

Casino Night Raises More Than \$50,000

Del Sur Educational Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising additional funds for Del Sur Elementary School, raised more than \$50,000 recently during its second annual "Night at the Ranch" fundraiser.

More than 225 attended the March event at the Del Sur Ranch House. The Platinum LEED-rated building was transformed into Casino Del Sur, featuring gaming, entertainment and a live and silent auction.

"As parents and community members, we're thrilled to help support Del Sur Elementary's needs, especially with an event that is so much fun to attend," said event chair Pete Kunowski. "Last year's inaugural event raised \$21,000 in one night, and this year we more than doubled that."

Proceeds from Casino Night will go toward technology upgrades, science, art, music programs and other support at Del Sur Elementary School, Kunowski said.

A highlight of the event this year was the "Date With a Teacher" auction, where student-teacher excursions like surfing and Padres game tickets went to the highest bidder. As a new fundraising tactic, each Del Sur Elementary classroom contributed an auction item crafted by students. Also new



this year was the "fund a need" auction, in which money was donated directly to the school.

Tickets started at \$35, with options to buy advanced ticket packages, reserve gaming tables, and more. To alleviate babysitting needs, "Kids Night Out" was available at Del Sur Elementary during the event. Sponsored by Del Sur homebuilder California West Communities and run by the school's Extended Student Services staff, more than 105 children were entertained while parents attended the event.

The Foundation's annual "Night at the Ranch" event is sponsored in part by Black Mountain Ranch, LLC, and the Del Sur homebuilders. For more information on the neighborhoods at Del Sur, visit www.DelSurLiving.com.

Special thanks this year go to: One Hope Wine; Stone Brewery; Jon Martin from Showtec for lighting and sound; Jonathon Zupnick from On Corp Us, Inc., for RCA television donations for raffle and auction items; Bernadette Ramirez from JBR Solutions for the event's printing needs; and the auction committee.

For more information about the Foundation and its upcoming events, please visit its new website www.delsurfoundation.org.

Father/Daughter Tennis Team Wins

4S Ranch residents Kraig and Kylie Haviland recently competed in the USTA Father/Daughter National Indoor Tennis Tournament in Chicago -- winning four matches against other father/daughter teams from throughout the U.S. (and only losing once).



This was the fourth time the Havilands have played a national tournament, and their fifth place finish was a personal best. Kylie, a 16-year-old sophomore at Del Norte High School, was the highest placing high school competitor.

Firefighters Raise Funds for Burn Victims

Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District 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 when firefighters were at major intersections throughout the district -- including 4S Ranch. During the morning and afternoon commute, the firefighters collected monetary donations of any amount in empty fire boots from passersby.



"We look forward to this event every year," said Engineer Tim Wood, who coordinated RSFFPD's efforts this year. "It's a great chance for us to interact with members of the community and raise funds for a very important cause. It also creates a friendly competition among participating fire agencies to see who can raise the most money."

The Burn Institute is a non-profit agency dedicated to burn prevention and support for burn injury survivors and their families. For more information on the Boot Drive and the Burn Institute, visit www.burninstitute.org.

Stone Ranch Staff, Students Donate Hair

Students and staff at Stone Ranch Elementary School in 4S Ranch recently cut their hair to support those children who lost their locks due to medical conditions.

Fourth grade teacher Joy Esteban -- who has donated her hair five times -- organized the Stone Ranch Second Annual Locks for Love Celebration at the campus on March 9. Great Clips -- located in 4S Ranch Commons -- helped the effort by offering a free haircut to those who donated their hair.

Locks of Love is a non-profit group that has the mission to return a sense of self confidence and normalcy to children suffering from hair loss due to medical conditions. The organization accepts donations of hair in ponytails (longer than eight inches) and then creates wigs for children.

4S Resident Soars in Math Competition

Reid Nguyen, a 12-year-old 4S Ranch resident and 7th grade student at Black Mountain Academy, is invited to compete in the 2011 Raytheon MathCounts National Competition May 5-8.

One of 224 finalists from throughout the U.S., Nguyen received the all-expense-paid trip to the prestigious event by winning the San Diego County competition at UC San Diego -- then winning the state competition at UC Irvine with a perfect score.

Jo Anne Hudson, the student's math coach, played an instrumental role in guiding Nguyen.



Monterey Ridge Hosts Casino Royale

Monterey Ridge Educational Foundation hosts its first Casino Royale Foundation Fundraiser 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on May 14 at Bernardo Heights Country Club.

Beginning with a champagne reception, the evening will include entertainment, dancing, hor d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner, and a professionally decorated roulette cake. Those who want to try their luck at the casino tables will start off with \$100 worth of "play" chips and raffle prizes will be awarded for the lucky gamblers.

The highlight of the evening and the primary purpose of the event will be to fundraise for the school. Monterey Ridge Educational Foundation funds certified IMPACT teachers that work with all levels of students in order to maintain high levels of academic achievement. The foundation also funds disaster readiness supplies and other necessary equipment at the school that the budget simply doesn't allow for anymore. Attendees won't want to miss the opportunity to bid on and win amazing silent and live auction items.



Both the silent and live auctions will offer fabulous teacher time experiences, such as a trip to the San Diego Zoo with a kindergarten teacher, a Padres game with two 2nd grade teachers, and an afternoon out at the movies. The school will auction off a VIP parking space, VIP reserved seats for 5th grade promotion, and VIP seating for next year's Halloween parade. In addition, every class has handcrafted their own art project specific to their grade level. Other auction items available for bid include ComicCon and Disneyland passes, vacations in Mammoth and Nevada, a ladies night out to include dinner and tour of the Miramar fire station, and more.

Tickets are priced at \$50 per person. For more event details or to purchase tickets online please go to www.mresfoundation.org.

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Monterey Ridge Fun Run Nets \$13,000

The Monterey Ridge Elementary School PTA annual Fun Run in March netted \$13,000 for the organization, which will be used to support programs such as art, music and family nights.

Sponsors of the event included Moser Orthodontics, Sleep Data, Cheryl Giustiniano with Raymond James Financial Services Inc., Break Out Creative Co., Advanced Rehabilitation Technologies and 92127 Magazine.

Students ran a total of 4,812 laps as part of the event.



Oak Valley Named Distinguished School

Oak Valley Middle School in 4S Ranch was selected as a 2011 California Distinguished School, state officials announced in April.

Nearly 100 middle and high schools were selected across the state based on their test scores and their success in narrowing student achievement gaps.

Willow Grove Teacher Receives PUSD Honor

Three teachers -- including Julie Harris of Willow Grove Elementary School -- were named as Poway Unified School District's 2011-12 Teachers of the Year.

Harris has taught fourth grade at Willow Grove since 2008 but has been with the district since 1986.

The other recipients were Lisa Casey O'Brien of Poway High School and Jo Ann Cooper of Twin Peaks Middle School.

The three teachers will go on to compete against other teachers in the district in October as county officials select five San Diego County Teacher of the Year award recipients.

New Fire District Offices Open

Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District -- which provides fire and rescue services to 4S Ranch and other areas in 92127 -- now occupies new offices. The new location, just off Del Dios Highway at 18027 Calle Ambiente in Rancho Santa Fe, houses both administrative and fire prevention personnel.

Beginning March 29, customers seeking assistance with plan submissions, plan checks, car seat installations, accounts payable, and other administrative or prevention matters were required to go to the new office on Calle Ambiente.

"We were excited to make this move," said Fire Chief Tony Michel. "The new location allowed us to maintain a high level of service for our customers and accommodate the growing needs of our district. While we anticipated a smooth transition, we appreciated the community's understanding..."

Submit your "Community Stuff" announcements online at 92127magazine.com or email events@92127magazine.com. Some restrictions apply. Contact us for more information.

RSF Library Guild Fashion Show sizzles

The popular annual Rancho Santa Fe Library Guild Fashion Show dazzled again on April 27 at the RSF Garden Club. The fashions were presented by Lourdes Chavez and Edwards-Lowell of Beverly Hills. The event also included a presentation of Lilly Pulitzer's new line for children and adults. Photos/Jon Clark



Neysa Whiteman, Bibbi Herrmann



Harriet Baker, Melissa Brewster



Kimberly King, Judy Rowles, Kim Smart, Sophia Alsadek



Audrey Buchner, Rachel Douglass, Alex Johnson, Steph Walker, Pamela Dirkes, Jennifer Davis



Chris Galindo sells raffle tickets.



Designs by Lourdes Chavez



Fashion show committee members Mary Liu, Beth Nelson, Susan Appleby, Nora Kaiser, Maddie Pearson, Debbie Wilson, Suzanne Johnson



RSF Fire Chief Tony Michel



(Left) The Library Guild Fashion Show started with a few designs by Lilly Pulitzer fashions, worn here by Vivien U and her daughter.



Jeanne Lucia, Jean Newman



Designs by Lourdes Chavez



Front row: Gun Mabey, Mary Walker, Lorna Pannell; back row: Cheri Briccio, Robin Parker, Louarn Sorkin, Hope Hernandez

KENT
HORNER

Local Roots

Poisonous plants can be pretty

Some of my favorite plants are poisonous. With so many attractive qualities, many look and smell so intoxicating it is difficult to understand why they have evolved to be so deadly to humans.

The oleander shrub comes in many varieties. The petite Nerium oleander is a dwarf cultivar that comes in salmon, red or hot pink. Originally from Europe, this plant tolerates the heat of the desert and blooms almost six months of the year from May to October.

Not being a bush lover, mainly because of what happens to shrubs when pruned with the power shears, these small shrubs are colorful, low maintenance and easy to take care of. This plant is also deadly to anyone ingesting it. All parts are poisonous and one leaf is enough to cause death in an adult human. The oleander contains the toxic glycoside oleandrin. This chemical is considered a cardiac glycoside and is very similar to that found in digitalis.

There is much data on the oleander and man has known about its toxicity for centuries. It was even used against Napoleon to poison the food of his troops during one of their campaigns.

Brugmansia Aurea, or Angel Trumpet, is another poisonous plant. One of my favorites, this particular small shrub or tree can live quite a while. An easy identification of this plant can be made from the tell-tale hanging flowers or Angel Trumpets. These flowers do not have much of a fragrance during the day while trying to conserve moisture but look out early evening and into the night. This prolific plant exudes a fragrance so intoxicating, the fragrance can be detected 30 to 40 feet away in the cool of the evening.

Originating from South America, there are some cultivars of this plant that can tolerate the cold and others that need dry warmth to flourish. The Brugmansia is a direct descendant or relative to the Jimson weed and has the same psycho-tropic effects upon humans.

Jimson weed (or Datura stramonium) is an annual that produces a white bell shaped flower similar to the Brugmansia. Originating in Asia, this plant can be found in the open fields above Swami's from time to time as well as the open canyons along the coast. It was cultivated



Above, Colton Misel, Horizon Prep kindergartner, checking to make sure he's clear to burst ahead in the Spirit Run.

Top-right, Horizon Prep kindergartner Mitchel Lake had so much fun, he ran twice, once with the Pre-K students and again with the first-grade through eighth-grade students.

Bottom-right, Horizon Prep's eighth-graders, from left, Abby Hobbs, Kylie Morey and Faith Hillard are ready to hit the track at Spirit Run 2011.



OFF AND RUNNING

The Horizon Prep Lions laced up their tennis shoes and took off for their annual Spirit Run on April 21. In the past five years, students have raised more \$263,000 for missions around the world. Through Spirit Run, Horizon Prep supports a Medical Clinic in Tonj, Sudan, providing medicine and funding for a doctor. This year Spirit Run will also support Compassion International and Grace Children's Home in Tijuana. *Courtesy photos*

Child car seat safety target of event

By Shelli DeRobertis

ENCINITAS — More than 25 car seats were confiscated and replaced with new seats from the Pacific Safety Council on April 21 at a car seat safety inspection from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., hosted by the Encinitas Sheriff's Station at 191 N. El Camino Real.

Several certified child safety seat technicians were on site from various agencies, and helped properly buckle car seats as well as inspect them and make sure they were located in the best location in the vehicle.

Kristina Nehls, a crime prevention specialist for San Diego County Sheriff's Department, helped parents at the Child Passenger Safety Day event.

She said she has installed more than 300 car seats, and that 97 percent of child seats are improperly installed.

Amanda Yax, of San Marcos, took her 13-month-old son's car seat to the inspection because she said she recently got him a nicer car seat, but it was also more complicated.

"I had a heck of a time installing it. It's nice to have help," she said.

Nehls inspected the seat while Yax's baby was in it and said that she noticed right away that the harness was too loose.

"It needs to be snug against the shoulders. One



KID CAR CARE A display provided by the Pacific Safety Council of San Diego was set up at the April 21 Child Passenger Safety Day in Encinitas to show parents and caregivers of babies and small children the different types of car seats recommended for ages and weights of children who are, by law, required to travel inside of vehicles, properly secured in child safety seats. From left, a doll sits in a forward-facing child seat suitable for children up to age 6 who weigh up to 46 pounds and are 48 inches tall; the infant doll, center, is buckled into a rear-facing infant car seat for babies up to at least one-year in age and 20 pounds (although some say requirements have been changed to that which include keeping children up to 2 years old in a rear facing seat; however, this information has yet to be verified). Far right, a doll sits in a car seat designed for children who are up to 3 years old, weigh up to 30 pounds and are 38 inches tall. *Photos by Shelli DeRobertis*

thing I tell parents is that if they (kids) complain or cry, then it's perfect," she said, and jokingly added, "as long as he's breathing."

But it's no joke that car crashes are the top causes of death for children between the ages of 3 and 14, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration, or NHTSA.

The NHTSA reports that nearly 9,000 lives were saved by the use of child car seats from 1975 to 2008.

Their website, nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS, provides detailed safety seat information for parents, including a place online to register a car seat and sign up for notification of any recalls or defects.

It also has an "ease of use" rating system for various car seat manufacturers.

"Car seats are (each) very, very different," said Lorelee Olejnik, an emergency medical technician for San Diego Medical Services.

"Our goal is to teach

them how to put a car seat in. We do a mini lesson with each parent, as well as check for a recall," she said.

She had helped Anne Emfinger of Oceanside, who attended the event with her new 13-pound baby and her 29-pound daughter, who both travel in rear-facing seats.

She said she learned that she shouldn't have had the bigger seat buckled next to the infant carrier because if a crash occurred, the larger seat's close proximity to the smaller one would impede the smaller seat's ability to rock forward as it's designed to do.

Specialists were on site from the Pacific Safety Council based in San Diego, which offers car seat safety classes and free car seats to qualifying families.

But on April 21, car seats that were found to be out of code or recalled were taken out of cars and tossed into a large dumpster.

In return, parents were provided with a new, in-the-box replacement.

Mirna Varela was a technician at the event from the safety council and said that there are several reasons a car seat may no longer be safe, one of which includes it being expired.

She said several seats were confiscated and replaced because they were too old, and that seats should

HIKERS

CONTINUED FROM B4

some triathletes on their hike that bonked.

"This (an ultra marathon hike) is not sanctioned by National Forest system," Morris warned. "It's incredibly dangerous if you don't do it right. People die every year doing it."

Although Kupiec admits to indulging in fantasies about enjoying a juicy hamburger, when the expedition was over that was the further thing from his mind.

"It's just not palatable," he said. "Your stomach can't expand after drinking all that liquid."

Morris adds, "Having something heavy can put your body into shock. The meal after is not what you think it would be."

In the end, Kupiec was exhilarated by the experience. He's contemplating taking on the challenge of the Cactus to Clouds hike to San Jacinto Peak, at almost 11,000 feet in elevation, within the month.



HALFWAY THERE "Boy, I'm tired," Karson Kupiec said after reaching the North Rim of Kaibab Trail at the Grand Canyon. "Now I have to go all the way back!" This marked the halfway point of what was a 50-mile "ultra marathon hike" Kupiec made with Jerry Morris that began at 10 p.m. April 14 and ended at 7 p.m. April 15. Photo courtesy Karson Kupiec



GATE ESCAPE GIRLS From left, Gate Escape participants Lisa Sullivan, Ali Geise, Holly Bauer, Susie Mikolajewski, Lisa Morris and Lisa Allen train for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Gate Escape is an informal group of local hikers led by Jerry Morris who gather for bimonthly treks in the Crosby Ranch-Lake Hodges area, usually about 15 to 20 miles in duration. Courtesy photo

LANDSCAPE

CONTINUED FROM B4

other month in the main driveway of the clubhouse at 7 a.m. The goal is to finish up in two hours, although it can sometimes go longer. There is no charge for the hike, which is open to anyone, including those who live outside the Ranch.

Susie Mikolajewski is a friend of Morris' wife, Lisa. Although she is an experienced leisure hiker, she turned to Morris for help in preparing for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure last year.

"Jerry's a pro who knows everything about long hikes," she said. "He invited us to his house where he talked about blister management and nutrition — everything we needed to know."

Mikolajewski says the Saturday morning hikes can occasionally go beyond two hours. Once they hiked to Del Mar and had breakfast at L'Auberge before returning home.

"A lot of people live in the Crosby Ranch and may not know each other until after the hike," she explained. "You get a lot of time to chat. Jerry does everything so you don't have to worry about taking a map. I

love the way I feel after completing one of these hikes."

As for Karson Kupiec, he's hooked.

Kupiec just completed a 50-mile "ultra marathon hike" through the Grand Canyon in less than 24 hours with Morris.

"Every time I looked up it was one of those picture moments," he said. "Unfortunately, I couldn't sit long enough to fully appreciate it."

Kupiec added that he savors the opportunities during the hikes for reflection.

"It redirects your core values and what's important to you," he explained. "Definitely, it makes you realize that material is ridiculous when you put your shoes on and have a great experience. What's important is my wife and children."

Morris has also developed a new appreciation for hiking the peaks and valleys from Lake Hodges to Black Mountain.

"I grew up in this area and I've always enjoyed going outdoors," he said. "Not until the last several years have I figured that I loved it."

For information about participating in the Gate Escape, e-mail Jerry Morris at jerrym@nextlevelinternet.com.

TASTE OF WINE

CONTINUED FROM B5

earned a master sommelier certification and was wine director at the world-renowned Ritz-Carlton Resort in Laguna Niguel, before resuming wine making in Washington prior to coming to Callaway. "I want all grapes to be estate grapes," he declared. "We have harvested and bottled Mouvedre and will be planting Grenache, Cincault and Rousanne. We need to get to know what this soil can do. We have produced less, so the quality can be the best."

In a recent column, I wrote about the beautiful 2008 Viognier coming out of Callaway, with its tropical, sensuous pleasures. It's what you can expect from the new Callaway. Learn more at callawaywinery.com.

Sniffing around the Temecula wine scene

An old seafaring phrase is that a higher tide raises all boats; and so it is that Temecula Wine Country is producing much better wine from many wineries these days.

I first met Marcelo Doffo more than a month ago at the most recent wine country event, the World of Wine Barrel Tasting. I like a lot of things about my job but right up there on top is the private tastings of



FINE POINTS OF WINE MAKING Marcelo Doffo makes a point on making wine next to his 2006 Tiarella Blend at Doffo Winery in Temecula. Courtesy photo

ultra premium varietals that are "under the table." Doffo had some real treasures. His Italian-Argentinian heritage oozed Old World.

His outdoor courtyard, part of the 15 acres tucked away in wine country, has a wood-burning oven and grill for gatherings, while classical music plays in the vineyard to

ZOMBIE

CONTINUED FROM B5

offered on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Fletcher Cove, 111 Sierra in Solana Beach, on Saturdays from 1 to 2 p.m. at

The Greenasium, 1465 Encinitas Blvd., Encinitas and on Saturdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Shadowridge Dance Center, 2055 Thibido Road in Vista.

This year's zombies will

"soothe the grapes."

Wines to try at Doffo include 2009 Malbec, 2009 Zinfandel, 2006 Tiarella Blend and a vintage Merlot that goes for \$300, if there are any bottles left. See doffowines.com.

The new Europa Village has opened its doors, opening a new era in wineries in Temecula. The owners envision a multi-cultural French, Spanish and Italian setting with buildings for shops, wine tasting, events and gracious service. It's open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and located near Callaway. Visit europavillage.com for details.

A guided walking tour of Old Town Temecula Tasting Rooms is now available through an Apple iPhone application. It offers narrated accurate turning directions and insights to wine tasting in Old Town.

It's offered through GPSmyCity.com. For details, contact Linda Kissam at (951) 526-4540

Wine Bytes

— The Wine Rave, scheduled for April 28, has been moved forward to June 23 from 7 to 10 p.m. at FLUXX nightclub downtown San Diego. Call (619) 312-1212 for details.

— Il Fornaio in the Del Mar Plaza has the next Festa Regionale now to Wed. May 15.

This time the region of Abruzzo is saluted. Entrees from this district are presented, along with native wines. For an RSVP, call 1-888-ITALIAN.

— Holiday Wine Cellar in Escondido is doing a Mothers Day Champagne and Cupcakes event from 2 to 4 p.m. May 7, including Blanc de Blanc and Rose' for \$10 per person. Call (760) 745-1200 for details.

— Opolo Wines from Paso Robles are the featured varietals at the Wine Encounter in Hillcrest 7 to 9 p.m. May 10. Light appetizers included. Cost is \$18. Call (619) 543-WINE.

— SAGE Grill in Encinitas has a Franciscan wine dinner May 16 starting with a reception at 6:30 p.m. To RSVP and get details call (760) 943-7243.

— The Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas is the site for Wine Spectator's Grand Wine Tour 2011 from 7 to 10 p.m. May 14. More than 200 of the world's finest wines will be poured. Light buffet and free Riedel glass included. See grandtour.winespectator.com.

Frank Mangio is a renowned wine connoisseur certified by Wine Spectator. His library can be viewed at www.taste-of-wine.com. (Average Google certified 900 visits per day) He is one of the top five wine commentators on the Web. Reach him at mangiomp@aol.com.

SAFETY

CONTINUED FROM B3

only still be in use up to six years after the manufactured date.

Most car seats' manufactured dates are on a sticker or imprinted onto the back or sides of the seat, she said.

In all, Pacific Safety Council gave about 27 seats away, and Varela said some of the other reasons were that parents "didn't know the history or they washed the harness."

She said if the actual car seat straps (harness) are laundered, they lose their effectiveness because they stretch from their original size.

So knowing the history of a used car seat is important, as well, such as knowing whether or not the straps have been washed, she said.

A large box of colorful swimming pool noodles were also on site, and Heather Clark, crime prevention specialist from the Encinitas



STAYING SAFE Amanda Yax of San Marcos brought her 13-month-old son, Michael, and his car seat to the Child Passenger Safety Day in Encinitas, where personnel from the sheriff's station and other agencies were inspecting car seats and helping ensure they were properly buckled. Photo by Shelli DeRobertis

Sheriff's Station, had cut about a footlong piece off of a noodle and permanently propped it under a seat.

Scott Duchow, of Vista, was one of the last attendees of the day, of about 40 vehicles that received car seat inspections.

He said he rushed to get

to the event, and even came alone without his wife or 6-month-old son so that he could get there before it had ended.

He said that he and his wife had purchased a larger car seat because his baby had begun leaning forward and sitting up in his rear facing infant carrier.

Estrella will also be posting "Thriller" dance lessons on his website at cstarproductionz.com, to practice at home. An added bonus is each performer is given free entrance into the fair.

"We looked at it and were going to put it in a few weeks ago, and didn't know how," he said.

Both Clark and Nehls worked to install Duchow's new seat, and the pool noodle became necessary to level the seat at a 45-degree angle, which is the proper angle for infants from newborn to 1 year old.

Clark said that parents who want a car seat inspection or installation can schedule a free appointment at the Encinitas Sheriff's Station, at (760) 966-3587.

The event was held in the parking lot below the Encinitas Sheriff's Station, and several storefront retailers also participated by donating items such as refreshments or activities for children.

Participants included Cute as a Bug Resale, Art Soup drop in art studio, Insurance Women of North County San Diego County and State Farm Insurance.

LOCAL ROOTS

CONTINUED FROM B3

throughout Europe and spread by wandering gypsies who would use this plants seeds to intoxicate their clients before defrauding them.

During the middle ages, Jimson weed was very popular among professional murderers who would mix parts of the plant with a victim's food or wine to achieve an easy kill. The symptoms of this poisonous plant are very similar to the effects of the Bella Donna plant or Atropa belladonna.

Hallucinations, dilation of the pupils, loss of memory and speech, convulsions and finally death are the resulting effects of an overdose from these plants. Many homeopathic potions have been created using very small parts of these plants to create the "look of love" in a woman's eyes. In days past, women would take these remedies to seem more alluring to their courtiers because of the dilation effect this plant has upon the pupils of the eye. If your girlfriend has deep dark eyes looking at you over dinner, it may not be just because she loves you ...

Two of my least favorite poisonous plants, poison oak and poison ivy, are definitely nothing to laugh at. As a kid I came in contact with the poison oak in the local mountains. It wasn't any fun. Both plants secrete an oil that causes everything from slight swelling of the skin to rashes, blisters and open wounds on the surface of the skin.

The biggest fallacy about these two plants is that this toxin can spread through your blood stream and pop up anywhere on the body. Some people believe that you can keep spreading the poison even after you have

washed the affected body part.

This is not the case. Most victims walk through the plants or brush the oils on themselves after contact with the plant.

If the oils have not been washed off, you can literally spread it anywhere you touch yourself. Be careful, plants really do have power.

Kent Horner is a local landscape contractor and designer with 30 years of experience in all aspects of your garden. For information concerning your project or questions involving your surroundings, e-mail him at Kent@planch.com.

RSF Fire Department finalist for Golden Watchdog Awards

The San Diego County Taxpayers Association (SDCTA) recently announced the finalists in its annual Golden Watchdog Awards categories.

These awards highlight smart, sensible practices in taxpayer-funded programs.

The Golden Watchdog is awarded to government programs or services that exemplify efficient use of tax dollars or good government practices.

The Regional Golden Watchdog finalists are:

- Del Mar, Encinitas, and Solana Beach Fire Departments, and the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District – North County Fire Departments' Cooperative Efforts
- North County Transit District – Privatization Rolling Right Along
- San Diego County Regional Airport Authority – Green Light for the Green Build

Winners will be honored at an awards event at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center in Mission Valley on Thursday, May 19. Now in its 16th year, the Golden Watchdog & Golden Fleece Awards Dinner gives the public an opportunity to voice compliments and criticism of government spending through nomination of programs that highlight the smart and not-so-smart decisions of the past year. SDCTA receives dozens of nominations from individuals and organizations throughout San Diego County.

For more information about the 16th Annual Golden Watchdog and Golden Fleece Awards Dinner please call the San Diego County Taxpayers Association at (619) 234-6423 or email amy@sdcta.org.

The San Diego County Taxpayers Association is a non-profit, non-partisan organization, dedicated to promoting accountable, cost-effective and efficient government and opposing unnecessary new taxes and fees.

Del Mar, Solana Beach may be part of bill that would give more control over fairgrounds

**BY MARLENA CHAVIRA-MEDFORD
STAFF WRITER**

Del Mar and Solana Beach may be added to a senate bill that could potentially give the cities more control over the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

The bill, Senate Bill 249 (SB 249), was introduced by Senator Leiland Yee, D-San Francisco, with the intention of providing more local control over Cow Palace, a state-owned agricultural facility that is home to the Grand

National Rodeo and many other events throughout the year. Recently there have been drug-related deaths, injuries and arrests during concerts at Cow Palace, prompting concern from residents in neighboring Daley City and San Francisco.

Cow Place is run by the 1-A District Agricultural Association (1-A DAA) board, which includes nine members who are all appointed by the governor — the same as the Del Mar fairgrounds, which is run by the 22nd

DAA board. However, SB 249 would allow the mayors of Daly City and San Francisco to each appoint two members to the Cow Palace board, thereby giving these communities more local control. Del Mar City Councilman Carl Hilliard would like to see Del Mar and Solana Beach have the same amount of power when it comes to the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Therefore, he, with approval from Del Mar City Council, plans to approach the authors of SB 249 and

ask that Del Mar and Solana Beach be added.

During the May 9 city council meeting, Hilliard said adding Del Mar and Solana Beach to SB 249 made sense because the two scenarios surrounding Cow Palace and the Del Mar Fairgrounds are so similar.

"In a statement about the bill Senator Yee said: 'the lack of representation on the Cow Palace board has resulted in decisions, especially re-

See BILL, page 27

Research Report : Temperature shifts prime immune response

**BY LYNNE FRIEDMANN
CONTRIBUTOR**

Researchers at The Scripps Research Institute have found a temperature-sensing protein within immune cells that, when tripped, allows calcium to pour in and activate an immune response. This process can occur as temperature rises, such as during a fever, or when it falls — such as when immune cells are

"called" from the body's warm interior to a site of injury on cooler skin.

The study is the first to find such a sensor in immune cells. The protein, thought to be important in immune function, has now been revealed as a temperature sensor. Findings appear in Nature Chemical Biology. News release at <http://bit.ly/jMpguD>.

Biofuels research gets a

boost

The California Energy Commission has awarded \$2 million to UCSD for research on the use of a variety of new kinds of biofuels to supplement or replace petroleum-based transportation fuels. UCSD is one of the nation's leaders in developing technologies to turn algae into biofuels. The award is just the latest in a string of multi-million


awards secured by the university for algal biofuels research.

To accelerate the pace of biofuels development researchers will — for the first time — apply some of the automated genetic screening techniques used by the pharmaceutical and biomedical industry for drug development to finding strains of


See IMMUNE, page 23

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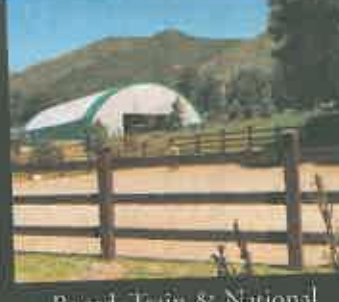
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by CHUCK SHEPHERD **ODD FILES**

LEAD STORY

Tonya McDowell, 33, an f-and-on homeless person Bridgeport, Conn., was arrested in April by police nearby Norwalk and charged with felony theft — \$15,686 worth of “services” from the city. McDowell’s crime was rolling her 6-year-old son Norwalk’s Brookside elementary School when he actually “resided” (as such as a sporadically homeless” person can reside”) in Bridgeport. McDowell has also resided” at times in a Norwalk shelter, but was crashing at a friend’s apartment in Bridgeport when he registered her son. The board of the Norwalk Board Education acknowledged at the usual consequence of an unqualified student — merely dismissal from school.

Continuing Crisis

In March, jurors in New Orleans convicted Leah Doyle of a 2005 murder and were listening to evidence in the penalty phase of the trial when Doyle decided to take the witness stand (as defendants sometimes do in a desperate attempt to avoid the death penalty). However, Doyle said to the jurors, “If I had an AK-47, I’d kill every last one of you all with no remorse.” (The jury recommended the need.)

The Montana House of Representatives passed a tough drunk-driving bill in March to combat the state’s high DUI rate, but it came under the objection of Rep. Nathan Windy Boy. Hale, who owns a bar in Basin, Mont., complained that tough DUI laws “are destroying small businesses” and “destroying a way of life that has been in Montana for years and years.” (Until 2005, drinking while driving was common and legal outside of towns as long as the driver isn’t drunk.) Furthermore, Hale said, people need to drive home after they drink. “(T)hey’re not going to hitchhike.” Nathan Windy Boy said such laws put the legislature on the path of criminalizing everyone in Montana.

Why Unions Are popular: The police officers’ union in Scranton, Pa., filed a state unfair labor practice complaint in April against Chief Dan Duffy because he arrested a man whom he caught violating a warrant and possessing marijuana. According to the union contract, only union members can “apprehend and arrest” lawbreakers, and since the chief is not a union member, he should have called an officer to make the arrest. The union president suggested that, if layoffs threatened, the

Ex-reporter finds new calling: pet expert

By Lillian Cox

OCEANSIDE — The 1990s ushered in Ace Ventura, pet detective. Today, there is a new hero in the person of Arden Moore, a former investigative reporter turned pet expert.

Moore’s nose for news has served her well. Her cookbook, “Real Food for Dogs” was featured in The New York Times shortly after the March 2007 tainted dog food scare.

Since then Moore has turned her sights on another timely issue: first aid, CPR and safety instruction for pet owners.

The course teaches procedures including nose to tail assessment, restraining and muzzling a dog, and rescue breathing. Students also learn how to manage conditions such as choking, bleeding, shock, seizures, heat and cold injuries, stings, and insect and snake bites.

“When you walk away, you’ll feel empowered,” Moore explained. “When something happens to our pets, seconds count.”

Moore spent the first part of her career as an investigative reporter for newspapers in Indiana and Florida. In fact, she worked alongside another reporter who shared her love of dogs at the South Florida Sun-Sentinel. He was John Grogan who later wrote the bestseller “Marley and Me.”

Moore left the newspaper business in 1997 and became a health writer for the book division of Rodale Press. At night, she moonlighted for a new magazine published by Rodale titled, “Pets: Part of the Family.”

“There, I realized that I could tap my love of writing and interviewing to help people become healthier and to tout the power of pets,” she recalls. “Pets and people — that’s what I am all about. In fact, I can’t remember a time when there wasn’t at least one tail-wagger in my life.”

Her own family of rescued pets includes dogs Cleo and Chipper, and cats Zeki



PUPPY LOVE Pet Tech certified instructor Arden Moore uses dog mannikins to teach pet first aid, CPR, safety and wellness to pet owners. “When you walk away from the class you feel empowered,” she explained. “When something happens to our pets, seconds count.” Moore is pictured with her real life pups: Cleo, a miniature poodle-basset hound (left on table), and Chipper, a golden retriever-husky mix (looking up from floor). Photo by Lillian Cox

and Murphy.

Moore moved to Oceanside in 2000 where she continued to excel in her new career as “America’s Pet Edu-Trainer.”

She has penned 20 books on dogs and cats, and serves as editor of Catnip and Fido Friendly magazine.

Moore has also been featured on CNN-Headline News, NBC’s The Today Show, Fox News, Martha Stewart Living, The George Lopez Show, HGTV’s Smart

Solutions and AP World Television. Each week she hosts the “Oh Behave!” show on Pet Life Radio where she’s interviewed celebrity pet owners from Betty White and Jennifer Aniston to Rachael Ray.

In April Moore became a certified PetSaver™ instructor at the Carlsbad-based Pet Tech, Inc.

She immediately put her knowledge to use when one of her dogs ripped a toenail completely out, which result-

ed in profuse bleeding. Moore applied her training by remaining calm, stabilizing the pup and safely transporting him to the vet — who was impressed.

“You have to use your head,” she said. “You have to protect your hands, and you have to come from the heart.”

Thomas Somes, founder and president of PetSaver was also impressed but not

TURN TO PET EXPERT ON A19



TALK TO ME Rancho Santa Fe resident and Pacific Ridge School student Maddie Sparber is volunteering her time to teach English online to elementary and college students in Seoul, South Korea, through a service learning project. Courtesy photo

Students tutoring across the sea

COAST CITIES — Maddie Sparber, a resident of Rancho Santa Fe, and 11 other classmates, pursued service learning at Pacific Ridge School in Carlsbad through the opportunity to link with students in Korea to offer free English tutoring.

Pacific Ridge School faculty member Kyle Strong worked at Paedea Academy

in Seoul as both a researcher on second language acquisition and a teacher of writing for middle school students. He brought his experiences to the service learning curriculum at Pacific Ridge School and the concept to offer free, online English tutoring became a reality. Today, the service learning group, Lingo Online, benefits stu-

dents at Paedea Academy as well as college students in Seoul. As Sparber and her classmates continue to connect with students overseas through shared language, they also hope to develop a deeper understanding of their own language and learn new ways to present English to international students.

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TURN TO VOTE ON A19

Fire Department up for Golden Watchdog

RANCHO SANTA FE — The San Diego County Taxpayers Association announced the finalists in its annual Golden Watchdog Award, given for smart, sensible practices in taxpayer-funded programs.

The Golden Watchdog is awarded to government pro-

grams or services that exemplify efficient use of tax dollars or good government practices.

The Regional Golden Watchdog finalists are:

- Del Mar, Encinitas, and Solana Beach Fire Departments, and the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District — North County Fire

Departments’ Cooperative Efforts

- North County Transit District — Privatization Rolling Right Along
- San Diego County Regional Airport Authority — Green Light for the Green Build

Winners were honored

May 19. Now in its 16th year, the Golden Watchdog & Golden Fleece Awards Dinner gives the public an opportunity to voice compliments and criticism of government spending through nomination of programs that highlight the smart and not-so-smart decisions of the past year.

Condo owners still can't vote as members

By Patty McCormac

RANCHO SANTA FE — It is what it is. Much to the chagrin of Rancho Santa Fe condo owners, the Association voted at its May 5 meeting to remain steadfast in a decision that dates back to 1979 that condo owners may not be voting members and they may not join the golf club.

A contingent of condo owners who showed up at the meeting to plead their case walked away disappointed, calling the decision unfair.

“I’m talking about discrimination on every level,” Bill McNally said.

Condo owners were hopeful the Association would change its mind after a recent move by the directors to allow members of the golf club in good standing for at least 10 years to retain their memberships after moving from the Covenant.

Condo owner Neil Martin said surely the Association would allow people who currently live in the Covenant and pay assessment fees to vote and join the club.

“This is taxation without representation,” he said.

Board president Tom Lang said to make such a change would require a vote of the entire membership to modify the Association’s Articles of Incorporation and he didn’t see a ground swell of support for such a change.

He suggested the condo owners get together a petition with signatures of voting members to determine if there is enough interest to make the change.

Martin pointed out the Catch-22 that the people who want the change the most are not allowed to vote or sign the petition.

Director Dick Doughty said if a change is made for a few friends now, it would encourage developers in the future.

“It would cause developers to say, ‘what can we do to take this small, lovely

“No money down... don't pay until you're happy!”

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TURN TO ODD FILES ON A13

Fire season starts with small blazes on Del Dios

RANCHO SANTA FE — Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District firefighters with help from Carlsbad Fire Department, Encinitas Fire Department, and CalFire, swiftly put out some small vegetation fires along Del Dios Highway just east of Calle Ambiente May 6. No serious damage was done and no structures were involved.

When they arrived on the scene, firefighters found three small vegetation fires, covering a total area of 1.5 acres, burning along the roadway. Del Dios Highway was closed in both directions for approximately two hours between Calle Ambiente and Rancho Drive.

Eight fire engines, one crew, one helicopter, and two battalion chiefs responded to the incident. California Highway Patrol and Rancho Santa Fe Patrol assisted with the road closure. No evacuations were ordered and there were no injuries. CalFire is investigating the cause of the fires.

Formed in 1946, the Fire District now spans approximately 38-square miles and protects over 9,000 citizens. The Fire District currently operates out of four full-time fire stations and serves the communities within and surrounding Rancho Santa Fe, Fairbanks Ranch, and 4S Ranch.

Special sign for seniors

COAST CITIES — Graduation time is almost here and parents of Torrey Pines High School's graduating seniors are invited to support the school and celebrate with a special "Congratulations TPHS Grad" 18-inch-by-24-inch yard sign with gold star balloons attached. The order deadline is June 1. To order, contact dollarsforscholars.tphs@gmail.com or get the order form at tphs.net under "Senior Yard Signs Fundraiser."

The sign and balloons will be delivered and put in the front yard during the week before graduation along with a gift card. Deliveries can be made to Carmel Valley, Del Mar, Rancho Santa Fe and Solana Beach.

If you want to order the yard sign without balloons and delivery, they can be picked up at the school between 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. June 15. All proceeds will go to support TPHS Dollars for Scholars for Seniors.

Fun and fundraising for new gym and lab

RANCHO SANTA FE — Horizon Prep School in Rancho Santa Fe hosted a fundraiser at The Santaluz Club May 6, with funds earmarked for support of construction of a multi-purpose gym, state-of-the-art science labs and technology growth. The theme was "His Blueprint."



Enjoying the Horizon Prep Spring fundraiser dinner and auction May 6, from left, Eric Northbrook, Lance Morgans and Ron Ferrari.



A group effort, which included, from left, Jamie and Joey Straza and Eric Northbrook, wins the bidding war for the live performance art piece from "Splash Animals." The trio plan to donate the Horizon Prep mascot back to the school to hang in its multi-purpose gym, The Lion's Den.



Above top, an artist rendering of the new science laboratory and the Horizon Prep Multi-purpose Gym (above bottom), which will be known as The Lion's Den, set for completion in summer 2011. Courtesy photos



Kelly Winters and Debbie Wasa eye the classroom art projects on display at the Horizon Prep Spring fundraiser May 6 at the Santaluz Club.

Asher earns grad honor

RANCHO SANTA FE — Krupa Asher, a Northeastern University student from Rancho Santa Fe, was recently one of only 16 seniors honored with a

KRUPA ASHER

2011 Outstanding Cooperative Education Award.

Krupa graduated on May 6 with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services and International Affairs.

During the past five years, Krupa has traveled the world working on community service. She has completed three co-op programs, one working for the mayor of Seattle in the Film and Music Office, the second at the Parikrma Humanity Foundation in India as an international volunteer, and a third at the Freeman Indonesia Nonprofit Internship Program as an economic development intern.

With Northeastern's co-op program, students alternate semesters of academic study with semesters of full-time employment in positions related to their academic or career interests. Northeastern established the Cooperative Education Awards in 1971 to recognize outstanding seniors and their work accomplished through the co-op program.

GOP women salute America

RANCHO SANTA FE — The Rancho Santa Fe Republican Women, Federated's 15th annual non-partisan Salute to America will be held at 5:30 p.m. May 27 at the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club, 5827 Via de la Cumbre, with no-host cocktails, a 6 p.m. program and dinner.

The event will feature guest speaker retired Lt. Duncan Lee Hunter, a former member of Congress and a decorated U.S. Army Rangers veteran of the Vietnam War. Hunter was the chairman of the Armed Services Committee in the House of Representatives for most of the Iraq War.

According to Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Terry Paul, not only did Hunter "participate in the major debates in Congress concerning the war ... he led them, keeping the mission on track when others sought to derail it. His work to provide equipment and force protection to our troops was unequalled. Hunter knows the story of the Iraq War from the inside like no one else."

Guests are encouraged

Guitar master Verheyen to perform locally

By Lillian Cox

ENCINITAS — Guitar virtuoso Carl Verheyen has played to packed stadiums all over the world with Supertramp. On May 21, he'll be entertaining locals with country and jazz guitarist Steve Trovato at a benefit concert for the San Dieguito Heritage Museum.

This will be Verheyen's last appearance before the start of Supertramp's 2011 tour through Canada, France and Monaco.

Last year Verheyen and Trovato performed at the museum for the first time. Verheyen's sister-in-law, Linda McArdle, is vice president of the board.

Verheyen remembers being a fan of Trovato's before suggesting they collaborate. The relationship has worked out well. On May 21, concertgoers can expect a broad-based performance that includes blues, rockabilly, jazz and chicken picking.

"Steve is widely known in the country music world, and as a jazz guitarist," Verheyen explained. "I am mostly known as a blues rock guitarist. When we come together we play all kinds of music. We seem to have the same tastes."

Verheyen said he began



guitar at 11 in his hometown of Pasadena, Calif., visiting his friend's house every afternoon to play his sister's guitar. On his birthday, Verheyen's parents gave him his own instrument.

"My parents were both musical and, more importantly, extremely supportive," he recalls. "They drove me to band practice with my buddies. During high school and early college years they'd say, 'You'd better have something you can fall back on.'"

Verheyen studied music at Pasadena City College for two years and took a handful of classes at the University of Massachusetts and Berklee College of Music. In the early days he'd play to small clubs in Newport Beach with crowds of 60 or so. In 1985, he was doing a recording session in Hollywood when an engineer, impressed with his talent, asked for his business card.

"I got a call that night saying they were auditioning

guitarists for Supertramp," he remembers. "The next morning I went down, but didn't have time to prepare. I had a 9 a.m. jingle session to do and went straight over to the audition."

Verheyen was the 18th guitarist scheduled to try out. When he saw one of his guitar heroes exit the audition as he was arriving he thought, "I don't have a chance."

"I apologized for not learning their songs," he remembers. "They said, 'We don't want to play our blimey tunes, let's play the blues.' Verheyen was hired on the spot.

"It was definitely a big bump in income," he remembers. "I went from playing small clubs to flying in private jets and performing before thousands."

When he's not touring with Supertramp, he's playing smaller gigs with the Carl Verheyen Band. A veteran studio musician, his credits include Toyota jingles and soundtracks for TV shows such as Cheers and Seinfeld as well as movies like Ratatouille, Cars I and the upcoming Cars II.

Called "One of the Top 10 Guitar Players in the



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Ambulance fees to rise for some in county

By Christopher Cadelago
10:55 a.m., May 24, 2011

People taken by ambulance from Del Mar, Encinitas, Solana Beach and Rancho Santa Fe will be charged \$400 per hospital transport plus \$20 a mile under a proposal approved by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

Supervisors voted unanimously to impose the fee after officials said it would provide financial stability and ensure continued emergency medical care for residents and visitors.

Residents of the service area currently do not pay a user fee.

The services are funded by property taxes, special-benefit taxes and non-district resident ambulance transport fees. However, the service area expects to spend \$250,000 more than it takes in beginning this year, depleting reserves.

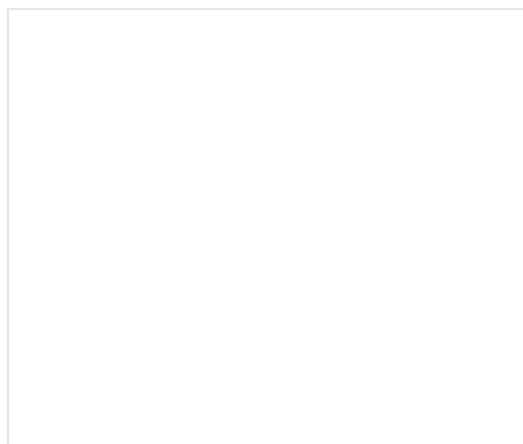
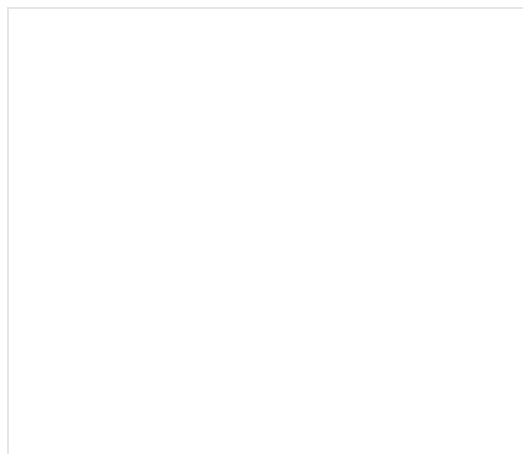
In a memo to the board, Chief Administrative Officer Walter Ekard said the proposed fee was well below the average charged by other communities. The other county service area in Santee and Lakeside charges \$900 plus \$14 per mile.

El Cajon charges \$1,184 and \$19 per mile while in San Diego it costs \$865 plus \$13 a mile. Elsewhere, Los Angeles County charges \$929 and \$15 per mile and Ventura County charges \$1,251 and \$23 per mile.

Ambulance services for Del Mar, Encinitas, Solana Beach and Rancho Santa Fe and parts of Elfin Forest are provided by San Diego Medical Services Enterprise.

In most cases, fees and mileage reimbursements come directly from Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance companies.

Monthly healthcare premiums are not projected to increase because the ambulance fee represents a fraction of total health care costs. Last year, the service area's citizen advisory committee supported establishing the resident fee.



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Officials getting ready for fire season

By J. Harry Jones Gary Robbins and Onell R. Soto /h5>

8:58 p.m., May 25, 2011



Viejas firefighter Brandon Battaglia leads a hose-laying drill up a hillside around Lake Hodges.



Alpine firefighter Colby Ross leads a hose line up a hillside above Lake Hodges. Their eventual goal was to lay 1400 feet of line all brought on the backs of firefighters and connected to an water pumping engine.



Firefighters from across the county were held around Lake Hodges on a recent Tuesday morning.

Structures lost

Largest fires in San Diego County (by structures lost) since 1970:		
Fire	Month & year	Structures lost
1. Cedar	Oct-03	2,900
2. Witch	Oct-07	1,650
3. Harris	Oct-07	548
4. Paradise	Oct-03	413
5. Laguna	Sep-70	382
6. Rice	Oct-07	248
7. Poomacha	Oct-07	155

Acreage burned

Largest fires in San Diego County (by acres burned) since 1970:		
Fire	Month & year	Acres burned
1. Cedar	Oct-03	273,246
2. Witch	Oct-07	197,990
3. Laguna	Sep-70	175,425
4. Harris	Oct-07	90,440
5. Pines	Jul-02	61,700
6. Paradise	Oct-03	56,700
7. Poomacha	Oct-07	50,156
8. Otay	Oct-03	46,291

With blazes of 2003 and '07 fresh in their minds, firefighters from around county train in Del Dios for another season

Despite the recent rains and lower temperatures, fire season is quickly approaching, and those charged with protecting homes from the ravages of wildfires are gearing up for another long summer and fall.

Nearly 1,000 firefighters from around the county gathered last week for wildland fire training at a site familiar to many of them: Del Dios in North County.

On Oct. 23, 2007, the Witch/Guejito fire roared into the tiny community on the northern banks of Lake Hodges near Escondido, wiping out about 20 homes. Firefighters saved the

remaining 130, and last week they were learning how to save many more in the fires that are sure to come.

For the past eight years, the San Diego Fire Chiefs' Association has sponsored a wildland training exercise designed to bring together firefighters from every agency in the county to hone their skills.

This year they trained for four days at Lake Hodges. In past years they drilled at the Viejas and Barona Indian reservations. There is, of course, no way of knowing when the next huge wildland fire will strike the county, but the blazes of 2003 and 2007, some of the biggest in state history, always remain in firefighters' minds.

The wet winter and spring is good and bad news. The moisture level of the brush is high, but new growth has taken place throughout the county, and by late summer and fall, with the heat and Santa Ana winds, there will be a lot of fuel for flames.

"The intent of the drill is, first of all, to bring all of the various agencies together within the county," said Cal Fire Battalion Chief Mike Vogt, who was the acting incident commander for the drill.

"There are a lot of fire agencies in this county, and most of us don't get to train together very often, in particular with wildland scenarios."

When the big fires hit, all firefighters are called. Having familiarity with chiefs from other agencies makes operations run more smoothly when it counts the most, Vogt said.

Several danger zones identified

No place in the county is safe from fire, but some areas are more at-risk than others.

The areas that haven't burned in a long time, where brush, grass and trees are the thickest, are in the greatest danger.

The massive blazes of 2003 and 2007 have thinned the fuel levels in large swaths of the county. But fire experts say extreme risk exists in several locations:

The far northeastern part of the county, including the huge Los Coyotes Indian Reservation and Palomar Mountain. Most of the reservation hasn't burned in more than 50 years, and to the west, the backside and top of Palomar Mountain haven't burned in recorded history. A fire that starts in that area, pushed by strong winds blowing to the west, could push flames all the way to the coast across the northern part of the county in a day or two.

A 170,000-acre area stretching west from Mount Laguna to the outskirts of Spring Valley and El Cajon, including the southeastern parts of the Cleveland National Forest, such as the Hauser and Pine Creek Wilderness areas. If a fire were to begin near Mount Laguna, its path could mirror that of the Laguna fire of 1970, which at 180,000 acres stood as the largest in the county until 2003's Cedar fire and 2007's Witch fire.

A 32,000-acre area encompassing Rancho Santa Fe and touching parts of such communities as Rancho Peñasquitos, Fairbanks Ranch, Olivenhain, Del Dios and 4S Ranch.

Utility's plan for cutting power

Looking to the start of fire season, San Diego Gas & Electric says it's working to prevent fires

by monitoring wind speeds around the backcountry and preparing to shut off power if it's too windy.

For SDG&E, that means that when wind speeds top 56 mph and fire risks are high, it reacts by cutting power.

To know precisely how hard the wind is blowing, it's installing a network of remote weather stations. By Sept. 1, 125 of them will be in place, making San Diego County's one of the most closely monitored climates in the world.

Also, SDG&E has upgraded some lines to withstand stronger gusts.

And the utility has increased the use of smart switches called Intelliruptors, which give it the ability to remotely test circuits when there's a short to make sure it's safe before power comes back on.

But, in the end, it says that sometimes the only way to prevent problems is by cutting electricity.

"There's a de facto plan," said Gary Arant, general manager of the Valley Center Municipal Water District. He was among those who complained about the impact of power loss.

"The areas that could be subject to turnoff are more limited than they were before," he said.

In the past few years, water agencies and telephone and cable providers have prepared for outage possibilities by beefing up backup power options. Even then, there are issues to be resolved, such as whether county air pollution regulators will fine the use of such diesel generators.

Onell Soto • U-T

Warmer summer is predicted

The U.S. Climate Prediction Center says that it is likely the summer months will be warmer than average in Southern California this year. But the center does not estimate how much temperatures could vary from average, which points to the difficulty meteorologists have in projecting seasonal weather.

Historical records may be a better guide. The National Weather Service notes that the average high temperature at San Diego's Lindbergh Field in June is 72.8 degrees. The average high is 75.8 degrees in July, and 77.8 degrees in August.

Southern California is famous for "June gloom," the marine layer that typically forms late at night and lasts until the early morning hours. The marine layer was unusually persistent last summer, resulting in cooler, cloudier days.

The county has received above average precipitation, which should reduce the danger of wildfires through part of the summer. However, if the weather becomes unusually hot, it will

cause a lot of fresh vegetation to die off quickly, potentially providing fuel for wildfires.

Gary Robbins • U-T

Firefighting staffing reduced

Staffing for the two main fire agencies that handle wildfires in the county remains about the same as in recent years. However, Cal Fire will be down 52 firefighters once the agency goes to peak staffing sometime next month due to state budget constraints.

Cal Fire protects most of the backcountry and now has 521 employees on duty daily, while the U.S. Forest Service, responsible for the Cleveland National Forest and other federally owned lands, has 366 personnel on duty.

The numbers include not just firefighters, but hand crews, bulldozer operators, plane and helicopter crews, communications and other employees.


Cal Fire's staffing will increase when the decision is made, probably next month, to man every station. But unlike last year, each engine will be down one firefighter, from four to three, as the state makes cuts to close the massive deficit.

If a major fire were to break out, firefighting agencies from throughout the county, state and even the nation could respond.

J. Harry Jones • U-T

Find this article at:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/may/25/officials-getting-ready-fire-season>

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Community invited to participate in RSF 4th of July Parade & Picnic

The Rancho Santa Fe 4th of July Parade & Picnic will be held on Monday, July 4, at 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Chaco Clotfelter at chacoclot@gmail.com or Shannon Mountain at 858-568-6876.

The Book Works to close this summer

BY KAREN BILLING
STAFF WRITER

The Book Works, located at Flower Hill Promenade, will close by mid-summer after 35 years in business.

Owner Lisa Stefanacci said that the decision to close was made at the beginning of May when she "finally acknowledged that the bookstore couldn't pull its own weight."

"Running the bookstore has been a dream come true," Stefanacci said via email. "What I've enjoyed most is deciding which books to buy for the store from the thousands and thousands that are published each year, and then helping customers find a great book for themselves or for a gift, using conversation and insight to help them make a great choice instead of using a computer algorithm."

She said she does not have plans yet for what she will do next but is thankful for her faithful Book Works customers that she said have enriched her life.

"I'm grateful and inspired to have met so many people with a shared passion for reading," Stefanacci said.

For more information on The Book Works, visit www.book-works.com

David Jaffe to leave San Dieguito Union High School District

BY MARSHA SUTTON
SENIOR EDUCATION WRITER

David Jaffe, San Dieguito Union High School District executive director of curriculum and assessment, has resigned his position to become principal at Chabad Hebrew Academy, a private Jewish day school in Scripps Ranch serving students from preschool to eighth grade.

Jaffe, former Canyon Crest Academy principal who opened CCA in 2004 and left to serve at the district office in 2007, said he's leaving SDUHSD for the opportunity to work directly with children and help grow a school that he said has a "great foundation" but is ready to move to the next level.

Chabad Hebrew Academy serves about 300 students from all parts of the county, with about one-third residing in Carmel Valley, said head of school Rabbi Josef Fradkin. Fradkin said he and his staff are thrilled to wel-

come Jaffe as their new principal.

Jaffe said he was impressed at how the school was being run and was attracted to the people, the organization and the sense of community. "It's a totally different opportunity and a totally different environment completely," he said.

But it's the direct contact with children and being at a school that he's missed the most. "I absolutely love working with kids," he said. Jaffe said he plans to build the middle school and "maybe put a structure in place to expand into high school."

Jaffe started at San Dieguito in 1993 as a teacher, then an assistant principal, then principal, and finally his current position which he's held for four years.

"I've been in the district for 17 years, and leaving it is tough," he said. "It's where I grew up professionally, and I will always remember the friends

I've made and the colleagues I've worked with. That doesn't go away."

Beth Hergesheimer, SDUHSD school board president, said, "We're disappointed we can't keep him. It's our loss, their gain, definitely."

"I take with me 17 wonderful years," Jaffe said. "I've learned so much, and I get to share that with the school I'm going to."

A notice was sent to district staff members on Monday from SDUHSD supt. Ken Noah, notifying them of Jaffe's departure, effective July 1. "David has been a valued member of my leadership team, and I'll miss him greatly," Noah's message said.

Taking Jaffe's place will be San Dieguito Academy high school principal Mike Grove. Noah said the district will begin advertising for Grove's replacement immediately.

RSF firefighters to host community spaghetti dinner and rescue demonstration

The Rancho Santa Fe Firefighters Association Local 4349, in conjunction with the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District, is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner and Live Rescue Demonstration on Saturday, June 18, from 4-7 p.m. at Station 2, located at 16930 Four Gee Road in 4S Ranch. Tickets are \$6 for adults / \$4 for children and will be available at the door.

In addition to providing dinner, firefighters will be on-hand to demonstrate rescue techniques and offer informative displays including:

- Auto Fire / Extrication
- Rescue Rappel Rope Systems from the Tower
- Antique Engine Display

Firefighter Association merchandise will also be available for purchase.

"We are really looking forward to this event," said Engineer Brian Slattery, who is organizing the dinner. "This is a great chance for the community to see their fire station as well as some live demonstrations of the things we do."

RSF Fire Department awarded grant

The 4SRanch-Del Sur Community Foundation, an affiliate of The San Diego Foundation, recently held its 4th Annual Grant Awards Celebration, donating \$12,500 to three organizations that provide outstanding community resources in the area of health and human services. The programs awarded included the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department - Technology Upgrade (\$2,500).

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Del Mar, Solana Beach, Rancho Santa Fe Fire Districts earn regional Golden Watchdog Award

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District, along with the cities of Del Mar, Encinitas, and Solana Beach, was recently recognized by the San Diego County Taxpayers Association (SDCTA) for saving taxpayers an estimated \$1 million last year through their cooperative efforts agreement. The agreement, which was put into effect in 2009, provides for the participating agencies to share management services in an effort to cut back on operating costs. The agreement was modified last year and is now expected to save the agencies \$1.6 million.

The recognition from the SDCTA came during their 16th annual Golden Watchdog and Golden Fleece Awards Dinner on May 19.

“This ‘throwback’ Golden Watchdog Award from the Taxpayers Association recognizes that we are at the front edge of government cost-savings,” said RSF Fire District Board Chair James Ashcraft. “We are pleased the agreement has thus far been a success, to the extent that other agencies have contacted us to see about using our arrangement as a template for similar partnerships.”

Tom Hickerson, RSF Fire District board member, added, “Our goal is to deliver the best services possible to all members of our district. This agreement has allowed us to continue providing excellent service to our residents while saving the district money.”

Del Mar City Council Member Mark Filanc said, “This is one of the programs that truly is a win for all. The City of Del Mar is very happy with the results and it’s great to be recognized for our efforts.

“The bottom-line of this agreement is that we are doing much more with much less and that means better public safety with better fiscal responsibility. We are committed to continuing to look for ways to improve service and reduce costs.” says Encinitas City Council Member Jerome Stocks.

Solana Beach City Council Member Dave Roberts said, “In this day and age, we all need to do whatever we can to maximize efficiencies and save public money while providing top-notch customer service.”

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