



## SHORT TAKES: NORTH EDITION

# Fire chief announces he will retire in October

Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 12:04 a.m.

RANCHO SANTA FE — After nearly 35 years in the fire service, Fire Chief Nicholas “Nick” Pavone announced this week that he will retire in October from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District.

The fire district operates out of four, full-time fire stations and serves the communities within and surrounding Rancho Santa Fe and 4S Ranch.

“I am very grateful for the opportunities that I have been afforded during my tenure here at Rancho Santa Fe,” Pavone said in an e-mail to staff members. “We are so fortunate to work in an organization and community that appreciates its employees for their commitment and dedication.”

Pavone began his career in 1975 as a volunteer with the Pismo Beach Fire Department and joined the fire district in 1979. After moving up through the ranks, he succeeded retiring fire Chief Erwin Willis in 2005.

Pavone said he is looking forward to spending more time with his family, especially his grandchildren. The board of directors will begin the process of selecting a new fire chief this summer.

Formed in 1946, the district spans 42 square miles and serves more than 29,000 citizens.

*TANYA MANNES*

## Julian festival offers fun and European flavor

JULIAN — Beer, bratwursts and a celebration of spring will happen this weekend in Julian as the Julian Lions Club hosts the Julian May Fest in the Rabobank parking lot on Main Street.

An oompah band, food, beer, face-painting and balloons will be part of the festivities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Organizers say the celebration, complete with Austrian oompah music, will turn the historic gold mining town into a European hamlet for a couple days.

*J. HARRY JONES*

## Renovated fire station to hold an open house

VISTA — A grand opening will be held Saturday in Vista for the newly renovated Fire Station No. 1, which serves the west side of the city.

The event will be from 10 a.m. to noon at the station, 175 N. Melrose Drive.

Residents can meet the firefighters and check out the fire fighting apparatus. There will be face-painting for children.

The 13,700-square-foot building has been closed since April 2009 for the \$3.9 million construction project.

Early last year, Vista opened two new stations, No. 5 and 6.

All the fire station improvements were funded through revenue provided by Proposition L, a half-cent sales tax increase Vista voters approved in November 2006.

For more information, call (760) 726-1340, ext. 1419, or go to [cityofvista.com](http://cityofvista.com).

*TANYA MANNES*

**Find this article at:**

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/may/13/fire-chief-announces-he-will-retire-october>

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# Gulf oil spill has ripples in California

By Wehtahnah Tucker

ENCINITAS — As a new round of Congressional hearings into the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico opened Monday afternoon in Washington, D.C., local residents, environmental groups and activists are reeling from the impact of the recent debacle.

In response to the environmental disaster, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced two weeks ago that the spill off the coast of Louisiana had caused him to reconsider his support for the California drilling proposal.

"Whether his opposition to drilling is related to a specific project or not, we are very pleased the governor is currently opposing drilling," Stefanie Sekich-Quinn, campaign specialist for the Surfrider Foundation, said.

"Realizing oil spills have devastating economic and environmental impacts that are far-reaching is a good first step," she said. Sekich-Quinn explained

**"The spill in the Gulf is a stark reminder that drilling is risky business."**

— Marty Benson  
SURFRIDER MEMBER

that oil drilling can be a threat in California even if President Obama didn't list it in his plans last month. "There was a piece of legislation introduced in Sacramento this spring that would have opened California waters to new drilling."

When Surfrider Foundation found out about the legislation they held community forums around the state to raise awareness about the bill. During the middle of their "road show" tour, the bill was defeated in the Natural Resource Committee.

"Ironically, we were in Central California giving presentations on ways to stop the bill locally. We'd like to think our forums in Southern California helped make an impact on the vote," Sekich-Quinn said.

Despite the clean local shores, residents are keeping a close eye on developments in the Gulf and the spill's broader implications. "The spill in the Gulf is a stark reminder that drilling is risky business — in both

TURN TO SPILL ON 29



The Horizon Prep Mother's Day program is made even sweeter by the sounds of Natalie Christmore, left, and Ella Bloom, right.

## Horizon Prep hosts programs just for moms

RANCHO SANTA FE — The annual Horizon Prep Preschool-K Mother's Day Program, held this year on May 7, has become a family tradition. "We know of families who rearrange their schedule to make sure grandmas and aunts are in town for this day," said Horizon Prep Preschool/K Director Cathy Towner. "It makes for a very special start to Mother's Day weekend." The students honor their moms with songs, scriptures and poems. "They work hard to make this an extraordinary event," Towner said.



Horizon Prep preschooler Josh Praske performs his hands-in-his-pocket best at the Horizon Prep Mother's Day program.



It's straight to the top for preschooler Seunghyum Lee.

Courtesy photos



Mia Carpenter and Matthew Sajor take center stage.

## Firefighters help Ranch ready for future wildfires

RANCHO SANTA FE — Wildfires are a constant threat for those of us living in Southern California, especially in wildland-urban interface areas like Rancho Santa Fe and its surrounding communities. The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District employs a full-time hazard abatement inspector. This inspector surveys properties for fire hazards and mails violation notices to property owners not in compliance with District Ordinance

2008-01, which can be found at [www.rsf-fire.org](http://www.rsf-fire.org).

During May and June, residents within the RSFFPD service area should receive a letter reminding them of the local hazard abatement requirements.

Here are some ways you can safeguard not only your home, but your entire community. These requirements can also be found in their entirety at [www.rsf-fire.org](http://www.rsf-fire.org).

— Create and maintain defensible space:

Defensible space is a term used to describe a 100-foot "buffer zone" around all structures on your property and 30-foot zone along either side of roadways and driveways in which dead and dying vegetation is removed and excess growth is thinned. Defensible space will not only give firefighters a safe place to make a stand against threatening flames, but it has been proven to save homes and minimize property damage.

Defensible space can be created by removing combustible vegetation and flammable materials and replanting with drought-tolerant, fire resistant trees, shrubs and plants. Keep vegetation well-maintained and remove any dead foliage throughout the year. Weeds and grasses must be cut below six-inches in height. Trees and native vegetation should not come into

TURN TO FIRE ON 29

# Golf Club to build bar for everyone

By Patty McCormac

RANCHO SANTA FE — In what seems like a throwback to when women were struggling for equal rights, a new bar in the Veranda Room that would serve both genders is on the drawing board.

As a result, the men-only Vaquero Lounge Bar in the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club will be closed and used only for special events.

Steve Nordstrom, the general manager of the club, approached the Association at its May 6 meeting for \$75,000 to design, build and outfit the proposed Player Clubhouse Veranda Room Bar.

This expense has been approved by the Golf Club board of governors in the 2010-2011 budget, but they want to start the project immediately, Nordstrom said.

He told the board that the original design of the Veranda Room included a bar, which was to serve both men and women.

As the design evolved, it was decided that a permanent bar was unnecessary for the amount of use it would see and a portable bar was installed in its place.

This left the Vaquero Bar in the men's locker room as the only permanent bar in the clubhouse.

Soon after the Players Clubhouse opened, the club determined that the existence of the Vaquero Bar, which served only male members, was unfair to the female members of the club. Subsequently, the board of governors opened the Vaquero Lounge to all members when the Vaquero Lounge Bar was open for service.

"This arrangement proved to be uncomfortable to both genders," Nordstrom said.

The board realized another solution should be pursued.

So, they decided to build a bar in the Veranda Room for everyone.

"Here you have a fabulous bar (that will be closed)," Association Director Tim Sullivan said. "What a colossal waste of money."

Nordstrom acknowledged that the situation is awkward.

"It's not good business," he said. "It's a political decision."

"We'll just have to bite the bullet, pay the cost and do whatever is necessary to fix it," Director Tom Lang said.

The original course was built in 1927 by Max Behr and was the original site of the Bing Crosby Pro-Am tournament. It is owned by the Association and has been operated by a board of governors since 1987.

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**TREE**  
CONTINUED FROM 13

homeowners who have questions about the action of the power company.

Smith said the Association will also produce a brochure for the homeowner.

"It will tell them what they can do and what they can't do," Smith said.

Beckman said that a representative from the Association will be meeting regularly with the power company.

"We will be vigilant and stay on top of this," he said.

At the March 18 meeting, Beckman said that SDG&E has been particularly aggressive against the eucalyptus, the signature tree of the community.

He said he believes the reason for the aggressive approach is because SDG&E's power lines were blamed for the massive 2007 Witch Creek Fire and they don't want to be liable for damages in the future.

At the time, Michael Daleo of SDG&E defended their tree cutting, saying the decisions on which trees to remove is not "arbitrary or capricious," and that every tree is considered on a case-by-case basis.

He said the process includes pre-inspections and reports by arborists and foresters and that the company maintains a database that tracks the condition of approximately 400,000 trees within its service territory throughout San Diego County.

He said if his company knowingly walked by a tree in question and it fell, causing a disaster, SDG&E would be responsible.

**SPILL**  
CONTINUED FROM 12

the ecological and economic sense," Marty Benson, local Surfrider member and attorney said. "Ironically, our governor proposed in the 2010 budget that state parks would be funded by revenues from offshore drilling," he said. "I support funding parks but not offshore drilling, so that puts a lot of people in a difficult position."

Benson, who is from South Carolina, recently spoke in Wilmington, N.C., at a hearing about offshore drilling. "My specific ask is that we reduce our transportation infrastructure and Department of Defense spending and put it into education and health care, creating a more holistic approach to the issue," he said. "From one perspective it was advan-

tageous that the spill happened while these hearings were going on."

The economics of the devastation are also an issue on local people's minds. "The fishing and tourism industry for that part of the Gulf will take decades to recover. The ecological damage is incalculable at this point. I only hope they get it under control soon so the region doesn't suffer any more environmental and economic damage," Sekich-Quinn said. "Ecological stability and economic stability are the same thing," Benson said.

Decreasing the expanding roadway infrastructure while increasing the public transit system is one way to alleviate the overconsumption of oil. "From a policy perspective, we just need to engage in a little bit of tough love," Benson said.

Marsha Lindsey, an

Encinitas resident and artist originally from the South, is worried about the long-term consequences of the Gulf spill. "This spill could have an impact on everyone," she said.

"I'm so thankful that our own coastline is so clean comparatively," she said. Lindsey is hoping to drum up support for a hair drive to make so-called "hair-booms" that would provide a bio-friendly solution to clean up efforts. "There are a lot of alternatives to dumping chemicals in the ocean to clean up the spill," she said.

Lindsey called the spill one of the greatest environmental disasters in the country's history but one that hasn't received much mainstream media attention. "This impacts us all and I'm just not hearing enough information about it except for the blame game side," she said.

**FIRE**  
CONTINUED FROM 12

direct contact with structures or parts thereof. Foliage must be trimmed 10 feet from rooftops, chimneys, and outdoor barbecues.

Mature trees must be pruned back at least four to six feet from structures and branches trimmed six feet off the ground.

— Roofs and rooftops: Most homes with wood-shake roofs do not survive wildfires. During a fire storm, these homes burn from the outside-in. If you have a wood roof, there is no more time to delay; retro-fit your home with a roof made from noncombustible materials. Many such roofing materials are now made to look like wood-shake so homeowners experience the aesthetic qualities they desire while making their home a defensible one.

For all homeowners, a noncombustible roof can become a combustible roof quite easily if leaf litter and debris accumulate on your roof. To safeguard your roof, regularly maintain your roof

and rain gutters free from any debris.

— Roadways and driveways: Keep roadways and driveways clear from overhanging vegetation, which may hinder both evacuation efforts and access of incoming fire engines. From the edge of driveways and roadways, measure 13 feet, 6 inches straight up from the ground. Any overhanging bushes or branches in this area must be pruned back or removed to create vertical tree clearance.

— Other important items: Trim combustible vegetation 10 feet away from propane tanks, and keep wood piles at least 30 feet away from any structure on your property. Stack and store firewood 30 feet from all structures. All flammable vegetation and combustible

materials must be cleared or removed within 30 feet of firewood stacks. Maintain a visible address. Whether it's a wildfire or an everyday emergency, firefighters need to be able to read your address. Your numerical address should be visible from the street, with numerals at least 4 inches in height, mounted on a contrasting background.

If you own a private gate, it must be equipped with an approved fire district gate access switch and/or strobe sensor to allow firefighters to access your property during emergencies.

Additionally, during wildfires, many firefighters arrive from out of the area and won't be able to access your gated property.

During a wildfire, dis-

connect the manual override motor on your electric gate, or if you have a manual gate, leave the gate open. Otherwise, firefighters may have to use blunt force on your gate, causing significant damage.

If you have questions regarding vegetation management, contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (858) 756-5971.

More wildfire prevention tips are available at [www.rsfire.org](http://www.rsfire.org).

**PET OF THE WEEK**



Shilo is a 3-year-old, spayed, female shepherd/Labrador retriever blend. Shilo thrives on challenging activities and exercise. She plays well with other dogs, but not cats. Adopt Shilo from Helen Woodward Animal Center for \$195.

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

Helen Woodward Animal Center kennels are open every day from

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Applications accepted until 5:45 p.m. at 6461 El Apajo Road in Rancho Santa Fe.

For more information call (858) 756-4117, option No. 1 or log on to [www.animalcenter.org](http://www.animalcenter.org).

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**SMOKING**  
CONTINUED FROM 10

lungs," Roberts said. "They ought to have that right. It doesn't have to involve the city at all."

Solana Beach banned smoking in its indoor restaurants years ago and was the first city in the continental United States to prohibit smoking on its beaches. Last summer new laws were enacted that prohibit smoking in all indoor and outdoor dining areas and bars, elevators, public transportation, theaters, museums, galleries, farmers markets, public arenas, child care and sports facilities, and within 20 feet of all entryways.

"Basically anywhere that the general public could be for their daily lives ... we have enacted a ban to help their health," City Attorney Johanna Canlas said.

Each year the American Lung Association grades California cities on their smoking ordinances. Solana Beach went from an F in

2008 to a B in 2009, primarily because of the recent new laws. It was one of only 15 jurisdictions to receive a B. Only four cities in the state earned an A.

Kathleen Sullivan of the American Lung Association said a main goal of the report card is to push for change. She also said limiting the effects of secondhand smoke should not be the responsibility of non-smokers.

"The onus should not be on the people who breathe the air but on the people who pollute it," she said.

With limited funds and staff time, it will likely be a while before any changes are made to the current ordinance, but council members agreed to address the measures during their work-plan discussion. Most had issues with many details of the proposed new laws.

"I think it's worthy of discussion but I think we need to move very carefully and cautiously ... and get a lot of input," Mayor Tom Campbell said.



## Fire out near Del Dios

By [Karen Kucher](#), UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Originally published May 24, 2010 at 10:32 a.m., updated May 24, 2010 at 10:40 a.m.

NORTH COUNTY — Firefighters quickly contained a small brush fire north of Lake Hodges Monday morning that briefly threatening one home, a fire dispatcher said.

The blaze was reported at 9:44 a.m. near Ash Lane and Lake Drive in the Del Dios area.

Firefighters from Rancho Santa Fe, Escondido and Cal Fire were able to get the fire contained by 10:12 a.m.

Initial reports put the blaze at around a half-acre.

**Find this article at:**

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/may/24/brush-fire-del-dios-area>

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The North County Times - Californian

## ESCONDIDO: Del Dios brush fire held to 1/2 acre

**SARAH GORDON - [sgordon@nctimes.com](mailto:sgordon@nctimes.com) | Posted: Monday, May 24, 2010 10:04 am**

ESCONDIDO ---- Firefighters held a Monday morning brush fire in the Del Dios area to about 1/2 acre, according to emergency dispatchers.

The fire broke out about 9:50 a.m. on the east side of Lake Hodges, near Lake Drive and Ash Lane, and briefly threatened a home, a NorthComm dispatcher said. Firefighters surrounded the blaze within about 20 minutes, the dispatcher said.

Water-dropping aircraft were initially requested, but they were not needed and the request was canceled, the dispatcher said.

The fire's cause was under investigation Monday.

# 10News.com

## Crews Extinguish 1-Acre Del Dios Fire

POSTED: 10:04 am PDT May 24, 2010

UPDATED: 10:43 am PDT May 24, 2010

**SAN DIEGO** -- Fire crews responded to a one-acre fire in Del Dios Monday that threatened one structure.

Air support was called to help extinguish the blaze at Lake Drive and Ash Lane.

Fire personnel were clearing brush and hosing down the blackened patch where the fire burned by about 10:40 a.m., as visible by Sky10.

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