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CONTACT US

Editorial
(858) 270-3103 x130
jeff@sdnews.com

Advertising
(571) 259-1530
lauren@sdnews.com

www.sdnews.com
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College Area resident Dani Lloyd sells her Thatcher House baby mobiles at the first Make It Market on Sept. 8. (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

Pop goes the ‘Make It Market’

By JEFF CLEMETSON | COLLEGE AREA NEWS

Coffee and crafts ranging from fair trade Peruvian textile goods to environmentally-conscience renewable straws and more were the highlights of the College Area Business District’s first ever Make It Market.

The event, held Sept. 8 at Ultreya Coffee & Tea, is a new program of the business district where once a month a different member business hosts pop-up market.

“We are trying to organize something for the community to be able to come out and explore some of our local businesses that they may not be aware are here,” said Evelyn Goodrich, College Area Business District program manager. “So we thought the best way to do it was to organize a little pop-up event to highlight those areas and hopefully bring in the community and maybe even some students.”

In addition to offering residents an exciting event and its member

businesses another way to attract customers, the Make It Market also fills a need for local craft vendors.

“We don’t have a lot of markets going on specifically in this area, there are some going on in La Mesa or around Mission Valley, but here there wasn’t really anything great that vendors could come in so we felt we would create something like that,” Goodrich said.

SEE **MARKET**, Page 8

Hotel on Montezuma given go ahead

By DOUG CURLEE | COLLEGE TIMES COURIER

Construction could start soon on a four-story, 125-room hotel at 6650 Montezuma Road, six long blocks east of San Diego State University.

Not everyone is all that happy about the project, especially the people at the College-Rolando Library.

The San Diego City Council approved the plan at the end of August, contingent on whether or not enough parking places could be provided for the library, which needs more parking than it currently has.

Jeannette Temple of the Atlantis Group planning consultants helped guide the building permit application through the process.



Artist rendering of the proposed Hampton Inn hotel on Montezuma Road (Courtesy City of San Diego)

“The council approved the building permit, and it was filed last week. What still has to be decided by the council is the parking issue, since the library and the hotel will sit right next to each

other,” she said. “That process will go before the council’s land use and planning committee the first week in October, and go to

SEE **HOTEL**, Page 2

A plan comes together

Local residents spearhead update to College Area

By JEFF CLEMETSON | COLLEGE TIMES COURIER

The last time the College Area’s community plan was updated was in 1989 — too long ago for College Area Planning Board chair Jose Reynoso and a group of residents who set out to speed up the city’s process of updating community plans by drafting a plan of their own.

The idea to draft a community plan update (CPU) was born two years ago when Reynoso and College View Estates resident Mike Jenkins were working on an ordinance to regulate mini-dorms. That ordinance was eventually ruled unconstitutional.

“We were attempting to address symptoms of a problem, not the problem itself,” Reynoso said. “And the problem itself was an insufficient amount of housing, student housing, immediately adjacent to San Diego State.”

So Reynoso and Jenkins approached the planning board with the idea to ask the city to make a specific plan for the areas around College Avenue and Montezuma Road that would address the growing need for student housing and also reshape the area into a cohesive neighborhood highlighting the college experience.

“Make the area a destination, because our vision was to make the area a college town atmosphere, what you would expect in a typical college town — bookstores, coffee houses, bars, restaurants, you name it. Make it an attraction,” Reynoso said. “You don’t have that anywhere in San Diego and we have the opportunity to do it here.”

Another positive pitch for the plan to build more student housing close to campus — where there is the most

SEE **CPU**, Page 4

Hotel

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

the full council maybe a week later.”

Kathy McNamara is a board member of the Friends of the College Rolando Friends of the Library group.

“We’re not totally happy about the approval, but it’s better than what was being talked about before — a bunch of small apartments on that lot,” she said. “If there’s a good part of it, the developer is at least willing to come to some sort of a deal giving us, or

at least renting us, more parking and access than we have now.

“We still have some concerns about where that parking might be. It might depend on where the developer wants to place the front of the hotel,” McNamara continued. “We don’t want to have to walk all the way across the whole parking lot to get to the library — we have many senior citizens who come to the library regularly.”

Developer Shahin Edalatdju is planning to build the hotel as a Hampton Inn, which is a part of the Hilton hotel empire. But he apparently plans to run the hotel

himself — or at least keep it in the family. We are told he currently has a son who’s studying hotel administration and hospitality in college, and will probably run the hotel himself.

We’ll see what happens with the parking issue, but Jeannette Temple says it shouldn’t be a big problem.

No one will start shoveling dirt on the site next week — but it probably won’t be long before construction begins.

—Doug Curlee is longtime San Diego journalist in both print and television. ■



A view of the College-Rolando Library’s limited parking lot (Photo by Doug Curlee)

Library Book Club gets new leader

By AUDREY MATULA

It’s quite fitting that our College-Rolando Library has a book discussion group for enjoyment and yes, learning — and so much more.

The second Saturday of each month, at 10 a.m., a group of avid readers gather to discuss the month’s chosen selection of mystery, history or any varied topics, maybe biographical or entertainment. There is no “membership,” nor fee, and anyone is welcome.

The group’s new leader, Sue Grant, has assumed her post after the previous four-year leadership of Joan Wood, who set up the master plan of book reservations and support from the library staff and still keeps in touch with the local book selections as she awaits starting a group in San Marina where she now lives. She adds that Grant, her right hand, was also helpful with details.

To acquaint newcomers to the book club, Grant said when she was living in Sacramento, she was invited to Ernstwhile Book Club, a group of professional women and admits they set aside a certain weeknight for meeting.

“It was ‘food for the soul’ and we took our book choices seriously,” she said. It was her job to develop a spreadsheet on all of the books that they had to read. Grant still has that spreadsheet and can use it for future reading adventures.

As to the joy of reading books and sharing their ideas about what they’ve read, Grant observes that some people keep those thoughts to themselves and that it is a “very personal experience.” She admits she is the opposite and believes, “we all have a lot of history and much to offer in the way



Susan Grant (Courtesy photo)

of life experience. You mix that in with a good book discussion and you are a-home free.”

Here are some of the titles the group has read: “The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini, “The Guernsey Library And Potato Peel Society” by Mary Schaffer, “Endurance” by Alfred Lansing, “Boys in the Boat” by Daniel Brown, and “Girl Waits with Gun” by Amy Stewart. Currently, the group is reading “Sapiens” by Yuval Noah Harari.

“We shy away from nothing,” Grant said, “Technical reads improve brain plasticity, or so they say, and this one fits the bill.”

The yearly calendar includes a wide variety of books — most need to be published at least two years ago.

“For me, books are magical, an escape and a release, a way to connect with people and ideas otherwise unreachable, and to my delight, I have learned that there are many people [who] feel the same way that I do about books and they want to join a club,” she said.

—Audrey Matula is a member at large of the Friends of the College-Rolando Library. ■



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SDSU shares active shooter response training

By JEFF CLEMETSON | COLLEGE TIMES COURIER

It's a sad fact of today's violent culture — going back to school also means the possibility of dealing with a school shooter. For the last several years, San Diego State University (SDSU) has taken a proactive approach to the threat of active shooters by training students and staff how to be prepared in the event of an incident like the kind that too often make headlines in this country. On Sept. 17, SDSU shared that training to a small group of community members at the College-Rolando Library.

"The more we see this happening in public spaces that we're all in, the more important it becomes that we all have access to information," said SDSU Communications Director Rachell Gregg, who organized the active shooter response training that was free and open to the public.

SDSU Police Community Resource Officer Mark Peterson conducted the hour-long training. He said that there are several different active shooter training methods but that they all "want you to respond actively in an active shooter event. You want to be



SDSU Police Officer Mark Peterson discusses active shooter responses at a free training at the College-Rolando Library on Sept. 17. (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

taking steps, making the actions that will help us go to the place we call home at the end of the day."

In an active shooter situation, there are three basic responses — fight, flight and freeze.

"Freeze is what we don't want to do in this situation," he said. "So this training is helping you get solutions so that you don't freeze or are less likely to freeze in the event of an attack."

Nationally, Peterson said, there are three traditional responses to an active shooter: lockdown, secure the environment and hide — usually under a desk — and wait for help to arrive.

"We're going to give some additional options," he said. "The first option, if you can — run. If you have an opportunity to get out and do so safely, go ahead and take it."

Before running, it is important to know where the attacker is and know all available exits — including windows, fire escapes and even through ceiling tiles. The decision to feel should be immediately acted on, and Peterson advised to not worry about taking along purses, backpacks, briefcases, etc. as they would slow down an escape. Once out of a room or building, look for a wall or vehicle to shield yourself and keep your hands raised to help law enforcement know that you are not the shooter.

If leaving the building is impossible or dangerous, another option is to hide, although that is not a term Peterson thinks should be used.

"It sounds very passive," he

said. "I want this to be an active response. We are actively taking steps to make this attacker think we are not there."

Some active steps to hide include locking or blockading doorways, overturning desks, turning off lights, silencing cell phones and searching out places in the room where you will be out of sight from the entrance way. Peterson also advised people to not lay down while hiding, but rather stay crouched and ready to move if need be.

"If you can't run, if you can't hide, the last option is to fight. And you're only fighting when that person comes to your space," Peterson said. "If somebody is intent on doing unimaginable harm and nothing is done to disrupt them, are they likely to be successful? In my opinion they are."

When it comes to "fighting" an attacker, the main goal is to disrupt their actions. This can be achieved successfully by a variety of methods like throwing objects at him or spraying a fire extinguisher at him to distract his actions and then following through with a move to take him down and restrain him. Once

restrained, the best strategy is to hold him down until police arrive.

"Going on the offensive, not all of us are going to be willing to do that. That's the reality of life," he said. "But if you are willing to do it, a little bit of coordination ahead of time and a willingness to engage are what you need."

Other aspects of the training included how to gather information about the situation using your senses, what to share with police when you reach a 911 operator, a video clip exercise in awareness and practicing "what if" scenarios to make mental plans in case of an emergency situation.

Although there were few community members in attendance at the training, Peterson said it is something that SDSU would likely offer the public again.

"I think it's something that is beneficial to be offered to the public," he said. "By even attending this course, it gets you thinking about this stuff and thinking about it is the quickest way that you're not going to freeze."

—Reach editor Jeff Clemetson at jeff@sdnews.com. ■

Planning board close to approving Zuma West project

By EVA YAKUTIS

At their Sept. 11 meeting, the College Area Community Planning Board (CACPB) peppered developer and former CACPB member Keith Henderson of Zuma West, LLC, with questions and concerns about his proposed five-story, 27-unit "Zuma West" student housing development which incorporates, in addition, two off-site, affordable homes.

Zuma West is anticipated to replace two large duplexes currently located at 6139-6147 Montezuma Road, while the project's affordable units will be new, single-family rental homes in the College Area neighborhood.

After discussion and several design concessions by the developer, the board — on a close vote of nine to seven — tabled consideration of the project until their October meeting. The delay will give the developer and the board's project review committee an opportunity to put all agreed-upon changes in writing. After final consideration and recommendations by the CACPB, Henderson will be moving the entire project forward to the city for approval. Anticipated ground-breaking is 2020, with project completion in the fall of 2021.

Zuma West is designed by the prestigious San Diego architectural and design firm of Joseph Wong Designs. The apartment community includes a secured lobby, internal trash collection area, curb cuts to accommodate deliveries and pick-ups, and an amenity

space/open terrace on the fifth floor with views to the north.

The units are a mixture of three bedrooms and four bedrooms, with the majority being four bedrooms. The project does not include parking or garage spaces, which is in compliance with current zoning regulations.

Height step-backs and landscaping on Mary Lane to the rear of the property and green-screening on the exterior stairwell have also been included at the request of the CACPB Project Review Committee. Items under discussion include, among others, open and personal space for tenants, street setbacks, the stairwell height, and a rooftop terrace curfew.

The two off-site, detached homes include garages and yards and will meet the building standards of the surrounding neighborhood. They

will be offered for rent to qualifying very-low-income families and will be managed by the San Diego Housing Commission. The rent will be no more than 30% of 50% of the Area Median Income (\$86,300) as adjusted for household size. A family of four, for example, could have a combined income of up to \$53,500 a year. Covenants on the titles to these homes will require they remain affordable for a period of 55 years.

The project takes advantage of the city's "affordable housing density bonus" which allows for extra density in a multi-family development in exchange for the addition of affordable housing units, either on site or off site. Zuma West is using the density bonus to move up from the allowable on-site unit number of 22 market rate apartments to 27.



Artist rendering of the Zuma West project (Courtesy Zuma West, LLC)

The developer indicates the project's two affordable homes will be built on Hobart Street, behind and inclusive of 6205 Pembroke Drive. The addresses are yet to be determined by the city.

The CACPB Project Review Committee will be meeting with

Henderson on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 6:30 p.m., Faith Presbyterian Church, 5075 Campanile Drive. The project will then move on to the CACPB on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m., also at Faith Presbyterian

SEE ZUMA WEST, Page 5

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CPU

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

demand — is that it could also alleviate the issues associated with mini-dorms.

“And hopefully preserve the residential neighborhoods around the campus,” Reynoso said. “My hope is that a lot of the houses that are currently mini-dorms, as soon as they get competition from multi-resident student housing, will revert back to single-family units.”

The specific plan idea was immediately supported by the planning board, most of the area’s community groups, the apartment owners association, San Diego’s city planning director and even former City Manager Jack McGrory, who all wrote letters in support of the idea.

However, once the group looked into it further, there was a problem with the scope of the plan — it wasn’t large enough.

AN IDEA EVOLVES

“You can’t just look at one area that may create traffic changes for example, it affects the entire community,” Reynoso said. “And we were long overdue for a community plan update.”

So the idea of a creating a new specific plan for the area near campus evolved into drafting a complete CPU for the entire College Area — the area bordered by Interstate 8 to the north, Collwood Boulevard to the west,

El Cajon Boulevard to the south and the city of La Mesa to the east.

Many of San Diego’s communities have recently updated their plans, including Mission Valley, Old Town, North Park and Midway. While some updates like the one in Old Town have gone smoothly, other CPUs in areas such as North Park and Midway have been met with resistance by residents and other stakeholders in their respective areas. Reynoso hopes that by taking a more proactive approach to the plan update process, consensus on the new plan will be reached easier.

“The way it has worked in the past is [the city will] do an existing conditions analysis and then there is a project team within the city that puts together a team that includes community members, particularly from the planning board, and then they present ideas to people, which is why North Park, for example, took six years, Midway took 10 years — because they came in and imposed ideas. There was an uproar, lawsuits, it dragged on.”

To avoid the kind of resistance and infighting that hobbled other CPUs, Reynoso and other residents volunteered to form a Steering Committee and began organizing meetings to gather input and ideas from locals as to what they wanted the future of the College Area to look like. That went on for two years and culminated in a community forum held at the Ugly Dog pub, attended by nearly 100 residents sharing ideas for the new plan.

“It reinforced the vision, almost a consensus vision, that the community has for the long-term future of the area,” Reynoso said.

At that meeting, Howard Blackson, a local urban designer who was invited to attend, counseled that there were enough resources for the planning group to put together an update plan by themselves and present to the city.

“And there are benefits to that,” Reynoso said. “Number one, because of the comments from the visioning, that plan we already know would encompass the growth goals that the city has — climate action plan goals, mobility goals, etc. — those goals are embraced by our community.”

“And if we do it, by definition, that means the community supports it, which means there is less chance of it being challenged when it goes for approvals at the Planning Commission,” he continued. “And when it goes for final approval at City Council, there’ll less likely be any controversy because the council will know this is what the community wants.”

STUDENT HELP

Not long after the meeting at the Ugly Dog, Reynoso and the other planning group members knew it was time to involve more of the area’s stakeholders, like SDSU. So the group officially created an advisory board for the master plan update that included students, developers, planners, environmental groups, residents



Steering committee members look over ideas for the College Area community plan update created by SDSU students in Dr. Bruce Appleyard’s studio class. (Courtesy College Area Planning Board)

— anyone they felt should have a say in the direction of the plan.

They contacted SDSU urban planning faculty members and asked them to get involved and invited them to a meeting. Among those who attended was professor Bruce Appleyard, who not only committed to the master plan idea, he also offered to have one of his classes in spring 2019 take on the project to develop a CPU, using the visions for the area that the community had compiled at the Ugly Dog.

Appleyard’s students were broken up into different teams to tackle housing, mobility, existing conditions and other parts of the plan. To get updates from the class, the College Area Community Council (CACC) hired two interns — Daniel Shirazi and Richard Xie, who are still part of the project’s Steering Committee today.

READY TO GO

Hiring interns and developing a master plan — even one in its infancy — costs money. To get things going, CACC funded \$5,000 to develop the plan.

For other needed funds, the Steering Committee members approached the usual channels. They met with Mike Hansen, head of the city’s Planning Department and presented their vision. As it turns out, Reynoso said, the Planning Department had already applied for and received a \$700,000 SANDAG grant for a smart growth plan for College Area that “almost identically mirrored” the objectives and visions the residents suggested for the developing plan.

In the latest budget, City Council President Georgette Gomez requested \$1 million for developing the College Area CPU and got it, bringing the funding for a new plan to \$1.7 million.

The city’s goal was to have its Planning Department take over working on the plan by end of summer or fall of this year, which is perfect timing because the draft plan created by the CACC Steering Committee is almost ready for review.

Reynoso said that a typical CPU process takes the city about three years to complete.

“We’re looking to reduce that. We are optimistic that it can be done in 18 months,” he added. “The current conditions report, most of it is done already, outreach has been done, ideas gathered already, the data is already there, it may need to be fine-tuned, but we’ve probably saved the city about a year.”

Community members will get to see what is in the draft plan when it is presented for a vote of approval by the College Area Planning Board at its Nov. 13 meeting. The plan will then be sent to the city for review, as well as review by the public.

“We’re trying to make this as transparent as possible,” Reynoso said. “All the comments that we got at that visions session at Ugly Dog are up at our website. All the minutes from the Steering Committee meetings are there. I go to every community meeting to keep them updated on what’s going on and get more people involved.”

For more information, visit collegearea.org.

—Reach editor Jeff Clemetson at jeff@sdnews.com. ■

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City, school district break ground on joint-use park

On Aug. 12, Harriet Tubman students and staff joined city of San Diego and San Diego Unified leaders to celebrate the groundbreaking for their new 37,000-square-foot grass playfield and park.

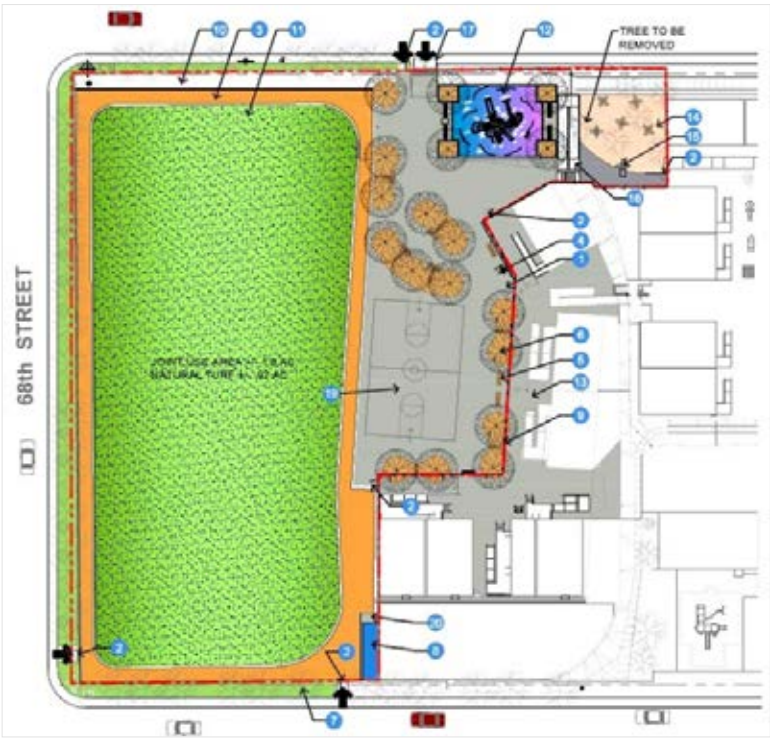
The Harriet Tubman Village K-8 Charter School joint-use field project involves construction of a natural grass playfield with a walking and running path, as well as security fencing. Amenities include new picnic tables and benches, a new drinking fountain, a new play structure with shade, and existing basketball courts.

City of San Diego Council President Georgette Gómez and San Diego Unified Board Trustee Dr. Mike McQuary joined San Diego Unified Chief Facilities and Planning Officer Lee Dulgeroff, Tubman Charter CEO Ryan Woodard, and longtime advocate Terry Shirley for the ceremony.

As part of the Play All Day partnership with the city of San Diego, the joint-use field will be accessible to the community as a local park after school hours and during school breaks.

The Play All Day Parks Program is a new initiative put forth by the city of San Diego Mayor's Office and the superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) in 2016 to break ground on more than 45 new joint-use park sites in the next 5-10 years.

In addition to the joint-use park at Harriet Tubman, parks are also planned for nearby Carver Elementary and Rolando Park Elementary schools.



General development plan of the joint-use field project (Courtesy SDUSD)

According to the Trust for Public Land, 23% of the population in San Diego currently lives further than a 10-minute walk to a park or recreational facility. One of the biggest challenges San Diego faces in building new parks is the limited amount of available land. Partnering SDUSD to share schoolyards with residents makes more available park space possible.

The new Play All Day park facilities will be opened on existing school sites and constructed with both city and bond funding from Propositions S and Z. The city will commit to operate and maintain the new park facilities.

Construction on the park at Harriet Tubman is expected to be

completed in early 2020. While under construction, school officials said there may be occasional construction noise and traffic control.

For more information about the Play All Day Parks Program, visit bit.ly/2ZfpHnE.

For more coverage on the joint use park, see "Tubman finally gets its park" on page 10 and "Mesa Colony Community Group news" on page 14.■

NEWS BRIEFS



Georgette Gomez (left) addresses supporters on Sept. 14 (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

GOMEZ ANNOUNCES RUN FOR CONGRESS

On Saturday, Sept. 14, San Diego City Council President and District 9 representative Georgette Gomez officially kicked off her campaign for Congress. Gomez is running for the 53rd District seat that will be open for 2020 candidates following Rep. Susan Davis' announcement that she will be retiring after her current term is up.

The campaign rally for Gomez, held at the United Domestic Workers Union Hall on Seminole Drive, was attended by a diverse coalition of supporters from labor, LGBTQ groups, Muslim American rights organizations and more.

Gomez is starting her campaign with support from 51st congressional district Rep. Juan Vargas, who represents the southern border regions of San Diego and Imperial counties.

"She is the most prepared person running in this district by far," Vargas said of Gomez in a speech at the campaign event.

Gomez also made her case that she is the most qualified candidate, touting her successful City Council run, unanimous election to council president by her colleagues and her leadership at Metropolitan Transit System (MTS).

"Someone born in Barrio Logan, I never thought I'd be a person running for City Council, but I did," she said. "And today, we launch our campaign to congress."

Other potential Democratic candidates running for the open seat include activist Ray Lutz, founder of the watchdog Citizens' Oversight Projects, who formed an exploratory committee on Sept. 12. Sarah Jacobs, a one-time policy advisor to Hillary Clinton, has also tossed in her name for the seat.

On the other side of the isle, Right To Try Foundation president and former school board candidate Pamela Ramos announced on Sept. 6 that she will run for Davis' seat. Her run is seen as a long shot campaign in the Democratic-leaning district, which went for Rep. Davis a whopping 69.1% to 30.9% in 2018.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, Page 6

Zuma West

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

Church. The public is welcome to both meetings.

Although a recommendation by the respective neighborhood's community planning board is not required before final submission, developers have an obligation to present projects to the community

impacted before the city makes an environmental determination on a project. CACPB Project Review Committee Chairperson Jim Jennings hopes that both community and Henderson can "meet half way."

—Eva Yakutis is an El Cerrito resident, El Cerrito Community Council board member and a writer by trade.■

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1621 Grand Ave., Suite C
San Diego, CA 92109
(858) 270-3103
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EDITOR

Jeff Clemetson x130
jeff@sdnews.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Kendra Sitton x136
Tom Melville x131
Emily Blackwood x133
Dave Schwab x132

COPY EDITOR

Dustin Lothspeich

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Jeff Clemetson

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Chris Baker x107
chris@sdnews.com

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Francisco Tamayo, x116

ACCOUNTING

Heather Humble x120
accounting@sdnews.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Saul Amerling
Susan Clarke Crisafulli
Doug Curlee
Rep. Susan Davis
Mara W. Elliott
Tina Gerstler
Elizabeth Gillingham
Neil Gladson
Georgette Gómez
Patrick Hanson
Dianne Jacob
Jennifer Osborn
Jose Reynoso
Frank Sabatini Jr.
Sarah Ward
Ryan Woodward
Eva Yakutis

ADVERTISING CONSULTANT

Lauren Vernon x110

BUSINESS CONSULTANT

David Mannis

PUBLISHER

Julie Main, x106
julie@sdnews.com



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Editorial

College Area deserves a real community newspaper

Welcome to the College Times Courier! We hope you find our new publication, publishing on every third Friday of the month, a source of exclusive local news and features that will keep you, the readers, up to date on the issues that affect your neighborhoods.

College Times Courier is the ninth publication of the San Diego Community News Group (SDCNG), which has a decades-long history of producing award-winning journalism with papers that stretch from La Jolla to La Mesa.

It was our publications' reputations for excellence that brought us to the College Area and onto your porches, driveways and newspaper racks in your shopping and community centers. In July of this year, College Area

Community Council members Jose Reynoso and Saul Amerling approached SDCNG with the idea of bringing back coverage of and distribution to the College Area by the Mission Times Courier, which covers the Navajo communities, but at one time had also included the College Area under former publisher Jim Madaffer.

It is our belief that community newspapers serve an important role in connecting people, not only through shared proximity, but shared values and interests.

Instead, SDCNG publisher Julie Main sees the College Area as a unique region that deserves its own publication that would focus on the many interesting and exciting developments in its neighborhoods.

Reynoso and Amerling, along with College Area Business District President Jim Schneider and local Realtor Sarah Ward, told us they were interested in having SDCNG cover community news in the College Area because their neighborhoods were lacking a solid, legitimate source to fulfill those needs.

Heading up the editorial team for this new publication is editor Jeff Clemetson, who also leads the College Times Courier's sister publications, Mission Times Courier and La Mesa Courier. To pitch stories or send letters to the editor, reach him at jeff@sdnews.com

The advertising sales rep for College Times Courier is Lauren Vernon, who joined the SDCNG team in August.

You can reach her to fill your local advertising and marketing needs at lauren@sdnews.com. We encourage you to support your local businesses that make it possible to provide you with your own local newspaper.

We hope you enjoy reading the first edition of the College Times Courier. We will provide the kind of community-building journalism that we have brought to all of the SDCNG publications.

It is our belief that community newspapers serve an important role in connecting people, not only through shared proximity, but shared values and interests. We view newspapers as an important thread in the fabric of a community — and the College Area deserves that thread to be as strong and legitimate as the College Area community itself. ■

Guest Editorial

Time to act on short-term rentals

By MARA W. ELLIOTT

Short-term rentals in San Diego should be regulated in a clear and objective manner that respects the rights of all property owners, protects our quality of life, and preserves our housing stock.

Instead of adopting a regulatory framework, however, San Diego has opted to rely on existing laws that address noise, trash, parking, and other problems created by visitors who rent properties through online services like Airbnb. This is frustrating to those of us who believe that short-term rental property owners and neighborhood residents deserve clear rules that they can live with.

While the politics of short-term rentals (STRs) are complicated, the law is clear. The municipal code, which houses our city's laws, does not specifically regulate or prohibit STRs in single-family residential zones. Under what is known as a "permissive" zoning ordinance, the city of San Diego has created zones that define how land within the city may be used. If the use is not listed, it is not permitted, which is the case with STRs. At a minimum, our policy makers must define STRs so that citizens understand how the land can be used,

and so that law enforcement can enforce the law.

In March 2017, I issued the first of several memoranda summarizing the law and suggesting potential solutions, including the enactment of an ordinance that reflects "the reasonable compromise our communities seek," a compromise that allows for participation in the innovation economy as well as the quiet enjoyment of our homes.

Following the memo's release, the Mayor's Office said that it would not change enforcement practices until the City Council took action to regulate short-term rental properties.

In August 2018, after hours of public testimony, the City Council enacted on a 6-2 vote an ordinance to regulate STRs. The ordinance had been introduced by the Planning Department and amended by the City Council. Attorneys in my office advised on the law and drafted municipal code amendments to meet the policy makers' goals.

The STR industry did not like the ordinance. Although they openly threatened to sue, they instead chose to bankroll a petition drive to suspend the ordinance and force a public vote on it. In such cases, the council has a

choice: it can repeal its ordinance outright or place it on the ballot. By an 8-1 vote, the council repealed its ordinance, even though it had been years in the making.

Under the law, the Mayor and City Council had two alternatives. When the City Council repeals an ordinance suspended by a referendum, as was the case here, the Council could introduce a substantially similar ordinance one year after the date of repeal. The one-year anniversary of the repeal is November 13, 2019. The council could also immediately introduce a new STR ordinance that does not substantially mirror the repealed ordinance. Unfortunately, no action has occurred since the repeal, and STRs continue to flourish.

The Mayor and City Council have a golden opportunity to bring this long conversation to a meaningful and productive end by finally putting in place rules that are objective and clear, and again they will have the full support of my office in doing so. In the meantime, my office stands ready to prosecute any STR-related nuisance cases brought to us by mayoral departments.

—Mara W. Elliott is San Diego City Attorney. ■

News briefs

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

With the City Council District 9 seat now up for grabs, there will likely be a slew of potential candidates announcing bids in the next few weeks. Gomez has already endorsed one candidate to fill her spot on the council — San Diego Community College District representative Sean Elo, who announced his bid in a tweet on Sept. 16.

"My love for City Heights & District 9 came the moment I started doing work in the community. Nearly a decade later, I am honored to have been asked to step forward & serve to continue the great work being done in the district," he tweeted.

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY SHUT DOWN

The owner of an assisted living residence on Ewing Street is facing 22 misdemeanor counts related to substandard conditions of the facility. Charges include one count of willful cruelty to an elder and three counts of unlawful maintenance of a public nuisance.

Mark Rogers, 59, operated the facility that housed 11 residents — all elderly or disabled adults — until the city shut it down. He was arraigned on Sept. 10. The city had been investigating the home since November 2018 and had found conditions that included piles of trash, beds with rat feces, toxic gas leaking from a water heater and a home that smelled of urine, according to prosecutors.

Rogers is also accused of using the residents for cheap labor and then submitting fake invoices to the property manager to reimburse for thousands of dollars in repairs.

Rogers is ordered to appear in court on Oct. 10.

STUDENT HOUSING COMMUNITY FORUM

College Area residents are invited to attend a community forum regarding TOPAZ — a proposed mixed-use student

Time for the Senate to act on gun violence

CA 53 BULLETIN
By REP. SUSAN DAVIS



The list of cities and the number of families impacted by gun violence grows just about every day.

El Paso and Dayton were recently added. This was after Gilroy and Poway right here in California.

Despite this, bipartisan bills to address gun violence that passed the House of Representatives are languishing in the Senate.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has proudly referred to himself as “The Grim Reaper,” committed to letting bills that come out of the House to simply die.

It’s time for Leader McConnell to instead be the “Angel of Mercy” and allow these bills a debate and vote in the Senate.

Gun violence prevention legislation sent to the Senate enjoys bipartisan support in the House and among the American people.

The Bipartisan Background Checks Act (HR 8) will close glaring loopholes in the federal background check system, covering all sales.

Background checks work. Each year, these checks stop 88,000 gun sales to criminals, domestic abusers, or other prohibited purchasers. Yet, in some states, those same individuals can buy identical guns at a gun show, over the internet, or through a newspaper ad — no questions asked. The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that background checks have stopped more than 3 million illegal gun sales since 1994.

Universal background checks have overwhelming support among the American people. A Quinnipiac Poll showed this support at 97% of the American people, 97% of gun owners, and 97% of Republicans. If Leader McConnell won’t listen to the House, he should listen to the American people.

Passage of HR 8 was truly historic as it was the first major House vote on gun violence prevention legislation in 25 years.

The Enhanced Background Check Act (HR 1112) will close the “Charleston Loophole” that allowed an avowed white supremacist — with a drug arrest — to purchase a gun. This gun was used to kill nine people at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015.

Under current law, a gun seller must wait three business days while federal authorities conduct a background check. While most of these checks can happen quickly, lack of information can cause delays. If a delay lasts more than three days, the gun sale is allowed to move forward.

HR 1112 expands the time for the FBI to conduct a background check to 10 days, with an extension of 10 more days if necessary. If authorities had more time, they would have likely discovered the past drug arrest and blocked the sale.

Many of my House colleagues and I urged the Senate to return early from our summer recess to take up these measures. We were — unsurprisingly — rejected by the Senate majority leader.

However, the House Judiciary Committee has returned early to consider three bills to address gun violence. This series of legislation will ban high-capacity magazines, prohibit people convicted of a misdemeanor hate crimes from buying a gun, and help states that enact red flag laws to allow law enforcement to seize guns from those people considered to be a threat to themselves or others.

The House should also look at reinstating the nationwide assault weapons ban.

The mass shooting in Gilroy is an example of why we need a national ban. While California has an assault weapons ban, our neighboring state Nevada does not. The Gilroy shooter purchased an AK-47 in Nevada and used it to kill three people at the Gilroy Garlic Festival.

The people of California — or any of the five other states and the District of Columbia with similar bans — should not have their lives put at risk because of another state’s lax gun laws.

Once again, this is a gun safety proposal with bipartisan support. Nearly 70% of Americans want such a ban, including 55% of Republicans.

As the rest of Congress comes back into session this month, the Senate has a real opportunity to put the safety of the American people before politics and enact common-sense gun safety measures. The House is doing its job. It’s time the Senate joined us.

—Congresswoman Davis represents central San Diego, as well as La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Spring Valley and parts of El Cajon and Chula Vista.■

Bringing people together on local projects

District Nine Notes
By GEORGETTE GÓMEZ



I am committed to creating local government that is inclusive, equitable, transparent, and accountable. In practice, we should ensure that the voices of residents are included in issues that matter to the community. This includes engagement on the following projects:

HARRIET TUBMAN JOINT-USE PARK

Recently, I was proud to join community members and staff from the San Diego Unified School District and Harriet Tubman Village Charter School for the groundbreaking of the long-anticipated joint-use park.

This project has been decades in the making, and it is truly a community-generated effort that came together through the city’s Capital Improvement Program. My office ensured that the community was heard in the design and development process to create a park that best serves the charter school students and community members.

This park is important to providing more green space and more places to come together with neighbors in the College Area. When complete, the park will be used by the students during school hours and will be open as a public park to the community after school, on weekends, and during school breaks.

I look forward to celebrating its grand opening with you in the spring of 2020.

IMPROVEMENTS TO CLAY PARK

Earlier this year, I convened staff from the Mayor’s Office, San Diego Police Department, the city’s Parks & Recreation and Environmental Services departments, the San Diego Unified School District, and other organizations to work with Rolando Village residents regarding improvements they want to see at Clay Park.

As a result, the San Diego Unified School District has installed perimeter fencing around the joint-use field and further improvements identified by the Colina del Sol Recreation Advisory Group are expected to

be completed later this year or early next year.

COLLEGE-ROLANDO LIBRARY

This year, I have been working with community residents to ensure that concerns about access to parking for the College-Rolando Library are addressed as an adjacent property is being redeveloped. It has been a priority that the community is heard and that discussions are transparent and accountable. I look forward to an agreement that works for both residents using the library and visitors using the hotel.

—Council President Georgette Gómez represents the 9th Council District of the city of San Diego, which includes the communities of Alvarado Estates, City Heights, College Area, College View Estates, El Cerrito, Kensington, Mountain View, Mt. Hope, Rolando, Southcrest, and Talmadge. She is the chair of the Metropolitan Transit System, chairs the city of San Diego’s Rules Committee, and sits on the SANDAG board of directors and Executive Committee.■

News from your County Supervisor

Dianne’s Corner
By DIANNE JACOB



Ready for wildfire?: Many of the biggest and deadliest firestorms in San Diego County history have happened this time of year.

When disaster strikes again, will you be ready?

Some critical reminders – be sure to sign up for reverse 9-1-1 alerts, put together a family emergency preparedness plan and check out the county’s Know Your Hazards map to learn about the risks where you live.

Details on all these and more can be found at readysandiego.org.

Senior housing: I was so grateful and pleased to take part in a recent ribbon-cutting in Ramona for the new Schmale Family Senior Residence, a housing complex that serves one of our most vulnerable populations – low-income seniors.

Thanks to the non-profit Serving Seniors, Ramona leaders and others for teaming up with the county on this project. It’s part of a broader county effort to boost the stock of affordable housing.

Seniors are the fastest-growing segment of our population -- and many face huge challenges. Medical. Social. Financial. We must do all we can to help them and their families.

Keeping our kids safe: The San Diego County Office of

Education, working with county emergency preparedness officials, recently rolled out additional measures to boost campus safety come the next big wildfire.

The School Protection and Evacuation Plan gives us a clear road map to safer campuses.

This is Wildfire Country and we all need to be as prepared as possible – at home, at work and at school. The plan is another big step in those efforts.

—Dianne Jacob is chair of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and represents District 2. For more District 2 news, visit diannejacob.com or follow her on Facebook and Twitter. For assistance with a county issue, call 619-531-5522 or email dianne.jacob@sdcountry.ca.gov.■

OBITUARY: SALLY A. DEMCHAK

Sally Ann Demchak peacefully passed away at her home in La Mesa, CA on April 2, 2019. Sally was born on March 14, 1928 in Rochester, New York to parents Samuel and Josephine Lombardo, now deceased. Sally was the oldest of three daughters: Maryann Oliver and Patricia Miner, both deceased. Sally was a long time resident of La Mesa, CA where she resided with her husband, retired USAF Major Paul J. Demchak and four children. She is survived by her husband, Paul, and their four children: Barry, Scott, Robyn and Karen Gilbert. She is also survived by her four grandchildren and one great grandson. Sally and Paul enjoyed traveling the world during and after Paul retired from the U.S. Air Force. For many years, Sally was a legal secretary. She also worked with the legal community typing legal briefs, transcripts and books. Sally worked with college students, university students and staff members to produce their graduation theses. Sally and Paul walked the hills of La Mesa, with many of their friends, for an early morning workout. Throughout the years, Sally was no stranger to tournament bowling, golf and many bridge groups. Sally was a Parishioner of St. Martin’s Roman Catholic Church of La Mesa, CA.



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Market

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Dani Lloyd is one of the vendors who participated in the Make It Market. Her business, Thatcher House, makes and sells handmade baby mobiles and she recently moved to the College Area from Alaska.

"This is a great way to get out and meet people here in our little local community," she said, adding that she hopes to vend at as many Make It Markets as she can. "It's nice to get out in our own neighborhood rather than



LeChonne Wright of Le-Le Essentials (Photos by Jeff Clemetson)

going to North Park or somewhere else."

La Mesa resident LeChonne Wright of Le-Le Essentials

makes handmade jewelry with a mix of gemstones and porous lava rocks that soak up essential oils. The Make It Market was



Baily Bernet of Auntie & Me products

her first time vending in College Area.

"For vendors and small businesses, it is always a matter of do

I do well in that area, that space or that arena. So that's kind of what I'm looking for today, see what the traffic is like, see how well received healing jewelry stones are in this area," she said.

To attract vendors to the markets, Goodrich said they put the word out through places like San Diego Made and other vendor lists. Finding vendors for the first market was made easier because Ultreya Coffee had hosted several pop up markets on its own before the business district approached them to host its first Make It

SEE MARKET, Page 9

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

NEW BARBEQUE

On Sept. 6, Korean barbecue restaurant **KBBQ** held its official grand opening at 6353 El Cajon Blvd.

The restaurant features dishes such as teriyaki chicken, pork spare ribs and kalbi bowls.

KBBQ is open Mondays through Fridays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays, noon-8 p.m. KBBQ also offers delivery for a fee.

A GRAND REOPENING

The Best Western hotel located at 6474 El Cajon Blvd. has just completed renovating its lobby and exterior area and will hold a grand reopening celebration on Oct. 3, 1-2:30 p.m.

The public is invited to come see the new look, learn about the hotel's journey through the renovations and also hear more about plans to renovate the hotel's 61 guest rooms and 28 suites.



Guy Fieri featured Chuy's Taco Shop on his Food Network show. (Facebook)

FAMOUS TACOS

Chuy's Taco Shop was recently featured on Guy Fieri's Food Network show "Diners, Drive-ins & Dives."

On Sept. 2, Chuy's posted about their appearance on the popular food show on their Facebook page, "Look at all that love. Still can't believe we are part of something so awesome!! Big thank you to all of our loyal customers, our 5-star yelpers, our Chuy's

Crew, and friends and family that continue to support us."

In addition to the celebrity status of the restaurant, Chuy's owners also recently announced they are expanding into the space next to their current location at 6663 El Cajon Blvd. In another Facebook post, they said they will remain open during normal business hours during the construction and to look out for a grand opening soon.

Visit facebook.com/ChuysTacoShop.

AFRICAN EXPRESS

On Sept. 6, Flavors of East Africa — a regular hot food vendor at local farmers markets throughout San Diego — held a grand opening for its second restaurant location on the SDSU campus, 5157 College Ave. The new location is called Flavors Express and will serve the restaurant's farmers market options with a menu. The grand opening featured music, free food samples and a dance competition.

Visit flavorsofeastafrica.com.

BOBA SHOP OPENS

College Area now has self-serve boba. On Aug. 24, Ice Box held a grand opening at its new location — 5649 College Ave.

This is the second location for the family-owned Ice Box, having opened a location in National City in 2016.

Ice Box specializes in boba — a toppings-filled slush drink with flavors such as passion fruit, mango, double fudge mocha, honeydew, Thai tea and more. The restaurant also serves up french fries with interesting toppings like spicy mayo poke, lobster, kimchi carnitas and more.

Ice Box is open Sunday to Thursday, noon-10 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays, noon-11 p.m.

Visit sdicebox.com.

MORE TACOS

On Sept. 2, Lolita's Mexican Food restaurants held a grand opening for its College Area

location at 5120 College Ave. The SDSU location is the restaurant chain's seventh since it began in 1984.

Lolita's serves Mexican favorites like rolled and open tacos, burritos and combo plates that include rice and beans. They also serve breakfast, opening at 8 a.m. every morning and closing at 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and at 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Visit lolitasmexicanfood.com.



SARAH DOES 'DO BEAUTY BOUTIQUE

In her latest episode of her Instagram series "Sarah in the College Area," Realtor Sarah Ward takes a behind-the-scenes look at 'DO Beauty Boutique — an adorable hair salon on El Cajon Boulevard. Get to know the owner, Tiffany Schaaf, as she tells her story about why she opened 'DO.

'DO Beauty Boutique is a wonderful addition to the community. They offer men's, women's and children's haircuts as well as color, balayage, fashion color, extensions and basically all thing hair related. Check them out at 5935 El Cajon Blvd.

To watch the full episode featuring 'DO Beauty Boutique, use this link: bit.ly/sarahatdobeauty. To follow Ward on Instagram, go to @SarahintheCollegeArea, or visit Facebook @CollegeAreaLiving.

—Business Briefs are compiled monthly by editor Jeff Clemetson. If you have a business news item to be considered for publication, email jeff@sdnews.com. ■

Market

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

Market there.

"I think the idea kind of stemmed from the ones I had already been doing and I already have a big vendor base," said Ultreya Coffee & Tea owner Danielle Riggins.

Riggins said it was "cool" that the Make It Market brought in some new vendors to her shop and also offered some advice to other businesses interested in hosting future Make It Markets

"The market should take on who you are as a business and reflect what you represent," she said. "I always look for small, local artisans — if the kind of vendors at the market lines up with what your business is, it's a real good thing."

The next local business that will get a chance to make a "real good thing" with a pop up market is Black Market Brewing. The brew pub at 4800 Art St. will host the next Make It Market on Tuesday, Oct. 8 from 3 to 7 p.m.

Where the Make It Market trial run at Ultreya was a chance for an intimate market with a few vendors, Goodrich said the next one will be a chance for growth.

"The next market we hope will be a bit bigger," she said. "We'll be set up outside Black Market and of course we'll have more space there with their larger parking lot. We hope to bring in a few more vendors to make it just a little more exciting."



Crystalized Ginger Creations

Goodrich said vendors and businesses interested in taking part of future Make It Markets should email her at evelyn@collegeare-abid.com.

Businesses that host the market must be members of the College Area Business District and have permission from property owners and proper insurance. Vendors need to apply and pay a nominal \$35 fee — about half of what other markets charge.

"For us, the College Area Business District, it is not about making money off vendors as it is to give them the opportunity to get their products out there to this part of San Diego," Goodrich said.

For more information about the Make It Market and other programs of the College Area Business District, visit collegeareabid.com.

—Reach editor Jeff Clemetson at jeff@sdnews.com. ■



Ultreya Coffee & Tea owner Danielle Riggins (Photos by Jeff Clemetson)

Sudoku & Crossword puzzle answers from page 16

3	4	8	9	1	2	6	7	5
2	6	9	5	7	3	8	1	4
5	1	7	8	6	4	3	9	2
1	3	4	6	8	9	2	5	7
7	8	2	3	4	5	6	9	1
9	6	5	1	2	7	4	8	3
6	7	3	4	9	1	5	2	8
8	5	1	2	3	6	7	4	9
4	2	9	7	5	8	1	3	6

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T	A	R	O	S		N	A	T		B	A	S	A
A	R	A	D	M	E	D	E	A		S	O	R	A
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Music, dance programs at Hardy Elementary

By TINA GERSTLER

For schools, especially elementary schools, to achieve their goals of educating our children and to lay the foundation for the rigors they will face at higher-grade schools and eventually, life, they need to go beyond writing, reading and arithmetic in order to actively engage the kids and make them willing and eager participants. Working with staff, the Hardy PTA funds several programs that not only prepare kids for their current, daily routines but incorporate their curriculum into fun activities that tie their creativity into what could be mundane, rote tasks. Some examples of the programs are:

Tune Your Engine is a series of breathing and movement exercises designed for elementary school age children. The exercises are designed to help children focus their mind and ramp up energy to get ready for the day and are based on Pilates, yoga, guided breathing concepts, isometric muscle movement and imaginary play. They are designed to warm up the areas of the body needed to do school work; hands, fingers, arms, upper back and neck. An emphasis is placed on

waking up the student's mind and body and connecting them for workday readiness.

Animal Traits and How They Move is a 3-4 week creative movement workshop for first graders that uses visual aids, pictures and graphics to show different animals as they swim, crawl, jump, run and fly. Students watch short videos of animals moving, then stand and learn a clap and stomp rhythm to get bodies moving, then improvise movements based on their observations of the coyote howling, the eagle soaring, elephants bathing and other animal movements they watched.

Intro to Folk Dance gives second graders an opportunity to learn a traditional American folk dance. They learn a dance from the Appalachian/Ozark Mountain region that uses simple dance steps to create patterns in both a circle and snake formation. This circle dance gives them an understanding of rhythm and movement in a fun and athletic way. They jump, run, clap, turn and count — all engaging the parts of their brain that they use when learning math. The classes learn geography of the region and history about

the people from Appalachia and the Ozarks, determined by the teachers. The Intro to Folk Dance unit can be used for physical education credit, social studies, STEAM learning and geography.

Storytelling Through Movement is a 4-5 week program for third graders that explores individual and group movement as a form of emotional expression and storytelling. Many cultures use movement both gestural and physical to share their history. This unit focuses on cultural dance from Hawaii (hula dance) and haka warrior chants from New Zealand. The students learn the language of movement from this region. The unit culminates in a shared performance and celebration featuring foods from the area.

International Folk Dance for fourth graders spends one week on the Middle Eastern dance "Hora," two weeks on South African dance "Pata Pata," two weeks on Latin American dance "Cha Cha," and three weeks on American square dance. Children first learn basic square dance movements and calls. They are taught a line dance with partners and connect it to the **Walk Through**

California program that occurs around the same time. During the last week of instruction, students practice all dances and the unit culminates in several showings at open house. Performances take place in the auditorium.

3rd & 4th Grade Dance-Off is the culmination dance party for the fall program. Each class learns the same rhythms and patterns from folk dance phrases taught during Tune Your Engine. Students compete in their own grade level. The winners of that contest compete for a prize. Judges for the competition are the school's teachers and principal. Families and classes can be invited to watch. The dance-off happens in the fall, November, and is performed on the kindergarten playground.

The PTA works hard at fundraising for these and many other programs not funded by the school district, like field trips, which we took for granted as kids. With the community's help, our hope is to expand the offerings for the kids and enrich their learning experience even more.

—Tina Gerstler is a Hardy Elementary PTA board member. ■

Tubman finally gets its park

By RYAN WOODWARD

After 40 years and counting, Harriet Tubman Village Charter School and the Mesa Colony Community is excited to partner together to create a joint-use park located on the Harriet Tubman Village Charter School campus. That's right, you read that correctly — a joint-use park is coming our way!

Community member Troy Murphee, as well as many other local residents of Mesa Colony, have spearheaded this project and have been involved in initial conversations and planning. Overall, this project provides for design and construction of approximately 1.2 acres of joint-use facilities for a cost of just over \$2.7 million. Improvements will include turf, multi-purpose fields, multi-purpose hard courts, walkways, playground, landscaping, and accessibility upgrades.

"This is an exciting time to live and go to school in this area," exclaimed Harriet Tubman Village Charter School CEO and Principal Ryan

SEE HARRIET TUBMAN, Page 16



Groundbreaking on the new park (Courtesy Harriett Tubman Village Charter)

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Drexel Academy kicks off new year with new principal

As of July 1, Mrs. Kelly Bonde has taken over as the new principal of St. Katharine Drexel Academy (SKDA).

"I am honored, excited and humbled to be in the position of principal at SKDA for the 2019-2020 school year," Bonde said in a statement. "We are cultivating an innovative Next Generation Catholic Leadership Academy that I am extremely proud of and I look forward to collaborating with each member of this community to enhance and spread the good news about what we are doing at SKDA. We have

built the foundation of this wonderful school together and I look forward to leading this community as we support our students in their formation to be Christ-like leaders who will set the world on fire."

Drexel Academy welcomed students for the first day of classes on Aug. 26. The school is excited to welcome new students into our Next Generation Catholic elementary school. We held our first community event as well, which was a picnic at Allied Gardens Rec

SEE DREXEL ACADEMY, Page 16



Drexel Academy Principal Kelly Bonde (Courtesy SKDA)

Back-to-school time at Helix



Helix Highlights

By JENNIFER OSBORN

Helix is back in the swing of things for the 2019-20 school year. Classes began on Wednesday, Aug. 7, and parents and guardians were invited to attend Back-to-School Night on Aug. 22, followed by Parent Shadow Day on Aug. 28. Both events offered families the opportunity to become more involved in their child's education by meeting their teachers, and spending a day on campus experiencing a day in the classrooms. Helix offers these events twice annually – once in the fall term, then again in the spring.

ALL CLASS PICNIC

The Helix High School Foundation and Alumni Association will host the All Class Picnic on Sunday, Oct. 11. The

event will feature special guests, performances by the on-campus programs, music from alumni members' bands, a car show, a campus tour, and representatives from graduating classes from the '50s to the 2000s!

HOMECOMING

This year's Homecoming game will be on Friday, Oct. 4. Kickoff for the game is 7 p.m., as the Highlanders take on the El Capitan Vaqueros.

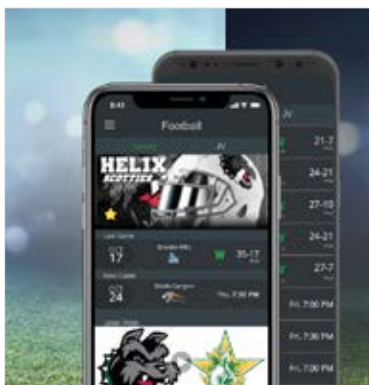
PERFORMING ARTS CALENDAR

• **Oct. 3:** Orchestra Concert; Helix Mainstage Theater, 7 p.m. Ticket information available at helixinstrumental.org.

• **Oct 11-12, 17-19:** Highland Players' production of "Sound of Music"; Helix Mainstage Theater. Times and ticket information available at highlandplayers.ticketleap.com.

HCHS SCOTTIES APP

Sports fans can follow all of Helix's teams by downloading the HCHS Scotties app. The app is free in your app store, and provides



The Scotties app provides info on Helix sports games and more.

information on schedules, scores, standings and more for your favorite Highlander sports.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION TOUR

If you are interested in finding out more about Helix Charter High School, please attend one of our Excellence in Education tours, held twice monthly. Dates for this year are in the works and will be available on our website, helix-charter.net.

—Jennifer Osborn writes on behalf of Helix Charter High School. ■

Club Day kicks off the new school year

By ELIZABETH GILLINGHAM

PHHS celebrated a great opening which included Club Day to help promote inclusiveness, fun, education, culture, and good health through our ASB Leadership team.

We have over 80 clubs on campus and the best way to add new members is by advertising them at lunch in a fun and creative way. Tables were set up around the quad spilling into the pathways with special posters and charts to explain the club's purpose. A full list of over 80 different clubs is on our website with days and times when they meet.

One of my favorite clubs is the Circle of Friends because they promote making friends and community building activities for students who can struggle

with making friends. Academic League, Mock Trial, Model United Nations, Art History, and Architecture and Engineering clubs are available for students who are interested in academic endeavors. Helping the Homeless, Hear Our Voice, Red Cross, and Key Club are all examples of clubs for students who want to participate in community service. We also have clubs that celebrate culture, religion, and hobbies for students who want to share common interests or learn about others.

The list is long and everyone is invited to participate in as many



Henry students sign up for clubs of interest on Club Day. (Courtesy PHHS)

clubs as they have time for. Special thanks to the club advisors who provide leadership opportunities for our students and a place for them to meet.

—Elizabeth Gillingham is principal of Patrick Henry High School. ■

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute celebrates 15th year

By NEIL GLADSON

Fall inevitably brings to mind thoughts of heading back to school. The thrill of learning doesn't have to come to an end just because you're age 50 or better.

That's the philosophy of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at San Diego State University. This fall marks its 15th year of offering university-quality classes to expand the horizons of adult learners.

"Our beginnings in 2004 were humble — we had 16 members and seven courses," said Osher Institute Director Aimee Davis. "Today, our membership is 750 strong and we offer more than 125 courses a year."

Some of the classes on tap for fall include a nostalgic look back at the Beatles' famous 1965 North American tour; an insightful discussion of the current U.S.-Mexico border issues; and a three-part series on financially preparing for retirement.

"There are so many amazing courses to choose from," said Osher student Joyce Seidman, a retired naval officer. "As I go through the catalog, I circle all the courses I want to attend, courses that excite me, challenge

me, amuse me — you get the idea!"

At the Osher Institute, students are also members. The cost is \$30 per person for new and renewing members per term. The membership comes with special benefits including SDSU Love Library privileges, free Microsoft Office 365, and free admission to regular season Aztec athletic events. Members can also take advantage of the student rate on Amazon Prime.

Another bonus for students is that there are no tests, homework, or grades. The focus is purely on the learning experience.

Instructor Glenn C. Smith, a professor at California Western School of Law, encourages community members to look then leap. "Don't worry about educational background or prerequisites, just jump in!" he said. "Take something you don't know much about or think you'll naturally like. You'll surprise yourself and grow in the process."

The fall course catalog can be viewed online at neverstoplearning.net/osher.

—Neil Gladson writes on behalf of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. ■

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The fantastic rise of Alforon

Restaurant Review

By FRANK SABATINI JR.



It wasn't long ago that San Diego's eminent Lebanese restaurant was just an obscure blip on the culinary scene.

After opening in 2010, Alforon attracted faint trickles of curious neighborhood residents and students from nearby SDSU. With its non-flashy facade barely blinking from a small strip plaza, the place was easy to miss — and it still is despite expanding into an adjoining storefront since then.

Word eventually began spreading about the restaurant's unique Old World cuisine as well as the owners' charming front-line style

of hospitality. Local food critics picked up on the buzz, and soon after, so did Guy Fieri of the Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives."

Twice.

The first time Fieri came knocking was in 2013.

"I said 'no' to doing the show because we were still too small," said George Salameh, a native of Lebanon who owns and operates the restaurant with his delightfully outgoing wife, "Sam."

It wasn't until this past year that the Food Network contacted Salameh again. This time, he was ready. And the cameras got rolling in July.

The segment (season 30, episode seven) already aired a couple of times, and it will surely repeat

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Prices: Lunch dishes, \$12.95 to \$16.50; dinner items, \$15.95 to \$22.95

throughout the coming year. It has so far resulted in a 20% bump in business, according to Salameh, whose accolades also include numerous framed reviews and write-ups on the walls by local and national print media.

After eating here on three different occasions, I fully understand the hoopla.

For example, I most recently fell madly in love with soujouk flatbread, as did Fieri, who said, "I could eat 100 of these."

The flatbread is one of many hot, puffy discs baked in the alforon (oven) from unbleached "hard" flour with assorted meat toppings and stunning combinations of spices. The recipes are hand-downs from Salameh's father and grandmother, although they supposedly date back centuries.

The soujouk features finely ground beef with Lebanese white cheese. The meat is accented with sumac, fenugreek and hints of red chilies. Though simple, every bite is novel and comforting.



The top-selling soujouk flatbread



Alforon owner George Salameh (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

In other visits I tried the "zaatar supreme," which enlivens the palate with an exotic blend of earthy spices imported from Lebanon. They include wild thyme, sumac and fresh mint. Dollops of soft Kefir cheese add the right touch of creaminess.



Chicken and beef kebabs

The chicken tawook flatbread features minced breast meat set within plops of house-made garlic paste, which slightly dominates whatever spices are used for marinating the poultry. It's delicious nonetheless.

Alforon's thinnest flatbread is the lahm bajeen. It uses only 2.1 ounces of dough that gets stretched out to 10-12 inches. The paper-thin crust becomes the vessel for ground beef speckled with

bits of tomato and onions, plus wisps of cinnamon and other spices. It melts in the mouth and sits lightly in the stomach.

It wasn't until a few years ago that Salameh introduced kebabs to his expanded menu. I ordered the combo plate featuring a chicken and filet mignon kebab. The meats are marinated in different spices that I couldn't identify; the chicken for three days, and the beef overnight.

Both titillated the taste buds with the support of fluffy basmati rice, a grilled tomato, a charred onion, garlic paste, and a sauce of yogurt, cucumber and mint, which Salameh stresses *isn't* tzatziki.

"Tzatziki is Greek and it has onions and shallots in the recipe. This doesn't," he noted.

The menu extends to lamb ouzi; clay-pot sausages; baked portobello mushrooms with feta cheese; and excellent house-made hummus and baba ghanouj served with puddles of fruity-tasting Lebanese olive oil. (Notice how much smoother-tasting the oil is compared to California varieties.)

SEE ALFORON, Page 13

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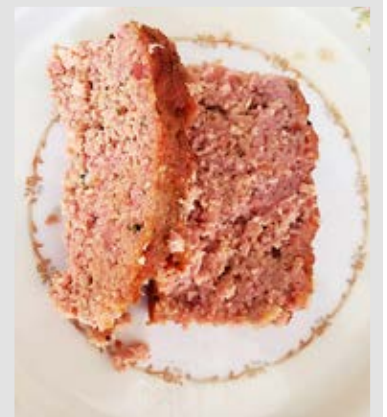


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RECIPES BY
Betty Cracker



(Wikimedia Commons)

HAM LOAF RECIPE

So now your family on the East Coast is coming to visit. And that may mean cooking up something special — a food that lasts a couple days as leftovers.

Here is a flavorful ham loaf recipe, one I've had for years. My Iowa friend was such a great cook and I pass along her idea for "good eatin'."

INGREDIENTS

- 2 pounds ham
- 1 pound lean pork, ground fine

- 3 eggs
- 1 can tomato soup
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 onion, chopped onion
- 1 cup crackers, ground fine
- 1/2 teaspoon celery seed and pepper.

DIRECTIONS

Beat eggs, add meat, milk, half can of soup, seasonings and crackers. Mix well with hands, form into loaf, pour remaining soup over top.

Bake slowly 1.5 to 2 hours. Serve with green salad. Nice for casual dinner on the patio. ■



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Alforon
CONTINUED FROM Page 12

There are also six different types of “kibbie,” which are blends of various meats, bulgur wheat, onions and spices shaped into balls that I trust live up to their many raves.

For dessert, look no further than the “aaysh essaray.” You won’t find it anywhere else because it’s an original creation by Salameh. Served in large squares, the base is an eggless custard carpeted with crushed pistachios and kissed by nutmeg, cinnamon and a modicum of rosewater.

Alforon’s expanded dining room still feels as cozy and intimate as the day it opened. It offers a rustic, almost Medieval-style charm that sets the stage for meals with historic Middle Eastern roots.



Pistachio-rich ‘aaysh essaray’ for dessert

Undoubtedly, the restaurant is a true gem, just no longer a secret anymore.

“People come here from all over — from North County and South Bay, and all the way from Los Angeles,” said Salameh in preparation for even more fanfare once the Food Network starts randomly re-airing his episode down the road.

—Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of ‘Secret San Diego’ (ECW Press) and began his local writing career more than two decades ago as a staffer for the former San Diego Tribune. You can reach him at fsabatini@san.rr.com.■



Alforon interior (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

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College Area happenings

By JOSE REYNOSO

For the last couple of years, the College Area Community Council and Planning Board have utilized the College Area News newspaper to provide the community with updates on what is happening in our community. The paper was direct-mailed to 3,000 homes. This was less than we wanted in order to reach every household in the area, but our goal was to get that increased such that we did reach every home in the area. That did not happen and, in fact, the circulation was reduced to 2,000 homes with the possibility that that may decrease further or disappear altogether.

We approached the San Diego Community Newspaper Publishing Group to discuss the possibility of extending the territory of one of their other papers (Mission Times Courier, La Mesa Courier) to include the College Area. Fortuitously, the publisher felt that we are a unique community and the fact that we are currently undertaking a community-generated community plan update to create and implement the vision that the community has for itself, warranted a paper dedicated to the community.

That is the College Times Courier, which you are currently reading. Given the level of community participation that we are looking for during the compilation of the community plan, and the ten-fold circulation goal over the previous paper proposed by the publisher, we felt that it will work well as a vehicle for disseminating community news, updates, events, etc. It will also aid our outreach efforts for the plan update.

Our thanks to the San Diego Community Newspaper Publishing Group for their confidence in and support of our community and look forward to a very long relationship. Welcome to our neighborhoods!

Please stay tuned for updates on the progress of our plan update and please get involved. We are all a part of this community and your input as to what you want to see here and how it is developed over the next 20-30 years is vital. If not for you, for your kids or grandkids.

—Jose Reynoso is president of the College Area Community Council, and chair of the College Area Planning Board.■

Alvarado Community Association news

By SUSAN CLARKE CRISAFULLI

Welcome to the Alvarado Community Association news update in College Times Courier. This column will contain updates from our association about the future of our community, but we thought we'd start with a bit about our past by sharing this news article from July 18, 1952 that appeared in the Evening Tribune:

"In 1948, a group of 71 San Diegans envisioned a small community of fine homes on country-like estates within the city. They included college professors, doctors, dentists, businessmen, and other professional people – most of them friends or acquaintances. In 1952, the Alvarado Community Association was formed and the first titles were granted for the Alvarado subdivision, which sprawls over 217 rolling acres just west of the college area.

"They were lured by the prospects of a home site of 2 acres or more, of a private air-strip to park

the planes of those who owned them and of community stables to keep horses for those that ride. There had never been another residential development like it in California and was a true co-operative enterprise.

"It is said that several times it was on the brink of failure as many problems faced the association. The property had to be subdivided, part of it was in the county, and part of it was in the city. Water had to be obtained, sewer connections were necessary and the engineering, grading and surfacing of streets were required.

"The original community consisted of 85 home sites, none of which is less than approximately 2 acres and the association retained title to 8 acres, part on the plateau adjacent to the street where the group hoped to erect a community building, and part of it in the canyon where community stables might be built."

—Susan Clarket Crisafulli is a board member of the Alvarado Community Association.■

News from Mesa Colony Community Group

By SAUL AMERLING

On Aug. 12, Mesa Colony participated in an event that was decades in coming!

After more than 40 years, the community was present for the ground breaking of a joint-use park. The park is located on the site of the Harriet Tubman Village Charter School.

The effort to get a park in the area was started in the 1970 by long-time resident Mark Brynning and it has been consistently pursued by Troy Murphree, another resident of the area. Terry Shirley, past chair of the community group, was also instrumental, as was the support from the College Area Community Council. It took many years of meetings, patience, reminders, and a good deal of nudging until it finally happened.

Support for the project was given by Marti Emerald when she was the area's council member, and further pursued by Council member Georgette Gomez when she was elected to represent District 9. Staff from the San Diego Unified School District, specifically Lee Dulgeroff of the Chief Facilities Planning and Construction

Office, and the current CEO and Principal of Tubman Charter School Dr. Ryan Woodard.

Tubman Charter is a K-8 school, previously known as Muir Elementary. The new park will consist of a grass playing field, a running track, trees, picnic tables, water fountain, and a shaded play structure, and existing basketball courts. The park will be open to the community after school hours, and during school breaks.

—Saul Amerling writes on behalf of the Mesa Colony Community Group.■



The joint-use park groundbreaking at Harriett Tubman Village Charter School on Aug. 12
(Photo by Saul Amerling)

College View Estates news

By PATRICK HANSON

In August, what had been a cul-de-sac celebration until last year became the neighborhood annual Ice Cream Social. Approximately 130 children and adults enjoyed delicious self-constructed ice-cream sundaes. Ingredients for the tasty concoctions were supplied by those participating. Needless to say, a good time was had by all. Preparations are currently under way for our Progressive Dinner on Sept. 28. This tradition has been enjoyed by College View Estates residents for more than 25 years.

For the past year, College View Estates has been undergoing major infrastructure renewal and improvement. For many months, workers were trenching our streets in order to place the electricity and communication cables underground. Currently, everyone has been connected to the underground power source. The telephone poles were shortened after the power was connected underground.

The communication companies continue to pull their cables. AT&T and Cox trucks are roving the neighborhood. When they are finished, the telephone poles will be removed entirely. In addition, new streetlights have been installed including mid-block lighting.

A few days ago, trenching began to replace outdated sewer and water pipes. A worker reported the process would take six to eight months. The final touch will be resurfacing of the streets. We look forward to celebrating the completion of this much needed infrastructure update and the return of relative quiet to our neighborhood.

As the city works to replace and improve our infrastructure, it might be a good time to take a stroll around your own property and see what needs replacing,

improving, repainting, etc. We live in such a wonderful community, but it takes an effort by everyone to maintain it. As you drive or walk by your house, a good question to ask might be, "Would I be interested in living next door to this house if I was buying a new home?"

We continue to celebrate First Friday in College View Estates. The event moves around the neighborhood and different neighbors sign up to host. We gather in their driveway or yard for a very informal social. People bring snacks and beverages to share, meet their neighbors and share the latest news. This event has been going on monthly for about eight years. If you haven't been to one, consider joining us Oct. 4 at 5111 Bixel Drive. You'll be welcome.

The following are two examples of what I call "acts of extreme good neighborliness." For a number of years, on one Sunday a month, early in the morning, I see three or four couples picking up trash on Fairmont as I turn onto Montezuma. Recently, I have noticed an elderly man cutting down weeds along Montezuma on the south side of the road from Colwell down to Fairmont. A guardrail runs along the side of the road and a fence along the canyon, both entangled in weeds.

Some people would see the trash and weeds and say, "It's the city's job," and keep going. Yet others ask, alone or with friends, "Why don't we take care of this?" and then do. These volunteers go above and beyond picking up trash in front of their own house or cutting down their own weeds. They make the area better for all of us. Whoever you are, I salute you!

—Patrick Hanson is president of the College View Estates Association.■

News from El Cerrito Community Council

By EVA YAKUTIS

The El Cerrito Community Council (ECCC) is a neighborhood organization that meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., at Blessed Sacrament Church Parish Hall, (El Cajon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive). If you live within the organization boundaries (see below), you are familiar with the monthly newsletter delivered by volunteers to every doorstep in the neighborhood.

The mission of the El Cerrito Community Council is to:

- Provide a forum to share information and discuss issues of interest to the community.
- Facilitate communications with the city and other agencies.

- Hold community events and activities that benefit the neighborhood.

- Get to know neighbors and have fun!

Membership boundaries span residences on both sides of El Cajon Boulevard and are bordered by 54th and Collwood streets to the west, University Avenue to the south, College Avenue to the east, and Baja Canyon (south of Baja Drive) to the north.

For more information, visit elcerritocommunitycouncil.org. Hope to see you at our next meeting on Thursday, Oct. 17!

—Eva Yakutis is a board member of the El Cerrito Community Council.■

GI Film Fest explores returning from war

KENDRA SITTON | COLLEGE TIMES COURIER

The fifth iteration of the GI Film Festival San Diego, which is taking place from Sept. 24-29, does not have a stated theme outside the festival's purpose: showcasing films created by, for and about military service members and veterans. Still, the selected feature films, documentaries and shorts have a connected through-line.

"A lot of the films, and specifically 'Homemade' and 'Take Me Home Huey,' have to do with healing from war," said Lisa Marcolongo, a member of the Advisory Committee for the GI Film Festival San Diego. "We're still at war and our active duty and our veterans and their families are still healing from war."

"Homemade" is a documentary film following a combat veteran and his family for six years as he struggles to reintegrate to civilian life. Its world premiere is at the Museum of Photographic Arts on Sept. 25. "Take Me Home Huey" opens the film fest on Sept. 24 with its portrayal of a San Diego-based artist's project to restore a Huey helicopter from the Vietnam War and then reunite it with its former crew.

"'Homemade' is about Afghanistan. 'Take Me Home Huey' is about Vietnam. These are two different generations. These are two different conflicts and wars. They're all healing and finding ways to do that, whether it's through sculpture and art forms, whether it's through physical activity and things like that," Marcolongo explained. "It's something that resonates with multiple generations and we need to be there to help and support them. San Diego has a great collaborative and coalition of service providers and community members that are here just to support them during that journey."

She sees the divide between civilian and military life as one of the barriers making it difficult for veterans to return to their communities. Marcolongo believes the film fest is an important place for veterans to meet people in the San Diego area willing to support them since bases are largely inaccessible to civilians.

"I understand that there are security protocols and safety is number one, but at the same time, that kind of cut us off from creating more links and connections between the military and the community. That's just one more



Veteran Adam Sorenson in a scene from "Homemade" (Courtesy GI Film Festival)

reason why the GI Film Festival is so important. It's not just about watching those films that you're going to see in that theater; you're going to be able to meet active duty and veterans at the same time you're viewing some of those stories and journeys that they wanted to highlight," she said.

Marcolongo is passionate about supporting veterans because of her husband's struggle with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) when he returned from combat in 2007. She needed the help and support of San Diegans as the family learned to manage his condition.

"Our family is thriving because of those resources that reached out to us and helped us," she said.

Of the films she viewed while making selections for this year's festival, Marcolongo particularly resonated with "Homemade," as it showed another family dealing with invisible wounds from war.

For the filmmakers, giving viewers a relatable perspective on-screen was an intentional choice.

"We really wanted [the film] to feel like you were on the inside and that you were a part of Adam and Victoria and their family's life," said director Danielle Bernstein.

The film itself is grounded in empathy, with the directors behind the cameras describing their subjects as close friends. Each time they visited Adam Sorenson as he navigated life after war, they worried first about making sure the family was going to make it as Sorenson battled addiction and health issues, and second about filming.

"We're a couple and we were documenting a couple. I really became friends with Victoria throughout the film," Bernstein said. She believes since her and co-director Jason Maris did the project together, they were able to connect in a different way than if Maris executed the filming

alone. What resulted was an intimate portrayal of the struggles to readjust to civilian life after a traumatic brain injury.

The Marine Corps is currently in discussions with them to use the film as a possible training tool. Bernstein believes civilian culture can learn something from the military as well and needs to better help people find purpose in their lives.

"I'm a huge advocate for how do we make transition more streamlined and more positive and easier to integrate to civilian culture, and also how do civilians start to look at ourselves and how we participate in a culture that doesn't give us daily feeling of purpose and meaning," she said.

According to Maris, doctors who have attended private screenings of the film also learned how to better understand their patients.

"Doctors who work with military said, 'Wow, this is incredibly insightful because it is all the people that we've treated, but it's what happened before they walk through our door.' [They have] never even gotten to see that part of the story. [They have] just [seen them] after they'd come for treatment," Maris explained.

Maris said, "It's been very effective in igniting the kind of dialogue that we want to have around these issues."

To continue that discussion, they will be a part of a panel, alongside stars Adam and Victoria, after the screening of "Homemade" at the festival.

The local artist featured in the 2017 Emmy-award winning documentary "Take Me Home Huey" will also be speaking at the event. His mixed-media transformation of the Huey was the original premise of the film, but it became about helping Vietnam veterans

SEE GI FILM FEST, Page 16



The transformed Huey helicopter from "Take Me Home Huey" (GI Film Fest)

"One of the finest new plays I've ever reviewed."

Terry Teachout, *The Wall Street Journal*

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Directed by Johanna McKeon

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SUNDAY
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10am – 6pm



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Wed. Night.....6:30pm to 8:00pm
Sat. Night.....6:30pm to 8:00pm
Sunday.....10:00am to 11:30am
Tuesday.....6:30pm to 8:00pm
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Calvary Chapel 7525 El Cajon Blvd.
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PUZZLES

ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

SUDOKU
Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle.

			8	5			2	
	2						7	6
		4	7		1	5		
	6	9					8	
7								
		3		6		7		
					5		9	
		6		1	9		4	3

CROSSWORD

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	69							70						

- ACROSS**

1 Study of sight
7 Becomes less intense
13 Juicy, soft fruit
14 A great ape
16 All-time NY Giants great
17 Big Apple native
19 Home of the Flyers (abbr.)
20 People stand in them
22 Automotive legend
iacocca

23 Influential linguist
25 ___ and Andy, TV show
26 Wives (law)
28 Discriminating
29 Star Wars hero Solo
30 Married woman
31 A digital tape record-
ing of sound
33 Chinese dialect
34 Angolan monetary
unit
36 A type of sheen

32 Small, savory dishes
35 Web of Things
(abbr.)
37 Defunct aerospace
company
38 Lacking consistency
39 Type of retriever
42 Barrier
43 Senior officer
46 Categories
47 Call it a career
49 Suitable for growing
crops

50 High jumping legend
Iolanda
52 Hairy
54 Dish made with lentils
55 TNT broadcaster
Craig
57 Used to align parts
59 Cold, dry Swiss wind
62 Water in the solid
state
63 A great play
66 Atomic #45 (abbr.)
68 Big shot lawyer (abbr.)
- DOWN**

1 Popular mid-size
Kia
2 Image management
(abbr.)
3 Prongs
4 Cools
5 It produces milk
6 Trends
7 Concurred
8 Chinese cabbage ___
choy
9 Greek war god

10 Straits along the Red
Sea
11 Railway
12 Washing with water
13 Supreme being
15 Ductless gland
18 Parts producer (abbr.)
21 Not arranged in a
straight line
24 Red sweet peppers
26 Famed protest yacht
27 Drain
30 Distributes

GI Film Fest

CONTINUED FROM Page 15

who visited the 47-foot-long sculpture heal.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, it is estimated that approximately 7.3 million Americans who served during the Vietnam War from 1964 and 1975 are alive today. However, many Vietnam War-era veterans do not share their stories or experiences, and are affected by PTSD.

“In this case, the art became a catalyst for conversation. It kick-started conversation and allowed these veterans to open up and talk like they’ve never talked before,” Maloney said.

Maloney decided to embark on the project after he turned another helicopter into a sculpture. He wanted to do the same with a Huey to thank veterans

who never got properly welcomed home during the Vietnam War.

“The first thing that turned me onto thinking about this project was the fact that I learned that there was a 50th commemoration of the Vietnam War,” he said. “When I thought about the Vietnam War, I thought, wouldn’t it be ideal if I could get an old scrapped Huey helicopter and transform that to be a piece of art to thank those that never got a welcome home.”

He wanted the art to engage all senses, which is why he originally contacted the filmmakers to have a documentary accompany the transformation. The project soon went viral, with senators and other lawmakers hailing the work and a tour of the transformed helicopter traveling across the U.S. It currently resides in Palm Springs.

“I’ve always said this is the proudest thing I’ve done — the whole project. It’s been incredible

and it’s taken off organically. It’s grown by leaps and bounds. When I envisioned the project, I had no [idea] the reach that it would have,” Maloney said.

A line from the resulting film has stuck with GI Film Fest organizer Marcolongo.

“It said, ‘As I walked through life, there’s a pebble in my shoe. What has helped me the most is helping a fellow veteran,’” she said. “I think that resonates with both of those films as they both wanted to help other veterans and themselves through this healing process.”

The 34 films in this year’s film fest will be shown over six days, primarily at the Museum of Photographic Arts and UltraStar Cenmas at Hazard Center. Tickets and the full schedule are available at gifilmfestivalsd.org.

—Kendra Sitton is a contributing editor and can be reached at kendra@sdnews.com. ■

Drexel Academy

CONTINUED FROM Page 11

Center on Saturday, Sept. 7. It was a great time!

SKDA also has a new mural on 56th Street painted by one of the school’s board members, some teachers and some parents. Drive by and check it out!

The first month of school was all about team building and forming a new school culture to ensure all students are happy, safe, and supported. Drexel Academy proudly partners with the Mission Valley YMCA for physical education and has joined the Central City and South Bay Parochial Sports League to compete against other Catholic schools in sports. This fall, the Crusaders will be participating in flag football and softball!

St. Katharine Drexel Academy is a proud partner of the iDeal Institute

at Loyola Marymount University. During the next few years, Drexel teachers are training to earn school-wide certification as a Blended Learning Next Generation Science & Technology Catholic School. At Drexel, NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) form the foundation of our project-based, integrated curriculum. With the assistance of online resources, teachers personalize instruction and assessment to meet each student’s learning needs in a station rotation, blended learning environment.

All are welcome! If you would like to schedule a tour, please reach out through the main office at 619-582-3862 or email mainoffice@skda-sd.org.

Learn how we empower great hearts and minds to change the world. Follow @drexelsd or find us on Facebook at St. Katharine Drexel Academy! ■

Harriet Tubman

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

Woodard. “Students and local residents truly have the benefit to play together and grow together for generations to come. This is a win-win for everyone in this community and I could not be more elated for students and families to enjoy.”

This project held its groundbreaking ceremony on Aug. 12 with the support City Council President Georgette Gomez (of District 9) in attendance. The joint-use park is expected to be complete in the spring of 2020.

—Ryan Woodward is principal of Harriet Tubman Village Charter School. ■

News briefs

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

housing project to be located on two adjoining parcels located at 5824 and 5838 Montezuma Road, just west of College Avenue. The existing improvements on these parcels include the McDonald’s restaurant and the adjacent Aztec Shopping Center to the east.

The forum will take place during the regularly scheduled College Area Community Council Project Review Committee meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m. at Faith Presbyterian Church, 5070 Campanile Drive.

Developers Pierce Education Properties, L.P. and their architects will make a short presentation and then will solicit community input. The developers will not be seeking action of any proposed project by the Project Review Committee at this meeting, but rather desire to engage the community in a conversation about the future of these parcels. Refreshments will be served.

ALVARADO RECOGNIZED

Alvarado Hospital has been recognized by Becker’s Hospital Review, for the second consecutive year, as one of the “100 Great Community Hospitals” for 2019.

Alvarado currently holds a five-star rating from CMS for quality healthcare, has been a recipient of the Healthgrades Patient Safety Excellence Award for the past five consecutive years, and was awarded an A Grade for Hospital Patient Safety by The Leapfrog Group earlier this year.

MTS TO HOLD FREE RIDE DAY

The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and North County Transit District (NCTD) announced that the agencies will hold the region’s second “Free Ride Day” on Wednesday, Oct. 2. Fixed-route bus and rail services will be free for everyone to use.

Free Ride Day is being held in conjunction with California Clean Air Day also on Oct. 2, and SANDAG iCommute efforts to promote Rideshare Week, Sept.

30–Oct. 4, to educate people about the sustainable transportation choices available in the San Diego region.

“Last year, MTS recorded a 17% increase in passenger trips on Free Ride Day. It was a great success to get that many San Diego residents to shake up their routine and choose transit,” said Mona Rios, MTS Board Vice Chair and Councilmember for National City. “Choosing transit is absolutely critical for this region as we all strive to meet our climate action goals. We need to do everything we can to get people to use alternative modes of transportation.”

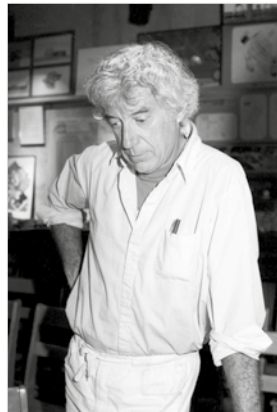
SANDAG Vice Chair and Encinitas Mayor Katherine Blakespear encouraged all single riders to consider giving carpool, vanpool, or transit a try during Rideshare Week.

“Making the change even one day a week will take cars off the road and increase sustainability and quality of life in the San Diego region,” she said.

COLLEGE TIMES COURIER

COMMUNITY AND ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS



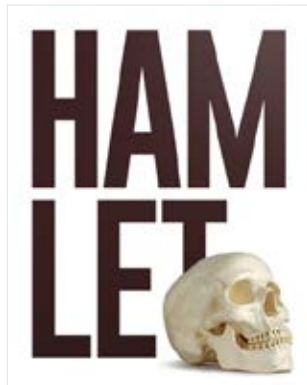
'Radiant Architecture: The Visionary Work of Eugene Ray'

Through Oct. 6

Celebrating the work and philosophy of architect and SDSU emeritus professor Eugene Ray, this gallery exhibition explores how theory, practice, and spirituality meet to arrive at architectural solutions and design. SDSU Downtown Gallery, 725 West Broadway. Free admission.

FEATURED EVENTS

Friday, Sept. 20



'Hamlet'

Through Oct. 6

"Hamlet" by William Shakespeare is considered as one of the best-known plays in world literature. "Hamlet" is a philosophical study of life and death, laced with some of the most recognized of Shakespeare's soliloquies including, "To be or not to be..." Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. at Community Actors Theatre, 2957 54th St. Tickets range \$15–\$18, available at communityactorstheatre.com

Saturday, Sept. 21



Community Garden Work Party

The College Area Community Garden (CACG) has three upcoming events that will provide opportunities for new volunteers. On Saturdays Sept. 21, Oct. 19 and Nov. 16 from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. the garden is holding

work parties. People interested in becoming a volunteer and learning about gardening from the experts at CACG, should register in advance by emailing Carolyn at communications.cacg@gmail.com.

'Finding Our Way'

Playwrights Project presents a live performance about the impact of addiction, written by a group of playwrights at Richard J Donovan Correctional Facility. "Finding Our Way" was originally written as a companion piece to "Other People's Kids" by Mabelle Reynoso, written as a commission to Playwrights Project from the U.S Attorney's Office and Social Advocates for Youth San Diego in responses to the influx of arrests for methamphetamine-related crimes in San Diego. 7:30 p.m. at Moxie Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Blvd. Suite N. Tickets are \$25 general; \$20 students, seniors and military; \$15 for groups of 10 or more available at bit.ly/2kD28IF.



'Im Hussein in Double Trouble'

A Nigerian scammer promises Im Hussein and her husband Abou Hussein \$1.5 million, with strings attached. The two fall for the swindle and deplete their savings account to comply. Confusion reigns when an African man arrives with a shocking claim. Then the authorities come to investigate. And yet another African shows up, adding to the carnival of chaos, laced generously with Im Hussein's signature comedic input. 8 p.m. at Joan B. Kroc Theatre, 6611 University Ave., San Diego. Tickets are \$72–\$87, available at bit.ly/2TspRBY.

Thursday, Sept. 26

SoCal Rehab Golf Classic Alvarado Hospital hosts a charity golf tournament to fund the Alvarado Hospital Auxiliary, a nonprofit entity that supports post-treatment programs for the benefit of individuals with physical disabilities and senior citizens. Tournament registration and a putting contest begins at noon, followed by a shotgun start for the nine-hole tournament at 2 p.m. at Riverwalk Golf Club, 1150 Fashion Valley Road, San Diego. For registration information, visit bit.ly/2OIS8Wn or call 619-229-7362.

Friday, Sept. 27

EDITOR'S PICK



'Just Like Us' Through Oct. 6

Based on Helen Thorpe's bestselling book, this documentary-style play by Karen Zacarias follows four Latina girls as they navigate life and friendship, each making decisions based on her immigration status. Through Oct. 6, except for Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. 7:30 p.m. except Sundays at 2 p.m. SDSU Experimental Theatre, 5500 Campanile Drive. Tickets are \$17 for students, \$20 general public, available at bit.ly/2IBP9k8.

Sunday, Sept. 29

Greta Van Fleet

Rock band Greta Van Fleet — often described as a modern Led Zeppelin — bring their "March of the Peaceful Army" tour to the Cal Coast Credit Union Open Air Theatre, 5500 Campanile Drive. Shannon and The Clams opens. Doors at 7 p.m. Tickets range \$39 and up, available at bit.ly/2NGOlqm.

Wednesday, Oct. 2

Make It Market

College Area Business District hosts a craft market at Black Market Brewing, 4800 Art St. 3–7 p.m. Free to attend.

Peter Frampton

'70s guitar hero Peter Frampton brings his farewell tour to the Cal Coast Credit Union Open Air Theatre, 5500 Campanile Drive. Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin opens. Tickets range \$31 and up, available at bit.ly/2ZwRzmJ.

Brianna Skye & The Dark Clouds

Live music show with indie rockers Brianna Skye & The Dark Clouds, Donna Larsen & The Messengers and T. 10 p.m.–1 a.m. at the Go Lounge, 7123 El Cajon Blvd.

Friday, Oct. 4

Community Choice Energy Forum

Climate Action Campaign and the city of San Diego will host a forum on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). Get your questions answered about the new regional program to

provide power as an alternative to SDG&E. The forum will discuss governance structure, best practices, local clean energy development and how to create programs that benefit everyone. Speakers include Sen. Toni Atkins, Mayor Kevin Faulconer, California Energy Commission Chair David Hochschild and many more. Breakfast and lunch provided. 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m. in the Neil Morgan Auditorium at the San Diego Central Library, 330 Park Blvd. Tickets are \$195. Register and get more information at bit.ly/2ZqSYad.

EDITOR'S PICK



La Mesa Oktoberfest Through Oct. 6

Strap on your lederhosen and get ready to bust out your best chicken dance at the 46th annual La Mesa Oktoberfest. German food, dress, entertainment and beer are the highlights of this free event — the largest of its kind in the San Diego region. Biergarten passes VIP ticket packages range \$5–\$45. 10 a.m.–10 p.m. in the La Mesa Village.

Wednesday, Oct. 9



Stone Temple Pilots

San Diego's '90s grunge rock act Stone Temple Pilots return home to Cal Coast Credit Union Open Air Theatre, 5500 Campanile Drive. Rival Sons and Warbly Jets will open the show. Doors at 6 p.m. Tickets range \$15 and up, available at bit.ly/2Hx7G9D.

Friday, Oct. 11

'The Sound of Music' Through Oct. 19

The Highland Players, Helix Charter High School's Drama Department, presents the classic musical. "The Sound of Music." Oct. 11–19 at the Helix MainStage Theater, 4200 Lowell St. Evening performances start at 7, with a 6 p.m. performance on Thursday, Oct. 17. There will be 2 p.m. matinees on Oct. 12 and 19. Tickets are \$10 for non-students, \$8 for students with ASB cards, available at bit.ly/2kMollw.

Logic

Hip-hop rapper Logic brings his "The Confessions of a Dangerous Mind Tour" to Viejas Arena, 5500 Canyon Crest Drive. Sharing the bill are fellow rap artists J.I.D. and YBN Cordae. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets range \$29–\$79, available at bit.ly/2zxvWUJ.

Small Kine

Pop reggae trio Small Kine, 10 p.m. at the Go Lounge, 7123 El Cajon Blvd.

Saturday, Oct. 12



College-Rolando Library Bookclub

The College-Rolando Library Bookclub will discuss "The Alice Network" by Kate Quinn. 6600 Montezuma Road. 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 13

A Fair Trade Event

St. Martin of Tours invites the public to "Shopping That Makes a Difference" at its Fair Trade Event. 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at St. Martin of Tours Parish Hall, 7710 El Cajon Blvd. Shop for fair trade gifts, home décor, clothing and jewelry from a variety of vendors. Enjoy fair trade coffee, teas, ice cream and chocolate. Fair wages create brighter futures for families in developing countries. Call 619-466-3241 for more information.

Tuesday, Oct. 15

Family Read & Play

Kroc Center Family Read & Play Days are monthly events for children ages 5 and under geared toward getting kids excited about reading. Each event includes storytime featuring our book of the month, playtime with the imagination playground, and a free book for every child to add to their home library. 10:30–11:30 a.m. in the Kroc Center Rolando Room, 6845 University Ave.

Wednesday, Oct. 16

The Who

British rockers The Who, featuring original members Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend, bring their "Moving On!" tour to Viejas Arena, 5500 Canyon Crest Drive. Former Oasis frontman Liam Gallagher opens. Doors are at 6:30 p.m. Tickets range \$36 to over \$300, available at bit.ly/2L9h5oE.

Thursday, Oct. 17

Seniors Lunch

Lunch for seniors with fun themes, held on the third Thursday of the month. October's theme is "Hillbilly Party." 12:30 p.m. at The Salvation Army Kroc Center, 6845 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2NzrkWm for more information.

Saturday, Oct. 19

'Handbagged' Through Nov. 17

The Iron Lady and The Queen would like to invite you to tea. Born six months apart, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Queen Elizabeth II both ruled with a handbag over their wrist. But who had the upper hand behind closed palace doors? "Handbagged" is an award-winning West End hit comedy written by Moira Buffini and directed by Kim Strassburger. At Moxie Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Blvd., Suite N. For tickets and information, visit moxietheatre.com.



Halloween Expo

Over 25 vendors, pumpkin carving demos, special effects artists, costume contest, face painting and more will be on hand at The Dojo Café's first ever Halloween Expo. 1–8 p.m. at The Dojo Café, 4350 El Cajon Blvd. Free.

RECURRING EVENTS

Tuesdays

Lego Play Lab

For children kindergarten through fifth grade. 3:30 p.m. at College-Rolando Library, 6600 Montezuma Road.

Thursdays

Comedy Night

Free comedy show every Thursday, 8–10 p.m. at the Go Lounge, 7123 El Cajon Blvd.

Fridays

Movie @ Your Library

Free movie at the College-Rolando Library, 6600 Montezuma Road. 4 p.m.

Saturdays

Arts & Crafts for Kids

Fun family-friendly crafts projects for children of all ages. Noon at the College-Rolando Library, 6600 Montezuma Road.

—Calendar compiled by editor Jeff Clemetson. To submit events for review and possible inclusion in the College Towne News calendar, email jeff@sdnews.com. ■

Best time to buy San Diego real estate?

By SARAH WARD

I was working with a graphic designer the other day who said, "I want to buy a property in San Diego but I am waiting for a crash in prices." I have heard this exact same phrase from many potential buyers over the last 10 years. But I am not sure that is the best strategy.

The downturn of 2007 was a perfect storm of a recession hitting after many years of easy money mortgages. It was the federal government actually that decided in the late 1990s that everybody, regardless of credit, deserves to own a property. While this was a noble goal, it was a recipe for an economic disaster. This government objective was the catalyst that built the house of mortgage cards. Banks were mandated to issue some mortgages to people that were likely unable to pay back the mortgage over the long-term. The government hybrid institutions would then guarantee the mortgages and buy them up into pools. Banks and brokers would originate the mortgages and sell them off, with a government guarantee. Then a mild recession hit and

millions of people stopped paying their mortgages, leading to homes being dumped on the market and prices significantly dropping.

But we do not have that false structure currently in the market. Over the last 10 years, mortgage underwriters have been pretty strict in qualifying for a mortgage. The vast number of mortgages issued over the last 10 years were granted to credit-worthy homeowners. Thus we are unlikely to see a severe drop in home prices anytime soon. Also factor in the high demand for San Diego real estate from the thousands of tech workers pouring into this county as well as thousands of international buyers that arrive here annually. Also keep in mind that San Diego is landlocked, bordered by Camp Pendleton, the Pacific Ocean, Mexico to the south, and the Anza-Borrego desert to the east. The supply of buildable land is fixed and the demand for local housing continues to increase. Another interesting issue is that compared to coastal Los Angeles, San Jose, and San Francisco, San Diego home prices are still significantly discounted! There is no doubt in my mind that San Diego

home prices will continue to trend up over the long-term based on very strong demand and a lack of meaningful new construction.

So when is the best time to buy San Diego real estate? I would say right now! Mortgage rates are back to all-time lows. It will just take a small leap of faith by a buyer to jump into this market. Lastly, I recently ran into an old buyer of mine who purchased a Santee property five years ago in the mid-300s. She told me it is now worth close to \$500,000 and buying that property was one of the best decisions her family made. If you are a buyer, call me for a free, no obligation meet-up to look at what you could afford and various location options. In the long-term, I strongly believe it will be one of the best decisions you will ever make.

HOUSING MARKET

The U.S. Federal Reserve lowered the benchmark interest rate for the first time in a decade, resulting in mortgage rates dropping and approaching historically low levels not seen since 2016. Although consumer confidence in housing is increasing, lack of

affordable inventory continues to distress first-time homebuyers and limit increases in new sales. For the 12-month period through August 2019, single-family home prices increased 2.4% to \$645,000. Condos-townhomes also increased 2.4% to \$425,000. Market-wide, inventory levels were down 17%. There continues to be a serious housing shortage in San Diego and with the lack of new construction, that scenario is expected to only worsen. Prices over the long-term are highly likely to increase.

92115 OVERVIEW

The number of closed sales year-to-date has stayed steady at 259 closed sales from 255 last year at this time. The College Area 92115 single-family median home price increased 4.3% year-over-year to an even \$600,000. Going forward, I would expect a flat median home price over the short-term and, as I said above, a steadily increasing home price over the long-term.

—Sarah Ward is a Realtor with College Area Realty. Reach her at CollegeAreaRealty@gmail.com. ■

News briefs

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Free Ride Day will be valid on all MTS and NCTD fixed-routes services including buses, the Trolley, SPRINTER and COASTER (Amtrak Rail 2 Rail, MTS Access and NCTD LIFT paratransit are not part of this promotion). Passengers will not need a Compass Card or valid fare for either system. MTS and NCTD services will operate on a normal weekday schedule. Participants who plan to choose transit on Free Ride Day are encouraged to RSVP through the MTS Facebook page event, or online at the Free Ride Day webpage. When they do, they'll receive reminders about Free Ride Day, tips for taking transit, and more.

"Last year, MTS logged 53,000 extra passenger trips on Free Ride Day and the Sycuan Green Line Trolley's ridership spiked 37%," said MTS chief executive officer Paul Jablonski. "We want even more residents this year to try it out and experience the thriving network of transportation options in San Diego." ■

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Fri 10-1, Sat 9-12/Sun 9-41711 Hornblend St, Apt C 2BD/3BA\$745,000Pete Middleton 858-922-3377

LA JOLLA

Sun 1-47964 Roseland Dr4BR/3BA\$2,900,000David Schroedl 858-453-5300
Sat 12-36111 La Pintura Dr5BR/4.5BA\$1,895,000Daniel Albrecht 858-926-8779
Sat 10-57116 Vista Del Mar4BD/5BA\$6,999,995Peter Middleton 858-922-3377
Fri 10-2848 Prospect St # B3BD/3.5B\$1,999,995-2,199,995Pete Middleton 858-922-3377
Fri 10-2939 Coast Blvd # 4L1BD/1BA\$749,000-779,000Pete Middleton 858-922-3377
Fri 2-4/at 12:30-35556 Calumet Ave3BD/3.5BA\$5,595,000Peggy Weinbrecht 858-243-2304

POINT LOMA

Sun 1-42820 Carleton St #32BR/2.5BA\$899,000 - \$949,000Garold Wampler 619-987-6168

RANCHO SANTA FE

Sun 1-418021 Cerro Del Sol5BD/7BA\$1,829,999Pete Middleton 858-922-3377

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Sat & Sun 1-42013 Mackinnon Ave5BD/4BA\$2,395,000Theresa Panish 858-869-5656

DEL SUR

Sun 1-415657 Tanner Ridge Rd4BR/3BA\$975,000Kelly Dinnsen 858-922-3668

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IF YOU'RE THINKING OF SELLING, and your home even remotely fits one of these criteria, please give us a call to see if your home would be a good fit for one of these buyers!

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