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Boom is the first character created by Little Fish Comic Book Studio in College Area (Courtesy Little Fish Comic Book Studio)

Studio inspires super comic book art

By KIT-BACON GRESSITT | COLLEGE TIMES COURIER

Experts wax academic about how comic books, once relegated to childhood entertainment, are really so much more. They study comic books as cultural artifacts — reflections of a society, its values and prejudices, its fears and aspirations. Step through the door at 6822 B El Cajon Blvd., and that

description is vividly illustrated by the work at Little Fish Comic Book Studio.

Founded in 2012, the studio became a nonprofit corporation and moved to College Area in 2016. Its mission is to educate youngsters, teens, and adults who are aspiring comic artists.

"All our classes are structured in a way so they are accessible no

matter the student's age or ability," said the studio's executive director and founder, Alonso Nunez. "We tend to start classes for 11 and up, but we have one class for 6- to 10-year-olds. We also do a high level camp around Comic-Con. ... And we have a project management class," which guides

SEE **LITTLE FISH**, Page 8

Community Council approves report outlining update to plan

By JEFF CLEMETSON | COLLEGE TIMES COURIER

The College Area Community Council (CACC) voted unanimously Nov. 13 to approve a community plan the group initiated and had been working on for the past two years. The plan will serve as a guide for the city's planning department as it works on an official College Area Community Plan Update, set to begin in early 2020.

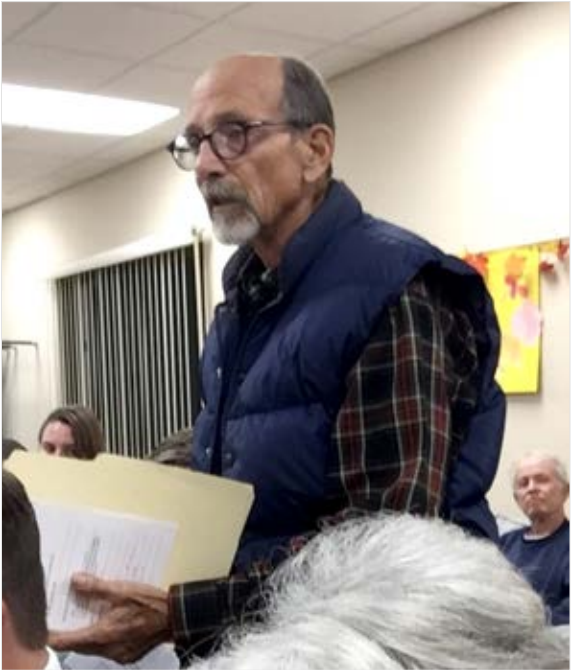
Although the plan is now approved, the CACC voted to release it to the public for comments that will be added to the report before it is sent to the city. The council also voted to include an executive summary of the report that was prepared by Mike Jenkins, a member of the steering committee that spearheaded the community update project.

The report, which was mostly put together by SDSU urban planning students with guidance by the steering committee, was generally well received by the council.

"I think it reads well," said CACC president Jose Reynoso. "There was a lot of back and forth, there were a lot of sections that were either eliminated or changed and so I think what you got is a more cohesive and better thought-out report."

Board member Ellen Bevier described the report as "inspired in places and really informative."

CACC secretary Ann Cottrell liked the report but was "discouraged" there wasn't more suggestions for added park space in College Area.



Mike Jenkins, who prepared the executive summary for the CACC's community update plan report addresses the council at its Nov. 13 meeting. (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

The board was unanimous in the suggestion to accept more public comments on the report before submitting it to the planning department.

SEE **CPU**, Page 4

Trafficking traumas

A mother and daughter's story of reunification, recovery

By DAVE SCHWAB | COLLEGE TIMES COURIER

[Editor's notes: The real names of the people in this story have been changed to protect their anonymity. This is the first installment of a series on human trafficking in San Diego.]



(Image by sammisreachers from Pixabay)

One day late in January, 16-year-old Lesley Buckley took off on her bike to go to a friend's house — and never arrived.

It triggered a massive search by mom Erin Buckley, the police and private investigators that took several weeks to find her, followed by months of rehabilitation to heal her mental wounds from the experience.

Unwittingly, Lesley had been lured into the sex trafficking trade by her 15-year-old girlfriend and a 40-plus-year-old male "friend" who turned out to be a pimp.

Now reunited and rebuilding their relationship — and lives — the two women talked about their shared experience both would rather forget.

Erin recalls being frantic at first.

"We called all her friends. Her phone was off. We searched and retraced her probable bike route. ... By the next morning, we grew increasingly alarmed when we couldn't track her down and called the police."

"I was trying to help out a friend who I had met awhile before when we were in summer camp," said Lesley. "I knew she

SEE **TRAFFICKING**, Page 3

Rolando catwalks connect residents and community

By JILL DIAMOND | COLLEGE TIMES COURIER

Some neighborhoods have simple sidewalks for residents and visitors to use for walking, running, and other exercise routines. However, communities such as Rolando Village have winding “catwalks” and steep staircases with much history.

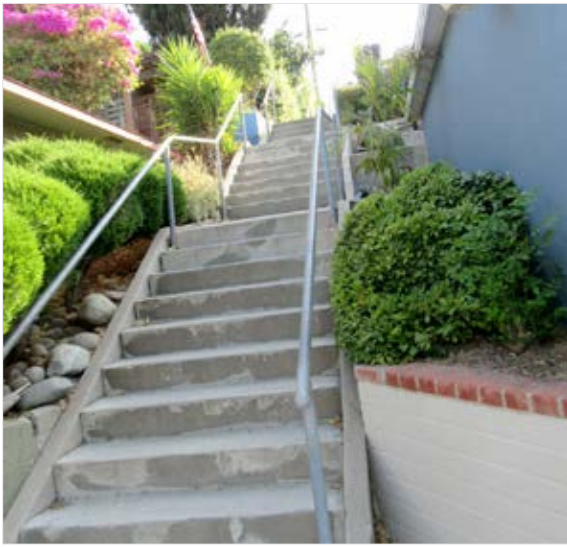
Rolando Village has eight such catwalks that are used day in and day out by people of all ages. Essentially these catwalks are public sidewalks built in-between homes to connect the community and its residents.

“The catwalks in Rolando Village are a great way to get from point A to point B,” said Sara King, a 14-year resident and

head librarian at San Diego Public Library’s College-Rolando Library Branch (6600 Montezuma Road). “I use them all the time as they are good shortcuts to get to where you want to go in and around the community.”

According to the San Diego Natural History Museum’s The Canyoneers, who are volunteers, the catwalks are cement walkways and steps called such because neighborhood cats would often walk along the various pathways. Both were installed throughout the neighborhood during its early development stages to make access to different streets easier.

In an article by The Canyoneers that appeared in the July 18, 2018



Catwalks offer a fun way to explore Rolando Village. (Photos by Philip Erdelsky)

issue of the San Diego Reader, they write: “ ... There are 256 steps in eight segments, with more walkways than stairways. A double loop, like butterfly wings, begins at Rolando Park on Vigo Drive. The body of this butterfly is the fourth ‘catwalk.’ Walking fast or running this route would provide a major workout. Do the walk-in reverse for more uphill stairs.”

The Canyoneers further describe the Rolando Village tract homes as being “developed after World War II to meet the high demand for housing in the rapidly growing post-war San Diego. The close-knit homes offer interesting architecture, with many bungalow-style homes in this rolling landscape. In fact, the rolling landscape is the reason behind the name of

this development. The ‘catwalks’ provide a way of connecting the many tree-lined streets that are found at different elevations. The idea for these pathways may have been influenced by those found in the hilly landscape of adjacent La Mesa — staircases there were first built in 1927...”

QUAINT AND UNIQUE

Beside its catwalks that twist and turn and its challenging stairs to climb, there are colorful foliage and unique acorn-style lampposts all of which add to an overall quaint and yesterday-like ambiance.

If you want to visit and get in a workout or two, don’t look for signs that state “catwalks” instead, it is suggested by The

Canyoneers to use cross-streets to discover them.

One visitor who has done just that is Philip Erdelsky, a hiker who leads various hikes and walks via Meetup. He said he visited the catwalks about a year ago and liked the area so much he is planning another trek there soon. While he took the many beautiful photos in this article he said, “I only saw one cat on the catwalks!”

For visitors to Rolando who want to stroll the catwalks, the best place to access them is to turn into the Rolando Park parking area off of Vigo Drive and enter the catwalks near the sign.

—Jill Diamond is a freelance writer with a passion for writing about neighborhood histories.

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Trafficking

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

had problems and had run away at times. I had taken her to the youth ministry I was involved in at my church to help her.”

Erin realized it would be up to her and her husband to find their daughter if they were ever to see her again. “They [police] assigned the case to the school resources officer and he began interviewing her friends at school to see if anyone might have information,” said Erin. “There were leads but they couldn’t give us information due to school confidentiality issues. ... We soon realized that they considered she might be a runaway and she was a low-priority case. It became clear early on that we had to take matters into our own hands.”

A week went by with nothing, no clues. Then Erin learned Lesley may have been in contact with a friend, Susan, who had last been seen in a center that treated victims of sex trafficking.

“She [Susan] was also an adopted foster child like my daughter, and had become a habitual runaway,” said Erin.

Asked if she were troubled, looking for an escape or testing her boundaries when she disappeared, Lesley answered, “All of those. She [Susan] asked me to come to Los Angeles with her to party. It sounded fun. Her boyfriend had a car. ... I didn’t think about the dangerous part of it. I

wanted to go off the grid. I wanted to get away. I didn’t think I’d be gone for long.”

Of her Los Angeles experience, Lesley said, “It’s hard for me to talk about and hard to remember it all. A lot of it I don’t want to talk about. That first night, we went to party at a big house with people that seemed very weird and older. The people I was with were nice to me. I realized she [Susan] was involved in this world of sex and bad people that were involved with drugs, but I said no and they left me to myself to just hang out. ... She [Susan] would go places and I didn’t know where she went. I realized after a time that she was being prostituted. I felt like they were being nice to pull me in when I think about it now. We were smoking a lot of weed and partying.”

“My husband Dave and I took an active, central role in the search, because we couldn’t rely on law enforcement,” said Erin of the hunt for Lesley. She added, “We had to find the right resources and run our own ‘case’ in reality. ... We had to work as well. We were allowed to work from home and devoted ourselves full-time to the search, while handling our jobs and a family with four other children.”

Persistence paid off in the end for the Buckleys.

“She [Lesley] was gone more than five weeks before we found her,” said Erin. “Saved In America [child rescue group] had rescued the girls off the streets of Compton

in coordination with LA County Sheriffs.”

Erin noted the struggle to “reclaim” her daughter had actually just begun once she’d been found after running away.

“We naively thought that getting her back was the finish line and the end of challenges,” Erin said. “However, we quickly realized that day that these girls needed to quickly transition to a new location away from their homes to avoid being discovered or leaving again, and for residential treatment specializing in girls that are traumatized by trafficking.”

“This was a person we no longer knew,” Erin said of her daughter. “She had come back from being gone a very different, traumatized girl. ... Now, she referred to the staff and her fellow residents as ‘family’ and I think she was feeling resentment that we had abandoned her. ... Her therapist was convinced she was ready to come home, but on her trial visit, she was in touch with a problematic young man in her life from the past and planning to escape with him when she came home for good at Christmas. ... We realized she was not rehabilitated at all. She was just as much a flight risk now as she was previously and a very confused, dysfunctional child.”

Lesley was taken to a residential treatment facility in southern Utah for months of rehabilitation therapy.

Describing her treatment there, which started within a week of coming home after she was

rescued, Lesley said, “At first I hated where I went. I never was alone the whole time I was there. There was always a counselor with me. I had no privacy. I had to earn rights and rewards. I saw what happened if you didn’t behave. If you got pissed off or acted crazy, then all the staff would hold you down. ... There were some seriously messed up kids in there. ... I made some incredibly close friends after a while. I wanted to escape and live with them. I didn’t want to go back home and wanted to start out new somewhere else. My friends and I kept talking about what we’d do when we got out of there at 18.”

Lesley talked about what it felt like being controlled by others during rehab. “They took my phone,” she said. “I couldn’t call my parents and was embarrassed even if I could contact them. I thought I could get away and do my own thing. Maybe get a job. We used different names and I thought, ‘I’m stuck and maybe I’ll just start a new life.’ I didn’t like my life. Maybe this was the start of a new life for me.”

After Lesley’s rescue, Erin said a police officer told her that “her parents really loved her because he’d never seen parents work so relentlessly in trying to find their child. I just thought we were doing what any parent would do if their child was in peril.”

Discussing reconnection with her parents, Lesley noted the connection is not yet complete — maybe never will be.

“I feel like I’ve never gotten my mom and dad’s relationship back to where it was before,” she said. “I don’t want to see my family, my grandma, my uncles, anyone hardly at all. Now that I’m 19 almost 20, I live without them on my own and am happy just working and doing my own thing.”

Looking back on it, what advice would Erin and Lesley give to others finding themselves trapped in a similar situation?

“Make sure you know what your child is doing on social media and who they are spending time with,” said Erin. “Know their world as much as you can. ... As a parent, you are responsible for your child’s safety and they don’t have a right to complete privacy. She was vulnerable to an old friend who had been a runaway and got sucked into a world that our daughter did not know. In trying to help her, Lesley got sucked into it, too.”

Regarding lessons learned, Lesley concluded, “It’s best not to trust adults you don’t know. You shouldn’t be around adult men that want to be with kids. If it doesn’t feel right, get away from it. You have to be very careful in talking to strangers that hide in social media. There are some disturbed people out there that go after vulnerable girls and boys. You need to listen to your parents. They are your friends. They are there to protect you.”

—Reach Dave Schwab at reporter@sdnews.com.

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College Area Happenings

By JOSE REYNOSO

As many of you know, after two years of visioning sessions through its Beautification and Long-Term Planning Committee and other efforts, the College Area Community Council (CACC) voted to move forward with a proposal to create a community-generated community plan update for the College Area, that would be submitted to the city in hopes that the end result would become a basis and integral part of the formal community plan update that the city was being urged to begin.

The beautification committee was put on hiatus and a steering committee took over the effort, focused on putting the plan together. The committee engaged several outside sources including the NewSchool of Architecture & Design and the urban planning department at San Diego State. A graduate-level studio class at SDSU took on the task of developing concepts and gathering data necessary for the basis of a plan update.

Their and the committee's final report was presented to the full CACC board at its meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 13. Once approved by the board, it will be

submitted to the city and made public. The city expects the report to serve as a framework for the planning process that they must follow. We encourage residents to attend meetings where the plan will be discussed and to continue to stay informed. We need input, feedback and community involvement in determining what the College Area will look like over the next 10, 20 or 30 years. One way to stay informed and involved is to join the CACC so you can be on our email notification list.

In January, date and location to be confirmed, we will be hosting a candidate forum where all candidates for political offices that represent our area will be invited to make their case and answer your questions. Obviously we won't have presidential candidates but from congressional to mayoral, down to City Council, they will be here.

The CACC wants to engage the entire community to move us forward, whether it is through the new community plan update or tackling issues of concern. We are neighbors helping neighbors. But you know what? We don't need to focus on problems, exclusively.

SEE CA HAPPENINGS, Page 12

College View Estates news

By PATRICK HANSON

The Sprecht family on Redding Road hosted a Halloween party for the children of the neighborhood again this year. The party allows the children to see each other's costumes while snacking before starting the serious business of trick-or-treating. Each year, more homes in the neighborhood are decorated for Halloween — some elaborately!

Twenty-four years ago, when we moved into the neighborhood, children were few and far between. This was an older neighborhood; many residents were retired. In the last eight to 10 years, we have seen a noticeable increase in families with young children. Our latest count indicates we have approximately 95 children residing in College View Estates.

In response to having so many young children living here, the board of the College View Estates Association (CVEA) created a new position to coordinate and create programming in the community for children. Josette Alvarez has volunteered to be the coordinator of family/children programs. We are looking forward to more fun in the neighborhood.

A couple nights ago, the neighborhood book club met. This club was born at a First Friday Gathering two years ago

and has grown to include 20 avid readers.

A week ago, our monthly First Friday Gathering took place at a home on Redding Road. It was well attended by neighbors catching up with each other. This informal gathering moves around the neighborhood as different neighbors volunteer to host.



Homes decorated for Halloween are a sign families are moving back to College View Estates. (Photo by Patrick Hanson)

As the undergrounding project continues in some parts of the neighborhood, Bixel Drive, the first street started, was completed a week ago. The event was marked by the removal of the temporary water pipe. The finishing touch will be the resurfacing of the streets when all the sewer and water work in the neighborhood is completed.

The quarterly meeting of the CVEA was hosted by the Pugliesi family on Remington Road; approximately 25 were in

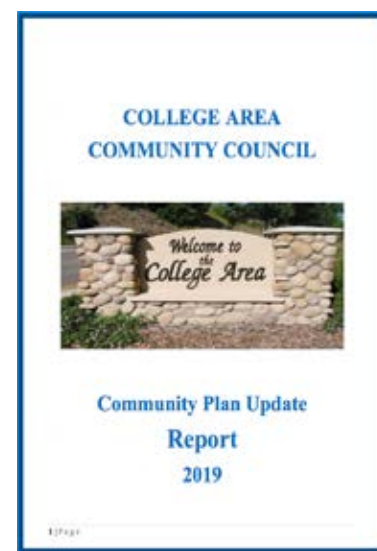
SEE CVEA, Page 12

CPU

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

"Even though this has been publicized for two years or more, nobody has seen the contents of the final report so it should be put out to the public," Reynoso said.

CACC board member and College Area Business District president Jim Schneider said the report "shows the community actually coming together" because it was created by a multitude of stakeholders like the CACC, the city planning department and SDSU. Schneider said the plan reflects what the community wants for College Area, but added that pressure must be put on the city planning department as it develops the official plan update.



The Community plan update report will be available online for public comments at collegearea.org on Nov. 29.

"I think we need to push the whole idea of this being developed by the community in the community for the community, not by the planning department and shoved down our throats," he said. "Just because we got the document done and we give it to city planning, we as a board and we as a community have to continue to push."

Board member Bob Higdon described the report as a "good logical next step" to the current College Area Community Plan, which was created in 1989.

"[The new report] forms a framework, but I think it goes beyond that," he said. "There are some excellent ideas and I have a feeling the community will be happy with those ideas once they read and understand and I certainly encourage everyone get involved and read the report and see exactly the vision that I feel we've put together as a community."

A copy of the report will be uploaded to the CACC website — collegearea.org — on Nov. 29, the Friday after Thanksgiving, Reynoso said, and comments will be accepted for a month before being synthesized into a final draft that will be sent to the city planning department.

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

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Chicana and Chicano Studies at SDSU turn 50

SDSU NewsCenter
YOUR OFFICIAL SOURCE FOR SAN DIEGO STATE NEWS

By JEFF RISTINE

Throughout its history, San Diego State University's Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies (CCS) has reflected issues of its time and has attempted to meet the needs of the surrounding community.

In 1969, it meant embracing the movement to promote Chicano civil rights. Students and faculty joined campaigns off campus that led to the creation of Chicano Park and Balboa Park's Centro Cultural de la Raza, now focal points of ethnic pride.

Fifty years later, the department is deeply immersed in border and transnational issues, and it has made rich contributions in the arts and research to the San Diego border region.

Its timeline spans a period from when enrollment at San Diego State College included fewer than 100 Mexican Americans, as the nomenclature of the era typically identified them, to a university headed by a Latinx president, Adela de la Torre, and now recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a Hispanic Serving Institution.

Addressing a population that had long been ignored, the program initially known as Mexican American Studies had to be assembled from scratch, with community input. "It was almost impossible to create such a department without your community," said chair María Ibarra, who has taught in the department for 22 years. "Part of what you wanted to do was to get that community into the public university."

Richard Griswold del Castillo, a former chair of the department who was recruited to join the faculty in 1974, noted the push for its creation came amid the concurrent civil rights, women's, and antiwar movements of the '60s.

"It was a revolution of young people," Griswold said, "that felt that things had to get better and they were going to lead the way in

making the changes that needed to be made."

SMOOTH PATH

Uprisings at other campuses, including a sometimes violent, five-month student strike at San Francisco State University centered on issues of ethnic studies and representation, may have paved a smoother course for creation of the new program in San Diego, Griswold said. President Malcolm Love easily signed off on the proposal.

Community members who provided some of the impetus understood public education "had not really properly addressed the needs of Mexican-American kids," Griswold said. In turn, the new program provided a way for the community to be in dialogue with the university.

In 1975, the program was elevated to an academic department in the College of Professional Studies. The name change to the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies came in 1998. A graduate program was developed in 2005.

Today, Ibarra said, there's a stronger Central American presence in the department as it has evolved to address the broader Latinx population.

The department has also developed a distinct feminist emphasis. Ibarra herself has written on women immigrants from Mexico, focusing specifically on those working as elder care and hospice care providers. Likewise, faculty member Victoria Gonzalez-Rivera has written extensively on women's organizations in Nicaragua.

Another faculty member, Norma Iglesias-Prieto, is a pioneer in the field of Mexican women's work in U.S.-Mexico border maquiladoras. Adelaida Del Castillo, the first woman chair of the department, wrote a groundbreaking reinterpretation of a key female figure in Mexican history known as Doña Marina, or la Malinche. Del Castillo's interpretation is now the standard one in the study of the Spanish conquest of Mexico.

SEE CHICANO STUDIES, Page 9



The play "Just Like Us" was co-sponsored by the Chicana and Chicano Studies department as part of the department's 50th anniversary celebration. (Courtesy SDSU)

Kicking retirement with kung fu

By DOUG CURLEE | COLLEGE TIMES COURIER

Experts say that doing things together through life is the best way to keep relationships alive, especially as the years mount up.

Retired SDSU professors Don and Ann Cottrell took that advice to heart, and for more than two decades they've been doing that regularly.

What is the activity that keeps them humming at the ages of 80 (Ann) and 81 (Don)?

Martial arts.

Kung fu.

Tai chi.

And they are really, really good at it.

Good enough to have won awards and promotion in the ranks, and be admired by people much younger than they are.

"We got interested when Don took our son to the school where we now study and work out," Ann said.

"Rather than sit and watch, Don thought he'd give it a try, and he liked it. He got me interested and it's gone from there. It's great exercise, and great training. We've each earned a black sash award in kung fu, and a black fringe in tai chi. We're in the senior division now, and have no plans to stop it."

Kung fu is definitely a combat art, complete with swords, knives, spears, clubs and whatever else comes to hand. The moves are primarily oriented toward



Don and Ann Cottrell sparing with weapons (Courtesy photo)

fighting, and have been since it was invented by Shaolin monks in long-ago China.

(Many of you have probably seen one or more of the violent action movies Hollywood and Beijing put out. That action is badly overcooked, and, you know ... they're movies.)

People often say tai chi is simply exercise in slow motion, and it can be that — usually is.

But it's also useful at speed. Tai chi can be used to defuse an attack by preventing attackers from getting started — stop them from attacking you. It's definitely a martial art.

You can see what the martial arts training has done, and is doing, for Don and Ann.

Watching them move around their College Area home, you don't really realize these people are in their 80s.

They move like retired athletes, not retired college professors.

Pictures show they know what they're doing.

(Well, there was the time when Ann accidentally broke Don's arm, but she was instantly forgiven.)

"We'll never stop unless we have to," Don said.

So far, neither of them show any inclination to do that.

Good for them.

—Doug Curlee is a longtime San Diego reporter for both print and television news.



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Guest Editorial

Fight to save Prop 13

By SEN. JOEL ANDERSON (RET.)

In 1978, more than two-thirds of California's voters passed Proposition 13 (Prop 13), a ballot measure that reduced property tax rates on homes, businesses and farms and capped how much property tax rates could grow in the future.

Elderly homeowners on fixed incomes, faced with ever-escalating and often unpredictable property tax bills, were being forced to sell their homes to meet the payments.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, property values and property tax rates in California began skyrocketing. Property taxes were based on a property's market value, which often increased faster than inflation and the homeowner's income. According to annual reports from the then-State Board of Equalization, the taxes levied on property subject to Prop 13 from fiscal year 1960-61 through fiscal year 1977-78 increased more than 360%. That meant a \$13,000 home in 1960 had a \$400 tax bill and 17 years later, the property tax paid on the same home would be \$1,440.

Fed up with high tax bills, voters passed Proposition 13, which limited property tax rates to 1% of a property's assessed value, limited assessment increases to no more than 2% annually, and established that state tax increases can only be done via a two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

Homeowners would now know with some certainty what their property taxes would be and that there would be no massive increase sprung on them.

As is typical, Sacramento politicians have been trying to repeal Prop 13 since it passed and sadly this madness continues today.

An initiative to modify Prop 13 and exempt commercial property from protections of Prop 13 and enact a so-called "split roll" property tax is being circulated by public employees unions and will likely be on next year's ballot. While proponents claim they only want to tax property owned by businesses and corporations, ICSC, a business advocacy group writes:

"Creating a split roll property tax could put thousands of tenants out of business, result in higher taxes and create uncertainty leading to the devaluation of all property values."

Of course, the real worry should be that this "split roll" will be the camel's nose under the tent, leading to more attacks on Prop 13, which has allowed us homeowners to have the 17th lowest property taxes in the nation.

Despite this, Californians suffer under tax burdens that are among the highest in the nation. In fact, according to the Tax Foundation, we have the highest individual income tax rate, the highest gas tax rate, the sixth-highest total tax burden, and the ninth-highest combined state-local sales tax rate. It is no wonder young families are fleeing this state. How many of you want to visit your children or grandchildren in Arizona, Colorado or Texas?

Since the passage of Prop 13, property tax rates finally became predictable, manageable, and fair. Defending Prop 13 is critically important, it's the only safeguard that keeps the government from taxing people out of their homes. Please join me and fight to protect Prop 13!

—Senator Joel Anderson (Ret.) is a 35-year resident of Alpine.

Letters

PARKING PROBLEM?

Re: "Hotel on Montezuma given go ahead"
[Volume 1, Issue 1]

Nice to read about the hotel project. For 125

rooms, are they going to dig deeper for underground parking? This looks like a potential grid lock problem for the library, shoppers and residents of this area.

—Robert Hart, San Diego

It's time to rein the high cost of prescription drugs

CA 53 BULLETIN

By REP. SUSAN DAVIS



Across America, seniors and families are struggling to afford the prescription drugs they need to stay healthy. Three in 10 adults reported not taking their medicines as prescribed at some point in the past year due to cost.

Prices for more than 3,400 drugs jumped 17 percent in the first six months of 2019. Between 2011 and 2016, prescription drug spending in the United States grew more than 2.5 times inflation.

The soaring cost of insulin provides one of the starkest examples of broken drug pricing.

More than 100 million Americans are diabetic or pre-diabetic and more than \$300 billion per year is spent on treating diabetes, making it the disease category with the highest spending.

Even though insulin was discovered in 1922, its inflation-adjusted per-unit price has almost tripled between the 1990s and 2014. In the United States, insulin costs per patient have nearly doubled from 2012 to 2016.

These price spikes are driving up health insurance premiums and creating unaffordable costs for taxpayers who finance Medicare and Medicaid.

My constituents share their stories with me every single day about the struggles they face to get the life-saving medications they need.

A 68-year-old man with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a condition that makes breathing very difficult, wrote me about his experience with trying to pay for his medication. He requires an inhaler to open up his airways and pays more than \$400 for a month's supply of the drug to treat his condition.

A father told me about his trouble in affording his daughter's cystic fibrosis medication. He wants Congress to look at ways to bring down prices. He is also very aware of the need for innovation and research to discover new drugs.

I agree that lowering drug prices cannot come at the expense of innovation. We can do both. One thing is for sure: the current system is simply unsustainable and Congress needs to take action.

The Lower Drug Costs Now Act (HR 3) was introduced and would rein in out-of-control drug prices and reinvest those savings back into research and development.

The main provision of HR 3 would give the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) broad power to

negotiate lower drug prices for all Americans. The HHS secretary would be empowered to negotiate up to 250 drugs per year, drawn from a refilling list of the most costly drugs in the U.S.

Drugs representing more than half of all Medicare Part D spending, covering tens of millions of patients, would be subject to the negotiation process – including insulin.

These reduced drug prices would also be available to people with private insurance, which is critical to the more than 150 million Americans who get their health insurance through their employer.

The Lower Drug Costs Now Act strengthens and improves Medicare. Seniors will see a new \$2,000 out-of-pocket limit on prescription drug costs. It also reverses years of unfair price hikes for thousands of drugs in Medicare.

Currently there is no cap on out-of-pocket expenses for Medicare Part D enrollees. In 2017, 1 million Part D enrollees had average annual out-of-pocket costs exceeding \$3,200.

The Congressional Budget Office and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services both report that HR 3 would save \$345 billion for Medicare Part D over the 10 years. Over the same time period, it would also save \$46 billion in health care costs for private employers and \$55 billion for the American people.

It's these savings that will continue to fuel innovation, particularly in San Diego. Each year, our region gets about \$800 million in federal dollars from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and San Diego is a leader in innovative research.

In fact, much of the research and development driving the search for new breakthroughs isn't paid for by drug companies, it's paid for by American taxpayers through federal funding for the NIH and other grants.

Action to lower prescription drugs is long overdue. Maintaining the status quo is simply not an option. The House of Representatives is working hard to bring relief to the American people. The Lower Drug Costs Now Act has the potential to provide that relief while directing resources toward innovation to discover the latest treatments and cures.

—Congresswoman Davis represents central San Diego, including the communities of Old Town, Kensington, Mission Hills, University Heights, Hillcrest Bankers Hill, North Park, South Park, Talmadge, Normal Heights, as well as La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Spring Valley and parts of El Cajon and Chula Vista.

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Little Fish

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

students through the conception, planning and creation of a comic book project.

Although Nunez’s love of comics has blossomed into the studio, it began at a young age before eventually wending a circuitous route to the College Area.

“I’m a third-generation San Diegan,” he said, “born at Mercy, and I grew up in North Park — before it was North Park. No breweries then. I grew up reading comics. I always loved comics. As I got older, graduated high school, it was like, ‘Hey, I think this might be art.’ From that point, I was very much — I was like John the Baptist — ‘Hey, this can be art!’”

Nunez then began college at San Diego State, but it wasn’t quite a good fit. After a bit of wanderlust, he landed in New York City



A Little Fish student works on a comic



Comic sketches by Little Fish students (Courtesy photos)



Sample of student comic

and enrolled in the School of Visual Arts, where he earned a degree in comic illustration and began making his way into the comic book profession. Today, though, as much as he is dedicated to the comic art genres, he is also dedicated to comics as a tool for education and self-development.

“We talk about the role comics play,” he explained, “not just as a piece of art, but as a means of instruction and communication, and a second or third pathway to learning. A lot of times, for those kids who think they can’t read, the kind of visuals [in comics] can open that up and allow for processing of the writing. I find it a great tool for education. I go into schools, middle and high school,

and I’ll have a pitch prepared — ‘Comics can be art, let me describe why’ — and more and more librarians and teachers already get it. I can scratch out two-thirds of my notes.”

In addition to the studio’s classes and outreach efforts, Nunez also participates in San Diego’s community read program, One Book, One San Diego, which makes an annual selection of books for readers of various age groups, along with a cross-border book.

“We help select the books,” Nunez said, “find appropriate spaces for community events, and then implement curriculum [based on a selected book], doing workshops in middle and high schools. The students develop a two- to three-page comic.”

The 2018 selection might be testament to Little Fish Comic Book Studio’s influence: “March: Book One,” a graphic novel, was the only book chosen for all four reading groups last year. Written by Congressman John Lewis, a 1960s civil rights worker, and Andrew Aydin, and illustrated by Nate Powell, the graphic novel genre made the book accessible well beyond the stereotypical grade school comic book aficionado. But what makes a comic book — or a graphic novel — work? What makes it good?



Alonso Nunez, Little Fish Comic Book Studio founder and executive director, teaching a class (Photo by by Ash Esparza)

Nunez had a ready response: “Comics are definitionally words and pictures that together tell a story. For me, a great comic is one in which I feel moved by the story that the creator or creators are telling. And the beautiful thing is, there’s no perfect ratio of art and pictures as long as they are working in harmony and working to their fullest potential. Not just a story with pictures, but something that couldn’t exist without the combination. That to me is a great comic — that and Batman,” he said with a laugh.

Like any art form, comic books can reflect on identities, real and imagined; look to the past with a critical eye; and envision a more humane and equitable future. As a Facebook friend of Nunez’s commented, “Make Comics, Not War!” For more information about Little Fish Comic Book Studio classes for children and adults, visit lilfish.us.

—Kit-Bacon Gressitt formerly wrote for the North County Times, and she is the publisher of Writers Resist, a literary journal. She also hosts Fallbrook Library’s monthly Writers Read author series and open mic, and teaches Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in the Cal State system. Reach her at kbgresitt@gmail.com.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY MAKE IT MARKET

The College Area Business District will hold its next Make It Market on Nov. 30 in a vacant commercial space next to Chuy’s Taco Shop at 6663 El Cajon Blvd.

The market, open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., coincides with Small Business Saturday, a national holiday shopping event that promotes support for local mom-and-pop businesses.

The College Area Business District will be organizing a district-wide event for residents to participate in by visiting small businesses around College Area and have a chance to win at least a \$25 gift card at each participating business and also an additional draw at the Make It Market for a gift basket. Each participating business will have a special promotion going on for that day as well as a drawing for at least \$25 gift card from the pool of people that visited and dropped their drawing ticket in.

LOCAL BUSINESS ANNIVERSARIES

Several College Area businesses celebrated milestones this past month.

Ultreya Coffee & Tea, located at 4653 College Ave., celebrated its first year in business on Nov. 3. Corbin’s Q, 6548 El Cajon Blvd., turned two on Oct. 23. Fish Pit Sushi, 4632 College Ave., celebrated three years on Oct. 25. And Tako Factory Taqueria, 7287 El Cajon Blvd., celebrated its sixth year in business on Halloween.

SEE BUSINESS BRIEFS, Page 15

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Patrick Henry High School news

By ELIZABETH GILLINGHAM

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALIST

PHHS is proud to announce that we had four students named as a Commended Student in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2020 competition by taking the 2018 preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

“Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented NMSC spokesperson.

Congratulations to seniors Timber S. Carey, Kieran W. Hilmer, Chloe L. Morris, and Theodore M. Schenck for their hard work and dedication towards excellence in their academic endeavors.

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART TEEN COUNCIL

PHHS would like to recognize the following students who have applied and been accepted to participate on the San Diego Museum of Art Teen Council program:

- Bianca Smith
- Erin Graham
- Hannah Richardson
- Isabella Nguyen
- Kirsten Lockart-Haytt
- Lily Thomas
- Maria Preciado
- Marissa Crispino
- Olivander Wheelan

The council meets multiple times throughout the year to share ideas, develop youth

events and programming, and participate in unique behind-the-scenes experiences at the museum. Participating students will also have an opportunity to make friends with similar interests, meet local artists, develop leadership skills and add unique experiences towards their college applications.

GIRLS TENNIS EARNS CIF SEED

Following an incredible 2018 season with a CIF Championship, the tennis program earned promotion to CIF Division 1 and the City Conference Western League to compete against the best teams in the county every match. Coach Ronney knew that it would be a difficult challenge however had

reason for optimism because she knew the fight of each individual player and the collective mindset and will to win.

The Patriots demonstrated that tenacity all season long with an early season tournament championship, huge non-league victories over Point Loma, Granite Hills, Grossmont, and Valhalla. With Western League competition came gritty victories over power schools Cathedral (twice!), Scripps Ranch (twice!), and Academy LOP (twice!). Finishing with a 6-4 league record, and earning the No. 3 seed in the Division 1 playoffs is an incredible accomplishment!

—Elizabeth Gillingham is principal of Patrick Henry High School.

PHAME CALENDAR

Performing Arts Center at Patrick Henry High School Calendar – most events sell tickets for \$10 each unless noted otherwise. Please check our website for updates as some events are subject to change:

- Dec. 5 – PHHS Improv Show (mature audiences), at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 3 – Green Elementary Holiday Sing, 4 p.m.–7:15 p.m.
- Dec. 5 – Green Elementary Holiday Sing, 5:15–7:15 p.m.
- Dec. 7 – Tuba Christmas in San Diego; Free entrance at 1 p.m.
- Dec. 12 – PHHS Choir Concert, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 19 – PHHS Instrumental Music Concert, 6 p.m.

- Feb. 5–9 – PHHS Drama Dept. presents “Fiddler on the Roof,” nightly at 6 p.m.
- Feb. 20 – PHHS Airband Concert, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 25–26 – VAPA Choral Showcase, nightly at 6 p.m.
- March 5–6 – Hearst Elementary Talent Show, 6 pm., FREE!
- March 19 – PHHS ASB presents their Variety/Improv Night at 6 p.m.
- March TBA – PHHS Choir Concert, at 6 p.m. (see website for date)
- April TBA – PHHS Pops Concert in PHAME at 6 p.m. (see website for date)
- May 21 – PHHS Choir Concert, at 6 p.m.
- May 27 – PHHS Instrumental Music Concert, at 6 p.m.

News from Hardy Elementary

By LAURA ALLUIN

PTA PAJAMA STORY NIGHT

It is a long-standing tradition to celebrate the love of literature with the joy of the winter holiday season. Each year, Hardy Elementary students have Pajama Day at school during the day, and then come together in the evening for Story Night.

Featured guest readers may include Hardy parents, teachers, retired teachers, or SDSU college students, who offer the crowd fun, dramatic readings of old classic and new favorites. Families share the spirit with singing songs, topped off with cookies and cocoa to end the evening.

GIVE WHAT YOU CAN

Each year the Hardy Student Council holds a Food Drive that directly supports Hardy families.

Student representatives create posters to advertise to classroom and to encourage donations after we return from Thanksgiving break.

If you would like to support our families, please bring in canned goods, non-perishable dry goods like pastas, rice, beans, breakfast cereals and protein rich items like peanut butter, chili, tuna or soups. Household helpers and personal care products are also needed.

For safety, no glass jars please.

A flyer with specific items and needs is available at our Main Office to help you when putting together your donation.

Thank you for supporting your Hardy families and ensuring a merry and bright winter break for all.

—Laura Alluin is principal of Hardy Elementary.

Chicano Studies

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

Professor Roberto Hernández, a local San Diegan raised on the border, has written extensively on the history of violence along the U.S.-Mexico border and such contemporary issues as migrant detention centers.

INTERNATIONAL SCOPE

In addition to teaching and research, CCS faculty assisted in establishing two major research archives at SDSU, including a collection of records from the Chicano civil rights movement of the '60s and '70s.

And as part of its increasing emphasis on transborder issues, the department in 2011 created a U.S.-Mexico Borderlands Visiting Scholar Program aimed at promoting an exchange of ideas with the resident faculty and students.

In addition to addressing the long history of racism against Mexican Americans and other Latinx groups in this country,

“We write about beautiful things, too,” Ibarra said, pointing to a wide variety of output in arts and literature. “We try to... either bring some of these voices, or capture those voices through our research.”

As part of its 50th anniversary celebration, the department co-sponsored a documentary-style play on immigration, “Just Like Us,” and it commemorated the Day of the Dead with an altar in the Chicana/o Collection section of Love Library that was displayed Nov. 1–15, 2019, spotlighting civil rights advocates from the department and across the nation.

An anniversary community celebration dinner and program is scheduled for March 21, 2020, at Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center.

—Jeff Ristine is a writer in SDSU's Marketing and Communications department, producing news, features, profiles, blogs and other material on outstanding students, faculty, staff, donors and initiatives.

St. Katharine Drexel Academy news

By KELLY BONDE

As we transition to the holiday season and into our second trimester of learning, we are focusing on what we are grateful for. We are thankful for a great first three months of school and some of the highlights are listed below:

Our varsity flag football team and varsity softball team just celebrated the end of their seasons. Both teams had fun and enjoyed the opportunity to represent their school!

On Nov. 6, we hosted our first Family STEM Night, where students and their parents made pasta cars.

Nov. 7, we hosted our TK/K Open House to start gearing up for the 2020-21 school year. The waiting list is now open, so please contact us if you are interested in saving a spot.

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



(Courtesy St. Katharine Drexel Academy)

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.

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

—Kelly Bonde is principal of St. Katharine Drexel Academy.

Welcome baby Sequoia!

Editor Jeff Clemetson is excited to announce the birth of his second child, Sequoia Jeannette Clemetson was born at 9:34 a.m. on Nov. 4 — a healthy 6 pounds 13 ounces and 20 inches. (Photo by Stacy Clemetson)



Where farmers come knocking

Restaurant Review

By FRANK SABATINI JR.



The produce that flows regularly into Garden Kitchen experiences no layovers along the way. It evades retail and wholesale establishments, arriving directly to the door by growers who operate within a 30-mile radius of the mostly outdoor restaurant.

In San Diego's dining scene, that's a rare thing.

"I'm shaking hands with farmers who still have dirt in their fingernails when they deliver here," said chef-owner Coral Strong, who opened the establishment in 2015 under a strict

farm-to-table credo.

In culinary circles, she's what you call a die-hard locovore, resorting to only seasonal, locally grown ingredients — even right down to the marigold greens she uses to give certain dishes their bewitchingly herbaceous flavor. Those originate from Wild Willows Farm in South Bay.



Hericot vert salad

The restaurant operates from a converted house in Rolando. With the exception of a cozy parlor-like room in the back that serves as the wine lounge, seating is spread throughout a few sections of the



Owner Coral Strong

Garden Kitchen

4204 Rolando Blvd. (Rolando)

619-431-5755,
gardenkitchensd.com

Prices based on a recent visit: (Costs vary as the menu changes daily) Soups, salads and appetizers, \$9 to \$19; entrees \$22 to \$27; desserts, \$12 to \$15

patio, which is framed in part by lattice, and was recently "canvassed" for weather protection.

Live greenery hanging about in combination with fresh flowers perched on every table lend an unexpected charm in this otherwise nondescript locale. A certain elegance descends on the space post-sunset amid the embracing glow of table candles and evenly distributed string lights.

Color the moment with a glass of sangria, made in-house with a red blend from Temecula's South Coast Winery, plus Champagne, cinnamon, cloves and "some secrets." At which point you might feel transported to a cozy backyard gathering in rural Spain.

Strong buys her produce from eight local farms such as Wild Willows, Agua Dulce, Stehly, and D'Acquisto. The latter happened to be delivering eggplant and zucchini late in the afternoon on the Saturday I visited.

Grape tomatoes from Wild Willows were in the house too. They added undeniable sweetness to a memorable salad of blanched green beans, fresh arugula and terrific tarragon dressing. Strong can effectively trace every ingredient you put into your mouth to her esteemed farms. You need only ask.

The menu changes daily and is posted on the website by noon on the days of operation (Tuesday



A cozy nook in the back section of the patio (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

through Saturday). As a past bartender at O'Brien's Pub, and lacking formal culinary training, Strong relies on her keen intuition for cooking in devising the menus.

"I also like entertaining and customer service, so that led me to where I am now," she said.



Meatballs over linguine

At each dinner, customers can choose from a menu comprising three appetizers, two salads, one or two soups, five or six entrees, and three desserts. What's here today is most certainly gone tomorrow.

I progressed to lentil-pork soup — one of the most loving, embracing potages I've had in ages. Carrots, beet greens, Italian herbs and tender cubes of the meat waltzed through the sedating pork broth, which was also accented by Parmesan cheese.

I kept the Italian theme alive with an entree of house-made meatballs and linguine tossed in "seven-hour" marinara sauce originating from fresh tomatoes. Would I regret skipping over such choices as grilled steak with kimchi butter or fresh-caught mako shark with raisins, cherries, shishito peppers and date mole sauce? Not really, although the decision to pass them up was tough.

The meatballs were free of eggs and breadcrumbs, but they mixed in ground bacon (lardons), which

gave them a mildly smoky flavor that quickly grew on me. The pasta was cooked al dente, a little too chewy for my taste, but the thin bright-tasting sauce cloaking the noodles brought forgiveness.

Desserts that day were almond-crusted dark-chocolate tart with mint; fall fruit custard with vanilla bean pastry cream, Asian pear and peach puree; and brioche bread pudding with warm chocolate sauce. All of them were out of the question given the substantial portions of the three courses I scarfed down with wild abandon.

Which brings me to a revelation I missed by waiting this long to finally visit Garden Kitchen in the four years it's been in operation. The farm-to-table concept here is the real deal — basically what so many other restaurants either strive to achieve or sadly lie about — the latter of which Strong cites with clipped tones of criticism.

She is a staunch advocate for the movement, while ensuring the seafood she sources is sustainable, and the meats she purchases are humanely raised and free of hormones and antibiotics.

Aside from 5 p.m. dinner service, Garden Kitchen offers happy hour from 3 to 5 p.m. (Tuesday through Saturday), when sangria, and Old and New-World wines sell for \$5 per glass; beers go for \$4; and appetizers are \$3 off their regular prices.

—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.

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Sudoku & Crossword puzzle answers from page 12

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1	2	6	9	3	4	7	5	8	5	7
5	4	6	7	1	9	4	3	6	2	9
6	8	7	4	9	2	3	1	5	4	7
9	3	2	5	1	7	6	8	4	7	2
4	5	1	6	8	3	9	7	2	7	9
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Alvarado Estates archives: Young's Caves

By SUSAN CLARKE-CRISAFULLI

In 1919, a 70-year-old retired druggist named W.R. Young began to dig a tunnel into the side of a canyon northeast of where Fairmount Avenue meets Montezuma Road.

Young reportedly began to dig the 250-foot tunnel for health reasons, and in a statement to the press said, "I heartily recommend this to men who are feeling the approach of old age." To aid him in his endeavor, Young recruited boys from the neighborhood to help him, and by the summer of 1920, his unique form of exercise had achieved remarkable results.

While the initial digging of the tunnel had provided untold hours of fun for the youngsters, the years that followed the tunnel's completion also proved to be equally exciting. Through the years, it became the playground for packs of runaways and a street gang named the Sons of Satan, and at least one youngster met an untimely demise in an unfortunate cave-in.

In 1941, Young himself was killed in an auto accident near his home on East Mountain View Drive. Three years later, when new owners moved in to occupy his house, they claimed that they heard him return on a nightly basis to wander about in the attic. The mysterious footsteps persisted for more than a year, then suddenly ceased.

The tunnel itself was finally sealed shut in 1970 when the Alvarado Community Association had 20 feet of concrete poured into its two entrances.

—Susan Clarke-Crisafulli writes on behalf of the Alvarado Community Association.

CA Happenings

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

We are a community and we need to focus on that. We need to enjoy who and what is here.

To that end, the CACC is planning a series of fun events for the community. First off is a family-friendly movie night at Hardy Elementary on Nov. 16, at 4 p.m. We want you to get involved in a positive way, the way neighbors do. Help when help is needed, but have fun when it's time to enjoy.

Get involved. Join the CACC. You'll get emails letting you know about what's going on. We know that it is difficult to attend meetings on a regular basis, but the truth is, at least from my and some of my fellow council/planning board members' experience, we have or had jobs and raised kids but make time to get involved. Tag-team parenting works. Stay informed, involved, and make a difference.

—Jose Reynoso is president of the College Area Community Council.

Mesa Colony Community Group news

By SAUL AMERLING

The Oct. 16 monthly Mesa Colony Community Group (MCCG) meeting was held at the College-Rolando Library. There was a good turnout of neighbors who heard a presentation by Feeding San Diego, which is a member of Feeding America. They are devoted to gathering excess food from groceries, restaurants, and farmers, and making it available to the 1 in 8 in San Diegans who are food deprived.

Updates were given by the College Area Business District, the head of the College Area Community Council (CACC), and a representative from District 9. Two candidates for the District 9 City Council seat introduced themselves at the meeting. There will be a candidate forum sponsored by the CACC held at a later date yet to be determined. You will find advance notice for it here

in this column and elsewhere in the College Times Courier when scheduled.

There was also a lively debate regarding the issue paying for trash pickup in the city. Currently homeowners do not, but what about vacation rentals, or other properties where the owner does not reside? The discussion will continue at the next MCCG meeting on Nov. 20.

We are looking at partnering volunteers with Harriett Tubman Village Charter School to help maintain the landscaping on the outside of the joint-use park, when completed. Those who are interested should make themselves known.

The next meeting will be held on Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m. at the library. Reach us at Mesacolony@gmail.com

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

CVEA

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

attendance. We received updates from Sanna Loando, from Council member Georgette Gomez's office, and Rachel Gregg, government and community relations for SDSU. We always appreciate having direct representation from these offices at our meetings. The CVEA board will also be meeting this month.

This week, our corresponding secretary just sent out an announcement that two long-time members of College View Estates, one 102 years old and one 92, died recently. One attended the ice cream social on Drover this summer. The two women were neighbors who lived across the street from each other.

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

Meet our neighborhood cowboy artist

By LAURA RIEBAU

Educator, designer, photographer, fine art painter and all-around creative Richard Ybarra is a born and raised native San Diegan.

Ybarra is a 1979 Honors Graduate from San Diego State University with a bachelors degree in Graphic Design Communication. He also has an Honors Master's Degree from Argosy University in Education Instructional Leadership.

Ybarra's career experience has been as a graphic designer and creative director in the San Diego advertising and design industry. With over 35 years working experience, he has many client accomplishments in this arena as well.

His accomplishments as a teacher should also be noted. Ybarra taught graphic design at The Art Institute of California-San Diego for 21 years. Prior to his employment at The Art Institute, he was an instructor at the University of California San Diego Extension for seven years.

Ybarra's creative talents are not only in graphic design and advertising. He has also exhibited his photographic and fine art work in private collections and galleries throughout San Diego County and California.

A resident of El Cerrito Heights since 1972, Ybarra has seen many changes throughout the community. He values improvements to our neighborhood environments and believes in contributing whenever possible.



In 2007, Ybarra painted the AT&T boxes located at College and Adelaide Avenues. No doubt, the painted subject matter of western icons is another real interest to his heart. He is a western buckaroo and always ready to blaze a new trail for the next western adventure.

Unfortunately, due to graffiti vandalism, Ybarra has altered and repainted the boxes five times since the first inception of 2007. Yes, he, as well as the neighbors on Adelaide Avenue, get very upset when the boxes are graffitied by vandals who have no consideration or respect for efforts of neighborhood creativity and environmental improvement.

Ybarra joins many other artists who feel the same way and will continue to improve the beauty of San Diego neighborhoods. With their efforts, the process of sharing their insightful talents and creativity will always be a part of community growth.

—Laura Riebau writes on behalf of the El Cerrito Community Council.

PUZZLES

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.

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CROSSWORD

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		60				61				62			
		63				64				65			

ACROSS

- 1 Small viper
- 4 Some are covert
- 7 A waiver of liability (abbr.)
- 10 Speak out
- 11 Retirement plan
- 12 Small dog
- 13 City in Iraq
- 15 Car mechanics group
- 16 Shrimp-like creature
- 19 Majestic
- 21 TV detective
- 23 Central Canadian province
- 24 Causing to wind around
- 25 Wise man
- 26 Knicks legend Willis
- 27 Muscular weaknesses
- 30 John Stockton compiled them
- 34 South American plant
- 35 To some extent
- 36 Where manners are displayed
- 41 Showy
- 45 Fall down
- 46 Shoelaces are often this
- 47 Disease-causing bacterium
- 50 Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 54 Sufferings
- 55 One who noisily enjoys
- 56 About blood
- 57 Transaction verification system (abbr.)
- 59 Related through female family members
- 60 Low velocity grenade
- 61 "In Living Color" comedian
- 62 Veterans battleground
- 63 Expression of creative skill
- 64 Midway between northeast and east
- 65 Patti Hearst's captors

DOWN

- 1 Something useful
- 2 It goes great with peppers and onions
- 3 Orifice
- 4 Turned into bone
- 5 The Princess could detect it
- 6 Bands of colors
- 7 Makes use of
- 8 Central African country
- 9 Lake in the Kalahari Desert
- 13 He was a "Chairman"
- 14 Legally possess
- 17 One point north of due west
- 18 Small peg of wood
- 20 Stretch of swampy ground
- 22 Is indebted to
- 27 Where you were born (abbr.)
- 28 A team's best pitcher
- 29 Cool!
- 31 Female sibling
- 32 This stimulates the thyroid (abbr.)
- 33 Reserved
- 37 More pricked
- 38 Forbidden by law
- 39 One-time presidential candidate
- 40 A TV show has more than one
- 41 A place to stash things
- 42 Defunct currency in India
- 43 Causes to ferment
- 44 A type of gland
- 47 ___ Humbug!
- 48 Everyone has one
- 49 Punctuation
- 51 Central American fruit
- 52 Brooklyn hoopster
- 53 100 square meters
- 58 Local area network

COLLEGE TIMES COURIER

COMMUNITY AND ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

Saturday, Nov. 16

EDITOR'S PICK



'Shrek'

The College Area Community Council Outreach Committee is hosting a free, family-friendly movie night for the whole community. Attendees are encouraged to join the CACC by filling out an easy form with email and local address. The CACC will be providing free popcorn and hot chocolate provided by Scrimshaw Coffee. Socializing begins at 4 p.m. and the movie will begin after sunset at Hardy Elementary, 5420 Montezuma Road. Visit collegearea.org.

SDSU Senior Recital:

Isaiah Davis, Jazz Flute
The public is invited to a free performance by jazz flutist Isaiah Davis. 2:30 p.m. in the Music Building Ensemble Room M114 on the SDSU campus, 5500 Campanile Drive.

Sunday, Nov. 17



Young Thug w/ Machine Gun Kelly

Rap artists Young Thug and Machine Gun Kelly perform at Cal Coast Credit Union Open Air Theatre at SDSU. Doors at 6:30 p.m. Tickets range \$19.50-\$120, available at bit.ly/2NZnEf1.

Monday, Nov. 18



SDSU Jazz Week Through Nov. 22

SDSU's music department hosts a series of student and

masterclass concerts. Monday features Jazz Ensemble 2 (free) at noon and Jazz Ensemble (\$10-\$20) at 6 p.m. in the Smith Recital Hall; Tuesday features Jazz Combo III at 4 p.m. and Jazz Combo I at 5:30 p.m., both free in Smith Recital Hall; Wednesday features Latin Jazz Ensemble for free at noon in Smith Recital Hall; Thursday features free concerts by Jazz Combo V at 4 p.m. and Jazz Combo IV at 5:30 p.m. in Smith Recital Hall, and a Guitar Series concert at 7:30 p.m. in Rhapsody Hall; Friday features Jazz Student Compositions at noon for free in Smith Recital Hall and a masterclass with Houston Grand Opera principal bassist Dennis Whitaker at 2 p.m. in Rhapsody Hall. For tickets and information, visit music.sdsu.edu.

Thursday, Nov. 21



'The Nutcracker' Through Nov. 22

Chula Vista Ballet, featuring San Francisco Ballet principal dancer Misa Kuranga, presents this holiday classic about the magical story of Clara, who dreams that her new toy nutcracker soldier has come to life. Together, they experience a fantastical adventure, which leads them through an epic battle with the Rat King to the Sugar Plum Fairy's magical Land of Sweets. There will also be a Christmas opportunity to give at the performance where you can bring a toy or canned food for the less fortunate. 6:30 p.m. at the Joan Kroc Theatre, 6611 University Ave. Tickets start at \$25, available at chulavistaballet.org.

Friday, Nov. 22



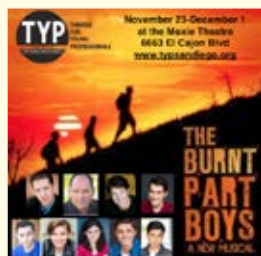
Comedian Adam Ray

Adam Ray was most recently seen on HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and the Netflix film "Game Over Man." Ray has written for MTV's "Punk'd," "Adam Devine's House Party," and the reboot of "Mystery Science Theater." He tours the country with his standup, headlining the

top comedy clubs. 7:30 p.m. at The Grandstand, 4201 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego. \$10 tickets available at bit.ly/2CzJINi.

Saturday, Nov. 23

EDITOR'S PICK



'The Burnt Part Boys' Through Nov. 26

Theater for Young Professionals presents a richly authentic theatrical experience, a piece of musical theater treasure with a book and score that reverberate as resonantly in audiences' souls as the acoustic instruments that provide the accompaniment. Locally named The Burnt Part, the Pickaway Coal Company's South Mountain closed down after an accident in 1952 that resulted in the death of four miners, three of whom left behind children. Ten years later, Jake Twitchell is an employee of that same company, doing the same job that took his own father's life. 3 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Tuesday at Moxie Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Blvd., Suite N. \$12.50 tickets available at bit.ly/2CydQU8.

Sunday, Nov. 24



The Chainsmokers w/ 5 Seconds of Summer, Lennon Stella

EDM-pop duo The Chainsmokers headline Viejas Arena at SDSU. Doors at 6 p.m. Tickets range \$46-\$110, available at bit.ly/33AFxrc.



Friday, Nov. 29



'Nutcracker'

Through Nov. 30

Join the San Diego Academy of Ballet in this holiday tradition as Clara travels from her family's holiday party to the Kingdom of Sweets. On her journey, she encounters mice, soldiers, snowflakes, Spanish chocolates, Arabian coffee, the Sugar Plum Fairy, and many more. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. performances at the Joan B. Kroc Theatre, 6611 University Ave., San Diego. Child, student, senior and military tickets \$25, adults \$30 available at bit.ly/2NAM0Sk.

Saturday, Nov. 30



Make It Market

As a part of Small Business Saturday, the College Area Business District will host a Make It Market in a very cool vacant commercial space next to Chuy's Taco Shop, 6663 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego. The market will involve multiple businesses from that location as well as a wide variety of craft vendors. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit collegearteabid.com.

Monday, Dec. 2



Sol e Mar

SDSU World Music Series presents an evening of Brazilian music with Sol e Mar. 6 p.m. in the J. Dayton Recital Hall. \$10 student; \$15 senior and military; \$20 general, available at bit.ly/33GVqws.

Wednesday, Dec. 4



'She Loves Me' Through Dec. 8

Set in a 1930s European perfumery, meet shop clerks Amalia and Georg, who, more often than not, don't see eye to eye. After both respond to a "lonely hearts advertisement" in the newspaper, they now live for the love letters that they exchange, but the identity of their admirers remains unknown. Join Amalia and Georg to discover the identity of their true loves... and of all the twists and turns along the way. Wednesday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m., with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. in the SDSU Don Powell Theatre, 5500 Campanile Drive. Tickets range \$15-\$20, available at bit.ly/2NX36Up.

Tuesday, Dec. 10



'The Nutcracker' Through Dec. 11

Golden State Ballet presents the story of a little girl named Marie who falls asleep after a party at her home and dreams herself into a fantastic world where toys become larger than life. Her beloved nutcracker comes to life and defends her from the Mouse King, then is turned into a prince after Marie saves his life. There will also be a Christmas opportunity to give at the performance where you can bring a toy or canned food for the less fortunate. 7:30 p.m. at the Joan Kroc Theatre, 6611 University Ave., San Diego. Visit gsballetpilates.com for tickets and information.

ONGOING EVENTS



'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 moxiethatre.com.

RECURRING EVENTS

Sundays

Cars & Coffee

Held on the first Sunday of the month at the Chase Bank parking lot, 4627 College Ave. at 10:30 a.m. Bring your favorite car or pet or friend. Socialize with us as we kick tires and spin yarns. Contact Newell Booth at 619-320-8422.

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 Times Courier calendar, email jeff@sdnews.com.

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Rent control rules signed into law

By SARAH WARD

A few weeks ago, Governor Newsom, as expected signed into law, AB 1482, the statewide rent control bill. The new law takes effect on Jan. 1, 2020 and limits landlord rent increases to 5% plus inflation. Inflation has averaged around 2.5% over the last decade so that would mean annual rent increases are capped at around 7.5%.

Rent control will be applied primarily to apartments and other multi-tenant buildings statewide. Individual-owned condos and single-family homes will be exempt for the time being, unless owned by a corporation or investment trust. Duplexes, when the owner lives in one of the units and rents out unit(s) on the same parcel, will also be exempt.

So with the fairly rapid increase of ADU's (guest houses being built on existing single-family plots), the law exempts those properties. That makes sense, as Sacramento does not want to impede the

increased density and build-out resulting from their recent loosening of laws allowing ADU's to be built in the first place.

The new law also will make it more difficult to remove undesirable tenants as AB 1482 requires a "just cause" to remove long-term tenants. It is already fairly tough for a local landlord to remove an uncooperative tenant as many times legal action is required, which can take some time to process. This law adds additional protections for tenants and thus additional hurdles for landlords.

While added local housing is certainly preferred by most, many economists agree that stricter rent control laws reduce the supply of rental housing as some landlords throw in the towel and sell-off existing rental property to full-time homeowners. Builders looking at constructing new rental housing in the southland and contemplating the tougher rent control requirements may look at other markets outside of San

Diego and California to invest their capital, although AB 1482 exempts new construction from rent control for an initial number of years.

COLLEGE AREA MARKET

As far as our local 92115 housing market, in October 2019 the median SFR home price for the College Area increased a staggering 9.5% from one year earlier to \$607,000 and days on the market fell to only 20 days.

Properties priced appropriately are still flying off the shelf in 92115. Our community benefits from an excellent central county location and continued improvements to our infrastructure.

The College Area Business District board and executive director Jim Schneider have made great efforts to beautify the area. The new construction along El Cajon Boulevard and on College Avenue near SDSU really helps increase the desirability of the area. Home prices have positively responded.

Also in October, mortgage rates increased slightly from the three-year lows seen in September 2019. However, Fannie Mae is predicting that continued low rates, and maybe even lower rates, are expected in 2020.

I believe San Diego has discounted real estate values relative to other areas of California. Consider Orange County has a median SFR home price of \$830,000, Santa Barbara of \$731,500, Santa Cruz of \$795,000, and Alameda of \$910,000 for October 2019.

With the San Diego County median SFR home price at \$636,750, we are value priced. With the economy continuing to hum along, tech companies continuing to move to San Diego, and international residents continuing to move here, expect San Diego home prices to increase over the long-term.

—Sarah Ward is a Realtor with College Area Realty. Reach her at sarahward021@gmail or at 858-431-6043.

Business briefs

CONTINUED FROM Page 8



Volunteers gather at Party House Liquor for a Rolando cleanup on Oct. 26. (Rolando Community Council Facebook)

ROLANDO COMMUNITY CLEANUP

On Oct. 26, Rolando residents and businesses participated in a community cleanup of University Avenue between College Avenue and Aragon Drive. Community Council and Rolando Park Community Council sponsored the event.

The event was well attended and included students from San Diego Teen Challenge. Council member Monica Montgomery's office also participated and provided bins. Party House Liquor provided a base of operations for the cleanup volunteers.

Because of the large turnout of volunteers, the cleanup was completed in just two hours.

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