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## 4S Ranch Resident Returned to Fire District Board

3 November 2010



Voters in the Rancho Santa Fe Fire District – which includes much of 92127 – returned two incumbents to the district board on Tuesday, including 4S Ranch resident Thomas R. Hickerson.

With all 39 voting precincts counted, the San Diego County Registrar of Voters reported that John Tanner of Rancho Santa Fe led the three-candidate field, securing 3,844 votes, or 48.65%. Hickerson received 2,673 votes, or 33.83%.

John L. Ramirez, who lives just outside the 4S Ranch HOA, finished with 1,384 votes, or 17.52%.

### You may also be interested in:

[New Fire Chief Named for 4S Ranch, Rancho Santa Fe District](#)

[Del Sur's Newest Park Designed for Adults](#)

[Palomar College Plans Campus on Rancho Bernardo Road](#)

[Navy Working with Del Norte Water Polo Program](#)

### Additional recommendations:

- [Fire District to Break Ground for New Fire Station](#)
- [New Fire Chief Named for 4S Ranch, Rancho Santa Fe District](#)
- [Local RSF Fire District Officials Issue Caution on Fireplaces](#)
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- [4S Ranch Boys & Girls Club](#)
- [4S Ranch Community Parks](#)
- [4S Ranch Girls Softball](#)

- [4S Ranch Little League](#)
- [4S Ranch Public Library](#)
- [4S Ranch Roller Hockey](#)
- [4S Ranch Village Center](#)
- [4S Ranch website \(by Newland Communities\)](#)
- [4S Ranch-Del Sur Community Foundation](#)
- [Del Sur Living \(community website\)](#)
- [Nighthawks Youth Football & Cheer](#)
- [Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District](#)
- [Santaluz Club](#)
- [Westwood Club](#)

## School Links

- [Del Norte High School](#)
- [Del Sur Elementary](#)
- [Maranatha Christian School](#)
- [Monterey Ridge Elementary School](#)
- [Oak Valley Middle School](#)
- [PUSD – Poway Unified School District](#)
- [Stone Ranch Elementary School](#)
- [Turtleback Elementary School](#)
- [Willow Grove Elementary School](#)

## Most Popular

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- [In Memoriam of Carolyn Sue McElhaney \(258\)](#)
- [Zocalo Restaurant in 4S Ranch to Convert to Miguel's Cocina \(196\)](#)
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## Recently Added

- [4S Ranch Readies for Thanksgiving Run/Walk](#)
- [Del Sur Construction Continues into 2011](#)
- [Three Model Homes Sold at The Sentinels, Del Sur](#)
- [Doing The3Day? Send Us Your Photos!](#)
- [Pet Photos with Santa Fundraiser at 4S Pet People](#)
- [Whooping Cough Case Reported at Mt. Carmel High](#)
- [Sales Office Opens for Emerald Cover at The Crosby](#)
- [High Winds Expected in San Diego County on Thursday](#)
- [I-15 Southbound Closure Scheduled for Nov. 8](#)
- [16 New Whooping Cough Cases Reported Last Week](#)

## Top Votes by Readers

- [Porter Family Feels at Home in 4S Ranch](#) 5.00
- [Sublime's Taste Sensations Reflect Limjoco's Passion for Food](#) 5.00
- [Postal Annex+ 4S Ranch Village Tops Rankings](#) 5.00
- [Where to Feed the Ducks – Lake Poway!](#) 5.00
- [Making the Kids Smile & Helping Them Improve](#) 5.00
- [Del Sur Farmers Market to Open on May 13th!](#) 5.00
- [4S Ranch Resident, Band Release Second Album](#) 5.00
- [In Memoriam of Carolyn Sue McElhaney](#) 5.00
- [Getting to Know the Austins](#) 5.00
- [Oak Valley 8th Grader Works to Send Shoes to Haiti](#) 5.00

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New Fire Chief Tony Michel and retiring Fire Chief Nick Pavone



David Bennett, Nicole Bennett, Brody Bennett, Karen Pavone, Nick Pavone, Alexander Pavone, Micah Pavone, and Angelina Pavone.



Rancho Santa Fe Fire Chiefs Tony Michel, Nick Pavone, Erwin Willis, and Pete Pedersen

### RSF Fire District holds party to honor retiring Fire Chief Nick Pavone

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District hosted a party for retiring Fire Chief Nick Pavone on Oct. 30 at The Inn in Rancho Santa Fe.



Nick Pavone, Sharon Collier, and Kelly Collier



Nick Pavone, Dallas Neville, Kandace Neville, and Karen Payone



Alyce Ashcraft, Dawnelle Tanner, John Tanner, Nancy Hillgren, Randy Malin, Jack Mullins, Jim Ashcraft, and Assemblyman Martin Garrick

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## Waste/recycling service delayed by one day in observance of Thanksgiving

Waste Management of North County and Coast Waste Management's curbside residential trash and recycling pick-up schedule will not operate in Rancho Santa Fe on Thursday, Nov. 25, in observance of Thanksgiving and will be delayed by one day the remainder of the week. Commercial customers with service on Thursday will be serviced on Friday with normal pick-up schedules the remainder of the week.

Residential customers in the following cities will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week following the holiday:

"Residential customers who usually receive service on Thursday will instead receive it Friday, and Friday's customers will receive service on Saturday," said Ken Ryan, district manager for Waste Management of North

County and Coast Waste Management. "We appreciate our customers' cooperation with the holiday schedule so that all of our employees can observe Thanksgiving."

The local Waste Management office will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 25, with normal operations resuming on Friday, Nov. 26.

The customer service center will also be closed on Thursday, Nov. 25. Customer service is available at 1-866-WM-RECYCLE Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Waste Management is the leading provider of comprehensive waste and environmental services in North America. For more information about recycling, log onto <http://northcounty.wm.com>.

## Santa Fe Irrigation District and RSF Fire Protection District to test fire hydrant flows

The Santa Fe Irrigation District and the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District will collaborate efforts in the month of November for fire flow testing of fire hydrants throughout the Rancho Santa Fe area. Several fire hydrants in the Rancho Santa Fe community will be tested, which will result in inconsequential water loss and minor traffic delays.

The testing is required by

the Insurance Services Office (ISO) to evaluate the fire suppression delivery system. The result of this review is a classification ranking that ISO distributes to insurers, helping in establishing fair premiums for fire insurance.

The ISO rating goes from 1-10 with 1 being the best. The ISO rates Fire Districts approximately every 8-15 years unless the Water or Fire District can show they have made major

changes that will affect the rating. The last ISO testing for the Rancho Santa Fe area was 15 years ago in which the RSF Fire Protection District received a ranking of four. Generally, a lower ISO ranking would result in more favorable insurance premiums for a community.

Fifty percent of the rating is derived by the quality of the fire department, 40 percent is

See HYDRANT, page 22

## Education Foundation funded Specialized Teachers elevate the quality of education

While public school districts across the country are reducing services in response to rampant cutbacks in funding, at R. Roger Rowe School, we can consider ourselves extraordinarily lucky. Not only do the children benefit from attending a brand new school with smaller class sizes, they also have an abundance of specialized teachers who enrich programs beyond measure. "In many schools it is necessary for the classroom teacher to wear many hats," said Pamela Dirkes, co-chair of the RSF Education Foundation. "As a former elementary school teacher in Carlsbad," she recalls, "I was the music and art teacher. I was the science teacher. I was also the PE coach."

Nearly 60 percent of Teachers at Rowe have Advanced Degrees

Thanks to the Education Foundation's Five Star Education program at R. Roger Rowe, students have in-depth instruction in classes such as music, art, science and math taught by specialized teachers who are highly educated experts in their field. Nearly 60 percent of R. Roger Rowe teachers have advanced degrees as compared to 19 percent on average across California schools.

Specialized Teachers impart a wealth of knowledge and passion

The R. Roger Rowe School is alive with the sound of music, thanks to music teacher Maureen Blinn. Blinn employs the Orff Schulwerk approach to music education, which focuses on putting the child in charge of their music making. "Music instruction is available



Art teacher Janis Reeser with 5th Grade art elective student Roni Nelson

and given to all students in grades K-8. We have a state-of-the-art Yamaha keyboard lab, a rich supply of classroom instruments and curriculum, and a beautiful, new Performing Arts Center where student talent and achievement can be showcased," said Blinn.

"Studies show that music instruction correlates with higher student achievement. We are very fortunate to have an Education Foundation that provides Arts Education in our school, as many other districts no longer have this kind of specialized instruction at the elementary level," added Blinn. An article by Catherine Hillard on eSSORTMENT supports Blinn's perspective, "Many people underestimate music education in the schools today. Music teachers have to learn to play every instrument, they must learn music history, theory, composition, conducting, teaching methodologies, and so much more. Our stu-

See TEACHERS, page 22

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*"Together we'll go far"*



## CHIEF

continued from page 1

ers wear when they go out on a call.

From student firefighter, Michel went through every position possible at RSF: firefighter, engineer, captain, deputy fire marshal, CERT program manager, deputy chief of training and, most recently, deputy chief of operations.

"In that time, everyone here has taught me a lot, how to grow up and be the person I'm supposed to be," Michel said.

There were sniffles in the audience during the special and somewhat emotional ceremony and some "awww's" were heard when he paid tribute to his wife.

"I want to thank my wife for being there when I'm not," Michel said, surprising her with a bouquet of flowers hid-

den inside the dais.

As the Fire Chief, Michel will be responsible for managing the fire protection and life safety resources for the RSFFPD. He will also provide recommendations and technical staff assistance to the Board of Directors. Chief Michel's other duties will include implementing and enforcing the rules and regulations governing the Fire District, continuing the implementation of the district's Strategic Plan, and coordinating activities with other fire and governmental agencies.

"I am very honored to be presented with this opportunity," said Michel. "I am humbled by the confidence the Board of Directors has shown in me and, while I know the position comes with many challenges, I am looking forward to serving the Fire District in this capacity."

## TEACHERS

continued from page 4

dents in turn are exposed to this wealth of knowledge."

**Proper Instruction in Art & Music improves overall problem solving abilities**

As quoted in the New York Times, Elliot Eisner, education professor emeritus at Stanford University, said, "Learning through the arts promotes the idea that there is more than one solution to a problem, or more than one answer to a question." "Students who study the arts seriously are taught to see better, to envision, to persist, to be playful and learn from mistakes, to make critical judgments and justify such judgments," said Ellen Winner, psychology professor at Boston College. At R. Roger Rowe School, art teacher Janis Reeser exposes students to all these benefits with flair! "We currently have two amazing artists who share their expertise with our students, Gerrit Greve and Dr. Tim Leucker," said Reeser. Greve works with a Caring Community project called Hearts for Healing. Students' heart themed art works are donated and auc-

tioned to raise funds for local health care centers. Leucker helped students create the beautiful coral reef mosaic, which is showcased on the 400 building of the new school. "The opportunity to work in groups with professional artists, materials and tools provides our students with real life learning experiences. When students see their work on display in a public space, their sense of accomplishment and pride is undeniable," Reeser added.

**Specialized Science & Technology Education a must for future generations**

The science program being conducted in brand new classrooms and labs can certainly be described as "cutting-edge." "The facilities are amazing," says Kelly Stine, R. Roger Rowe Middle School science teacher. Stine and other teachers viewed the science classrooms at a state-of-the-art college. "We based the designs of our classrooms on what we saw," said Stine. "We have everything we need at our fingertips: digital microscopes with camera capabilities, real animals for dissection, computers for teachers and students, lab tables and display

## WEBSITE

continued from page 1

Review to keep up with ever-changing technology.

"Moving forward, we want to be able to evolve our website to consistently meet the Ranch's need for timely, relevant and local information. In just the first two weeks with the new platform, we've seen huge improvements in our readers' abilities to find the information they're looking for."

The Review hired Calacles, a La Jolla-based online consulting firm, [www.calacles.com](http://www.calacles.com), to develop, design and launch the site.

"The staff at Calacles did a great job of working with us to design a site with locals in mind," said Halie Johnson, online content and engagement editor for the Review and its sister papers.

As the site evolves, Johnson said the Review plans

to host community bloggers.

"If you have a good idea for a blog about life in Rancho Santa Fe, I'd like to talk to you," she said.

The site will also feature a video player, user-submitted photos and will host online contests.

"Our first contest is for the best holiday lights, so get your tinsel and ladder ready and be sure to snap some photos," Johnson said.

Calacles specializes in effectively using social media and search engine optimization to help companies get their message out. The Review now has a contract with Calacles to extend that expertise to local businesses by building their websites.

The new home page highlights the most current Rancho Santa Fe news and feature stories, profiles about fascinating local people, the work done in our businesses, schools and research institutions, the activities of commu-

nity groups and photo galleries filled with local faces.

"The Review has always worked hard to shine a spotlight on the people, places and events that make our community unique," said Review Executive Editor Lorine Wright. "We now have a website that truly gives these stories the play they deserve."

"Articles about health and science, local athletes, cultural institutions, the local housing market, restaurants and businesses are easy to find from the home page," Wright said.

The site also features classifieds, obituaries, a business directory, open house listings and plenty of helpful information for visitors.

"We work hard to give locals plenty of options for local entertainment with our arts and entertainment calendar, which is very comprehensive on the web," said web Arts & Entertainment Editor Susan DeMaggio. "Watch for our

upcoming restaurant reviews and expanded coverage of North Coastal San Diego's cultural institutions."

Wright said the Review also strives to provide a forum for community discussion.

"Residents can still use our site to voice their opinions by posting comments at the end of any story," Wright said. "They can contact us using our online submission form to send letters to the editor, news pitches and other announcements."

"We hope to have those stories archived in the next month," Johnson said.

"We'd love to hear what you think," Pfeiffer said.

Contact Halie Johnson at [halie@lajollalight.com](mailto:halie@lajollalight.com), Lorine Wright at [editor@sdranch-coastnews.com](mailto:editor@sdranch-coastnews.com) or Susan DeMaggio at [susandemaggio@lajollalight.com](mailto:susandemaggio@lajollalight.com) or call the office at (858) 459-4201.

produce not just the artistic creators of the future, but innovative leaders who improve the world they inherit," says a Boston Globe article by Ellen Winner and Lois Hetland. Thanks to the generosity of parents and the community through the RSF Education Foundation, the R. Roger Rowe School is able to attract and retain excellent specialized teachers. This year the Foundation's goal is to raise one million dollars in order to sustain its' commitment to the Five-Star Education program, including expert instruction in the arts and sciences. One million dollars divided by 680 Ranch School students equals \$1,470 per student. This "fair share" is the amount the RSF Education Foundation needs to raise on behalf of each student. Accordingly, parents are being asked to contribute at least their "fair share" for each student in their family.

## HYDRANT

continued from 4

based on the water supply and 10 percent by the dispatch services. The ISO staff examines a fire department's engine companies and the amount of water needed to fight a fire in a particular community for 50 percent weight for the ISO.

For the water supply component, ISO checks whether the community has a sufficient water supply for the fire suppression beyond daily maximum consumption. The testing will involve increased flow of water from fire hydrants, which may cause discolored water at the tap during the process. If a customer has discolored water for

more than an hour, the customer should call the Santa Fe Irrigation District at (858) 756-2424. Fire flow tests are conducted at various locations in the community based on the distribution of fire hydrants in the service area. At this time, the RSF Fire Protection District and the Santa Fe Irrigation District cannot identify the specific locations of the testing; however, the tests will only be conducted during the daytime.

Customers with questions about the actual testing and inspection schedule for the fire hydrants should call the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District at (858) 756-5971 or the Santa Fe Irrigation District at (858) 756-2424.

## FAIRGROUNDS

continued from page 2

the fairgrounds a "give-away" and a "crime."

"To give away this property at a fraction of what its worth is a crime and it's something that should be of concern to all three million residents of this county, because it's their asset that's being stolen. It's a scandal

and I can't believe it's not on the front page of every local newspaper, every day."

In other news:

## 2011 budget

The board approved the 2011 budget, which includes \$56 million in revenues and \$54 million in expenses. The \$2 million net will be used toward debt services, leaving about \$65,000.

## NCL presents 'Hollywood: Dress the Part!' fashion show

The San Dieguito Chapter of the National Charity League will present its annual Fashion Show on Nov. 21 at 3 p.m. at the Del Mar Marriott, 11966 El Camino Real, San Diego.

The Fashion Show for 10th grade girls is a National Charity League tradition. It provides the girls with training in poise, stage presence, and personal style.

National Charity League (NCL) has been in existence for more than 50 years. Currently represented in 17 states, NCL has over 160 chapters with more than 40,000 active members. Its mission is to foster mother-daughter relationships through community service and to provide its members leadership development and cultural experiences.

The San Dieguito Chapter was formed in February 1998 based on the local need for an additional chapter. Held in

January of 1999, the chapter's first Fashion Show had 180 guests. In just over a decade attendance has more than doubled at our annual event.

The National Charity League San Dieguito Chapter is made up of a group of young women who are athletes, cheerleaders, dancers, performers, equestrians, and scholars. While their interests are diverse they share one thing in common, they all find joy and fulfillment in helping others. These young women will contribute to our chapter's annual goal of providing 13,000 philanthropy hours and spend many more hours supporting our chapter through leadership roles and projects and meeting attendance.

Susie King, Trish Melton, and Beth Ross-Buckley are the co-chairs of the 2013 Fashion Show.

[print](#)

## **New fire chief sworn in**

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11.17.10 - 03:29 pm

RANCHO SANTA FE — The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District hosted a reception Nov. 10 during which Tony Michel was sworn in as the district's new Fire Chief.

He is filling the role vacated when Chief Nick Pavone retired at the end of October.

"I am very honored and excited to be presented with this opportunity," Michel said. "I am humbled by the confidence the Board of Directors has shown in me and, while I know the position comes with many challenges, I am looking forward to serving the fire district in this capacity."

As the Fire Chief, Michel will be responsible for managing the fire protection and life safety resources for the RSFFPD. He will also provide recommendations and technical staff assistance to the Board of Directors. Chief Michel's other duties will include implementing and enforcing the rules and regulations governing the fire district, continuing the implementation of the district's Strategic Plan, and coordinating activities with other fire and governmental agencies.

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# RSF mental performance coach featured in new movie 'Tapping the Source'

By Karen Billing  
Staff Writer

Rancho Santa Fe mental performance coach Dave Austin is featured in a new movie titled "Tapping the Source," a sequel to the hit movie and book "The Secret." In the film, 115 renowned entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, health experts, scientists, actors, athletes, authors and philanthropists reveal the source of their lasting happiness and extraordinary success.

Austin also produced the music for the film. One of the songs in the movie, "Shine," was written and performed by his 21-year-old son Shane.

"I hope for it to have an effect on people and help people change for the better," Austin said.

"It's been an interesting time the last few years, we've all been affected by the economy...When people see the movie I think it will be powerful and uplifting. There isn't any obstacle too big in life, there is a

bigger purpose."

The movie premiered on Friday, Nov. 12, at the Agape International Spiritual Center in Culver City.

The 115 people featured in the film, along with Austin include author Victor Villasenor; Michael Bernard Beckwith, founder of the Agape Center; Olympic gold medalist Shaun White; actress Mariel Hemingway; and Rancho Santa Fe resident John Assaraf, who was also featured in "The Secret."

The interviews are powerful, Austin said, with people who have found great success in the categories of business, courage, adversity, arts and sports.

"115 people speak as one voice," Austin said. "You come away from [the film] with the most important thing in life, it's about happiness."

Austin's interviews are shown during the sports and courage sections of the film. In the courage



Courtesy/MARGIT MACCHIA PHOTOGRAPHY

Rancho Santa Fe residents Dave Austin and John Assaraf at the premiere of 'Tapping the Source' in Culver City.

section, Austin talks about years ago when he was told he was going to lose

his wife and his son Daniel as there were complications in his son's birth.

"My wife was a pillar of strength," Austin said, describing how she had surrendered to a greater power and assured him and herself that they would get through whatever happened. They did.

His "miracle child" Daniel is now a healthy, happy 12-year-old attending R. Roger Rowe School.

Austin expects the movie to follow the path of "The Secret" film, which was shown in screenings across the country. It will also be available for people to purchase online.

In addition to the movie, Austin is working on a TV show called "Beyond the Field: Players of Faith" about professional athletes who find success through their faith and positive thinking.

"Everyone picks up on the negative because that's what sells," Austin said. "I want to shift that."

While Austin works with a lot of professional athletes as clients, this season he's been sharing his methods with some local amateurs: the Torrey Pines High School football team.

After some down seasons where the Falcons finished 3-7 and 2-8, the team narrowly missed going undefeated this season, finishing 9-1 after Friday night's loss to La Costa Canyon, earning a bye in the first round of the CIF Division 1 playoffs.

Austin said he doesn't take all the credit for their success—he just gives them the elements and the team and coaching staff have to "buy in" and commit.

"It's really been fun working with them," Austin said. "They're a super group of guys and they've really latched on to the philosophy."

"Tapping the Source" is available online at <http://tappingthesource-movie.com>.

## RSF School District finalizing documents related to Dacus property

By Karen Billing

The Rancho Santa Fe School District is finalizing documents after at least a year's worth of work with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) pertaining to the purchase of the Dacus property. The district closed escrow on the purchase of the 1.3-acre El Fuego property on July 23, 2009. The property is currently the temporary home of the Rancho Santa Fe Patrol. The Rancho Santa Fe Association sold the property to the school district for \$1.3 million.

When the district purchased the Dacus

property, the DTSC granted the school use of the property for playing fields and parking lot only. District superintendent Lindy Delaney said if the school district wanted to build a structure there, which isn't in its plans, it would have to go back through the DTSC for review.

The DTSC documents were finalized at a special board meeting on Nov. 11.

The Association's plans are currently in the works to move the temporary RSF Patrol facilities off the Dacus property to a permanent home on the Osuna Ranch property.

## Changes to Fire Services Plan will save more tax dollars

By Marlena Chavira-Medford  
Staff Writer

Last year representatives from Solana Beach, Del Mar, Encinitas and Rancho Santa Fe signed the Cooperative Fire Management Service (CFMS) agreement, a plan that allows the four communities to consolidate fire services, making for faster response times and lower operating costs. During its Nov. 10 meeting, the Solana Beach City Council

approved changes to that plan that will further those savings, resulting in more than \$100,000 cumulatively for the city.

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See PLAN, page 21



# PLAN

Continued from page 6

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Henry told the council that the CMFS plan has been so successful, in fact, that other agencies are starting to look to it as a blueprint.

"We're into new ground, we're doing things that other agencies are starting to look at as a model," he said. "We're really proud of being pioneers of something that's really critical in today's economic climate."



Eighth-grader Hayden Austin with a patriotic reading, '11th Hour / 11th Day.'

## Veterans lauded at Horizon Prep

The Horizon Prep Veterans Day Commemoration honored Veterans and their families with a special patriotic chapel service. The message was clear: Thank you! Horizon Military Pastor Steve Armendariz quoted Billy Graham in saying, "Thank you isn't much, but it's the only thing we have in the English language that says it. So, Thank you!" There was hardly a dry eye in the house after a riveting video presentation highlighting the service of our Veterans. Students participated with special readings and songs. The United States has 24 million living Veterans, according to the website [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).



Above, the Horizon Prep Veterans Day Commemoration starts with the National Anthem, sung here by sixth-grader Madison Hansmeyer, and the posting of the colors, by the Westview High School Jr. Navy ROTC. Left, seventh-grader Grant Dunlop with his neighbor, George.



## Woodward pet of the week

"Raphael" is a 6-month-old, neutered, male, inspirational Chihuahua blend. "Raphael" is knowledgeable of some basic commands and received an A+ in cuteness class! Best in a home with ages 10 and up.

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. at 6461 El Apajo Road in Rancho Santa Fe.

For more information call 858-756-4117, option #1 or log on to [www.animalcenter.org](http://www.animalcenter.org)



Left, the commemoration is a family affair for the Browns: sixth-grader Blake; third-grader Camden; their Aunt Alexandra and her husband, Beau Rains.

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LOCAL  
REAL ESTATE  
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SECTION B

# Rancho Santa Fe REVIEW

National  
Award-Winning  
Newspaper

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Rancho Santa Fe  
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VOLUME 30 NUMBER 10 Providing The Ranch with Three Decades of Quality Journalism

NOVEMBER 18, 2010

## New RSF Fire District Chief takes command

By Karen Billing

There's a new chief in town.

Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District held its badge ceremony to swear in new Chief Tony Michel on Wednesday, Nov. 10. Michel took over from former Chief Nick Pavone, who retired at the end of October.

"To say I'm excited is an understatement," said Michel to an engine bay full of firefighters and friends.

As is custom, Michel's wife Patrice pinned on his new badge. His proud father David Michel was in the audience, as well as his children Katherine and Steven.

Jim Ashcraft, president of the fire district's board of directors, remarked that the board is very happy to install Michel as the new chief.

"He is a wonderful man with great integrity," Ashcraft said. "He thinks things through and he's careful to make sure everyone is served; he works to make things better."

Ashcraft said this is the second time the district has been served by someone who started out as a cadet with the district, Pavone being the first. Michel started out as a student firefighter with the district 27 years ago.

"I remember 27 years ago, standing in about the same spot here with the captain and he showed me how to put my turnouts on," Michel said, referring to the protective gear that firefight-

See CHIEF, page 22



New RSF Fire Chief Tony Michel's wife Patrice officially pinned on his Chief badge.



## Cap and Gown contributors celebrated

The Rancho Santa Fe Education Foundation honored Cap and Gown contributors to the R. Roger Rowe School with a big "Gracias!" and a Mexican Fiesta on Nov. 13 at the home of Nora and Alex Kaiser. The celebration follows the recent "Red Envelope" campaign, a school-wide effort to collect contributions supporting the district's "Five-Star Education" programs. The Cap and Gown Reception is an annual event celebrating the success of the Red Envelope Campaign and honoring contributors at the Cap & Gown level and above. This event is sponsored by community partner Wells Fargo The Private Bank. The volunteer organizers of this year's event were: Nancy Bailey, Nora Kaiser, Dana McCaskill and Julie Plashkes. Enjoying the event are: (above) Dan and Julie Plashkes, Jori Potiker and Michael Brown. See more photos inside. Photos/Jon Clark

## Review launches new website

The Rancho Santa Fe Review launched its new website ([www.ranchosantafereview.com](http://www.ranchosantafereview.com)) in late October, extending its commitment to provide the community with up-to-the-minute news and information. The new site offers interactive features, is easier to navigate and provides the same content as the print edition, plus more.

"A lot of thought and expertise went into planning and redesigning the new [ranchosantafereview.com](http://ranchosantafereview.com)," Publisher Phyllis Pfeiffer said. "We are very pleased with the outcome and think our readers will appreciate the changes we've made."

Pfeiffer said the goal is to move onto a platform that will allow the



Visit the Review's new website: [www.ranchosantafereview.com](http://www.ranchosantafereview.com)

See WEBSITE, page 22



Actress Glenn Close served as the keynote speaker at "The Evening of Change," a fundraising event held Nov. 12 at The Grand Del Mar to benefit Bring Change 2 Mind (BC2M) and the International Bipolar Foundation (IBPF). The two organizations have joined forces to destigmatize mental illness through education and to support those affected by the condition by connecting them with helpful and often life-saving services. (Above) Actress Glenn Close (third from left), president of BC2M, and RSF resident Muffy Walker (fourth from left), president and founder of the IBPF, with IBPF board members. See story inside B section. Photo/Jon Clark



"LIFE IS NOT ABOUT WAITING FOR THE STORMS TO PASS,  
IT'S ABOUT LEARNING TO DANCE IN THE RAIN"

VIVIAN GREENE



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## CHIEF

continued from page 1

ers wear when they go out on a call.

From student firefighter, Michel went through every position possible at RSF: firefighter, engineer, captain, deputy fire marshal, CERT program manager, deputy chief of training and, most recently, deputy chief of operations.

"In that time, everyone here has taught me a lot, how to grow up and be the person I'm supposed to be," Michel said.

There were sniffles in the audience during the special and somewhat emotional ceremony and some "awww's" were heard when he paid tribute to his wife.

"I want to thank my wife for being there when I'm not," Michel said, surprising her with a bouquet of flowers hid-

den inside the dais.

As the Fire Chief, Michel will be responsible for managing the fire protection and life safety resources for the RSFFPD. He will also provide recommendations and technical staff assistance to the Board of Directors. Chief Michel's other duties will include implementing and enforcing the rules and regulations governing the Fire District, continuing the implementation of the district's Strategic Plan, and coordinating activities with other fire and governmental agencies.

"I am very honored to be presented with this opportunity," said Michel. "I am humbled by the confidence the Board of Directors has shown in me and, while I know the position comes with many challenges, I am looking forward to serving the Fire District in this capacity."

## TEACHERS

continued from page 4

dents in turn are exposed to this wealth of knowledge."

**Proper Instruction in Art & Music improves overall problem solving abilities**

As quoted in the New York Times, Elliot Eisner, education professor emeritus at Stanford University, said, "Learning through the arts promotes the idea that there is more than one solution to a problem, or more than one answer to a question." "Students who study the arts seriously are taught to see better, to envision, to persist, to be playful and learn from mistakes, to make critical judgments and justify such judgments," said Ellen Winner, psychology professor at Boston College. At R. Roger Rowe School, art teacher Janis Reeser exposes students to all these benefits with flair! "We currently have two amazing artists who share their expertise with our students, Gerrit Greve and Dr. Tim Leucker," said Reeser. Greve works with a Caring Community project called Hearts for Healing. Students' heart themed art works are donated and auc-

tioned to raise funds for local health care centers. Leucker helped students create the beautiful coral reef mosaic, which is showcased on the 400 building of the new school. "The opportunity to work in groups with professional artists, materials and tools provides our students with real life learning experiences. When students see their work on display in a public space, their sense of accomplishment and pride is undeniable," Reeser added.

**Specialized Science & Technology Education a must for future generations**

The science program being conducted in brand new classrooms and labs can certainly be described as "cutting-edge." "The facilities are amazing," says Kelly Stine, R. Roger Rowe Middle School science teacher. Stine and other teachers viewed the science classrooms at a state-of-the-art college. "We based the designs of our classrooms on what we saw," said Stine. "We have everything we need at our fingertips: digital microscopes with camera capabilities, real animals for dissection, computers for teachers and students, lab tables and display

## WEBSITE

continued from page 1

Review to keep up with ever-changing technology.

"Moving forward, we want to be able to evolve our website to consistently meet the Ranch's need for timely, relevant and local information. In just the first two weeks with the new platform, we've seen huge improvements in our readers' abilities to find the information they're looking for."

The Review hired Calacles, a La Jolla-based online consulting firm, [www.calacles.com](http://www.calacles.com), to develop, design and launch the site.

"The staff at Calacles did a great job of working with us to design a site with locals in mind," said Halie Johnson, online content and engagement editor for the Review and its sister papers.

As the site evolves, Johnson said the Review plans

to host community bloggers.

"If you have a good idea for a blog about life in Rancho Santa Fe, I'd like to talk to you," she said.

The site will also feature a video player, user-submitted photos and will host online contests.

"Our first contest is for the best holiday lights, so get your tinsel and ladder ready and be sure to snap some photos," Johnson said.

Calacles specializes in effectively using social media and search engine optimization to help companies get their message out. The Review now has a contract with Calacles to extend that expertise to local businesses by building their websites.

The new home page highlights the most current Rancho Santa Fe news and feature stories, profiles about fascinating local people, the work done in our businesses, schools and research institutions, the activities of commu-

nity groups and photo galleries filled with local faces.

"The Review has always worked hard to shine a spotlight on the people, places and events that make our community unique," said Review Executive Editor Lorine Wright. "We now have a website that truly gives these stories the play they deserve."

"Articles about health and science, local athletes, cultural institutions, the local housing market, restaurants and businesses are easy to find from the home page," Wright said.

The site also features classifieds, obituaries, a business directory, open house listings and plenty of helpful information for visitors.

"We work hard to give locals plenty of options for local entertainment with our arts and entertainment calendar, which is very comprehensive on the web," said web Arts & Entertainment Editor Susan DeMaggio. "Watch for our

upcoming restaurant reviews and expanded coverage of North Coastal San Diego's cultural institutions."

Wright said the Review also strives to provide a forum for community discussion.

"Residents can still use our site to voice their opinions by posting comments at the end of any story," Wright said. "They can contact us using our online submission form to send letters to the editor, news pitches and other announcements."

"We hope to have those stories archived in the next month," Johnson said.

"We'd love to hear what you think," Pfeiffer said.

Contact Halie Johnson at [halie@lajollalight.com](mailto:halie@lajollalight.com), Lorine Wright at [editor@sdranch-coastnews.com](mailto:editor@sdranch-coastnews.com) or Susan DeMaggio at [susandemaggio@lajollalight.com](mailto:susandemaggio@lajollalight.com) or call the office at (858) 459-4201.

produce not just the artistic creators of the future, but innovative leaders who improve the world they inherit," says a Boston Globe article by Ellen Winner and Lois Hetland. Thanks to the generosity of parents and the community through the RSF Education Foundation, the R. Roger Rowe School is able to attract and retain excellent specialized teachers. This year the Foundation's goal is to raise one million dollars in order to sustain its' commitment to the Five-Star Education program, including expert instruction in the arts and sciences. One million dollars divided by 680 Ranch School students equals \$1,470 per student. This "fair share" is the amount the RSF Education Foundation needs to raise on behalf of each student. Accordingly, parents are being asked to contribute at least their "fair share" for each student in their family.

## HYDRANT

continued from 4

based on the water supply and 10 percent by the dispatch services. The ISO staff examines a fire department's engine companies and the amount of water needed to fight a fire in a particular community for 50 percent weight for the ISO.

For the water supply component, ISO checks whether the community has a sufficient water supply for the fire suppression beyond daily maximum consumption. The testing will involve increased flow of water from fire hydrants, which may cause discolored water at the tap during the process. If a customer has discolored water for

more than an hour, the customer should call the Santa Fe Irrigation District at (858) 756-2424. Fire flow tests are conducted at various locations in the community based on the distribution of fire hydrants in the service area. At this time, the RSF Fire Protection District and the Santa Fe Irrigation District cannot identify the specific locations of the testing; however, the tests will only be conducted during the daytime.

Customers with questions about the actual testing and inspection schedule for the fire hydrants should call the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District at (858) 756-5971 or the Santa Fe Irrigation District at (858) 756-2424.

## FAIRGROUNDS

continued from page 2

the fairgrounds a "give-away" and a "crime."

"To give away this property at a fraction of what its worth is a crime and it's something that should be of concern to all three million residents of this county, because it's their asset that's being stolen. It's a scandal

and I can't believe it's not on the front page of every local newspaper, every day."

In other news:

## 2011 budget

The board approved the 2011 budget, which includes \$56 million in revenues and \$54 million in expenses. The \$2 million net will be used toward debt services, leaving about \$65,000.

## NCL presents 'Hollywood: Dress the Part!' fashion show

The San Dieguito Chapter of the National Charity League will present its annual Fashion Show on Nov. 21 at 3 p.m. at the Del Mar Marriott, 11966 El Camino Real, San Diego.

The Fashion Show for 10th grade girls is a National Charity League tradition. It provides the girls with training in poise, stage presence, and personal style.

National Charity League (NCL) has been in existence for more than 50 years. Currently represented in 17 states, NCL has over 160 chapters with more than 40,000 active members. Its mission is to foster mother-daughter relationships through community service and to provide its members leadership development and cultural experiences.

The San Dieguito Chapter was formed in February 1998 based on the local need for an additional chapter. Held in

January of 1999, the chapter's first Fashion Show had 180 guests. In just over a decade attendance has more than doubled at our annual event.

The National Charity League San Dieguito Chapter is made up of a group of young women who are athletes, cheerleaders, dancers, performers, equestrians, and scholars. While their interests are diverse they share one thing in common, they all find joy and fulfillment in helping others. These young women will contribute to our chapter's annual goal of providing 13,000 philanthropy hours and spend many more hours supporting our chapter through leadership roles and projects and meeting attendance.

Susie King, Trish Melton, and Beth Ross-Buckley are the co-chairs of the 2013 Fashion Show.





The Cooperative Fire Management Service (CFMS) agreement is a plan that allows the consolidation of fire services, making for faster response times and lower operating costs.

**By Marlena Chavira-Medford**  
**Staff Writer**

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NOV. 19,  
2010

# RANCHO SANTA FE NEWS

B  
SECTION



Small Talk

## The joys of raising teen boys

I think I have figured out why teenage boys are so darned adorable. It's a self-preservation thing. Kind of like why babies are cute and look like their fathers for the first day or so.

The hardest part of my empty-nest challenge is the absence of teenagers, especially those goofy, hilarious, energy-charged boys.

Of course, I dearly love my daughter and all the young women who are friends of both my children, but anyone who has children knows that during the teen years, girls can be just scary. And boys are just hilarious.

I was at the local thrift store recently when a half-dozen tall, grinning, teenage boys blew through the door. It was glorious to behold.

I swear they sucked all the oxygen out of the room with their uber presence. They ricocheted around the store, searching for costume ideas, and I found myself just standing their grinning and watching them.

I started to just laugh, and continue to chuckle even now.

They walked around with silly hats on their heads, tried on oversized jackets, teased each other relentlessly and, to the amazement of the staff, did not break anything.

It was better than any anti-depressant and I was sorry to see them roll back out the door in about five minutes, moving on to their next diversion.

I try to spend as much time as I can around the under-25 set, where I absorb any excess "youth" they simply radiate. I swear I get a boost through osmosis just from being in the same house and hearing them laugh.

I just heard some great "raising boys" stories from an acquaintance who raised three of them.

Like the time one walked down to the shopping center, which has a "shortcut" across a very marshy area on the way. He came home with mud up to his armpits and one shoe. He probably didn't take that shortcut the next time ... but then again, he's a boy, so he might have.

Another great story came after son No. 2 cut himself badly on a gardening

TURN TO SMALL TALK ON B15



## WINNING DAY

For the first time in the seven-year history of the Horizon Prep Spirit Bowl, the Horizon Prep Lions made it to the championship round. It was a hard-fought battle on the gridiron that resulted in a 7-0 loss as next-door neighbors, The Nativity School, took home first place. "We are so proud of our Lions," said Horizon Prep Athletic Director Matt Roy. "They managed to best our school record, bringing home the second-place trophy in relentless heat, and they did it with good attitudes." Six schools competed in the annual Spirit Bowl all-day flag football tournament that raises funds for Julian Oaks. The Horizon Prep Lions football team and coaches, with former Charger Marlon McCree, brought home a silver trophy. *Courtesy photo*

## 'Keep alive the stories of our vets,' speaker says

By Bianca Kaplanek

**SOLANA BEACH** — Being the guest speaker at this year's Veterans Day ceremony was as much a learning experience for Air Force Lt. Col. Scott Hall as it was for those who gathered Nov. 11 at La Colonia Park to honor the men and women who serve our nation.

In writing his speech, Hall said he discovered information about his family's military service he had never known.

While serving in Vietnam his father, retired Air Force Col. Johnnie Hall, earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, awarded for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight.

"How did I, his son for 44 years and an Air Force pilot myself, not know that?" asked Hall, a Carlsbad resident who earned nearly a dozen medals while serving in Operation Desert Storm.

He said one reason is that his father, like many veterans, is modest and keeps his service to himself.

"The second is, I never asked," he said. "I should have."

That discovery prompted Hall to ask his son, Peter, about the two tours he served with the Army in Iraq. "I've got some scars," Peter, 26, told his father. "Some you

can see. Others you can't.

"But I helped change the world and destroy evil," Peter said. "I'll take the scars."

Hall said Veterans Day is as much about paying tribute to the men and women of the military as it is learning about their service.

"Today's young people need to remember and learn from our trials and experiences," he said. "They need to learn that bravery is not the lack of fear but being able to act in the face of fear."

Hall encouraged attendees to ask family members, neighbors, doctors and pastors if they have served. If the answer is yes, ask them to tell a story, he said.

"We need to keep alive the stories of our vets," he said. "Our children and grandchildren need to hear those stories. It will foster their love for this great nation."

In a brief "soapbox moment," Hall said he planned to use the word great more often when talking about his country.

"Our past and present veterans have given their lives, put themselves in harm's way, sacrificed time away from their families, friends and loved ones for this nation," he said. "It is great because of them."



**TEN-HUT** Above, the Camp Pendleton Young Marines stand at attention as the annual Veterans Day ceremony begins Nov. 11 at La Colonia Park in Solana Beach. Right, 11-year-old Stephanie Gonzalez from the Camp Pendleton Young Marines releases the doves at the conclusion of the ceremony. *Photos by Bianca Kaplanek*

The event also included a presentation of the colors by the Camp Pendleton Young Marines, military music by the Santa Fe Christian Band and a

TURN TO VETS ON B15



## Agencies test to make sure Ranch's fire hydrants work

**RANCHO SANTA FE** — The Santa Fe Irrigation District and the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District will collaborate efforts in the month of November for fire flow testing of fire hydrants throughout the Rancho Santa Fe area. Several fire hydrants in the Rancho Santa Fe community will be tested, which will result in minor water loss and possible short traffic delays.

The testing will involve increased flow of water from fire hydrants, which may cause discolored water in area taps during the process.

If a customer has discolored water for more than an hour, they may call the Santa Fe Irrigation District at (858) 756-2424.

The testing is required by the Insurance Services Office to evaluate the fire suppression

delivery system. The result of this review is a classification ranking that ISO distributes to insurers, helping in establishing fair premiums for fire insurance.

The ISO rating goes from one to 10 with one being the best. The ISO rates fire districts approximately every eight to 15 years unless the water or fire district can show they have made major changes that will

affect the rating. The last ISO testing for the Rancho Santa Fe area was 15 years ago in which the RSF Fire Protection District received a ranking of four. Generally, a lower ISO ranking would result in more favorable insurance premiums for a community.

Fifty percent of the rating is derived by the quality of the fire department, 40 percent is based on the water supply and

10 percent by the dispatch services. The ISO staff examines a fire department's engine companies and the amount of water needed to fight a fire in a particular community for 50 percent weight for the ISO.

For the water supply component, ISO checks whether the community has a sufficient water supply for the fire suppression beyond daily maximum consumption.



SARA  
NOEL

## Frugal Living

Use up  
leftover  
mashed  
potatoes

By Sara Noel

Make potato patties from leftover mashed potatoes. Simply add an egg to 2 cups mashed potatoes, form into patties and fry in a pan with a little oil. You can add meat, seasoned bread-crumbs, cheese or onion for extra flavor. The first reader tip shares another way to use up leftover mashed potatoes.

Use for leftover mashed potatoes: We use leftover mashed potatoes to make potato soup. Simply thin it down with milk or water until it is the consistency you want, bring to a gentle boil and then top with bacon, cheese, chives and sour cream. An absolute favorite in our house. If you don't have quite enough, add a can of creamed corn to stretch the recipe. — Daisy, Canada

Reuse paper towel tubes: I store my shoes on a shoe rack on the closet wall. I noticed that the U-shaped wire made indentations on the leather of the shoes. I now stuff TP cardboard rolls into my shoes first, then slide the tube onto the U-shaped wire support. It keeps the shoe from resting against the wire of the rack. I adjust the length of the tube to suit the shoe; sandals get a paper-towel tube. — Sandra N., e-mail

I use the tubes from paper towels, the few I get, to roll linens in so they don't crease and wrinkle. Works well for me. — Liz, e-mail

Re-create: It can be hard to see the potential in thrift-store or recycled items, so I like to approach the problem from the other direction. I browse the high-end stores to find ideas that I like, then search for ways to re-create them. A \$200 feather trimmed chenille throw was re-created with a \$20 Target chenille throw and \$40 of feather trim from my local upholstery shop. Granted, it's still a major splurge. But when company is over, it makes my beat-up, cracked leather love seat look lux. — W. Herdman, e-mail

Reuse a cereal box: You can cut apart cereal boxes and make templates for measuring quilting pieces or make stars, bells, etc., and cover them with foil for Christmas decorations. The lightweight pasteboard is useful for many crafts. — Pat, e-mail

Another man's trash: I remember my neighbors looking at me oddly when I picked two sets of draperies



Nick Pavone, Dallas Neville, Kandace Neville and Karen Pavone.



Renee Hill, Roy Baignasay, and Randy Hill.



Marc Revere and Jim Baker.



Karlana Rannals and Karen Pavone.



Gary Snaveley, Karen Pavone, Nick Pavone and Cindy Snaveley.



Rancho Santa Fe Fire Chiefs Tony Michel, Nick Pavone, Erwin Willis and Pete Pedersen.



Nick Pavone and Connie Baignasay



San Diego County Firefighters pipes and drums.

**The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District hosted a party for retiring Fire Chief Nick Pavone on Oct. 30 at The Inn in Rancho Santa Fe. Pavone served for nearly 35 years.**

Courtesy photos

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By Bianca Kaplanek

COAST CITIES — The volley continues in Del Mar's quest to obtain a letter from Solana Beach supporting its purchase of the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

At the Nov. 8 meeting, Del Mar council members opted to continue discussions with its northern neighbor rather than provide a direct response to Solana Beach's request for equal representation and ownership.

They said it is too early in the process to make any commitments.

"I think it's important to keep this conversation alive," Councilman Don Mosier said. "Working out the details of everything is premature if we don't get to the purchase."

"It just seems like we're getting the cart before the horse," Councilwoman Crystal Crawford said. "We need to get over the hurdles of ownership."

Shortly after the news broke in early October that the county's smallest city was planning to buy the 340-acre site, Del Mar asked Solana Beach for a letter supporting the purchase.

Solana Beach council members said they support local control of the fairgrounds, but deferred the request until some of their questions and concerns were addressed.

During a special Del Mar meeting Oct. 25, Solana Beach City Manager David Ott said council members in that city would like some assurance that noise, parking, traffic and light impacts would be mitigated. As a first responder to the fairgrounds, he said Solana Beach is also seeking reimbursement for the public safety services it provides.

Del Mar responded with a letter dated two days later highlighting the benefits of local control of the state-owned facility. In the letter, Del Mar also states that it "is committed to working with" Solana Beach on the key issues of traffic, parking, noise and public safety calls.

Del Mar Mayor Richard Earnest described the Solana Beach response to the letter as "nice but not sufficient."

Earnest and Del Mar Councilman Carl Hilliard also made a presentation at the Oct. 27 Solana Beach council meeting. No issues were resolved but both cities agreed to meet and continue the discussion.

If the purchase is successful, Del Mar is proposing that the facility be run by an 11-member board made up of five appointees from Del Mar, one each from Solana Beach and the

## New fire chief sworn in at reception

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He is filling the role vacated when Chief Nick Pavone retired at the end of

October.

"I am very honored and excited to be presented with this opportunity," Michel said. "I am humbled by the confidence the Board of Directors has shown in me and, while I know the position comes with many challenges, I am looking forward to serv-

ing the fire district in this capacity."

As the Fire Chief, Michel will be responsible for managing the fire protection and life safety resources for the RSFFPD. He will also provide recommendations and technical staff assistance to the Board of Directors. Chief

Michel's other duties will include implementing and enforcing the rules and regulations governing the fire district, continuing the implementation of the district's Strategic Plan, and coordinating activities with other fire and governmental agencies.

## Kids Korps, SDG&amp;E plan winter projects

COAST CITIES — Kids Korps and SDG&E have teamed up to present a series of creative service events promoting energy efficiency and conservation.

The SMART Meter program will take old power meters and repurpose them as a youth volunteer activity that will promote the energy efficiency and the new smart meter program countywide.

Participants will work with a variety of artistic mediums (paint, mosaic, recycled items) to create educational works of art from the old meters to be showcased at a variety of public locations countywide. Contact Brian@kidskorps.org for information on scheduling an event for your chapter.

North Coast residents can also let Kids Korps plan your holiday party with a volunteer

twist. Parents, let your companies or fellow staff know that Kids Korps can plan a volunteer project as an element to holiday parties. Parties can also benefit foster care centers with Make-A-Blanket, assist in youth diversion with StarPals and Build-A-Bike, benefit a senior center with trees and ornaments through Trees of Hope, sponsor a Head Start pre-school Reading and Book

Donation, support military members and families with handmade greeting cards and supplies or bring cheer to seniors or children in shelters through the Recycled Wreath-Making program.



SARA  
NOEL

## Frugal Living

Use up  
leftover  
mashed  
potatoes

By Sara Noel

Make potato patties from leftover mashed potatoes. Simply add an egg to 2 cups mashed potatoes, form into patties and fry in a pan with a little oil. You can add meat, seasoned bread-crumbs, cheese or onion for extra flavor. The first reader tip shares another way to use up leftover mashed potatoes.

Use for leftover mashed potatoes: We use leftover mashed potatoes to make potato soup. Simply thin it down with milk or water until it is the consistency you want, bring to a gentle boil and then top with bacon, cheese, chives and sour cream. An absolute favorite in our house. If you don't have quite enough, add a can of creamed corn to stretch the recipe. — Daisy, Canada

Reuse paper towel tubes: I store my shoes on a shoe rack on the closet wall. I noticed that the U-shaped wire made indentations on the leather of the shoes. I now stuff TP cardboard rolls into my shoes first, then slide the tube onto the U-shaped wire support. It keeps the shoe from resting against the wire of the rack. I adjust the length of the tube to suit the shoe; sandals get a paper-towel tube. — Sandra N., e-mail

I use the tubes from paper towels, the few I get, to roll linens in so they don't crease and wrinkle. Works well for me. — Liz, e-mail

Re-create: It can be hard to see the potential in thrift-store or recycled items, so I like to approach the problem from the other direction. I browse the high-end stores to find ideas that I like, then search for ways to re-create them. A \$200 feather trimmed chenille throw was re-created with a \$20 Target chenille throw and \$40 of feather trim from my local upholstery shop. Granted, it's still a major splurge. But when company is over, it makes my beat-up, cracked leather love seat look lux. — W. Herdman, e-mail

Reuse a cereal box: You can cut apart cereal boxes and make templates for measuring quilting pieces or make stars, bells, etc., and cover them with foil for Christmas decorations. The lightweight pasteboard is useful for many crafts. — Pat, e-mail

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