Kehoe's office, and an attorney representing the San Diego Sierra Club, the 22nd District Agricultural Board moved its deadline for formal comments back to Feb. 8.

The board had previously sent a letter to the city of Del Mar denying its appeal for more time. The fairgrounds originally gave 90 days for written responses, double the requirement of 45, for a cut-off date of Jan. 8. But because the report was roughly 4,400 pages, they received further complaints about a lack of time to thoroughly analyze the document, especially over the holiday season.

"If they're surprised, they're surprised. We're trying to be good neighbors and trying to give everyone a chance to review," said Fairgrounds General Manager Tim Fennell. "No excuses after this."

Proposed is a multi-phase project that includes building an exhibition hall that will hold three rooftop soccer fields, a hotel and fitness complex, retail shops, and a 48-foot tall, 192 square-foot monitor overlooking Interstate 5. While tentative, the master plan also involves constructing new sewer outlets for RV's, a fire station and paving what is now the dirt parking lot on the east end.

Some local politicians, businesspeople and environmental groups have voiced concerned about increased traffic, pollution, more competition, and damage to nearby ecological preserves.

"They kind of used the terms self-contained and self-sustaining," said Solana Beach City Manager David Ott. "I agree with it, you don't have a hotel there now so if you build a hotel it's obviously taking away from a hotel in the surrounding area."

In October, Solana Beach invested \$75,000 for seven con-

sultants to analyze the project's potential impact. Under the California Environmental Quality Act, the 22nd DAA is required to respond adequately to all issues anyone raises within the public comment period.

Ott said regardless of the extension, the consultants would have been ready to present an "extensive" document of findings by the original deadline.

Pamela Epstein, an attorney representing the San Diego Sierra Club, said her clients are especially worried about surrounding wetlands that are home to many endangered species.

"People get lost in the idea of what truly is an environmental impact," she said, adding it is important to go beyond minimal standards. "We want to do all that we can to protect, restore and conserve vital and natural resources. It's imperative, at the fairgrounds, to save every inch of what could be ancient wetlands."

However, the project's mission statement makes a commitment to environmentally responsible construction. Also, a 2008 study by a consulting firm hired by the Del Mar Village Association found the expansion has the potential to positively impact the local economy.

"The reality of it is they're trying to create scare tactics," Fennell said. "This property belongs to the people of San Diego County and it's a wonderful resource, a wonderful asset and we are very environmentally conscientious. We go to great lengths to make sure we exceed all the requirements, are good stewards of the property and if someone tells you otherwise, I'd tell you that's inaccurate."

Citizens now have until Feb. 8 to submit their comments in writing. Law requires the 22nd District Agricultural Board to respond before moving forward. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2011 and be completed by 2014. For more information, go to www.sdfair.com and click the link for the master plan.

Fire District's Fairbanks Ranch Station 3 relocates to temporary facility

In preparation to begin the process of rebuilding the Fire District's Fairbanks Ranch Station 3, the firefighters and fire-fighting equipment have been relocated to a temporary facility to the rear of the Horizon Christian Fellowship Church's property. Its new street address during this transitional phase is 6365A El Apajo, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067. (Please note: The mailing address remains P. O. Box 410, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067.) To access the temporary facility, enter the Horizon Christian Fellowship parking lot via their south entrance and proceed straight back behind their facilities.

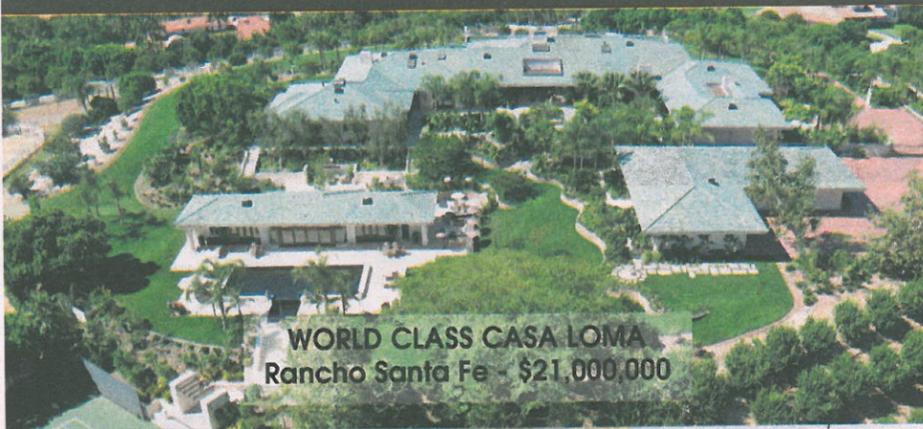
"This is an exciting time for our district," said Fire Chief Nick Pavone. "On behalf of the Fire District I would like to thank Horizon Christian Fellowship for allowing us to use their property while we are in transition and constructing a new facility to better serve our community."

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.

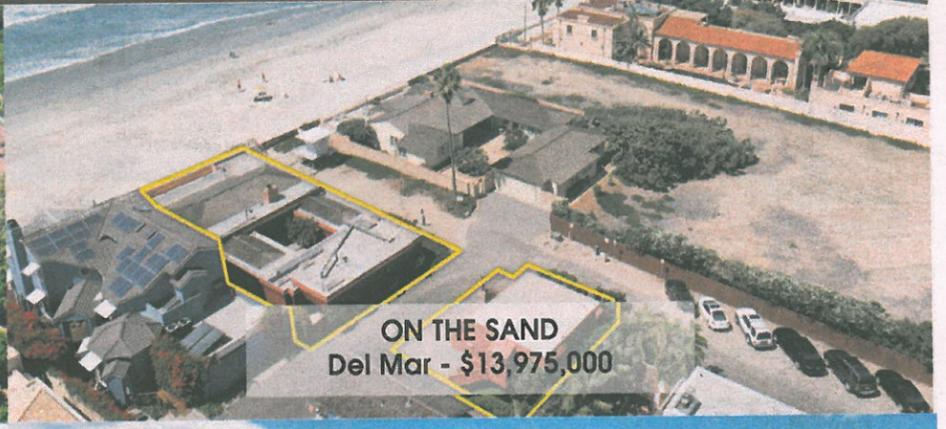
Delicias Restaurant announces changes for 2010

Delicias Restaurant will be closed from Jan. 3 through Jan. 7 for repair work and will re-open Jan. 8 for dinner service at 5:30 p.m. Starting Jan. 11 the restaurant will be open for lunch service Monday through Friday, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., as well as for dinner Monday through Thursday 5:30 - 9 p.m., and 5:30-10 p.m., Friday and Saturday. Happy Hour will also be available Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. Delicias will be closed on Sundays. Delicias is located at 6106 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-756-8000; www.deliciasrestaurant.com.

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