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# Rancho Santa Fe REVIEW

**Newspaper**

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Volume 31 Number 38

Providing The Ranch with Three Decades of Quality Journalism

June 7, 2012

## Rattlesnakes strike again in county

In San Diego County, the number of rattlesnake bites is increasing as well as the toxicity of the attack.

"While San Diego County is seeing a rise in snake bite cases each year, the more alarming factor is the toxicity of the bite," said Richard Clark, MD, director of the Division of Medical Toxicology at UC San Diego Health System.

Toxin levels in rattler venom vary from year to year and season to season, but typically venom is weaker in winter and stronger in summer because snakes are more active, fighting for food and territory.

"We really don't know why the venom is becoming increasingly potent. Some speculate that with the modern world encroaching on nature it could be survival of the fittest. Perhaps only the strongest, most venomous snakes survive," said Clark. "The anti-venom is costly at around \$2,500 a vial. Patients may need a series of anti-venom shots and insurance does not always cover the treatment."

The majority of the injuries are on hands, fingers and feet, and the most typical result is swelling and tissue damage that looks like blisters or frost bite.

Symptoms of severe bites can include: extreme pain at the location of the bite, nausea and sometimes

See SNAKES, page 10

## Woodward Spring Fling



**A** howling good time was had by all June 2 at the 24th annual Black-Tie Kit Kat Club Gala at the Helen Woodward Animal Center.

The "Great Catsby"/roaring-'20s-themed gala featured 5-star dining, dancing all night with a step-back-in-time soundtrack by the Sensations Showband, live and silent auctions and a casino area.

The event benefits the center's programs for animals and people in need. See page 12. (Above) Nancy Walters with Creative, Jan Grandprey with Cathy, Marian Higdon with Duncan, Myrna Dignan with June Bug. (Right) Cathy and Doug Moore PHOTOS: ROB MCKENZIE



## RSF resident named a 2012 Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellow

RSF resident Dillon Lerach, a high school junior at Pacific Ridge School in Carlsbad, has been named a 2012 Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellow, part of a State Department Fellowship at Wake Forest University

this summer. Lerach is among 68 students, 10 from the U.S. and 58 from Eastern and Western Europe, who will examine their countries' constitutions, regional and

ethnic conflicts, social movements, and effective methods of documentary filmmaking with an aim toward social change.

Lerach was named a Fellow following a competitive application process in which GPA and extracurricular activities, essays and letters of recommendation were evaluated. Active in both academics and community, Lerach has participated in Model United Nations Conferences around the country, worked with a service learning group supporting military troops and, most recently, received the Yale Club of San Diego Book Award, established to recognize outstanding high

See FELLOW, page 26



Dillon Lerach

## County decision clears way for project construction to begin at Whispering Palms entrance

•Opposition group plans to appeal decision

BY JOE TASH

The developer of a proposed mixed-use commercial and residential project at the entrance to the Whispering Palms community in Rancho Santa Fe won a victory last week when the County of San Diego certified an environmental impact report for the project.

While the decision by county Public Works director Richard Crompton to certify the environmental document as complete clears the way for construction to begin, project opponents have until Friday, June 8, to appeal the decision to the County Board of Supervisors. A spokesman for a community group opposed to the project said an appeal will be filed.

"The community has long sought to see that the lot be developed. This is not a case of 'not in my back yard' protest, this community wants nothing more than to see this eyesore at the entrance to Whispering Palms be developed properly, with something that fits with community character and that would not generate as much traffic, both on Via de la Valle and within the community," said Jeff Carmel, a member of the Whispering Palms Community Council.

Carmel said that if the Board of Supervisors denies the appeal, as expected, residents are likely to go to court in a bid to stop the project.

Wayne Brechtel, the attorney for developer Richard Cavanaugh and his company, Newport Pacific, Inc., said the appeals would not be a surprise, but he anticipates the de-

See PROJECT, page 26

## Dog dies in RSF house fire

Four people and a cat who were awakened by a two-alarm fire in their Rancho Santa Fe home the morning of May 31 escaped unharmed, but their dog perished in the smoke-filled residence.

At 6:38 a.m., firefighters from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District responded to a call for a smoke check. Upon arrival they found heavy smoke coming from the garage of a home in the 16000 block of Mimosa Place and requested a first alarm for a structure fire.

A second alarm was soon added to the call. The fire was confined to the attic, but there was smoke and water damage throughout the home. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Damage is estimated at \$800,000.

Eight units from RSFFPD, Encinitas Fire Department, Solana Beach Fire Department, Del Mar Fire Department, and Vista Fire Department, along with a San Diego Medical Services ambulance and three battalion chiefs responded to the scene. No injuries were reported. — City News Service contributed to this report by the RSF Fire Department.

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# Village Church Contemporary Band highlights 'Live on the Green' concert June 24

•Community event will also feature music by the Peter Popping Band

BY KAREN BILLING

For the last four years, Village Church Contemporary Band leader Duey Neal has been providing the Village Community Presbyterian Church with lively music on Sunday mornings. Now Neal will bring his group outdoors for a special community-wide event, "Live on the Green," on Sunday, June 24, at the Rancho Santa Fe Village Green (intersection of Avenida de Acacias and Paseo Delicias). The Village Church's contemporary band, along with the Peter Popping Band, will provide the entertainment from 5-7 p.m.

The community is welcome to bring a blanket and picnic and enjoy the evening with family and friends.

Neal's group normally plays the 9 a.m. service at the church with Neal on acoustic guitar, vocalist Kim Royster, drummer Jim Biven, bassist Dave Mattia, keyboardist Rob Pickard and electronic guitarist Jeff Lamb.

Saxophone player Adrienne Nims, who usually doesn't play at the church, will join the group at the June 24 concert.

Neal said the Village Church offers one of the best traditional church music (choir and organist) programs that you can find in San Diego, but their contemporary band offers something a little different.

Some of what they play are traditional Christian songs and hymns re-arranged to be played with a band, but 60 percent of the songs they

play have been written in the last 10 years.

"We've got a pretty hot band for what we do, they're really good," Neal said. "There's enough freedom for us to play with enthusiasm, it's not a watered down pop music sound, I think it's pretty dynamic. We're not trying to just sing the truth but trying to feel the truth while we sing it."

Neal has been playing music since a young age and has been mostly self-taught.

"I started playing piano all by ear, I didn't have a lot of formal training," said Neal. "In the first grade I was banging the piano when nobody was home."

He continued playing in bars and shops in college and also started to play mostly piano in worship services for youth programs. He took a "definite shine" to pop music and started playing guitar in college, mainly because he was a big fan



Village Church Contemporary Band leader Duey Neal.

of the music of James Taylor and the Eagles.

"Eventually I combined my interest and natural gift for playing music by ear with my interest in church and my faith in God," Neal said.

"Those came together for me to be involved in contemporary, band-driven sound in worship music in the church."

Neal has been playing and leading worship bands for the last 15 years and started at the Village Church in June 2008.

Neal is very happy with his weekly venue; the Village Church's new sanctuary has technology that makes it a great place for music.

"The place is really beautiful and it really invites one to become reflective and reverent," Neal said "It creates a really nice environment for us to sing songs from our head and our heart."

While they will play a few songs from their church repertoire at the park concert, they will also play a wide variety of fun, upbeat music — some folk rock, some rock, a little jazz.

"I really hope people will feel very comfortable visiting with each other, tossing Frisbees or playing catch. It should be like a park," Neal said.

"It's just people being outside with family and friends and instead of a boom box, a couple of pretty nice bands playing live music."

For more information on Live on the Green, which is sponsored by the Village Church, visit [www.villagechurch.org](http://www.villagechurch.org)

## RSF Fire District to hold Spaghetti Dinner/ 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 9, from 4-7 p.m. at Station 2, located at 16930 Four Gee Road in 4S Ranch. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$4 for children, and will be available at the door.

In addition to providing dinner, firefighters will be on-hand to offer informative displays and demonstrate rescue techniques, including a simulated vehicle fire, removal of a trapped victim from a vehicle, and rescue from the window of a four-story building.

"We are really looking forward to this event," said Captain 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."

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# RSF firefighters host dinner and demonstration

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In addition to providing dinner, firefighters offered informative displays and demonstrated rescue techniques, including a simulated vehicle fire, removal of a trapped victim from a vehicle, and rescue from the window of a four-story building. PHOTOS: JON CLARK



Attendees



The car fire demonstration.



Firefighter Fritchle rappelled from the top of a building into a second story window to rescue a baby.



Polina Chayka operates the fire hose.



Firefighters demonstrate the rescue of a trapped victim from a vehicle.



The car-fire demonstration



Firefighter Smith uses a pry tool to initiate a rescue.



Daniel Falcone checks out the fire hose.



The car-rescue demonstration



Fritchle begins his descent.



Firefighter Dave Mcquead



A firefighter exits from a second story window.



# With summer in the air it's time for German riesling



FRANK MANGIO

## Taste of Wine

I love the festive atmosphere of a German celebration. I embraced the people and their party ways ever since my first visit to Munich and their colossal annual Oktoberfest, to raise the steins for the many beers of Germany. Some 13 tents, each what seems like the size of a football field, roaring bands and local beer attract more than 1 million visitors annually.

Later in life I would go on to produce 10 Oktoberfests in Encinitas until I discovered wine.

Which leads me to a proposal to Germany and the wine world: the same festive celebration should happen for riesling!

I know, when the novice riesling wine drinker looks at a label from Germany, shock sets in as this consonant-laden bottle dares you to figure it out. But, this slightly sweet, fruit-rich expression of great white wine, is the most delightful, refreshing drink on the planet on those hot summer days.

Riesling originated in the Rhine Valley of Germany and went upscale in the nearby Mosel region. The steep, slate hillsides impart steely minerality. In most of Europe, terroir means everything and in nowhere else but the Mosel, will you find this low alcohol, captivating flavor.

Vineyard to vineyard the flavor profile has its own characteristics of sweetness and acidity, making it versatile with food, such as fish, pork, soft cheeses, even Indian, Chinese and Thai.

Every style of wine should have its living celebrity and riesling is no exception. He is Dr. Ernst Loosen (pronounced loh-zen). He makes very intense flavored world-class riesling from the Mosel River District. To gain such greatness, Loosen reduced crop size dramatically, stopped all chemical fertilization and switched to organic. Cellar practices were minimized, letting the wine develop to its own potential. "When I drink a riesling, I want to smell the blue slate soil that nourishes the fruit," he says. "I want to taste the depth of the old vines and experience the character of the vintage. I want authenticity. Without it, a wine is simply a beverage."

Riesling has aging capability, deepening the peach, pear and apricot aroma and taste. The alcohol level could range from a low of 7 percent to about 11 percent, the higher number being drier.

Chateau Ste. Michelle in Washington is the best-known American riesling producer, for more than 40 years. "Taste of Wine" has rated both the budget nonvintage riesling (\$8) and the premium Eroica (\$19) as the best examples of new world rieslings. I would give the nod to the Eroica. This wine is a partnership with Chateau St. Michelle



The Mosel area, where the Mosel River joins with the Rhine in Germany, is the leading wine country for Riesling Wine. Photos by Frank Mangio



Bonnie Pearl is Manager at the new RELM in San Elijo Hills.

## REL M Wine Bar & Bistro opens in San Elijo

After a successful couple of years in downtown Carlsbad, owner Rene Fleming made the leap to a second location in the ultimate bedroom community of San Elijo Hills, a collection of new homes with lots of first-time buyers in their 30s and 40s with stretched-out budg-

ets. RELM means "relax, enjoy, laugh more" and that's exactly what I experienced at the new location. Even the wines and menu items, all new and boutique style, are small wineries and small bites. On a given night, you could start off with a sauvignon blanc, then move into a pinot grigio, tempranillo, then into the muscle wines like malbec and syrah.

The love of my life the night I visited was the RELM Pear, Walnut and Goat Cheese Salad, with the sauvignon blanc. Happy hour weekdays are 3 to 6 p.m. Learn more at thewinerelm.com.

## Wine Bytes

San Diego Wine Company pours chardonnay and pinot noir at their weekly tasting from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 16. Cost is \$10 per person. Call (858) 586-WINE for details.

3rd Corner Wine Bistro in Encinitas brings in winemaker Robert Mondavi Jr. for a wine dinner June 20. Cost is \$65. RSVP at (760) 942-2104.

A benefit Wine & Food Pairing is being held at Altipiano Winery in

Escondido from 2 to 6 p.m. June 23. There will be live music. Call (760) 787-1102 for details.

Gondola Rides with Wine Tasting come back again to Loews Resort on Coronado Island. Cruise for more than an hour and taste six wines on Wednesdays June 13, June 20, June 27; July 11, July 18 and July 25; and Aug. 1, Aug. 8, Aug. 15 and Aug. 22. Cost is \$45 per person. Call for an RSVP at (619) 429-6317.

Frank Mangio is a renowned wine connoisseur certified by Wine Spectator. His library can be viewed at [www.tasteofwinetv.com](http://www.tasteofwinetv.com). (Average Google certified 900 visits per day) He is one of the top five wine commentators on the Web. Reach him at [mangionpc@aol.com](mailto:mangionpc@aol.com).

# RSF Fire Department joins with 'Vial of Life'

RANCHO SANTA FE — Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department recently joined The Yellow Dot Program and Vial of Life, both life-saving programs to assist first responders in medical emergencies at home in and vehicles.

With the advent of smartphones and technology, it's still the simple programs that can save lives. First Responders can't take the time to look at smartphone apps. The "National Yellow Dot Program" is designed to help crash victims communicate with rescuers during the crucial "golden hour," the first 60 minutes after a serious accident.

Participants in the free program receive a yellow dot to place on their rear window; it alerts emergency services personnel to look for a corresponding yellow folder in the glove box. That folder contains a photograph, their medical condi-

tions, prescriptions and other vital information concerning an allergy to medicine, diabetes, a heart condition, etc.

Vial of Life is for anyone who lives alone, a senior citizen or those with medical issues. The Vial of Life provides vital patient information at a critical time — when the first responder enters the home. Often, in a medical emergency, the patient or caller is either too distraught to speak or is unable and having Vial of Life stuck to the refrigerator door can provide critical information, including their medical conditions, prescriptions and other vital information concerning an allergy, diabetes, a heart condition, etc., immediately.

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# Del Mar

64°

## DEL MAR: Firefighters raise money for Burn Institute with annual expo at the fair



JUNE 16, 2012 8:30 PM • BY MANNY LOPEZ FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

Things really heated up at the San Diego County Fair on Saturday as the Burn Institute held its 22nd annual Fire Expo and Firefighter Demo Derby in the Del Mar Arena.

Hundreds of kids stopped, dropped and rolled ---- a fire-safety technique taught to schoolchildren ---- as fire crews from around the region volunteered in what has become

one of the largest and most visible fundraising events for the San Diego-based health nonprofit.

James Floros, executive director of the Burn Institute, said the event is expected to raise more than \$100,000 to support fire prevention education and burn survivor support programs for children and adults throughout San Diego and Imperial counties.

Proceeds will also go toward funding the attendance of more than 80 children between the ages of 5 and 17 at Camp Beyond the Scars, a weeklong program in July. The program helps survivors cope with the emotional damage associated with permanent scars and physical deformities caused by serious burns.

"When you're a burn survivor, you're a burn survivor for life and it's something you will have to deal with every day," Floros said. "We help rebuild their self-esteem and give them important coping skills. It's really about giving them their lives back."

The event kicked off with plenty of pageantry as the CalFire color guard led a procession followed by the San Diego County Pipes and Drums, made up primarily of firefighters from the Vista Fire Department. More than 30 fire agencies from as far away as Los Angeles provided firetrucks and equipment for the event.

Throughout the day, various agencies conducted demonstrations such as a vehicle extrication by the Miramar Fire Department, a rappelling exercise by the Del Mar lifeguards and a vehicle fire extinguishment by the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department.

But it was standing room only as an estimated 5,000 onlookers watched 15 drivers circle a dirt track in specially designed cars built to inflict as much damage as possible on opposing vehicles until only one remained operational. When all the dirt settled, one from the Lemon Grove Fire Department rose to the top of the heap and claimed the victory.

"There's something exciting about watching cars smashing into each other," said Kelly Garces who was rooting for the team from the Viejas Fire Department. "They put on a great show, and it was fun to see the competition between the different teams."

But beyond the spectacle provided by the daring drivers and the fun of being able to climb aboard a shiny firetruck, the annual event provided an important opportunity for firefighters and rescue crews to bond and give back to those adversely affected by fire.

"When you're a firefighter, you're part of a brotherhood," said Nati Nava of the San Pasquale Fire Department. "It's great to be able to meet up with other firefighters from other departments and be able to do something good for the kids."

"It's very rewarding to see the kids grow and thrive through their recovery," said Dana Kuhn, program manager for the Burn Institute. "It's a lifelong recovery with many challenges, but ultimately they can get some much-needed support and hopefully give it back someday."

More information on the Burn Institute can be found at [www.burninstitute.org](http://www.burninstitute.org) or by calling 858-541-2277 in San Diego County and 760-355-3175 in Imperial County. A \$5 donation can be sent by dialing 20222 and texting the word burn.

[Top of Page](#)   [Home](#)   [Full Site](#)

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# Supervisors maintain fire mitigation rates for 2012-13

by Joe Naiman

San Diego County Board of Supervisors voted to maintain the fire mitigation fee paid to fund fire department needs for new construction.

The supervisors' 5-0 vote June 19 kept the fee for non-agricultural construction at 46 cents per square foot, which would be \$920 for a 2,000-square-foot structure. The supervisors also accepted the Fire Mitigation Fee Review Committee's annual report and found that the 26 participating fire agencies conform with the County Fire Mitigation Fee Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2010-11.

The county established the Fire Mitigation Fee Program in 1986 to provide funding for fire protection and emergency medical services in unincorporated communities such as Ramona. Although local fire agencies lack the legal authority to impose mitigation fees on new development, the county collects a fee from building permit applicants on behalf of 19 independent fire protection districts and seven county service areas with fire protection responsibility.

The mitigation fees are distributed quarterly to agency accounts and must be used for capital projects or to purchase firefighting equipment or supplies that will serve new developments.

The committee reviews the annual reports of the participating agencies to confirm that the improvements are necessary to serve new development. Committee members consist of two fire chiefs (currently Bill Paskle of the Alpine Fire Protection District and Tony Michel of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District), one elected director of a fire protection district (Larry Jackman of the San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District), two staff members from county's Department of Planning and Land Use (County Service Area analyst Pattie Tan and fire services program coordinator Susan Quasarano), and one representative each from the Building Industry Association (Matt Adams), the San Diego County Farm Bureau (Scott Lenz of DeLuz), and the county's Planning Commission (Adam Day).

The County Fire Mitigation Fee Ordinance allows fee ceilings to be increased or decreased in proportion to changes in the Cost of Construction Index.

Ramona Municipal Water District received \$48,636 of Fire Mitigation Fee Program money in Fiscal Year 2010-11. The San Diego County Regional Fire Authority, which includes the areas served by the San Pasqual and Intermountain volunteer fire departments, had \$16,082 of mitigation fund revenue.

Because the money is used for capital improvements, it is not required to be spent in a particular fiscal year. Fiscal Year 2012-13 capital expenditures approved by the committee include \$35,000 for the Ramona Municipal Water District's debt service payback for fire station construction and \$1.5 million for new fire station construction for the San Diego County Regional Fire Authority.

**Short URL:** <http://www.ramonasentinel.com/?p=15097>

