

#### RSF firefighters raise funds during Boot Drive

Rancho Santa Fe firefighters took to the streets again this year to help raise money for burn survivors. The annual Burn Institute Boot Drive, which raises money to fund burn survivor support services such as Camp Beyond the Scars, was held April 6.

The Burn Institute is a non-profit agency dedicated to burn prevention and support for burn injury survivors and their families. For more information, visit www.burnin-

(Above I-r) Rancho Santa Fe firefighter Kyle Carranza; Amber and Nathan Sogorka fill the boot for RSF firefighter Eric Tague. Photos/Jon Clark

## Celebrate the Royal Wedding at Royal Tea and Hat Contest in Del Mar

In celebration of the Royal Wedding, Del Mar Community Connections is holding a Royal Tea and Hat Contest on Thursday, April 28, from 2-3:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Parish Hall (334 14th St. Del Mar).

The event will feature tea and light refreshments. Bring favorite cookies or finger sandwiches if you wish to share.

A prize will be given to the "most glamorous hat." Piano music will be provided by Lori Ritman. RSVP by Tuesday, April 26, to 858-792-7565 or DMCC@DMCC.CC



### Drew Brees to host Celebrity Poker Championship May 20 in RSF

A Celebrity Poker Championship hosted by 2010 NFL MVP Drew Brees will be held Friday, May 20, from 7:30 p.m.-11 p.m. at Morgan Run Resort & Club in Rancho Santa Fe. The event will benefit The Brees Dream Foundation. For more information, visit breesdreamfoundationpoker.eventbrite.com

## Tee off for Canyon Crest Academy athletics at golf tournament May 6

The Canyon Crest Academy Athletics Department invites golfers to the CCA Inaugural Golf Tournament at Carmel Mountain Ranch Golf Course on Friday, May 6. All proceeds from the tournament will benefit the athletic program at CCA. The coaches at CCA have built a quality athletic program with CCA's fall & winter sports teams winning seven of the 12 Valley League championships so far this season. Community support is vital for the continued success of CCA athletes.

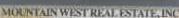
Registration for the tournament begins at 11:30 a.m. and shotgun start time is 12:30 p.m. The registration fees are \$115 for singles and \$440 for a foursome. The registration fee includes a box lunch provided by Jersey Mikes. green fees, cart, prizes and an awards dinner to follow.

Sponsorships and silent auction items are needed. If you would like to become a part of the event, either as a participant, donor or sponsor, or need further information, please contact Brian Baum, athletic director, at 858-3500253 x4144 or brian.baum@sduhsd.net.

To learn more about the golf tournament and the Canyon Crest Academy Athletic program, or to download the entry form, visit www2.sduhsd.net/cc/programs/athletics

Canyon Crest Academy is part of the San Dieguito Union High School District and is located at 5951 Village Center Loop Road, San Diego, CA 92130, www2.sduhsd.net/





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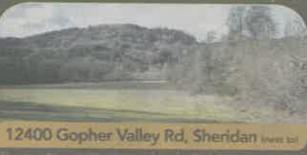






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#### **Oxygen Masks For Animals Donated To Fire Crews**

Last Update: 4/21 9:46 pm

#### Print Story | Share

RANCHO SANTA FE - The Helen Woodward Animal Center Thursday donated oxygen masks for animals to 12 fire crews who serve Rancho Santa Fe, Del Mar, Encinitas and Solana Beach.

Employees of the center said they were inspired to make the donation after seeing a report of a dog being saved with a pet respirator at a fire in Long Beach.

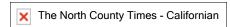
Each kit comes with three masks designed to fit small, medium or large animals.



Angel, puppy up for adoption at the Helen Woodward Animal Center.

"Helen Woodward Animal Center is in the business of saving lives," said Mike Arms, the president of the HWAC. "Providing these kits to firefighters is an extension of the work that we're already doing."

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## **REGION:** Pet oxygen masks donated to North County firefighters

North County Times wire services | Posted: Thursday, April 21, 2011 6:05 pm

RANCHO SANTA FE - The Helen Woodward Animal Center today donated oxygen masks to 12 fire crews who serve Rancho Santa Fe, Del Mar, Encinitas and Solana Beach.

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<sup>&</sup>quot;Providing these kits to firefighters is an extension of the work that we're already doing."

# RETAIL

Noteworthy from our advertisers

#### Harbor Freight Tools now open in the Miramar/ Kearny Mesa area

Tool time just got a lot more affordable. Harbor Freight Tools, the nation's largest discount tool retailer, recently opened its newest location at 8400 Miramar, Road, Suite 140,

in San Diego.
On Saturday, April
2, a grand opening
celebration was held,
featuring a ribbon cutting
hosted by the San Diego
Regional Chamber
of Commerce and a
donation presentation
to Rebuilding Together
San Diego of more than
\$1,000 in much-needed
tools and supplies.



The new Harbor Freight Tools store on Miramar Road in San Diego.

"We are very excited to be opening the fifth Harbor Freight Tools store in San Diego County, and delighted by the warm welcome the Kearny Mesa and Miramar communities have shown us," said Eric Smidt, CEO of Harbor Freight Tools. "Harbor Freight continues to grow significantly by consistently earning our customers' business each and every day with high-quality tools at ridiculously low prices, combined with superior customer service."

Harbor Freight's donation to Rebuilding Together San Diego will help the non-profit organization with their April 30 National Rebuilding Day projects; renovating nine homes with approximately 1,000 local volunteers donating their time and hard work to help low-income homeowners with repair needs.

"We are overwhelmed by the generosity of Harbor Freight Tools' donation," said Pamela Thorsch, Executive Director of RTSD. "We are so very grateful to Harbor Freight and are excited about their expanded presence in San Diego."

Harbor Freight Tools is a national leader in selling highquality tools at "ridiculously low prices." With a lifetime guarantee on all hand tools and a reputation for outstanding customer service, Harbor Freight Tools is a favorite with contractors, government agencies, schools and manufacturing companies, as well as with tool enthusiasts and do-ityourselfers who want a top-quality selection while still being value-conscious.

Stocking over 7,000 items in categories that include automotive, shop equipment, air and power tools, outdoor equipment, compressors, welding, and woodworking tools, the retailer now has five locations in San Diego County: San Diego/Miramar, Chula Vista, El Cajon, Escondido, and Oceanside. For more details, visit www.harborfreight.com.

### Great deals await shoppers as Big Lots celebrates grand opening today in Encinitas

Big Lots, the nation's largest broad-line closeout retailer, continues to grow with its newest location opening today at 333 North El Camino Real, Encinitas. The grand-opening celebration begins today at 9 a.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and donation of \$2,500 made to Flora Vista School.

At the new 24,000 square-foot Big Lots in Encinitas, customers will find thousands of products available, from everyday consumables to seasonal goods, home decor, electronics, toys, and one-time closeouts other

BIG

stores just can't match. Big Lots also offers great values on a full assortment of brand-name furniture and Serta mattresses.

Big Lots stores are designed so customers can easily find the brand-name products on their shopping list. Big Lots stocks merchandise that typically sells for 20 to 40 percent less than discount stores and up to 70 percent below traditional retailers.

"At Big Lots, our easy-to-shop stores and unbelievable deals have been big hits with customers for more than 40 years and we are thrilled to bring that same successful concept to a new group of shoppers," said Rob Claxton, senior vice president of marketing for Big Lots.

The new Encinitas Big Lots, located at 333 North El Camino Real in Encinitas (92024), is just one of 90 stores the retailer plans to open in 2011.

For more information, visit www.biglots.com.

### A Better Solution in Home Care, inc. celebrates 10 years of helping seniors

A Better Solution In Home Care, Inc. is celebrating over 10 years in San Diego County, providing hourly and live-in care for seniors when they need support to remain independent. In celebration of this noteworthy milestone, A Better Solution In Home Care, Inc. is offering \$50 off your first week of service, as well as discounted 12-hour rates. Additionally, they have recently partnered with Alert San Diego to provide Med-Alerts to their clients.

"We are proud to be one of the innovators of 'supervised home care,' where the client's services are monitored by field and office staff at no extra charge," explained Lia Smith-Pratt, CEO of A Better Solution In Home Care, Inc., who began her career 25 years ago as a caregiver working in skilled facilities and home care agencies in San Diego caring for seniors.

After working for several agencies, she realized that the competitive nature of the market had made it more difficult for seniors to find a suitable caregiver. In 2001, she opened A

Better Solution, Inc., providing agencies with carefully chosen and screened caregivers to help them provide a better quality



## **BAJA** • Adventurer from El Cajon called first stretch of his journey 'Navy SEAL Hell Week'

FROM **B1** 

months and 18 days later, he completed his trek by reaching the Cabo San Lucas police station. He was joined in Cabo by two of his three daughters and grandchildren.

Younghusband's two dogs already were in San Diego, sent back early in the trip. But Don-Kay survived the trail, as did Solo, a stray dog who joined the man and his burro on the fourth day of the trip.

Each night, Solo dug a hole in front of Younghusband's tent and protected him. She often chased coyotes from the camp.

The adventure was not without incidents.

Younghusband struggled out of the gate. He called the first stretch "Navy SEAL Hell Week" as his 3-year-old donkey and pet dogs kept wanting to turn around. He fractured his right elbow three days into the trek and had to work one-handed for weeks as it healed. One night he camped in the mountains below Tecate and felt the ground shake. He was at the epicenter of an earthquake.

Another time he ran out of water in one of Baja's more remote regions and was forced to activate his emergency beacon. Later, he was robbed of his pesos, the equivalent of about \$600, by

a Mexican citizen who was hiding from police.

It all came with invaluable life lessons for a former El Cajon policeman.

"I learned a lot of things about myself," Younghusband said. "One little saying that I picked up along the way is that fear is the destroyer of dreams. You will never realize your dreams if you have fear."

Younghusband developed a love for Baja when he visited it as a youth, and maintained a powerful drive to return

After reading all four of Lemon Grove resident Graham Mackintosh's adventure books about Baja, including one that detailed Mackintosh's journey from Tecate to Loreto with a burro, Younghusband decided to hike the length of Baja with his own burro.

Mackintosh served as a consultant before the trip and visited Younghusband a couple of times during

"I watched it grow, and I knew he was committed, do or die, really," Mackintosh said.

There were many contrasts between Mackintosh's adventure in the early 1980s and the late 1990s and what Younghusband encountered on his trip.

The biggest difference was the Internet and how

web visitors followed Younghusband through daily updates from his GPS device and posts from Americans living in Baja along his route. One member on bajanomad.com updated a map daily and showed where Younghusband was at all times.

Younghusband lost 43 pounds, most of it in the first two months.

He took more than 2,700 photos with his digital cam-

Most of the equipment he took wore out. His tent's zippers broke, and he fought bugs after that. One of his boots blew out a seam, and he developed a blister before repairing it.

He learned to lighten his load. By the time he was done, he had only essentials. Along the way he stopped at caches of food, water and whiskey he planted before the trip. Most had been torn up by coyotes.

"The water and whiskey are all that they didn't get," he said.

As Younghusband reflects on his trip, he already is planning a return to Baja.

"I'm proud of myself for staying so focused for so long," Younghusband said. "I really didn't want it to end."

ed.zieralski@uniontrib.com (619) 293-1225

### MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTACK ON CANDIDATE

WENDY FRY . U-T

IMPERIAL BEACH

A man accused of attacking a Sweetwater Union High school board candidate at a Jack in the Box on Oct. 24 pleaded guilty Wednesday to a felony charge of battery with serious bodily injury.

Andrew Fisak, 26, faces up to four years in state prison. He is scheduled to be sentenced at 1:30 p.m. on June 6 by South Bay Superior Court Judge Kathleen Lewis.

Andrew Valencia, who was running for a seat on the school board at the time, told sheriff's deputies he was jumped by two men about 1:30 a.m. at the restaurant at 890 Palm Ave. in Imperial Beach.

Fisak told authorities he hit Valencia after hearing some offensive words from him.

Valencia's mouth was badly gashed and several teeth were broken during the assault.

Video surveillance of the altercation indicated a verbal dispute occurred before the attack, according to a lieutenant with the Sheriff's Department who saw the footage.

wendy.fry@uniontrib.com

### HABITAT

# Jacob to meet with fire victim in question

FROM B1

seph LaRussa, chairman of the board of directors, also could not be reached for comment because he was traveling.

In a statement provided by a spokeswoman for the organization, LaRussa said, "San Diego Habitat for Humanity is ready to cooperate fully with Jacob's office and will provide any information they request."

Jacob said she planned to reach out to and meet with the fire victim in question, Bates and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis in the coming days. Steve Walker, spokesman for the District Attorney's Office, said it takes requests from elected officials "very seriously."

"Any time a county supervisor raises a red flag, the office is glad to speak with them and find out whether there is any merit to opening an investigation," Walker said.

Jacob said listening to the allegations sounded a bit like déjà vu, referring to the scandals over the last decade. The Red Cross raised nearly \$400,000 from residents moved by images of the 2001 Alpine fire, but spent only about \$6,000 to help fire victims. Officials then tried to sanitize the internal audit that validated the victims' claims.

In 2007, Jacob asked the County Counsel's Office to review an investigation into Episcopal Community Services after prosecutors declined to file criminal charges, largely because the organization eventually paid its debts and didn't attempt to keep money meant for the poor.

## **CLEARING THE AIR**



Ami Barnes holds Vivian as Rancho Santa Fe Battalion Chief Bret Davidson applies one of the respirator kits donated Thursday by the Helen Woodward Animal Center to 12 fire rescue crews in North County. The kits are used by animals suffering from smoke inhalation. CHARLIE NEUMAN • U-T

I FIRE PITS. To save heach icons city aims for partnership

## RANCHPROFILE

Do you know of a Ranch resident or organization that would make an interesting Ranch Profile? E-mail suggestions to editor@coastnewsgroup.com and use Ranch Profile as the subject.

## Getting to know emergency dispatch's unsung heroes



1986. Photos by Patty McCormac



DECADES OF SERVICE Mike Parkinson has been on the job since KEY COMMUNICATOR Charlie Knust, communications manager, keeps the system running smoothly.



SOLVING PROBLEMS Jennifer Marasco, a natural problem solver, finds her job fulfilling.

By Patty McCormac

time unsung heroes are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a radio, helping people. week, to help people on the worst day of their lives and to make V just about anything that could go wrong with a person."

sure that that help is on the way.

They are the public safety telecommunicators who staff emergency dispatch centers around the world and right here in Rancho Santa Fe. Named the North County Joint Powers Agency, NorthCom for short, it handles emergency calls for Rancho Santa Fe, Solana Beach, Encinitas, Del Mar, Oceanside, Carlsbad, San Marcos, Vista, Elfin Forest and the Rancho Santa Fe Patrol.

The dispatch center is located above the fire department on El Fuego behind R. Roger Rowe School.

person," said dispatcher Mike Parkinson, who has been on the when you help somebody."

responders are honored with their own week.

Locally there is an open house and luncheon with represen- love it." tatives from the cities they serve. Low key to be sure, but these

special people are not out for a big, public pat on the back. They RANCHO SANTA FE - They are rarely seen, but these oft- would rather remain in the background, being the voice on the

As can be imagined, this job is not for just anyone. It takes a special type of person to be able to do it

day in and day out, according to Jeff Logan, operations supervisor. "This job takes a lot of time and a lot

of time away from family," he said. But, for those who can do it, the job is

rewarding.

"I love it," said Kasey Willingham, who has been on the job since November. "It's the kind of job where I feel I help people and make a difference.

Jennifer Marasco, a six-year veteran, - Mike Parkinson said she likes dealing with the public.

ger Rowe School.

DISPATCHER

"I like dealing with problems and we handle just about anything that could go wrong with a being able to provide a service," she said. "It's a fulfilling job DISPATCHER

For Melinda Valentini, a nine-year veteran and shift supervi-Each year during the second week of April, these very first sor, it is the variety of problems with which she deals in a day. Every day is different, she said. "There is nothing typical. I

Still, most dispatchers have a certain type of call that affects

them more than the others. It usually involves children, either as the victim or a child who is on the phone because a parent is hurt or injured, Logan said.

Child drownings are difficult for everyone.

He said each person is aware of their trigger calls and deals with them afterward either by talking to their peers or a coun-

Logan had one call from a foster mother trying to talk down her foster child who was having an extremely bad day. Logan didn't realize until later how much the call had affect-

ed him, because he had a childhood that brought him very close to being placed into the system.

Hard on everyone was the Witch Creek Fire, which burned parts of Rancho Santa Fe and in just about every part of NorthCom's jurisdiction.

Everyone came in and stayed on helping direct emergency operations until the worst was over

"We could see the fire out of the windows," Logan said. "We were able to stay because this is a shelter in place building and we had (fire trucks) here to protect us."

Some of the dispatchers' own neighborhoods were being evacuated, but they stayed.

"They wanted to stay," Logan said.

When NorthCom officials go looking for dispatchers, they

TURN TO DISPATCH ON B9

## Will new tablets e-race the iPad 2?

By the Editors of Consumer Reports

After almost a year in which the Apple iPad has been virtually the only game in town, a new generation of tablets has arrived to take it

In Consumer Reports' latest tests of the 10 mostpromising tablet computers, the Apple iPad2 with Wi-Fi and 3G topped the Ratings. But the Motorola Xoom revealed itself as the iPad 2's chief rival primarily due to its feature set, including a 10inch display, and its operating system, designed for tablets.

CR tested various models from Apple, Archos, Dell, Motorola, Samsung and ViewSonic. Each tablet was evaluated on 17 criteria, including touch responsiveness, versatility, portability, glare and ease of use. Testers found several models that outperformed the rest. The Apple iPad2 with Wi-Fi plus 3G (32G), \$730, topped the Ratings, scoring Excellent in nearly every category. The first generation iPad, \$580, also outscored many of the other models tested but tied with the Motorola Xoom, \$800.

The largest gap in performance among the 10-tested models was evident in CR's battery life test. Each model's battery life was measured by playing the same video clip continually on each tablet and timing how long it played until the battery ran down. The top-scoring iPad2 lasted 12.2 hours, but the lowestrated, the Archos 70 Internet Tablet, \$270, lasted just 3.8.

Before choosing a tablet, CR recommends considering the following:

- Many features are almost universal. Easy-to-use touch screens based on capacitive technology are now widely available. All the models tested feature Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity, a front-facing webcam and GPS capability. Android-based models can be expanded using built-in USB ports or slots for SD flash-memory cards, but the iPad 2 lacks

 You get what you pay for. Competition still hasn't lowered prices. Still, Apple, long known in the computer market for charging more than competitors, has

TURN TO CONSUMER ON B14

Wine and jazz are true soulmates. They are joined at the hip, are twin heaven-sent creations, and both make people very happy. It's always a friendly debate as to which wines are best, but when it comes to jazz, I know of no other venue that

Winery in Temecula. The jazz greats who play at Thornton make sure it is on their schedules every year. Most have received their big break at Thornton.

does it better than Thornton

Champagne Jazz originated 23 years ago when owner John Thornton was looking for something that would keep wine customers coming back the same time draw the magical fusion of the two attractions. John and his son Steve, who operates the winery and restaurant, have provided 21 total wine, food and jazz concerts this year, in an intimate, personal, garden patio environment.

The first concert begins at 4 p.m. May 1 with Spanish and jazz flamenco guitarist Jesse Cooke. Mindi Abair and Bobby Caldwell follow at 7 p.m. than these two; sort of like a Thornton



**Taste of Wine** 

lowed by an Estate Bottled Syrah. Mindi has broken open new jazz trends with a pop music path. She blows a mean sax and sings with a refreshingly unique crossover voice that's brought her stardom. Bobby has this smooth Sinatra-like style, sprinkled with R&B and big band. Like fine wine, he gets better with age.

bill include Boney music lovers in He realized Dave Koz, George Benson, Chris Botti and many more throughout the summer and on to Oct. 15. For the complete list and pricing, visit thorntonwine.com or talk to Tonya Wake, the brilliant events manager, now in her 17th year of managing the concerts. Call (951) 699-0099 for details.

#### Witch Creek, an urban cellar by the Sea

I really enjoy a winemaker May 7. You could not choose a with a gleam in his eye as he more exciting 1-2 combination proudly pours his latest release, knowing he or she has hit it so California right this time. Sitting across

Ryan Baker at Witch Creek tions are high for this Italian Winery, on the Coast Highway in Carlsbad with the ocean air off-shore, was a vintage raspberry fruit to show itself in moment in time.

out as one of the four most any better than that." interesting winemakers in Southern California. Baker California to learn how to make wine. After studying at UC Davis and working in Sonoma, made to commit to the Italian Other top music stylists on and Clarksburg in Northern 2119. California. A wine menu from Nebbiolo, Barbera, Sangiovese, Brunello, Primitivo, Teroldego, Montepulciano and Aglianico take their place alongside the more familiar Syrah, Zinfandel and Merlot.

The cork popped on a bottle with no label and Baker had the just-bottled 2009 100 percent Montepulciano. The '08 was a winner with club members and in the tasting room at ful fruit and had a wine baby'sbreath, but 2009 had been a Champagne Brut Reserve, fol- the table from winemaker really good year and expecta-

varietal.

"I am allowing the spicy nent in time. the taste," he said. "We'll do Last year I pointed him 116 cases. I don't think it gets

I thought so too ... until we got to his 2009 Sangiovese. It's grew up in nearby Olivenhain all good at Witch Creek. Look but had to go to Northern it up at witchcreekwinery.com.

#### Wine Bytes

- North County Wine he settled at Witch Creek in Company continues their 2005. Decisions were then Friday fun April 22 from 4 to 8 p.m. with seven wines for \$10, style of winemaking with most from new Chardonnays to grapes coming from the Italian Brunellos. For more Guadalupe Valley of Mexico information, call (760) 744-Belle Marie Winery in

Witch Creek reads like an Escondido is planning a Italian map. Names like Winemakers Dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. April 22. It's a five-course dinner paired with their wines, with the use of spice blends. The cost is \$89 per person. Call (760) 796-7557 for details. San Diego Wine

Company on Miramar Road has a Blind Wine Tasting from me smell the bouquet and taste 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 23 for \$10. For more information, call (858) 586-WINE.

- DAOU Vineyards and Winery is featured at FLAVOR \$21. It was showing the youth- Restaurant in the Del Mar Plaza on April 26. Reception at

TURN TO TASTE OF WINE ON B14

LOCAL REAL ESTATE LISTINGS PHOTO PAGES & FEATURES SECTION B

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Volume 30 Number 31

Providing The Ranch with Three Decades of Quality Journalism

**April 14, 2011** 

### RSF covenant residents can now submit petitions to start utility **indergrounding process**

Y JOE TASH **ONTRIBUTOR** 

Residents of the Rancho Santa Fe covenant willing to asess themselves to pay for undergrounding utility lines on or ear their property now have a legal mechanism to move

The Rancho Santa Fe Association board April 7 unaninously approved language for petitions that can be submited by covenant property owners to start the underground-1g process.

Association staff will now contact property owners who ndicated following a 2010 public hearing that they are willng to serve as "district captains" to work with their neighors on beginning the undergrounding process.

The Association has mapped out 39 potential assessnent districts, containing an average of 48 properties apiece, hat could be set up to fund utility undergrounding projects.

Initially, the Association will work with residents in five prospective assessment districts as a pilot project to establish he process, said RSF Association Manager Pete Smith.

The district captains will contact their neighbors and letermine if they are interested in moving forward, Smith aid. "These are people who have been very enthusiastic

See UTILITY, page 30

### **RSF** Patrol expected to move to permanent home soon

The Rancho Santa Fe Patrol is expected to move into its new, permanent home in the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protecion District building on El Fuego as soon as June 1.

Association officials have been working on finding a permanent home for the patrol for the past four years, said

The Association will lease space made available when he fire protection district purchased office space in the Cieo Village commercial center. The fire district moved its adninistrative offices to the new location, but will maintain ts fire station and dispatch center on El Fuego.

The Association is still working out the final details of he 30-year lease, which will include 15 parking spaces on roperty owned by the Rancho Santa Fe School

The patrol office will include work stations for the Sherff's Department and California Highway Patrol, said Smith, consolidating law enforcement and safety services for Ranho Santa Fe in one location.

"It's a significant positive all-around for everyone," mith said. — Joe Tash



SCIENCE DISCOVERY DAY — The 19th annual Science Discovery Day was held April 8 at the R. Roger Rowe School. The event was hosted by the RSF Education Foundation and this year was sponsored by Frank Financial Services. Seventh grader Beau Botkiss pets Chip, the chinchilla, held by Arianna from the Wildlife Learning Center. See more on page 25. Photo/Jon Clark

### School facility still safe, officials say, after inspector's felony conviction revealed

**BY JOE TASH** CONTRIBUTOR

The Rancho Santa Fe School District's newly renovated R. Roger Rowe campus is safe and well-built, in spite of revelations this week that one of the project's inspectors had been convicted of a felony in a 20-year-old construction safety case, the district's superintendent said.

California Watch, a project of the nonprofit Center for Investigative Reporting, published an article over the weekend which revealed that Richard Vale, who was hired by the school district to inspect work on its \$38 million campus renovation project, had pleaded no contest to a charge of conspiracy to obstruct jus-

The charge stemmed from allegations that Vale had signed off on faulty seismic anchors, used to protect buildings from earthquake damage, that were installed by the owner of a Los Angeles-area construction company in the early 1990s, according to court documents.

Rancho Santa Fe School District Superintendent Lindy Delaney said she learned of Vale's history through the California Watch report. Vale was hired in 2009 and worked on the Rancho Santa Fe School project throughout its construction. The California Division of the State Architect, or DSA, signed off on Vale's hiring by the district through a construction inspecting firm.

Delaney said Vale was one of several on-site con-See SCHOOL, page 30

### Submit your 'Favorite Garden' photos in the Review's monthly online contest

Rancho Santa Fe Review is offering its loyal readers a chance to win great prizes by entering the monthly online photo contest. The theme for April is "My Favorite Garden," sponsored by Black Mountain Pool and Spa Service. Go to ranchosantafereview.com/contests and upload your photo. Uploading your photo is easy, just follow the on-screen instructions and you will be done within minutes. This month's prize is a \$150 gift card. The winners will be chosen based on 45 percent photo views and 55 percent editorial judgment.

### **RSF** Association board election voter registration deadline is April 28

New Association members have until 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, to register to vote in the upcoming election of Association board members.

Ann Boon, Ann Mercer and Larry Spitcaufsky are the candidates who are seeking the two seats being vacated by outgoing board members Tom Lang and Deb Plummer.

The Association's Annual Meeting will be held on May 12 at the RSF Garden Club and candidate election ballots will be mailed out to all registered Association members that day. Ballots must be returned to the RSF Association offices by June 13 at 5 p.m., according to RSF Association Manager Pete Smith. - Joe Tash

### **RSF** Association member survey to be released

Results from the Association's survey of members on long-term planning issues will be released at the Association board's April 21 meeting. The survey is conducted every 10 years to determine which issues are most important to Association members. This year's survey contained questions on a number of issues, from utility undergrounding, to open space, to Internet access and electronic communications with members, said RSF Association Manager Pete Smith.

This year, some 47 percent of households responded to the survey, compared to just over 50 percent in 2001, Smith said. - Joe Tash





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## RSF student Mark Villalba receives Distinguished Scholarships at SMU

RSF resident Mark Villalba, an 18-year-old senior at Santa Fe Christian High School, will be attending Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, this fall.

Mark was awarded the SMU Distinguished Scholar Merit Scholarship as well as the Engineering Fellows Scholarship to attend. He will be a student at the Lyle School of Engineering at SMU and will be a member of SMU's Centennial Class of 2015.

During his years at Santa Fe Christian, Mark played varsity soccer and participated in a mission trip to France. He has also been active with his church, Horizon Christian Fellowship in Rancho Santa Fe, and plays competitive ten-



Mark Villalba

## TPHS Foundation Rummage Sale is April 30

The annual Torrey Pines High School Foundation Rummage Sale, sponsored by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage of Carmel Valley, is this Saturday, April 30, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Items for sale include furniture, antiques, children's items, clothing, tools, books, art, lamps, sporting goods, jewelry and much more. Please help our local high school's deserving students. All proceeds benefit TPHS students. For the first time this year, a delicious Pancake Breakfast will be offered as well.

Coldwell Banker will be providing a document shredding drop off in the front of the school from 9: a.m. to noon. Limit three standard (12x15") storage boxes. Donations are appreciated.

The Rummage Sale will take place in the back parking lot of Torrey Pines High School, 3710 Del Mar Heights Road, San Diego, CA 92130. For more information call 858-793-3551.



The Helen Woodward Animal Center (HWAC) recently donated animal respirator kits to a dozen fire rescue crews serving coastal North County. Each of the crew received a kit with respirator masks designed to fit small, medium, and large pets. Photos/Trisha St. George - Helen Woodward Animal Center

### Woodward Center donates life-saving masks for animal fire victims

"Mouth-to-snout" resuscitation has been the only hope for animals suffering smoke inhalation...until now. The Helen Woodward Animal Center (HWAC) recently donated animal respirator kits to a dozen fire rescue crews serving coastal North County. Each of the crew received a kit with respirator masks designed to fit small, medium, and large pets.

"We saw a report about a dog in Long Beach that had been trapped in a burning building," says HWAC spokesman John Van Zante. "The firefighters attached a pet respirator mask to their oxygen tank and administered treatment right there at the fire scene, saving the dog's life." Van Zante says that the news report touched the heart of HWAC Sponsorship Manager Nedra Abramson so much that she investigated whether the masks were being used in San Diego County. "Nedra learned that most of the fire department officials she spoke with had pets at home, but she couldn't find one single fire crew in the county that had a pet respirator kit." "Helen Woodward Animal Center is in the business of saving lives," says HWAC President Mike Arms. Eighty percent of the pets adopted from the Center are transferred from shelters and rescue groups that are overcrowded, can't afford to keep them, or have just run out of time. Providing these kits for the firefighters is an extension of the work that we're already doing."

For more information about Helen Woodward Animal Center call 858-756-4117, log on to www.animalcenter.org, or visit the Center at 6461 El Apajo Road in Rancho Santa Fe.



