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Check out local events in our new calendar Page 23

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

# FEATURE Serious film



La Mesa Conversations presents films on homelessness. Page 2

# **EDUCATION**The greatest



Helix homecoming brings the carnival flair. **Page 12** 

# **FOOD & DRINK**Buan cibo



Cucina Basilico serves up fresh Italian in La Mesa. **Page 15** 

# **NEWS**Highlanders



La Mesa Historical Society tours the homes of La Mesa Highlands. **Page 17** 

# **ALSO INSIDE**

- ALSO INSIDE	
Opinion 6	
Politics 7	
Classifieds 18	
Health 21	
Books 22	
Calendar 23	

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(I to r) Ken Kessler and Brian Bennion take EMF readings at a gravesite in the El Campo Santo Cemetery. (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

# SPIRITUAL SHOP HOSTS EVENTS ON GHOST HUNTING AND MORE

Jeff Clementson

Editor

Spirits, specters, ghosts — everyone loves sharing their favorite stories about them around the campfire. But what if they are more than mere stories in your life? What can you do to protect yourself? What kind of evidence of their existence might be out there?

These are the questions a unique, new program called "Paranormal Investigations" at Myztic Isle, a spiritual shop in the La Mesa Springs shopping center, seeks to answer.

Psychics Georgia Vlahos-Ravenhawk and Ken Kessler along with paranormal investigator Brian Bennion came up with the three-part series — a class on psychic protection from ghosts, a class on how to use devices to investigate ghosts and a field trip to do an investigation. The inaugural class investigated Old Town San Diego's Whaley House, El Campo Santo Cemetery and Cosmopolitan Hotel on Oct. 15.

# **Psychic protection**

The paranormal instructors
— as well as many of the participants in the classes — said they have experienced contacts with spirits, sometimes unwanted ones.

Vlahos-Ravenhawk said she started feeling "presences" in her late teens when she would visit historical sites in her native New Jersey. But it was when she moved into a 200-year-old "very haunted house" with her now ex-husband that she realized she needed to learn how to deal with them.

"I've always been a magnet for ghosts, and a reluctant one," she said. "I think everybody has had some kind of experience some of us get a lot more."

Kessler, who led the class on psychic protection, said he was a complete skeptic about the paranormal and "always thought there was a trick or scam behind it" until an experience handling a pendulum that moved on its own began changing his mind.

"I had more experiences; it wasn't just a rock and a string that changed everything, but that's where it started," he said.

See PARANORMAL page 20

# Medical marijuana regulations finalized

City prepares for permitted dispensaries, increases closures of illegal ones

Jeff Clemetson

Editor

When La Mesa voters passed Measure U in November 2016 allowing for permitted medical marijuana dispensaries, personal possession of medical marijuana and personal cultivation

See DISPENSARY page 4 -



La Mesa City Council hears a presentation by the city attorney on shutting down illegal medical marijuana dispensaries. (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

# Briercrest breaks ground

Jeff Clemetson

On Sept. 26, a long-time goal of the city to develop the property at 9000 Murray Drive came to fruition at a groundbreaking ceremony for Briercrest of La Mesa—a senior living center that will be built there.

"Over the last two years we've been working with the city to establish a public-private partnership to get this project underway and we're extremely excited about getting shovels in the ground and starting to make some progress here," said Andy Plant, president of Westmont Living.

The groundbreaking ceremony was the culmination of a years-long process by the city to develop the vacant, 3-acre site adjacent to Briercrest Park and the Grossmont Health Care District headquarters. La Mesa is partnering with Westmont by leasing the property for 55 years, charging \$415,000 per year for four years and increasing that amount by 3 percent a year for the remainder of the lease.

"The total amount of fixed rent paid to the city over the 55-year term of the ground lease is estimated at \$50 million, or a net present value of nearly \$10 million," said Chris Gonzales, community development program coordinator for the city. "The city will allocate 20 percent of the annual rent payment toward the cost of maintaining Briercrest Park, the public park adjacent to the project. At the end of the 55-year ground lease term, the land and improvements will revert to the city."

Westmont will make the payments for the rights to build Briercrest of La Mesa — a 130,000- square-foot, three-story retirement community that will house 150 residents and provide both independent living and assisted living, including memory care.

See BRIERCREST page 11





2 La Mesa Courier Oct. 27 – Nov. 23, 2017 FEATURE / NEWS

# Face of the homeless

# Man shares his story of homelessness in 'Tony – The Movie'

Lucia **Viti** 

Tony Rodriguez is an intelligent and articulate man. The San Diego native is described as humble, kind, compassionate, loyal and creative. Sporting an associate's degree in graphic arts from Mesa College, Tony draws, paints and assembles sculptures made from discarded items. Tenacious and handy with tools, he can even fix a bicycle "in a heartbeat."

Five years ago, Tony lost his job as a waiter, despite a 15-year tenure. Lacking financial and familial support, he could no longer afford his basement apartment. Homeless, Tony said he learned to survive living on the streets because it was "easier than living in shelters."

For the record, Tony is not — and never has been — an addict or an alcoholic. And he doesn't suffer from a mental illness. Gaming the bureaucratic system is also out of the question: He has never applied nor received a single disability check.

One morning, a well-dressed "professional" woman walked by Tony "looking directly at me." Since most people avoid eye contact with the homeless, Tony felt buoyed. In his world, a "normal interaction between two people" rarely occurs. In passing, she leaned into Tony and whispered into his ear: "You bum."

"I literally fell to my knees," he said. "She got me. She tore into my soul. This was intimate and it hurt."

One individual tried to poison Tony, another offered him a sandwich filled with glass shards, while another gave him a sandwich oozing with the hottest sauce "you could ever imagine." And yet, despite people "wreaking havoc to beat you down," Tony overwhelmingly believes that most people are generous and kind.

"And that," Tony said, "is what I choose to focus on."

Today, he is the star of his poignant story, "Tony – The Movie."

"It's bizarre to be filmed," he said. "At times I felt like a star until the seriousness of the issue weighed in. You quickly realize it's not all fun and games."

# A filmmaker with a mission

Hobbyist filmmaker Dennis Stein will show the documentary on Oct. 30 La Mesa First Methodist Church in an effort to "jumpstart a community discussion on our region's homelessness crisis." The event will also feature "Shine," an animated short film from Father Joe's Villages as well as a panel discussion with Stein, Rodriquez, Pastor Elbert Kim and others as part of the La Mesa Conversations series. The event is free but a \$56 donation is encouraged.

Filmed in 2016-17, the biopic on Tony is also an exposé for

implementing solutions to San Diego's pervasive homeless issue. America's Finest City ranks fourth in homeless overall, and second in the number of homeless veterans.

"Tony's story highlights the need to support the homeless," Stein said. "Chronic and challenging, the issue of homelessness in San Diego is not being properly addressed. Filming the struggles of life on the street made me question: Why is it like this? What changes can we make? "Tony — The Movie' focuses on the importance of supporting solutions based on what does and doesn't work."

"Housing first" is the underbelly of the documentary's message. Stein advocates a regional plan emanating from San Diego's political affiliates and elected officials including mayors, county supervisors and City Council members, to replace programs that serve only as bandages and not resolutions.

"Housing first is not only key, housing first works," he said. "A percentage of San Diego's 9,000 homeless have endured underserving challenges. Others ride the system. But how can we judge those who deserve help and those who don't? It's impossible. Judgment leaves people on the streets without solving the problem. Non-judgment houses people.



Tony, a local homeless man who is the star of the documentary, "Tony — The Movie," shows off one of his paintings. He has an associate's degree in graphic arts. (Courtesy of the artist)

Would you rather house the homeless or step over them on your doorstep?"

According to Stein, transitional housing cost \$36,000 per year and often loses participants who can't adhere to program rules. Tenting — shelter tents — costs \$6,000 a year per person.

"Why not spend that money to house people so they can efficiently accept help and get their lives back together?" Stein said. "Government research shows that housing first is the most effective long-term solution to homelessness. The public should visit the East Village, become outraged and demand an immediate response. San Diegans can make it politically infeasible for our elected officials not to implement housing first."

# Priced out of housing

Facing a "tsunami of rising costs," Tony explained how San Diegans "living on the edge of homelessness" are often

priced out of their apartments. Residents get evicted without being offered alternative housing. And yet, Rodriguez remains sympathetic to the public's understanding of housing first.

"I understand how many view housing first as unfair," he said. "Families pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for their homes and now we want them foot the bill to house the homeless. But what does it say about our society if we let anyone — especially the mentally ill live outside? I know an elderly man who sits on the pavement rocking a huge teddy bear. He's dirty. The teddy bear's dirty. It rains and people simply walk by. How can we as a society turn our backs?"

Job hunting is also impeded by a lack of housing.

"You need a place to live in order to look for a job," Stein continued. "You can't wake up

See **HOMELESS** page 3 —

# **Nationally recognized for orthopedic surgical excellence.**



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# **NEWS BRIEFS**

# Oasis named finalist in Nonprofit Pitch Fest

San Diego Oasis, a nonprofit organization with office locations in La Mesa and Escondido, was named a finalist in ESET's Nonprofit Pitch Fest

Nonprofit organizations submitted essays on how their program would contribute to the next 30 years of innovation in their community. Out of more than 30 U.S.-based nonprofit organizations, San Diego Oasis was selected and will be awarded a \$2,000 prize. ESET (eset.com), which has been developing industry-leading IT security software and services, held the contest to help usher in its 30th anniversary.

"We are honored to be recognized and selected by ESET as a finalist amongst the wide range of worthy nonprofit organizations throughout the country who participated in

the Nonprofit Pitch Fest," San Diego Oasis president and CEP Simona Valanciute stated in a press release. "San Diego Oasis offers numerous technology classes at locations throughout San Diego County as a means of empowering those over the age of 50 to effectively use todays' technology, and is especially pleased to be bringing a free Technology Fair to its members on Saturday, Nov. 11 at our Oasis location in La Mesa."

# MTS increases security

Last month, the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) upgraded its Security Staffing Plan to make the system safer by restructuring the composition of MTS' security personnel and making changes to their deployment schedule.

See BRIEFS page 10 ——

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# ► **Homeless,** from page 2

dirty and need to move and guard your possessions while making interviews and appointments. Housing first, jobs second."

"How can anyone have the mental space to find a job when you're constantly running from the cops?" Tony said. "Cops beat me down. I'm not a criminal. I don't do drugs. I don't steal. But I run from cops. Every. Single. Day. 'Move along,' they say, 'we just got a call.' 'How could you get a call, we just got to the coffee shop? Just let us sit and buy coffee.'

"Bicycle cops move you all day long," he continued. "Well, there's no place to sit on the street. You're constantly on the go, spinning your wheels and getting nothing done. You're beaten down and beaten down, another nail in the coffin of your self-esteem. Getting back on your feet requires help from a mentor or a support group. I can't do this on my own."

Police enforcement remains a tenuous issue. The city of San Diego was cited and successfully sued for ticketing people who slept on the streets. Individuals now have the right to sleep on "certain streets" unless an alternative is provided. Ticketing is no longer allowed between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless subjects engage in illegal activity or disturb the peace. However, street dwellers must be gone by 5:30 a.m. or they face jail or losing their possessions.

Moving possessions is "tough." What can be stolen is housed in wagons and carts, covered by sleeping bags, blankets, even a carpet and secured with large chains. What can't be stolen is carried — phone, charger, flashlights, keys, art supplies and basic tools to fix bikes and cut wood. Rodriguez had a storage unit but was "booted out for a nonsensical reason.

"In other words, you're homeless, you don't fit in and you're not welcomed," he said. "The same thing happened at the dog park. Another nail in the coffin of destroying self-esteem that we suffer every day."

Tony spoke of the common misconceptions surrounding homelessness, which is made worse because "homeless people are generally secretive."

"Homeless people are no different that you and I," he said.



Tony lost his job, and then his home. He now lives on the streets of San Diego. He tells his heartbreaking story in the documentary, "Tony — The Movie," showing Oct. 30 at La Mesa First United Methodist Church as part of the La Mesa Conversations series. (Screenshot from the movie)

"Bureaucrats like to rope us in with criminals. Yes, there's a criminal element just like there's a criminal element in every society. Good and bad people exist everywhere.'

Tony shares a "symbiotic" relationship with his girlfriend Ginger and their dog, Bambi. "Working together to protect their possessions," he said their day begins with canning and dumpster diving, "an arduous full-day endeavor." Money is used to purchase food, cigarettes, towelettes (since there are no showers) and sundries required to live on the streets. Dumpster items are often used for "trade."

"I never ask for money," Tony said. "I never ask for anything. I find it offensive.'

Stein affirmed that: "Tony never asks for anything because he doesn't feel like he deserves anything."

"I left one society and became a member of the homeless society," Tony said. "I don't choose to be here, but it's where I am. I tread water to survive. I need help, but not forever. I want to live in the other society. But I need a place to stay. I need counselors. Something within me has changed. Going back to that life is very, very ... I'm stressed at starting my life over from ground zero at almost 60. I'm from the bottom of society. I have no car, no house, no kids. I've never been married. But I must find a peace, an identification with rejoining society because street life is survival in no man's land."

Ultimately Tony hopes to live with Ginger and Bambi and work as an artist. "Even a garage will do." But at the moment nothing's changed. He works odd jobs for Stein, while Ginger watches their things.

# 'Tony — The Movie' & 'Shine' (short film)

Movie screening and panel discussion Monday, Oct. 30 La Mesa First Methodist Church 4690 Palm Ave.

5:30 p.m. – Registration and buffet dinner 6 to 8 p.m. – Films, followed by panel discussion \$5 suggested donation Movie trailer – tony-themovie.com

Short film – bit.ly/2imeayw

"I like to work," he said. "I work every day. But I'm so beaten down, I can't promise an employer that I can work full time. I'm impeded by physical and emotional reasons, including depression. I can begin with part-time employment and flexible hours."

Tony also spoke of the importance of his faith.

"I connect with my God," he said. "He answers prayers. I've prayed for direction. I've prayed for the second half of my life to be worthwhile. This part of my life's a mess. I'm wasting my talents. I have regrets, but nothing to hide. Working with Dennis was an answer to a prayer, an opportunity to create positive change."

Transformed by the filming experience, Tony plans to continue to champion housing first. Stein added his own commitment.

"I know too much now," he said. "I'm involved."

-Contact Lucia Viti at luciaviti@roadrunner.com.

# 27 Ways to Drive Up the Sales Price of Your Home

La Mesa - Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life, and once you have made the decision, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here's a way to help you to be as prepared as possible.

To assist homesellers, a new industry report has just been released called "27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar." It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today's tough, aggressive marketplace.

Through these 27 tips you will discover how to protect and capitalize on your most important investment, reduce stress, be in control of your situation, and make the best profit possible.

In this report you'll discover how to avoid financial disappointment or worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you will get straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money.

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# **▶ Dispensary,** from page 1

of medical marijuana — the City Council was left with addressing regulatory holes that were not explicitly covered in the measure, and left by state laws to be decided by local jurisdictions. On Sept. 26, the City Council filled in those regulatory gaps when it voted to approve new municipal codes governing marijuana in La Mesa.

At a previous meeting, the City Council had given staff direction to rewrite the code to be compliant with new state laws and Measure U and draft an ordinance that does the following:

- Prohibits possession, ingestion or smoking of marijuana in buildings or properties owned, leased or occupied by the city.
- Leaves personal indoor growing unregulated but limited to six plants (per state law).
- Prohibits personal outdoor cultivation.
- Prohibits recreational mariiuana businesses.
- Authorizes deliveries from licensed dispensaries in La Mesa.

The council agreed to the ordinance that staff presented, but wanted clarification or amendments on three of the new rules.

Councilmember Colin Parent took issue with the section about delivery services, arguing that it restricted "reasonable access" to medical marijuana.

"What you don't want to do is allow literally anyone to deliver; you want to put some qualifications on it and the appropriate qualification I think is a valid state license," Parent said.

"What I don't want to see happen is the police pulling people over, folks who they think may be doing a delivery service, and then having to investigate their paperwork to make sure they were actually from La Mesa as opposed to Rolando. That seems like an activity that is not a productive use of our efforts."

Oct. 27 – Nov. 23, 2017

Mayor Mark Arapostathis questioned how police would be able to discern the difference between deliveries from licensed dispensaries and those from unlicensed ones.

"I'm having trouble imagining how you regulate this at all," he said.

City Attorney Glenn Sabine said rules on delivery and more will be coming in January that will outline how the state will handle the issue and may bring clarity to the issue.

The council eventually sided with Parent and adjusted the ordinance language to allow deliveries from all state licensed dispensaries.

The biggest sticking point for the new medical marijuana code was the prohibition of medical marijuana on city-owned properties. Parent argued that the prohibition should exempt any residential units. Currently, the city has no residential properties but the Briercrest at La Mesa senior living center, scheduled to open in 2019, will be on cityleased property and the city is considering having affordable housing built into the new civic center project.

"What I don't want to have happen is have a situation where someone is in an affordable housing unit or a senior unit and

LIC# 348810

they have some change in their medical situation," Parent said. "We're proposing to put them in a situation where they may have to choose between their health care and being able to afford a place to live."

Vice Mayor Kristine Alessio opposed Parent's proposed amendment, citing federal prohibition to marijuana as well as issues that apartment dwellers have had with people smoking marijuana in neighboring units.

"I strongly feel that if we can't control what people are doing in their private residences, when we own the property, we can protect our citizens," she said.

Councilmember Bill Baber asked why there is the need for prohibiting medical marijuana in residences when lease agreements could handle the issue on a case-by-case basis.

"Because it is against the federal law," Alessio said.

A motion to pass the new ordinance with Parent's amendment to allow residents on city-owned property failed with Alessio, Arapostithis and Councilmember Guy McWhirter voting against it. The final vote on the ordinance without the amendment passed unanimously.

Before the final vote, Alessio objected to allowing indoor cultivation of plants without any regulations requiring locked grow rooms — a position she argued at a previous council meeting.

"I argued strenuously to no avail that that wasn't a good idea around children and pets,' she said. "Between now and then I have managed to procure a marijuana plant and I would like, with the city attorney supervising in his office, every single one of you to go into the room where it is to smell it and touch it and then maybe come back in a few months and tell me if you still think it's a really good idea to have six of these around kids."

Parent brought up that if this was on city property that it would be in violation of the city ordinance the council was about to pass. Sabine reassured the council that something could be worked out for demonstration purposes only.

# Illegal dispensaries update

After the City Council passed its ordinance governing legal medical marijuana dispensaries, Sabine and consultant Greg Santana presented an update on what the city is doing to shut down illegal dispensaries operating without a permit in La Mesa and why illegal shop operators aren't being arrested.

Sabine explained that city tornevs like himself are mostly in charge of prosecuting municipal code violations, while district attorneys prosecute criminal law violations. He added that our district attorney's office is reluctant to prosecute state criminal law violations involving illegal marijuana-related activities such as illegal dispensaries "for reasons not officially stated.'

Although state law authorizes the district attorney to allow cities to prosecute the laws, Sabine said his office lacks the expertise, the personnel and the funding necessary to effectively prosecute criminal state law.

"So instead, our office relies on the civil litigation process to

obtain compliance regarding illegal dispensaries and ultimately shut them down," he said.

Santana then gave a breakdown of how the civil process works. First, a code violation is reported to the city by a citizen or as the result of an investigation by the police or fire department. Within 10 days, the city sends a cease-and-desist order to the illegal dispensary. The matter is also sent to the city attorney to begin the prosecution process.

Four to six weeks later, a judge can issue a temporary restraining order to shut down the illegal dispensary. Next, the city will ask the court for a preliminary injunction. If granted, the shop will be forcibly shut down until litigation or trial. Trials, if the process goes that far, happen 12 to 18 months after the initial complaint. However, that's occurred only once because most shops close once they receive the restraining order or temporary injunction because they lose too much money.

Also, the city administers a \$1,000-a-day fine for every day an illegal shop operates. "In one case, we were able to recover \$60,000 in administrative penalties," Sabine said.

The criminal court process happens more quickly, Santana said, but only once charges are filed. Law and code enforcement agencies must first do a criminal investigation, which usually requires a search warrant from a judge — a lengthy and uncertain process. After evidence is gathered, a prosecutor then decides whether the case is worth pursuing. In criminal law, the evidence must be beyond a reasonable doubt whereas in civil law, judgements are based on the preponderance of the evidence. And there is another reason why the civil court route is preferred by

"If the prosecuting attorney so chooses, he can then bring charges against the dispensary — but the criminal activities can still occur," Santana said. "There's no preventing them from doing that. You don't get any kind of a closure to the activities until you have a criminal conviction.'

So far, the city has shut down four illegal dispensaries through code enforcement and three more are pending litigation. An additional 17 have shut down through other means.

"We have had some good results on owner-initiated eviction proceedings," Santana said.

"I also think it's important to note that because the city, as a policy matter, will not process applications for sites that house illegal dispensaries, five dispensaries shut down on their own because they want to process a legitimate application," Sabine said.

Gina Austin, a land-use attorney who works with cannabis businesses, commented that prohibiting illegal operators from applying for a permit was a "great decision" and requested that the city continue to go after illegal shops to ensure that the people who do get permits are people who are playing by the rules.

"People who have followed the rules from the beginning will continue to follow the rules

# **Progress shutting** down illegal dispensaries so far

A list of illegally operating dispensaries in La Mesa that have been either shut down or have pending litigation to shut them down:

## **Closed through civil** process

- 7339 El Cajon Blvd., Suite J; closed November 2014
- 7180 University Ave. (La Mesa Wellness Center); closed December 2015
- 7140 University Ave., Suite B (Sadler/Martineztenants); closed April 2015
- 7243 University Ave. (Organic Roots); closed October 2016
- 8740 La Mesa Blvd. (Medi Mart); closed January 2017
- 5555 Jackson Drive (Diamond Collective); closed January 2017
- 6957 University Ave. (Lime Light Collective); closed February 2017
- 7339 El Cajon Blvd., Suite N; closed March 2017
- 8303 Parkway Drive;
- closed March 2017 • 7180 University Ave.;
- closed April 2017 • 8332 Case St.; closed May 2017
- 6903 University Ave. (Herbal Trust); closed
- 7317 El Cajon Blvd. (Left Coast Collective); closed
- 7640 University Ave., Suite B (Greenerside Wellness); closed August 2017
- 7140 University Suite A (The Vault); closed September 2017
- 7140 University, Suite B (La Mesa's Finest); closed September 2017
- 7468 University Ave. (Power Plant); pending closure: November 2017

# **Pending litigation**

- 7232 University Ave.
- 7640 El Cajon Blvd.
- 5531 Jackson Drive

# Closed through code enforcement

- 7882 La Mesa Blvd.; closed January 2017
- 8334 Center St.; closed January 2017
- 8336 La Mesa Blvd.; closed July 2017
  • 7615 El Cajon Blvd.
- (Discount Budz); closed September 2017

once they are a licensed dispensary," she said. "We work very hard to make sure our clients are compliant with land-use regulations and all of the other regulations because the only way this new industry will succeed is if the first people in don't destroy it and make it so that it is the bad actors who are winning and prevailing — that is your illegal operators."

There have been 29 applications filed with the city for medical marijuana business permits — 21 for dispensaries, three for cultivation and five for manufacturing. Two of the applications have already been rejected because they didn't meet the distance and separation requirements in Measure U.

-Reach Jeff Clemetson at jeff@sdcnn.com.



# Hilltop housing development in the works



An artist rendering of a home design for La Mesa Summit Estates (Courtesy The Phair Co.)

Jeff Clemetson Editor

An empty lot on a hill in La Mesa will soon become an exclusive, gated community of 30 homes on a private street, developed by The Phair Co.

Named the La Mesa Summit Estates, the houses will be built on a 10-acre parcel located at the top of Eastridge Drive, south of the intersection of Monte Drive.

"Every home in La Mesa Summit Estates will have spectacular views of the ocean and the Coronado Islands, Downtown San Diego, Point Loma, Mt. Soledad, Cowles Mountain, the Cuyamacas, or Table Top Mountain in Mexico," said Austin Dias, a partner in the development.

The Phair Co.'s plan is to build a mix of four- and five-bedroom houses that will include a "multi-generational" suite - a second master bedroom with full bath, kitchenette and laundry area — for grandparents or adult children "to live in a supportive extended family environment, but at the same time have a feeling of independence," Dias

Another feature of the houses will be front porches, designed to enjoy the views.

"Front porches foster interaction between neighbors, helping to build a sense of

community," Armida Torres, project manager for The Phair Co. said, adding that the central location of the project will put residents there in the middle of La Mesa.

"The Helix High Charter School and La Mesa Arts & Music Academy are only three blocks away, providing a quality education for the children of families purchasing a home in La Mesa Summit Estates,' Torres said.

The houses, which will be priced in the mid-\$900,000 range depending on lot size, will also be built environmentally friendly and include renewable and sustainable materials, energy-efficient HVAC systems with Wi-Fi remote control programmable thermostats, tankless water heaters, roof-top solar, plumbed for gray-water use in landscaping, xeriscape drought-tolerant landscaping, wood floors made from farm-raised wood (no oldgrowth lumber), hypoallergenic carpets made from recycled materials, Energy Star-rated appliances, non-VOC paints, roof-radiant barrier insulation, double-paned windows with UV coatings, high R-value wall insulation, and an electric car charging station in each garage.

Dias predicts the energy efficiency of the houses will save buyers around \$300 a month. There will also be no Mello Roos fees, which typically cost

\$400 a month for comparable

'We like to call this \$8,400-a-year savings the 'La Mesa Summit Estates Vacation Fund," Dias said. "When a family buys a new Earthfriendly and energy-efficient home without Mello Roos fees, the savings of \$8,400 a year amounts to a free family vacation each year, year after year"

Right now, the lot is empty as the project winds its way through the city's entitlement process, but The Phair Co. president Jeff Phair said he expects to get final approvals and start construction in approximately eight months from now.

In the meantime, Phair wants to get feedback on the project before construction begins.

"Is the bedrooms and baths what buyers want? Is there a need for a formal dining room? It is important to get feedback from potential buyers," he said.

Interested buyers and real estate agents interested in selling are invited to attend a preview showing of home elevations and floorplans on Sunday, Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Nan Couts Cottage, 5045 Memorial Drive.

For more information, contact tpc@thephairco.sdcoxmail. com, or call 619-426-0441.

-Reach Jeff Clemetson at  $jeff@sdcnn.com.\blacksquare$ 

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**OPINIONS/LETTERS:** La Mesa Courier encourages letters to the editor and guest editorials. Please email submissions to jeff@ sdcnn.com and include your phone number and address for verification. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity and accuracy. Letters and guest editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher or staff.

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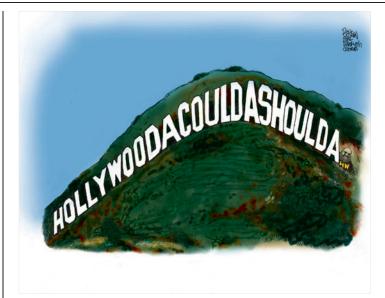














# **Guest Editorial**

# Court reporters necessary to assure fairness in domestic violence situations

Genevieve A. Suzuki

A recent financial decision has placed San Diego family law attorneys in quite a pickle: In an effort to deal with decreased funding, as of Sept. 5, the San Diego Superior Court cut court reporters, taking away official records from some of the cases that need them most.

In their defense, the judges of the San Diego Superior Court didn't want to make these service reductions, according to Presiding Judge Jeffrey B. Barton.

'Unfortunately, we have no choice. ... In previous budget cuts, we have tried to keep cuts from affecting families and children. Now, with continuing reductions in our budget we have nowhere else to reduce. Our budget is over \$30 million lower than it was nine years ago in 2008 despite increasing costs in all areas of operation," Barton

As a family law attorney, I have represented clients

in dissolutions of marriage, child custody disputes and requests for domestic violence restraining orders. It isn't the easiest route to have selected when it comes to the practice of law.

There's a popular adage among attorneys: A retiring judge was asked what kinds of cases he liked most and what he enjoyed least. "I prefer trying criminal cases and I hate having to deal with family court," he said, "because in criminal court I see the worst people on their best behavior and in family court I see the best people at their worst.

One of the most serious issues in family law is domestic violence. When there are allegations of domestic violence, a judge is often asked to grant a restraining order to protect the abused from the alleged perpetrator. Restraining orders do exactly what you would think: They restrain the party against whom they are ordered.

They also have significant consequences on a person's

freedoms, including, but not limited to, the freedom to own firearms and the freedom to travel as one pleases. When a parent is restrained by the court, he or she may not be able to go to a child's school to see a play. Restraining orders also create an issue with custody in that they create a rebuttable presumption against joint legal or physical custody for the restrained parent. It makes sense in some cases, but in other cases parties file restraining orders to gain the upper hand with custody.

Family court judges face difficult decisions when presented with restraining orders. They understand the ramifications of granting or denying the requests. No one envies their burden as there's always a chance they could make a mistake.

The good news is if you feel like the trial court has made legal error, you can appeal that decision. The bad news is without an official court transcript that option may be unavailable. After

all, appellants need either an official court transcript or a settled statement agreed upon by the parties and signed off by the trial court. This is an expensive process that most everyday people cannot afford.

In truth, it's hard enough for most people to retain an attorney, let alone pay for a court reporter and a transcript of an hours-long hearing or days-long trial.

This current arrangement isn't sustainable. There will either have to be changes to the budget to allow for court reporters for domestic violence restraining order matters or the public will need to appeal to our legislature to mandate such necessities. Operating without an official record when it has a direct effect on your rights isn't a situation in which anyone should find themselves.

—Genevieve A. Suzuki is a partner with La Mesabased family law firm Suzuki, Zandovskis & Yip, LLP.■

# Letters

# Supersize it

Thank you so much for enlarging the size of the crossword puzzle for us seniors who need the larger version to be able to see it. The words are still small but at least the puzzle grid is larger. Perhaps you can use a larger font on the words as well. Thank you.

−G Armstronø La Mesa

# Everyone's president

Re: "Gen-X in a millennial world: An unexpected lesson" [Volume 7, Issue 9 or bit. ly/2jWTL3q

I love the La Mesa Courier and enjoy reading Genevieve's column. I know her personally and she is a very nice lady and hard-working mom. However, in her recent column Sept. 22 issue, while the point of the story was heartfelt, she got there by insulting our president. While not everyone voted for him or agrees with him certainly 100 percent

of the time, he is everyone's president.

We, as a country, are only as strong as our patriotism and respect for our country, flag, national anthem and, yes, our president. He has many things on his plate and we need to show solidarity. If you cannot, leave it unsaid for a newspaper article that is about seizing the moment and how life is indeed too

This coming on the heels of the NFL disrespecting our flag during the national anthem before what used to be my favorite thing to watch on TV. These types of actions are what lead to the downfall of great nations.

I wanted to let you know, as the editor, that this should have been edited in my opinion: her "Russian threats to democracy" (which, as of yet, is unproven), and mostly "the most recent outrageous thing the U.S. president has done or tweeted.

–Marcia Tolin, La Mesa

# **Hooray for HR38**

Re: "Letters: Stop HR38 CCR" [Volume 7, Issue 9 or bit. ly/2xtAV9A

Yes, HR38 would nullify some, not all, of California's draconian and unconstitutional gun laws. Hooray!

California has systematically attempted the nullification of the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It has passed laws that have stripped California citizens of the uninfringed right to bear arms. California has stripped citizens of the right to openly carry (bear) arms, California has also forbidden citizens the right to receive a concealed carry of a weapon (CCW or CCR), because it has made issuance of such a permit up to the capricious and arbitrary judgment of the county sheriff. Unless you are politically connected or very wealthy you will find it impossible to be approved for a CCR or CCW.

I have a CCW from the state of Florida, which is

invalid in California, which required the same requirements for receipt as the California CCW or CCR. I have met all the requirements for the California CCW, except the arbitrary approval of the county sheriff. It seems that there is no acceptable published reason for the sheriff to grant such a permit, unless you are politically anointed

Ms. Wheatcraft deliberately and intentionally stated that "CCR would allow violent criminals, domestic abusers, and convicted stalkers to carry loaded guns in public." This is a bald-faced, deliberate and outright lie. Federal and state law forbid and deny any of these mentioned groups to even possess a gun let alone carry one at any time.

To sum it up, the three quarters of the states that have adopted "Shall Issue Policy" to qualified and trained citizens have shown marked drops in violent crime

See LETTERS page 7

# ▶ **Letters,** from page 6

(See John R. Lott Jr.'s book, "More Guns Less Crime"). -Martin Van Boskirk,  $La\ Mesa$ 

# Questioning the CAP

Re: "City's draft climate plan is released" [Volume 7, Issue 7 or bit.ly/2yJIoBf]

If you're interested in the La Mesa Climate Action Plan (CAP), you've probably seen the updated draft noted.

While it proposes a draconian greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction to 2 MTCO2e/capita by 2035, it also points out that the city's emissions in 2010 were 4.4 MTCO2e/capita (p.26) and the Air Resources Board mandates 6 MTCO2e/capita by 2030. That's implementing SB-32's 40 percent GHG emissions mandate and is the only statute setting a numerical limit. So the city already complies with the only applicable state requirement and the CAP is unnecessary.

The CAP proposal also used a Schwarzenegger 80 percent GHG reduction mandate by 2050 executive order, which the state Supreme Court ruled against a few months ago so that's no longer valid.

I've pointed this out to the city and they have promised a response but I've yet to receive it. You may know this already and if you know what they plan to do, I'd appreciate knowing what it is. If not, you may want to follow up on this with them.

-John Suhr, La Mesa■

# **Atkins to lead forum on homeless**



Yahairah Aristy and Jeff Benesch

As homelessness continues to be one of San Diego County's greatest public policy humanitarian challenges, there's a big opportunity for local Democrats to learn more about the issue. The Nov. 1 meeting of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club (LMFDC) will feature a keynote presentation by Sen. Toni Atkins at 7 p.m. in the La Mesa Community Center, 4975 Memorial Drive.

The plight of the homeless, the hepatitis A outbreak, housing and health solutions and recent legislation to fund and address the problem, will be the focus of the senator's talk and the all-star forum to follow. Sen. Atkins will address SB-2, the Building Homes and Jobs Act, her recently signed Senate bill to create a permanent source of funding for affordable housing, and specifically designed to bring relief to struggling families and individuals.

"Homelessness has become a humanitarian crisis in many areas of California, and my home city of San Diego has been hit hard. There's far too much suffering on our streets," Atkins said. "SB-2 will help by



**Sen. Toni A. Atkins** (Courtesy La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club)

providing desperately needed funding for permanent housing with supportive services to stabilize people who are living with significant medical or mental-health issues.'

The forum to follow Sen. Atkins will be composed of local homeless advocates, office holders, and a media representative who has provided outstanding coverage of the issue for years.

Among the participants will be an outspoken leader of homelessness issues in our community, Michael McConnell. He serves on multiple local and regional homelessness advisory committees and has been an active member of the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH), an organization that engages stakeholders in a community-based process that works to end homelessness. At RTFH, he served on committees that focus on system modeling,

data analysis and resource allocations.

Since 2009, McConnell has directed all of his philanthropy and volunteer time to solving homelessness. Inspired by witnessing the plight of the large population of homeless people near his Downtown San Diego home, he also shares a personal connection through his brother's mental illness, a disease shared by many homeless individuals.

As the San Diego team leader for "25 Cities," a national initiative to end homelessness, he led efforts to create the necessary tools to ultimately end veteran and chronic homelessness in the region. A thought leader on the topic, Michael has presented at conferences across the country, including the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conferences. He organizes regional summits and is a regular presence at community meetings.

If you have followed local media coverage of the politics and the shortcomings of local governmental efforts to curb homelessness and the hepatitis A outbreak in San Diego County, and there's been a plethora of good reporting by many outlets, you've probably noticed the Voice of San Diego's leadership on the issue, most notably by Lisa Halverstadt.

Halverstadt is an investigative reporter for Voice of San Diego, who's written extensively about San Diego's homelessness and hepatitis A crises. She also writes about nonprofits and regional progress in addressing important local causes such as Balboa Park's needs. She previously headed up VOSD's Fact Check efforts and embarked on weeks-long explanatory projects about topics as diverse as SeaWorld's San Diego footprint and the region's drone industry.

LMFDC draws members from San Carlos, Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, La Mesa, the College Area, Santee, Mt. Helix, Casa de Oro, and other nearby communities. We meet the first Wednesday of every month. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. with snacks and socializing, followed by the program at 7 p.m. Visit lamesafoothillsdemocraticclub.com and like us on Facebook for more information.

—Yahairah Aristy is president and Jeff Benesch is vice president of programming for the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club. Reach them at jeffbenesch@gmail.com.■



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# La Mesa Summit Estates

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# News from your **County Supervisor**



# Latest on libraries:

My colleagues on the board of supervisors recently joined me in taking another step toward the opening of a bigger, better library in Lakeside.

The board cleared the way to buy a Woodside Avenue parcel in the heart of town for a new library. Thank you to the community for all your support as we move this important project forward.

Meanwhile, I'm hoping a new library may be coming to Casa de Oro, too. The county has also been looking at expanding the existing facility on Campo Road.

Since I joined the board, the county has remodeled eight libraries in East County and built 13 of them. The most recent new library to open is in Alpine.

Coming up roses: There's a lot of good news on the farm front.

The county's annual crop report shows that

the total value of local crops has grown to \$1.74 billion and that agriculture contributes \$2.88 billion annually to our economy. That works out to nearly 17,000 jobs directly or indirectly tied to agriculture!

Wildfire warning: It's important to remember that we're still at the height of the fall fire season.

If you haven't already, download the SD Emergency app for your phone, register for 911 alerts from law enforcement and take other critical steps to protect your home and family. Start by going to readysandiego.

org.
The recent firestorms
California in Northern California are heart-breaking. They are also a brutal reminder of the dangers we face here every day.

—Dianne Jacob is San Diego County Supervisor for District 2. For more District 2 news, go to diannejacob. com or follow me on Facebook and Twitter. For assistance with a county issue, call 619-531-5522 or email dianne.jacob@sdcounty. $ca.gov. \blacksquare$ 

# Sheriff Bill Gore to keynote Republican Women meeting



Judy **McCarty** 

Suddenly San Diego County Sheriff Bill Gore finds himself dealing with a new state law declaring California a sanctuary state, restricting local law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration authorities. This puts California at odds with the federal government, especially at the seven detention facilities his office operates. Since local, state and national law enforcement agencies have worked diligently through the years to forge a positive partnership of coordination and communication, Sheriff Gore's diplomacy and 47 years' public safety experience will be put to the test.

His topic for the Nov. 14 luncheon meeting of the Navajo Canvon Republican Women Federated (NCRWF) at The Brigantine will be "Immigration and Jails." We are eager to hear how our county sheriff will handle this controversial situation and expect another full crowd.

Check-in time for the 11 a.m. meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. A full-course luncheon will be served at noon with Sheriff Gore following at 12:50 p.m. Cost is \$25 and reservations are required. RSVP to NCRWF99@gmail.com

(put luncheon in subject line) or call Marjie at 619-990-2791

Also on our speakers' agenda is Brandon Jones, a political science student at San Diego State University and president of the San Diego State University College Republicans, which our club supports. He is also executive junior political coordinator of the San Diego County Republican Party. He is currently mired in a political controversy due to a letter he wrote requesting that the Muslim Student Association condemn the terrorist attack in Barcelona. That group took offense to his letter and their position is supported by the university administration. Because of this, he has appeared on Fox News and has also been physically threatened. NCRWF members are dismayed by the extreme campus politics we witness via television these days and are eager to hear his story.

After our wonderful October Fashion Show, which was a very successful fundraiser for our club's activities, we are happy to welcome the Warrior Foundation Freedom Station to our meeting. A portion of the proceeds garnered by the fashion show will be presented to Sandy Lehmkuhler, founder and president of Warrior Foundation Freedom Station. She will discuss their mission to be the leading force in assisting, honoring and supporting the military men and women who have so bravely served and sacrificed for our country.

The slate for our 2018 officers with Kat Culkin as president, was presented at the fashion show. The election will take place at the



San Diego County Sheriff Bill Gore (Courtesy NCRWF)

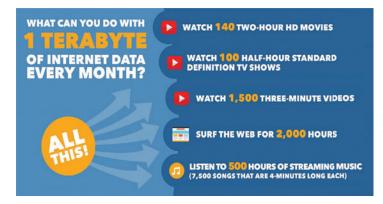
November meeting, and the installation will be part of our annual Christmas party in December. You'll see a new publicity chair in January.

The California Federation of Republican Women biennial convention also took place this month and NCRWF delegates report it was quite memorable. Sally Steele, our club president, attended the September National Federation of Republican Women convention in Philadelphia. Once again, NCRWF was designated a Diamond Award-winning club, and she was proud to present it to our membership.

For more information on all our activities, visit us at our website, navajocanyonrwf.org.

—Judy McCarty is publicity char of the Navajo Canyon Republican Women Federated. Reach her at jhmccarty@cox.net.■

# WHAT IS A TERABYTE AND WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH IT?



Megabyte, gigabyte, terabyte. We hear these words all the time in relation to the internet, but many people may not realize which is bigger, what they are used for, and what you can do with them.

Internet service providers measure the amount of data their customers use by the gigabyte. A gigabyte is 1,000 times larger than a megabyte, and one terabyte is equal 1,000 gigabytes. Cox Communications customers are allowed a whopping one terabyte of data per month.

household can do ALL of the following every month and still not go over one terabyte of

- Watch 140 two-hour HD movies
- Watch 100 half-hour standard definition TV shows
- Watch 1,500 three-minute
- Surf the web for 2,000 hours
- Listen to 500 hours of streaming music

Data use is not tied to the amount of time spent online, but rather, what you do while on the internet. Activities such as streaming movies and TV shows, downloading music, and sharing photographs use a lot more data than emailing standard documents or reading the news online. For example, 30 minutes of streaming video will use more data than two hours of email.

# Password protect your in-home WiFi

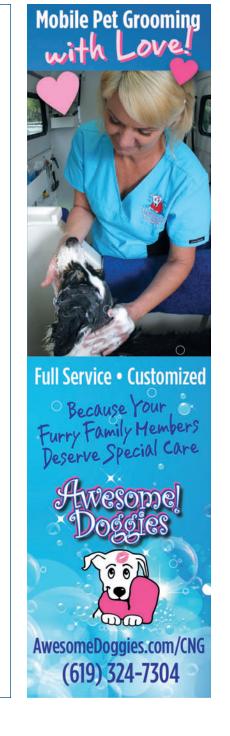
While only 1.6% of Cox residential customers in San Diego use more than one terabyte of data each month in the home, in some cases customers may be draining their data unknowingly because of viruses or other malware, outdated security software, or because they haven't secured their in-home WiFi connection with a password, which leaves it open to others accessing it without permission. To avoid your data allowance being used up unnecessarily, keep your

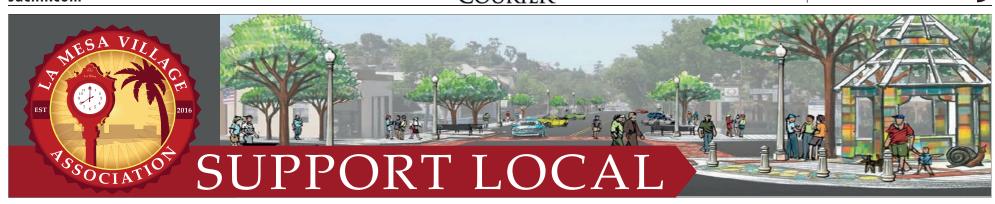
security software up-to-date, and secure your WiFi connection with a strong password so that only those whom you give the password to can use your WiFi connection.

To help its customers monitor their data usage daily and monthly, Cox provides a Data Usage Meter that customers can access at www.cox.com/ datausage. The data usage meter shows how much of the one terabyte of data allowance the customer has used in the month. This will help them keep track of how much data they're using, and whether they need to make any changes such as checking for viruses, or if too many family or friends have their WiFi password.

To learn how to protect your in-home WiFi, or for more information on protecting your computer from viruses and malware, go to **www.cox.com**.



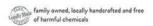




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# COURIER COURIER

# La Mesan turns 104 years young

Justin **Virzi** 

Frances "Fran" Faith, a resident at an independent living facility in La Mesa called Grossmont Gardens, turned 104 on Monday, Sept. 18. Laurie Aylward, the healthy lifestyles director of Grossmont Gardens, wanted to create a special event for her long-time friend and organized a birthday celebration to honor "one of the most genuine and positive people you could ever meet."

"I think it makes her feel so special, you know when you get to this age you think that everybody has forgotten about you," Alward said. "She knows that she is loved and that adds to this."

Fellow residents of Grossmont Gardens have noted that Faith is always happy, active, and appreciative of everything that happens in her life. Some of Faith's family members traveled from Texas to attend the birthday celebration.

"The best part is being around all my friends and family," Faith said, adding that she is grateful for the friendly fellow residents and thoughtful staff. "Everyone here is so gracious!"

California Senator Joel Anderson provided a Senate certificate of recognition to

"I want to wish Fran a very happy 104th birthday and would like to thank her for sharing so much joy and wisdom with our community," Sen. Anderson said.

Faith was completely caught off-guard by Anderson's gesture and was overwhelmed with joy.

"I have never realized that anyone would pay attention," she said.

—Justin Virzi is a legislative intern for the office of Sen. Joel Anderson.■



Fran Faith with certificates from the city of La Mesa and Sen. Joel Anderson (Courtesy Sen. Joel Anderson)

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# ▶ **Briefs,** from page 2

"Passenger safety is a top priority for MTS," Paul Jablonski, MTS chief executive officer, said in a press release. "The new security staffing plan will add a greater uniform presence on our system. This is another strategic step MTS has taken to boost system-wide security."



Ricardo Favela, a code compliance inspector, checks a passenger's transit fare during a routine inspection onboard an MTS Trolley. (Courtesy MTS)

The new plan increases the number of MTS Code Compliance Inspectors (CCI) from 34 to 64 employees. The additional CCIs will enable MTS to implement a beat system, where each beat will consist of three to five trolley stations patrolled by a "train team" made up of a security officer paired with a CCI. This new deployment strategy nearly triples the presence of CCIs at any given time.

In a related move, the number of contracted security officers will be reduced to make room for the additional CCIs. MTS has approximately 200 CCIs and contracted security officers patrolling the system.

The train teams will allow MTS to increase uniform presence during the day, maintain the same uniform presence during the night and give the system more access to greater enforcement capabilities. The beat system will allow security teams to patrol the same beat longer to improve familiarity at a limited number of stations.

This new security strategy builds upon the formation of the Joint Agency Task Force in 2015. This four-person team of police officers from different law enforcement agencies assists in patrolling the MTS system and provides support during special events, while helping bolster officer experience and powers of arrest.

Other efforts to boost system security MTS has made include:

- Enhanced video systems on all trolleys and most transit stations.
- Body cameras for code enforcement officers.
- A canine unit to patrol trains and respond to reports of suspicious packages and bomb threats.
- "Eagle Team" a special unit to patrol late night trains on the Orange Line and UC San Diego Blue Line.
- Joint security training exercises with partner transit and law enforcement agencies.



An artist rendering of the Villea at Lake Murray exterior (Courtesy of SENTRE)

# New multi-family development near Lake Murray

San Diego-based commercial real estate investment firm SENTRE has announced plans to develop a new apartment community called Villea at Lake Murray in La Mesa. SENTRE describes the future development as "a modern living experience rooted in classic California style."

The \$10 million development at 5565 Lake Murray Blvd. is slated to open in fall 2018 and will feature 27 townhomes for rent, each averaging more than 1,000 square feet.

Each new home at Villea will feature attached garages, quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, hardwood flooring, central heat and air, and in-unit washers and dryers

Onsite amenities will include a clubhouse and lifestyle center, fitness center, spa, barbecue station, secured parking and community-wide wireless internet. Rental rates are expected to start near \$2,500 per month for a two-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhome with attached two-car garage.

"We hope to infuse an urban edge into this traditionally suburban setting," Doug Arthur, president and CEO of SENTRE, said in a press release. "We will offer spacious townhome residences with direct access garages in a lower-density yet highly amenitized site plan that

See BRIEFS page 19 \_\_\_\_

# ▶ Briercrest, from page 1

"We're particularly excited about the 50,000 square feet of common area space that will include a common meeting room that could be used by community groups for lectures or theater; along with the pool that will be used for aqua aerobics for the community as well," Plant said.

Mayor Mark Arapostathis said the partnership with Westmont began three years ago when the city began seeking qualified developers for the property with the criteria they would develop the land and provide synergy with the nearby Sharp Grossmont Hospital and Briercrest Park; build a quality development; and realize financial value for the city.

"With Westmont, we achieved all three of those," he said. "When it's completed, this will be one of the foremost senior centers in this part of the county."

The city and the developers tout the location for Briercrest of La Mesa as ideal for senior living because of its proximity to medical services at Sharp Grossmont Hospital, park space, shopping and dining at Grossmont Center, and a trolley station

"We're fortunate for the location," Arapostathis said. "I'm a teacher and I talk to a lot of parents who are dealing with their parents becoming older and looking for senior housing throughout the county and one of the thigs they say that resonates with me is that they like when they find something that is freeway accessible. A lot of facilities are within the city limits but they are miles and miles away from a freeway. With this, we don't have that problem."

Plant said Briercrest of La Mesa will require 18 months of construction and the complex will open in early 2019. Sometime in the middle of 2018, Westmont will start hiring staff for the community.

Although the senior living center won't open for almost two years, at least one person is already eager to reserve one of the units.

"I'd like to put my name in now, officially, so in 30 years if I'm still here — because I saw the development and the drawing and couldn't be happier with what's happening here," Arapostathis said. "It's going to be another fine development that is going to add to the jewel of the hills."

 $-Reach\ Jeff\ Clemetson\ at \\ jeff@sdcnn.com. \blacksquare$ 



An artist rendering of the future Briercrest senior housing development was on display at the groundbreaking ceremony on Sept. 26. (Courtesy Westmont Living)

# From patch of dirt to playground

Jay **Steiger** 

Over three days during a hot and humid weekend in August, over 70 parents, staff, and community volunteers labored together to build a new playground at Murray Manor Elementary. The project was funded through a collaborative effort between KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit organization, the Murray Manor PTA (Parent Teacher Association), and the La Mesa-Spring Valley (LM-SV) School District, and took months of applications, fundraising, and construction planning. On Sept. 22, a ribbon-cutting event was held for the opening of a new playground at Murray Manor Elementary, celebrating its completion.

Murray Manor
Elementary, a highly-rated school in the LM-SV district, is also one of the oldest campuses, and lacked a modern playground. The open area next to the school was mostly a dusty patch of hard-packed decomposed granite — a place more likely to scrape a knee than inspire play.

KaBOOM, which has a core mission of supporting safe play areas for all children, offers grants to communities and schools in need of playgrounds and provided most of the funding to purchase high-quality playground parts. They community is required to fundraise 20 percent of the costs, create a formal construction plan, and provide all-volunteer labor.

The Murray Manor PTA submitted a grant application and it was accepted by KaBOOM. The PTA then contacted parents and began fundraising. The LM-SV district also provided funds as did the La Mesa Police Officers Association and La Mesa Heartland Firefighters. The school district — and in particular Assistant Superintendent for Business Services David Feliciano and Director of Business Services Valerie Ranum — helped supervise the installation.

Starting on Friday, Aug. 25 and continuing through the following Sunday, teams of volunteers worked to unload pallets of materials, including

See PLAYGROUND page 12 ——



A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new playground at Murray Manor Elementary was held Sept. 22. (Courtesy of Jay Steiger)



# ▶ Playground, from page 11

over 30,000 pounds of concrete and 1,160 wheelbarrow loads of mulch, prepared the site, and then built the playground. PTA President Shane Steinfeld was at the center of these activities, working every day to ensure the project was completed. Steinfeld noted that it was hot and demanding work and that three sledgehammers were broken driving stakes into the rock-like soil. Despite the challenges, Steinfeld said he was amazed by how well groups from the community joined together to complete the project and was absolutely inspired by the hard work from all involved. Parents were assisted by volunteers from school staff, a local church, La Mesa Police and Fire departments, and the United States Navy.

Finally, the work was finished and a shiny new playground stood in place of the bare dirt. After safety inspections, the formal ribbon cutting and opening was held on Sept. 22. Excited children were joined by many parents and all school staff. VIPs in attendance included La Mesa Mayor Dr. Mark Arapostathis, La Mesa Police Captain Matt Nicholass, LM-SV Assistant Superintendent Tina Sardina, PTA President Steinfeld,

and Matthew Bagdasar from state Senator Joel Anderson's office. PTA Playground Project Coordinator Michelle Monroy was chosen to cut the ribbon, which she did to wild applause and cheers from the crowd.

Although Assistant Superintendent Feliciano was unable to attend the event, he stated he was honored to be a part of this PTA/school project.

"Thanks to this grant and the generous donations of our parents, we were afforded the opportunity to truly partner with the community to create and physically construct something of lasting value for our children," he said.

Murray Manor Principal Gina Miller echoed the praise for the work of the PTA and community and noted that the students were "beyond excited" for the opening of the new playground. Mayor Arapostathis, also a district teacher, said that Murray Manor was a model of a school with a strong partnership between staff and parents and this partnership allowed them to accomplish their goal and complete this project.

"Our schools are what make La Mesa a wonderful city," Arapostathis said.

-Jay Steiger is a parent and school and community volunteer. Reach him at steigerjl@yahoo.com.■

# Helix homecoming 'Greatest on Earth'



# **Helix Highlights**

Jennifer Osborn

It was the "Greatest homecoming on Earth!" Homecoming 2017 was a great success, from the Spirit Week, to the alumni events, to the football victory.

The week started with Spirit Week with students and staff participating in different dressup days, and various activities at lunch. On Friday, Helix was featured on KUSI's Alarm Clock Pep Rally. The school was featured all morning, highlighting the rally, as well as other elements of the school, including the new EDGE lab. Students showed off robotics and 3-D Doodle pens, among other things.

Before the big football game Friday night, alumni gathered for a pre-game tailgate party, while others met in special end zone seating to watch the Highlanders take on West Hills. Prior to kickoff, former Helix teacher and longtime football coach, Rick Ash, was recognized and given an award, presented by many of his former students and players. Coach Ash is currently an assistant coach for West Hills.

Helix took an early lead in the game, and went into



Homecoming Duke Carlos "Tony Stark" Huerta and the Helix cheerleaders (Courtesy Helix Charter High School)

halftime with a decisive lead. The halftime festivities began with a performance by the Helix Tap Club, a group of about 30 dancers who spend hours after school each week learning technique and choreography as part of Helix's after-school ASPIRE program. Their performance was followed by a Helix Dance Program number.

Then, it was time to crown Helix royalty! Escorted by people important to them, the members of the homecoming court took the stage. Court members included Landon Delgadillo, Matthew Goldman, Jaize Holt, Richard Kirkman, Leena Salem, Gabriel Saltzman, Tausala Schwalger, Lucy Stronach, and Chelsea Nunez-Tello. They were joined by Homecoming Duke Carlos Huerta (aka Tony Stark) and Duchess Aneta Lajres, who were voted to the court by peer tutors in the Super Scotties

program, which serves students with moderate to severe physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Holt and Saltzman were crowned queen and king.

The football game then resumed, and Helix walked away with a 59-0 victory. Fans were then treated to an amazing fireworks display, courtesy of the Helix Associated Student Body.

On Saturday night, students attended the homecoming dance. The gym was transformed, carrying through the carnival theme. The night ended with a surprise appearance by Helix alumnus, rapper Rob \$tone, who just released his first studio album on Friday.

And thus ended the "Greatest homecoming on Earth."

-Jennifer Osborn writes on behalf of Helix Charter High School. Reach her at josborn@ helixcharter.net.



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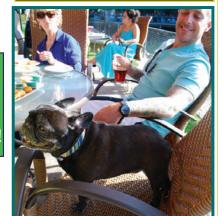
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# Sudoku & Crossword puzzle answers from page 19

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# Grossmont water polo's history of excellence



# **Foothiller Footsteps**

Connie and Lynn Baer

Since 1920, Grossmont High School (GHS) sports teams have had wonderful success. Two of the more recent — in the last 50 years — teams are boys and girls water polo.

## **Boys water polo**

The GHS boys water polo first competed in 1971. The next year, first-year coach Chris Morrissey's 1972 team made it to the San Diego County CIF Finals, losing to Fallbrook. During the next 12 years, from 1972 to 1983, Coach Morrissey's teams had amazing success, despite the fact that GHS did not have an on-campus pool until 1978; the team practiced at Gillespie Pool in El Cajon.

The 1973 and 1974 teams were Grossmont League

Champions, and in 1982 after defeating Coronado in the title game, the team became San Diego CIF Champions. That year, the CIF player of the year was Ron Blazovic, with teammate Scott Koppang named to First Team All-County and Coach Morrissey named the San Diego County Coach of the Year.

Today, Coach Morrissey recalls 1982 as "the high point" of his career.

"The Blazovic brothers Ron and Mike, Doug Sherburn, Scott Koppang, and Paul Newman, were standouts," he said. "My assistant coach Craig Smith was a GHS graduate. Great memories!"

In the 1990s, Coach Don Thompson led his teams to five consecutive league championships in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999, with the 1996 team also winning the San Diego CIF championship game 7-5, again defeating Coronado.

Current coach Clint McLaughlin, who began 10 years ago in 2008, has had extremely successful teams. His teams have won league titles in 2012, 2014, and most recently in 2015 won the Hills League. In 2014 and 2015, the teams made it to the Open Division CIF Semifinals.

"This is my 10th year coaching at Grossmont. I really enjoy the community that has been created at Grossmont," Coach McLaughlin said. "There is such a close family feel to the school and the water polo program; it makes coaching and working with the students really fun."

## Girls water polo

Girls water polo first appeared as a team in 1991; however, before then, photographs of girls playing on the boys teams appear in the yearbooks. In 1983, Pam Huffman, Class of 1984, was the varsity boys team goalie.

Michelle Miller, Class of 1988, recalls her Title IX moment.

"During my senior year, I made the boys varsity team," she said. "If I didn't get any playing time during the varsity game, I dropped down and played in the afternoon JV game."

For six years, from 2008–2015, Marcy Wilson McLaughlin was the girls head coach and is now an assistant boys coach to her husband Clint, whom she met on the pool deck 11 years ago.

"Helping these young student-athletes learn to become stronger, more dependable individuals from their experiences together continues to give me energy as a teacher and coach," she said. "Once you become a part of our water polo program, you become a part of a family



**2017 Girls varsity Valley League Champions** (Photos courtesy Susan Cooper Photography)

that will support each other for life."

During the past 26 years, the girls' teams have won seven league championships: 1998, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and, most recently, 2017.

Last year's girls team won the Valley League with teammates Renee Resich and Shayla Piccini named to the First Team All-League; the team also made it to CIF quarterfinals for the first time.

"I like the family feeling that has been created here," said today's third year girls coach Danielle Cook. "I enjoy how the alumni come back to coach and to help build a great reputation."

If you would like to support the water polo teams, their

eighth annual Christmas Tree and Wreath fundraiser begins now. Please contact Marcy for more information at mamclaughin@guhsd.net.

Foothillers past and present have much to celebrate in the achievements of their athletic teams, such as water polo. To learn more about GHS, visit our website at foothillerfoundation.com or visit the GHS Museum Wednesday, Nov. 1 from noon—3:30 p.m. or Friday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m.—12:30 p.m. or by appointment.

—Connie and Lynn Baer write on behalf of the Grossmont High School Museum. Reach them at 619-668-6140 or ghsmuseum@ guhsd.net.■



2017 Boys varsity Hills League Champions team



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# FAMILY RECIPES FROM MILAN

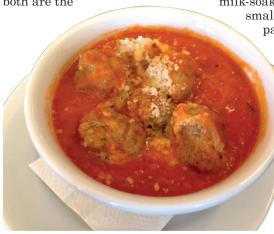
Frank Sabatini Jr.



Danilo de Corato learned to cook in his teens from a mother "who lives in the kitchen." A native of Milan and former apprentice of the Italian Federation of Cooks, he's exactly the kind of guy you want making your pasta when going out for an Italian meal.

De Corato and his wife, Francesca Brusati (also from Milan), moved here more than a decade ago, after which they ran Caffe Bella Italia in Pacific Beach for a while.

"We sold it and decided to create a place where my husband can do his own recipes," said Brusati, referring to Cucina Basilico, which they first launched in Serra Mesa before opening a second location in La Mesa. The menus at both are the



An appetizer of house-made meatballs in marinara sauce (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

same, and de Corato credits his mom for many of the recipes.

Their La Mesa restaurant, which serves dinner only, is the larger of the two. The airy space is defined by burnt-orange walls, polished concrete flooring and potted plants. Set in a strip plaza that runs along Interstate 8, there is ample parking.

Meals start off with oven-fresh focaccia balls served with olive oil and balsamic vinegar. They're light, yeasty and addicting.

Visiting as a twosome, we proceeded to a plate of pesto-dotted caprese. The tomatoes were exceptionally fresh and the mozzarella was thick and

Another appetizer is "polpette" — meatballs made exactly the way de Corato's mother constructs them. The surprise ingredient is mortadella, which is blended into an admixture of beef, pork, parsley, nutmeg and milk-soaked bread. Though

> smallish in size, they packed a good meaty flavor, which trick-

led lovingly into the pond of bright marinara sauce filling the dish. (Keep a few of the focaccia balls handy for dipping.)

We shared a spinach salad that rose above the norm with dried apricots and perky lemon

# **Cucina Basilico**

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dressing. The medley also featured sliced almonds, carrots, sunflower seeds and generous shavings of shaved Grana Padano cheese from an imported wheel — always a sign that the pasta it's grated over will be of equally fine quality.

As patrons complete their first courses, a server presents visual samples of the day's house-made pastas on a small plate. There are usually four different types, such as rigatoni, gnocchi, fettuccini and casarecce (long twisted tubes ideal for chunky sauces).

We chose fettuccini.

You then pair your pasta to a sauce from a diverse selection that includes marinara, Bolognese, Gorgonzola and white wine with clams.

It was the creamy "norcina" sauce that called to us with its inclusion of lean Italian sausage and sweet caramelized onions, which practically melted into the soft, light pasta ribbons. It's one of the most memorable well-balanced noodle dishes I've slurped down in a while.



Danilo de Corato learned at an early age how to make pasta and other Italian fare from his mother. (Photo by Francesca Brusati)

My companion's eggplant Parmesan delivered tidy layers of thin eggplant slices, marinara sauce, mozzarella and Parmesan. It was a simple and decent construction more exclusive to central and southern Italy rather than Milan.

From a short list of side dishes that includes butter-sautéed carrots and wilted spinach with roasted garlic, we opted for pesto gnocchi as well as green beans sautéed in olive oil and herbs. Both were outstanding. The gnocchi were pillowy, and the texture of the beans hung in that coveted balance between firm and soft.

We concluded with traditional tiramisu that was moist and fluffy, plus a slice of flourless chocolate cake offering a rich, nutty flavor from pulverized almonds.

In terms of service and quality, the meal never skipped a beat. No surprise from a restaurant built on passion and experience.

-Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of "Secret San Diego" (ECW Press) and began his local writing career as a staffer at the former San Diego Tribune. Reach him at fsabatini@san. rr.com.



Salads and pasta dishes are accented with shaved and grated Grana Padano cheese from imported wheels. (Photo by Francesca Brusati)



Fresh fettuccine "norcina" with Italian sausage and caramelized onions (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)



# **MUSHROOM**

This recipe is delicious and rich as a main course or can be a side dish; very comforting and has a fall feel as well.

# **Ingredients:**

- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 red onion, chopped



(commons.wikimedia.org)

- 8 ounces of cremini or baby portobello mushrooms, sliced
- 1 small package dried mushrooms, chopped (I used Shitake), placed in bowl and covered with boiling water to rehydrate. When plump, drain mushrooms but reserve the
  - Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley
- 1 tablespoon fresh chopped or dried thyme
  - 1/2 tablespoon paprika



• 1 cup white wine

- 1 cup of chicken broth
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 4 cups of chicken or vegetable broth
  - 1 cup of uncooked polenta
  - 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

# **Directions:**

Heat oil in large skillet on medium heat.

Sauce the onions and mushrooms until tender and golden brown. Season with spices, wine, broth and lemon juice. Set aside.

Bring 4 cups of broth to a boil. Add the polenta over low heat and follow package directions.

When the liquid is absorbed, stir in butter and Parmesan cheese.

Place polenta on each plate and top with the mushroom mixture. You can top with a little fresh parsley. Serves four, enjoy! ■



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# Local group recognizes beautiful landscaping

Margie M. Palmer

La Mesa Beautiful may have been founded more than 40 years ago, but organization secretary and board member Linda Johnson admits that many La Mesans continue to be unfamiliar with who they are and what they do.

"We're a small but mighty group of volunteers," Johnson said. "Our primary goal is to make and keep La Mesa beautiful, and our main activities involve recognizing and rewarding landscapes that exemplify how to beautify La

On Oct. 12, the organization hosted its annual awards luncheon; this year's honorees included single and multi-family

Mesa."

(I to r) Scholarship awardee Gregory Thayer and Fitzpatrick (Courtesy La Mesa Beautiful)

residences, businesses and public facilities that were recognized for landscape design and color, along with those that incorporated design and color with low water use.

Jeff and Julie Jones, Richard and Joann Cando, Ben and Meg Travis and Joe and Linda Morse were among this year's single-family residence annual awards recipients.

Johnson said the annual awards are preceded by the La Mesa Beautiful Spirit Awards, which take place each July.

Spirit Award winners are selected each spring after the rainy season and they're identified by La Mesa Beautiful volunteers who feel the landscapes are among the most beautiful in the city. Each of this year's 12 Spirit Award

winners received "Beautiful Landscape" signs to place in their yards, and of those honorees, four advanced to the annual awards ceremony.

Identifying Spirit Award nominees is a huge task, Johnson said, adding that not only do volunteers need to go out and photograph all the residences, they need to figure out who lives there.

"There's a plot of us who will knock on doors and leave letters and cards. It's worth it because we get a lot of good participation. Homeowners are always excited to hear they've been nominated."

Those who find they've been selected to advance to the annual awards are equally excited, she said, adding that in addition to honoring homeowners for their landscapes, La Mesa Beautiful also named Joan Martin as their Citizen of the Year.

"This is always a very fun award to give out. When we select the Citizen of the Year, we always look for an individual who does a lot of volunteering and has a lot of civic activity," Johnson said. "We also look for someone who has a horticultural linkage and who is a person that we feel is worthy of the award. This year we were delighted to choose Joan Martin, who is one of our own and sits on our board of directors."

Martin is a dedicated volunteer for both La Mesa Beautiful and the Master Gardner Association of San Diego County. In total, she's logged more than 3,000 hours of volunteerism between the two.

"We also presented a \$1,000 scholarship award to Gregory Thayer, who is part of the horticultural program at Cuyamaca College," she said. Scholarship winners are selected each year by representatives at their school.



(I to r) Citizen of the Year Joan Martin and La Mesa Beautiful president Sharon **Fitzpatrick** (Courtesy La Mesa Beautiful)

The 2017 awards season may be over, but Johnson said that anyone who is interested in joining La Mesa Beautiful is encouraged to do so. There are always opportunities to volunteer.

"We are really low budget so we don't have a lot of money to advertise what we do but we are always looking for individuals to join us," she said. "We work with the city on Park Appreciation Day, we have an Arbor Day program and we're an intergenerational group. We're proud of that."

For more information on La Mesa Beautiful, visit lamesabeautiful.org.

-Freelance writer Margie M. Palmer has been racking up bylines in a myriad of publications for over a decade. Reach her at margiep@alumni.pitt.edu.■

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# Highlands highlighted in home tour

James D. Newland

The 12th annual La Mesa Historical Society Historic Home Tour follows last year's sold-out tour with another outstanding lineup that continues the society's reputation for offering some of the most popular and satisfying tour events in San Diego County.

## 'Brigadoon-like' La Mesa Highlands

Similar to the hidden village of Scottish lore that only appears to the lucky few who stumble upon it every hundred years within the Scottish Highlands, La Mesa Highlands is generally unknown to those who do not live in its rolling hills and large boulder-strewn lots. These large-view lots provide an opportunity for an eclectic, diverse and enchanted suburban/rural landscape that reflects its unique development

history. The rural suburban neighborhood southeast of downtown La Mesa is one of the city's best-kept homeland secrets.

The 1928 La Mesa Highlands subdivision, and its adjacent 1927 Boulder Heights tract — both originally developed by the Grable, Francisco & Bleifuss Company — features housing stock with an eclectic mix of architectural styles and landscaping that provides a distinctly rural-suburban community that lies just a few blocks southeast of La Mesa Village.

# Neighborhood of art, architecture, landscape

The society has arranged for tour guests to experience these seven wonderful examples of period authenticity, tasteful updates, decor and expansions, artistic expression and creative landscaping.

This year's tour features an eclectic mix of homes from the

1940s and 1950s. Those who enjoyed last year's all midcentury modern style homes will be rewarded with two midcentury modern properties. One is a pristine home designed by famed and revered midcentury San Diego architect C. J. Paderewski and another built by noted custom builder/designer George Eckel, along with homes from local builders Dennstedt & Landt and Louis Moisan.

The other tour homes illustrate the eclectic custom-built nature of the Highlands and its neighboring tract Boulder Heights, with excellent examples of Cape Cod, colonial ranch and contemporary Mediterranean homes. Several of these homes being built for local business leaders and merchants.

Several of the tour homes are pristine and authentically preserved while several have been updated and expanded in ways compatible with their original designs.

One home will remind visitors of the "Tardis" from television's "Doctor Who," in that its outward appearance does not reveal its much larger living space within.

There is also a wonderful array of artwork within the architecture, décor and landscape that help display the indoor-outdoor lifestyle that the Highlands and Heights so appropriately reflect.

Don't miss the artist studios, in-home distillery and private vineyard that will surprise and impress.

All in all, this year's tour will "lift the clouds" and reveal another gem neighborhood, the La Mesa Highlands.

The La Mesa Historical Society Historic Home Tour will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Guests will check in and depart by shuttle from the city parking lots at Allison and Date avenues. Advance tickets for the event are \$25 for

# La Mesa Historical Society Historic Home Tour

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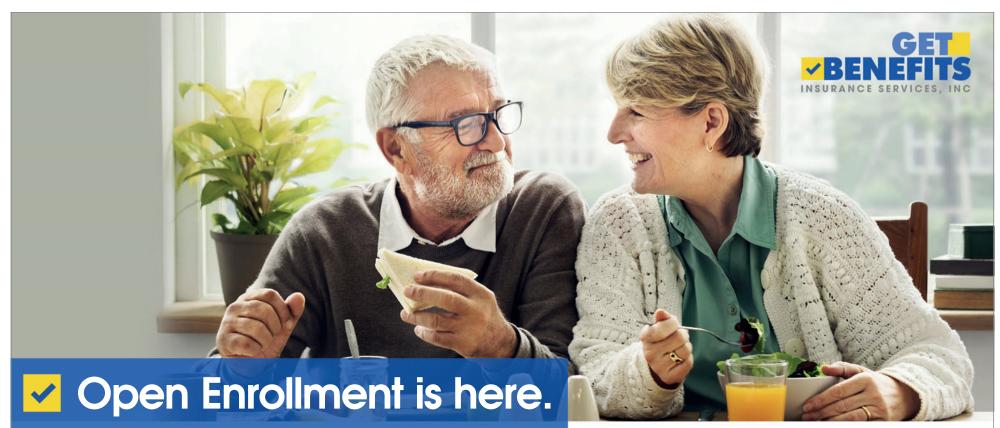
—James D. Newland is past president of the La Mesa Historical Society.■







(I to r) An eclectic mix of homes with interesting backyards, homes with artistic décor, and some examples of well-preserved midcentury modern design will be featured on the La Mesa Historical Society Historical Home Tour. (Courtesy La Mesa Historical Society)



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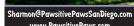
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# Filling a need

# Substance abuse treatment center opens in La Mesa

Jeff Clemetson Editor

David Leisch wants people who suffer from addiction to know that there is hope at a new treatment center in La Mesa.

"If someone bottled up a magic potion to restore hope, then we wouldn't be needed here," he said. "But in fact, one of the driving factors of why we are here is because many people think that their hope is found in a bottle. We're here to educate and train the brain to think otherwise."

Leisch is president of Bridges of San Diego, a structured intensive outpatient treatment program located in the Crossroads Church, 8809 La Mesa Blvd.

"We made it our mission to open a treatment center right here in La Mesa because we found that East County typically does not have enough resources to service the need in this category," he said.

Civic leaders and law enforcement officers echoed the need for drug and alcohol

treatment in La Mesa at the treatment center's grand opening on Sept. 27.

"As a schoolteacher, I work with 1,100 families and everyone has different stories and everyone has different challenges in families ... so I'm always looking for resources," Mayor Mark Arapostathis said. "I'm encouraged because this center is opening and it will be another resource that I can guide people to."

La Mesa Chief of Police Walt Vasquez described The Bridges as "extremely important for the

"There's times as law enforcement that we recognize that incarceration is not the answer. There's time when it is, honestly, but there's time when it's not," Vasquez said. "I'd rather these dedicated professionals, if they could help and deal with those individuals before they become a law enforcement problem, then we can deal with other issues that are occurring in our society that we are needed for."

San Diego County Assistant Sheriff Mike Barnett gave a rundown on the kinds of drug

problems in the East County area. So far this year, there have been over 1,400 drug arrests - mostly methamphetamine, which he described as the biggest problem. There have also been 19 drug overdose deaths this year and many more near-death overdoses.

"That's why the work that all the dedicated professionals do at places like The Bridges is so important because drug abuse can be treated and fixed," Barnett said.

The Bridges program director Dr. James Profit shared startling figures on alcoholism: 15.1 million people suffer from alcohol addiction - many of whom also abuse drugs; 63,000 men and 23,000 women die from alcohol use each year; and according to a 2010 report, drug and alcohol abuse costs the country an estimated \$250 billion a year. He also shared another interesting statistic.

"I've researched this area," he said. "There's ... a total of 32 places, just on La Mesa Boulevard, selling alcohol."

The Bridges CEO and founder Sherry Roberts said the basic goal of the new La Mesa facility is to provide education and prevention measures for individuals and families suffering from the effects of substance abuse. The clientele will be a mix of individuals checking in for self-identified substance abuse problems and some court ordered. There will be a mix of day and evening classes and several payment options are available, including some insurance, cash and credit, and even some financing will be offered.

The Bridges is Roberts' first outpatient facility. Previously, she had only operated sober-living homes in the San Diego area — a venture she may also start in La Mesa.

"Any homes we open would be housing for people who are coming from another area and need a place to stay while they are in our program," she said.

For more information about The Bridges, visit thebridgesofsandiego.org.

-Reach Jeff Clemetson at jeff@sdcnn.com.■



(I to r) The Bridges staff: case manager Ky Washington, CEO Sherry Roberts, program director Dr. James Profit, case manager Jenni Profit and president David Liesch (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

# ▶ **Briefs,** from page 10

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# **Discount rain barrels** offered

Solana Center for Environmental Innovation and the San Diego Water Authority are encouraging people to save rainwater by offering discounted rain barrels this season.

The discounted 50-gallon rain barrels are available to pre-order online and cost \$90 (retail price is \$129). There is a \$35 rebate through the San Diego County Water Authority's Water Smart program, which brings the price to only \$55 per rain barrel — a savings of 40 percent.

"Installing rain barrels is an easy way for people to make a difference," Jackie Bookstein,



Rain barrels help conserve water. (Courtesy Solana Center for Environmental Innovation)

community engagement coordinator at Solana Center, said in a press release. "You can get your rain barrels at Solana Center in Encinitas or during the Autumn Fest and Plant Sale at the Water Conservation Garden in El Caion, which is a full day of family-friendly activities.'

Last winter, the San Diego region received some

much-needed rain. However, one wet winter doesn't make up for four years of historic drought. Even after last winter's record rainfall, local government and water officials are urging residents to use rain barrels to capture the rain from their rooftops, which will save thousands of gallons of reusable water.

San Diego receives only 10 inches of rain on average each year; however, just 1 inch of rain yields 650 gallons per every 1,000 square feet of roof space. An informational video about rainwater harvesting can be viewed online at bit.ly/2xLXXo6

East County residents can pre-order rain barrels online at rainbarrelprogram.org/SD and pick them up at the Water Conservation Garden — 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon — during their Autumn Fest event on Nov. 4. between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Pre-order rain barrels for pick up at this event by Oct. 29.■

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# **ANSWERS ON PAGE 12**

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## ▶ Paranormal, from page 1

**NEWS** 

According to Kessler, protecting yourself from spirits and other psychic energy has everything to do with intention.

"If you decide you are protected or you decide you aren't protected, either way you are right," he said. Some of the techniques he suggested to use include calling on angelic protectors, imagining a protective cloak that surrounds your body, using crystals and burning sage.

The techniques are used to ward off unwanted "hitchhiker" spirits that can attach themselves to people for a variety of reasons — and the seasons even play a role in it.

"One of the reasons why I wanted to do a psychic protection class at the beginning of October is because the veil is thin," he said. "There's lots of activity, lots of energy around and protection is a good idea."

# **Investigating 101**

"I've been experiencing paranormal phenomenon my entire life," Bannion said. "So I decided I wanted to have answers."

Bannion, who led the class on paranormal investigating, has been investigating since 2007. He took an online course to get certified after moving to San Diego and experiencing lots of paranormal activity at the North Park pizza restaurant where he works.

Although the Myztic Isle class is much more basic than the courses he took, he said it is a good way to learn how to do an investigation properly.

"It is a real simple way of doing paranormal investigating without using million-dollar gadgets," he said. "You can do paranormal investigation with just a few simple materials."

An investigation consists of using devices like EMF (electro-magnetic field) meters, radio sweeps, recording devices, and also less-technical tools like pendulums and divining rods. Investigators are supposed to sweep areas with the EMF to discover where the electro-magnetic fields are created by lights or other electric devices to rule out looking for spirits in those areas. If the EMF spikes in an area that is clear of any normal electro-magnetic activity, that should be noted. Laser thermometers measure drops or spikes in temperature. Radio sweeps that scan frequencies, or even white noise devices, are used with recorders to capture any potential electronic communications. It is believed by paranormal investigators that ghosts are energy and that is why they can manipulate electronic devices, and communicate through them.

# **Old Town ghosts**

The trip to Old Town started at El Campo Santo Cemetery,



The devices of paranormal investigating (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

the burial spot for one of San Diego's most famous ghosts — Yankee Jim, a serial horse thief who was the last man to be publicly hung in the city.

Although there was no sign of Jim (other than the cigars left by tourists near his grave), Bennion did report some contact with a spirit familiar to him at the back of

the cemetery — a spirit he previously told the class about.

"I have picked up a small boy there," he said. "A lot of other people who are paranormal investigators — that I hadn't even talked to — brought up the same thing, so since there's that distance between us, that brings a little validation to it."

The group on the trip had various backgrounds with the paranormal. There was a woman who said she was a medium who could speak with spirits; a woman who writes paranormal romance novels; a man who is skeptical but had experienced a paranormal event he couldn't explain; and a mother who came with her son who was a fan of the television show "Ghost Hunters."

Kessler said shows on the paranormal like "Supernatural" or "Ghost Hunters" are a "double-edged sword," for paranormal investigators.

"On one hand, it brings more of this awareness to the public, almost mainstream," he said. "But if you look at the reality shows, at the end you can see all the writers and if it's a reality show, why would they need all these people scripting things out?"

The evening in Old Town was not scripted out. Other than the brief contact with the boy spirit in the cemetery and a few mysterious EMF spikes outside the Whaley House, there was little paranormal activity to record — certainly not the kind dramatized on TV. The visit to Cosmopolitan Hotel included a rundown on the hotel's ghost sightings, and one member of the group shared a story about a previous trip there where she was pushed by an unseen force, but there was no activity to record there that night.

Bennion said that is to be expected at a lot of investigations — sometimes places are filled with paranormal activity and other times nothing, especially at places that are inundated with tourists.

The next paranormal investigation field trip is scheduled at the less-touristy destination of Pioneer Park Cemetery in El Cajon on Dec. 10.

# More paranormal

In addition to the ghost investigations, Myztic Isle also recent-

ly started hosting discussion groups on a variety of paranormal topics.

"I started 'Paranormal Explorations' to get a talking group started where people could have a confidential environment to talk about that part of their lives that is very important but rarely gets expressed," group host Adrienne Prince said.



(I to r) Georgia Vlahos-Ravenhawk, Brian Bennion, Ken Kessler and Adrienne Prince host events dealing with the paranormal at Myztic Isle in La Mesa. (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

Prince began her interest in the paranormal as a child in Santa Fe, New Mexico when she asked for help from angels and soon after her mother discovered yoga and meditation and set her family on a new path.

She hopes the Paranormal Explorations groups will allow people to talk about their own experiences with strange incidents that most people never talk about.

"I believe it was Gabriel García Márquez that said, 'Every person has a public life, a private life and a secret life,' and I knew that was really true for me," she said, adding that her public life was being a teacher and writer and her private life was being a mother and partner. "But I had this secret life where I had these angelic contacts since about age 7 and guidance and things that have gotten me out of neardeath situations and I've been strongly led my entire life and I didn't feel I could talk to anybody about that."

The first Paranormal Explorations was held in July and dealt with UFOs. About a dozen people came, Prince said, and people talked about their interest in UFOs, although no one shared any personal experiences or sightings.

She hopes the more personal nature of the next topic, "Life Beyond Death," a discussion on strange incidents surrounding death and dying will "bring that part of their lives out and [that people will] be able to talk about it and find out they are not alone" in their experiences.

Prince said that sharing at the Nov. 14 "Life Beyond Death" discussion will be limited to personal experiences or experiences of immediate friends and family, and not include third-party stories because those conversations lead to debate rather than sharing.

"I try and maintain a respectful environment," she said. "People should only talk about the experiences that they're having. A skeptic is welcome to come but they need to understand that people will be talking about their first-hand experiences. So if they're going to be skeptical on that, I wouldn't be interested in having them come because that would be telling people their experience wasn't trustworthy."

Other possible topics in the future include synchronicities, coincidences and divine guidance; healing miracles; and a talk on fated love in February.

For more information on paranormal events at Myztic Isle, visit myzticisle.net.

—Reach Jeff Clemetson at jeff@sdcnn.com.■

# Dense breasts increase chance of cancer

Sharp Grossmont Hospital **Health News Team** 

If you've had a mammogram and were told you have dense breasts, you're not alone. Most women have some breast density, but why does it matter?

"Women who have dense breasts are four to five times more likely to develop breast cancer than women with low breast density," said Dr. Tere Trout, a board-certified diagnostic radiologist affiliated with Sharp Grossmont Hospital.

"It's unclear whether this increased risk is related to the fact that mammograms with dense breast tissue are more difficult to interpret or whether more glandular tissue itself leads to the increased risk," she said.

What defines density is the appearance of breast tissue on a mammogram. Breasts are composed of both fatty and glandular elements — those breasts with more fatty tissue are less dense, while those with more glandular tissue are denser.

"Breast density is a measure of the proportion of the different tissues that make up a woman's breasts and how the breasts look on a mammogram," Dr. Trout said. "There are four categories: mostly fatty; scattered tissue; heterogeneously dense; and extremely dense."

Mammograms of denser breasts are harder for a radiologist to interpret than mammograms of fatty breasts because the breast tissue may obscure lesions of interest.

To better understand, consider the visual of finding a polar bear in a snowy background. Glandular tissue

looks white or light gray. Because cancer can also appear white on a mammogram, it's harder to interpret because it blends in. On the other hand, fatty breast tissue appears more transparent on a mammogram, so lesions are less difficult to detect.

Roughly 50 percent of women undergoing screening mammography are classified as having either heterogeneously dense or extremely dense breasts. Depending on individual risk factors, additional screening might be needed.

Federal law requires mammography centers in many states, including California, to report breast density information to physicians and patients. Knowing an individual's breast density will help to better assess risk and guide decision-making about how often to screen using mammography.

Dr. Trout notes that at this time, there are no special recommendations or screening guidelines for women with dense breasts. However, some studies have suggested breast tomosynthesis may find a few more breast cancers than 2-D mammography alone. The exact benefit is still under investigation.

"Women with dense breast tissue should speak with their health care provider so that he or she can assess other risk factors. If a patient is felt to be at increased risk for breast cancer, additional tests may include a breast ultrasound or a breast MRI," Dr. Trout said.

—This article features experts from Sharp Grossmont Hospital. For more health stories, visit sharp.com/news.■



Women with dense breasts should have regular mammograms. (Courtesy Sharp Grossmont)

# For the love of parks

# lennial world

Genevieve Suzuki

**VILLAGE VOICES / HEALTH** 



Our parks are a gift, La Mesa, and the sooner you realize it, the better it will be for your families and pocketbooks.

As a parent who lives in this fine city, I can't get enough of our free spaces. My son, a 2 year old who sometimes seems as though he could have inspired the character of Damian from "The Omen," loves to run around the grassy areas and watch his big sister happily climb the jungle gyms and swing from the bars.

When I take my kids to a park, I know I won't have to worry about people giving me the stink eye when my toddler screams at the top of his lungs before falling down as though he's fainted. I know my daughter can exhaust her endless supply of energy so she will get a good night's sleep before school. And I know my husband won't suffer from sticker shock when I come home to tell him I have purchased absolutely nothing.

It's no secret I am a big fan of our parks. (I'm not the only one; check out the songs "Saturday in the Park" and "MacArthur Park.") As a City of La Mesa Community Services commissioner, I have two parks I visit regularly: La Mesita and Rolando. Although Rolando is a fantastic park with two baseball fields, a concession stand and a cozy playground, La Mesita is my favorite.

La Mesita boasts a skate park, several tennis courts, a playground and a large grassy area that hosts mini soccer games, family picnics and seemingly endless games of tag. It also has a nice walking area for people working toward their 10,000 daily step goal.

While I am proud of my two parks, I admit I'm really excited about MacArthur Park, the park located near the La Mesa Community Center. MacArthur Park, which is being renovated, is currently in the ideas phase. An Opportunities and Constraint Study is being conducted to figure out MacArthur



Parks in La Mesa are perfect for energetic children. (Photo by Genevieve Suzuki)

Park's future. There are countless possibilities for this 22.2-acre park, which makes my head spin with what could be.

One of my personal wishes is for the park to feature a restaurant or café I could visit at lunchtime with clients or friends. The idea that we could be enjoying something better than hot dogs and a Coke at a La Mesa park is likely one of my favorite being discussed.

MacArthur Park has a lot of potential, some of which was exploited Oct. 21 at the La Mesa Park and Recreation Foundation's second annual Cornhole Tournament. Food trucks, bouncy houses, vendors and families gathered while participants tossed beanbags at cornhole boards around the park. Proceeds went to the foundation, which supports La Mesa's parks and programs in an effort to strengthen community bonds.

And while a good time was had by all, I can't help thinking about making MacArthur Park even better. What's to stop us from having a Prado of our own in La Mesa? Why can't my husband and I enjoy a date night at a La Mesa park (without prompting a call to our local police)?

If you feel like I do, or even if you have another brilliant idea, I urge you to take advantage of an online survey seeking community input: surveymonkey. com/r/MacArthurParkOCS.

-Genevieve A. Suzuki is a local attorney who lives and works in La Mesa. She also sits on the Community Services Commission and the board of directors of the La Mesa Park and Recreation Foundation.



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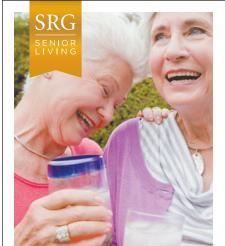
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# Journalism interns wanted

San Diego Community News Network (SDCNN) is looking for interns for its editorial department. Interns will assist in writing stories and news briefs; compiling calendar items; editing content and layout; and helping out with maintaining the website and social media platforms for all six of the SDCNN publications. This is a fantastic opportunity for students interested in learning all aspects of newspaper production.



Interns need to commit to a minimum of 8 hours a week - schedule is flexible. This is an unpaid position but past interns have received college credits and many have gone on to paid positions at publications or communications firms across the

SDCNN is an equal opportunity employer. Our publications include: San Diego Downtown News, San Diego Uptown News, Mission Valley News, The Mission Times Courier, La Mesa Courier and Gay San Diego.

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# Books that transport you

WHERE'D

Maria Semple

YOU GO

# La Mesa Reads

Heather Pisani-Kristl

I often joke that the library performs miracles, evidenced by the constant supply of forgotten canes and walking sticks in our lost-and-found department. The library doesn't actually make readers stride unaided into the next chapter of their lives, but we do provide such funny and absorbing books that customers often forget the troubles they arrived with. Below are some titles that will transport you to another time, place, and life.

"The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet" by Becky Chambers: A debut novel in the genre known as space opera, "The Long Way" introduces a loner named Rosemarie who has been hired as a clerk aboard the spaceship Wayfarer. As they plow through the galaxy to a frontier no ship has previously explored, the human and not-human crew bonds with each other, experiences inter-species conflict, questions gender roles, and evolves into a family. Fans of science fiction series on TV and Netflix will enjoy the light plot and detailed characters, as well as the sequel, "A Closed and Common Orbit.

"Hotel Scarface: Where Cocaine Cowboys Partied and Plotted to Control Miami" by Roben Farzad: The notorious Mutiny at Sailboat Bay hotel and nightclub in Miami are the setting for this account of 1980s drug kingpins. NPR host Farzad vividly describes Mutiny's rogue gallery of shysters, bankers and hotel staff, who were all key pieces of the then-glamorous cocaine trade. Everyone was riding high until paranoia and greed unleashed murder on the city. If you liked "Miami Vice," try this true-crime story with its colorful characters and pastel sunsets.





11111

aspiring artist Lucien Lessard (what, you never heard of him?) and Henri Toulouse-Lautrec embark on a surreal journey to find the nefarious paint dealer called the Colorman. Colorman's special tint, "Sacre Bleu," appears to be a factor in their friend Vincent van Gogh's early death.

"Where'd You Go, Bernadette?" by Maria Semple: Want to get away? So does Bernadette Fox, award-winning architect, Microsoft spouse, and stay-at-home mom to Bee, a 15 year old leaving Seattle for refinement at an East Coast academy. When Bernadette's life begins to get a little crazy, she disappears, and the obvious person to find her is her daughter. Provided with her mother's electronic trail through an anonymous source, Bee reconstructs Bernadette's disappearance, but lacks a crucial piece that can't be obtained behind

Connecticut boarding school. Of course, this means a trip to Antarctica is in order.

## **Second Saturday Performance Series**

Enjoy live musical performances in a family-friendly setting, brought to you by the Friends of La Mesa Library. Local favorites Peter Lauterbach and Mark Hunter of The Waits will be playing guitar and mandolin at the library on Saturday, Nov. 4 at 1 p.m.

Note that the library will be closed on Friday, Nov. 10 and Saturday, Nov. 11 in observance of the Veterans Day holiday.

—Heather Pisani-Kristl is branch manager of the La Mesa branch of the San Diego County Library. Call the library at 619-469-2151; visit in person at 8074 Allison Ave.; or visit online at sdcl.org.





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# LA MESA COURIER

# COMMUNITY AND ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR





#### **Seventh Annual Spooky Campover**

Lions, Tigers & Bears, an animal sanctuary, is hosting a family-friendly overnight where you can sleep under the stars with rescued exotic animals. Bring camping gear, food, a pumpkin to carve and your Halloween costume. Tickets start at \$35 and proceeds will benefit the animals. 3 p.m. on Friday to noon on Saturday. 24402 Martin Way in Alpine. Visit bit.ly/2ihrp3a or call 619-659-8078 ext. 2.

#### 'Haunted Lodge' at **El Cajon Elks Lodge**

The El Cajon Elks Lodge 1812 and "Scareventures" present a community haunted house fundraiser. The "Haunted Lodge" event features a maze, booths, candy stations and more. Tickets \$3-\$20 online. Elks will contribute all proceeds from the event to children's charities. 6-11 p.m. at 1400 E Washington Ave. in El Cajon. Visit elcajonelks.com or call 619-444-1812.

#### Art exhibit at Foothills Art **Association**

Elsiemae Florence Salter Cleeton, a San Diego native. will be the featured artist of the month and have her work shown at the Foothills Art Gallery. Elsiemae is known for a specific drawing and watercolor technique that she developed. The exhibit will be shown through Thursday, Nov. 2 at the Foothills Art Gallery, Porter Hall, 4190 Memorial Drive. Visit bit. ly/2xdtpiY.

#### 'Edges' at San Diego State University

MFA students at SDSU present "Edges," a nontraditional musical by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul that explores the transition to adulthood. Tickets \$15-\$20 at bit. ly/2gQWyHk. The show runs through Sunday, Nov. 5. 7:30 p.m. on Thursday-Saturday; 2 p.m. on Sunday. SDSU's Experimental Theatre, 5500 Campanile Drive. Visit bit. ly/2gPTDym.



#### 'The Tin Woman' at **Lamplighters Theater**

Lamplighters Community Theatre presents a dramatic comedy about a woman who tracks down the family of her late heart transplant honor. Tickets \$17–\$20

online, through the box office or by phone at 619-303-5092. Group rates available. 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. on Sundays. The show runs through Sunday, Nov. 5. 5915 Severin Drive. Visit bit. ly/2sxarPE.





## **Boulevard Boo! Parade**

Family-friendly event, now in its 13th year, features Halloween floats, vintage cars, costumed characters, live music and more. Parade starts at 10 a.m. at the corner of El Cajon Boulevard and Rolando Boulevard in Rolando and travels west to 60th Street. Event is free, however, limited grandstand seating is available for \$20 adult, \$10 child. Visit conta. cc/2xDtEzP.

#### Live music at **San Pasqual Winery**

San Pasqual Winery presents Stage IV Jazz. Seating is first come, first served. No cover. 7-10 p.m. at La Mesa Village, 8364 La Mesa Blvd. Visit bit. ly/2kIRWXx.

## 'Stuff the Jeep' at **Barnes & Noble**

La Mesa Chamber and Barnes & Noble encourage you to buy a book to donate to the annual "La Mesa Military Families Holiday Project" throughout the month of October. There will be an event that features a raffle, craft activities and more on Oct. 28 at noon-4 p.m. All donated books will be "stuffed" into a Jeep at 3:30 p.m. Visit lamesachamber.com.



#### La Mesa History Roundtable **Lecture Series**

Come learn about La Mesa's own "Brigadoon," the hidden gem of the La Mesa Highlands. La Mesa Historical Society will provide historic context and first-person insight about this community. Free for LMHS members; \$5 requested donation for others. 10 a.m.-noon at Grossmont Healthcare District Center Auditorium, 9001 Wakarusa St. Call 619-466-0197 or email info@lamesahisto-





#### Tony – The Movie film screening

Join La Mesa Conversations and First United Methodist Church's Community Outreach Ministry for a screening "Tony – The Movie," a film about homelessness. Enjoy a buffet dinner before the event, with a panel presentation and discussion to follow. \$5 suggested donation. 5:30 -8 p.m. at La Mesa First United Methodist Church, 4690 Palm Ave. RSVP at bit.ly/2igA9H1.



#### **ASGC Halloween Fest**

Join Associated Student of Grossmont College at their booth for ghoulish games and frightening fun. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in front of Building 60 at Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Drive. Visit bit.ly/2inHtAJ or contact Barbara Gallego at 619-644-3780.



# **Family Paint Night**

La Mesa Spring Valley Educational Foundation is inviting the family to create art together in the La Mesa Arts Academy Multipurpose Room from 6-8 p.m. Art teacher Cynthia Cordero will lead participants through the process. Cost is \$20 for first family member and \$15 for each additional. Tickets at LMSVEF.org.



# Nainsook Framing + Art artist reception

Join local artists to view their latest works with wine and snacks. The event features artists Jason Humphrey, Risë Parberry, Elaine Harvey and more. Free. 6-8 p.m. at Nainsook Framing + Art, 8310 La Mesa Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2lsypYK.



# La Mesa Historical Society **Historic Home Tour**

The La Mesa Historical Society invites you to their 12th annual tour, which features seven architectural gems of the La Mesa Highlands. Tickets \$25-\$30 for LMHS Members; \$40-\$45 for others. Free shuttles available. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Check in at the parking lots on the northwest corner of Date and Allison avenues. Call 619-466-0197 or email info@lamesahistory.com.



#### Nainsook Framing + Art watercolor class

Nainsook Framing + Art offers their first class in their introductory watercolor series. Additional art classes will be held on Monday, Nov. 13 and Monday, Nov. 20. Art styles, times and costs vary. Events held at Nainsook Framing + Art, 8310 La Mesa Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2lsypYK.





# **Travis Tritt Solo Acoustic**

Country musician Travis Tritt will perform at Sycuan Casino's Live & Up Close theater. Tritt will also perform on Friday, Nov. 10. Must be 21-andover to attend. Buy tickets at bit.ly/2gQEZXG or at the box office. Tickets start at \$59. 8 p.m. at 5469 Casino Way, El Cajon. Visit bit.ly/2gQED3i.

# **Fall Concert Series at** Cuyamaca College Rob Thorsen Trio will play

contemporary jazz at this year's Fall Concert Series at Cuyamaca College. Tickets \$8 each; \$5 for students and seniors. Free parking. 7:30 p.m. in the Cuyamaca College Performing Arts Theater, Building B, 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway. Visit bit. ly/2gPuy6Q.



#### **Foothills Art Association** artist reception

Join Foothills Art Association for "Wildlife in Art," their annual, juried art show. This year's juror is professional artist Ray Brown. Artist reception will be held 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Foothills Art Gallery, Porter Hall, 4190 Memorial Drive. The Exhibit will be shown through Wednesday, Dec. 6. Visit bit.ly/2xdtpiY.



**Golden Acorn Casino Trip** Hop on the bus and head to the casino with city of La Mesa's Adult Enrichment Center for their monthly trip. \$7 for members and \$9 for nonmembers. Receive \$20 in free play upon arrival. The bus leaves at 8:30 p.m. sharp from the Center, 8450 La Mesa Blvd. RSVP at 619-667-1322. Note: There will be no trip in December.



#### La Mesa Flooring Company **Ribbon Cutting**

Celebrate the new name and branding of La Mesa Flooring Company. The event features an open house, ribbon cutting and mingling. Enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and beverages. 5-6:30 p.m. at La Mesa Flooring Company, 8772 La Mesa Blvd. RSVP required at rsvp@lamesachamber.com.



# **Cuyamaca College** Local band Zimbeat will play

at this year's Fall Concert Series at Cuyamaca College. Tickets \$8 each; \$5 for students and seniors. Free parking. 7:30 p.m. in the Cuyamaca College Performing Arts Theater, Building B, 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway. Visit bit.ly/2gPuy6Q.



# **Dance concert**

The Grossmont College Dance Department presents "Breaking Boundaries." Performances will cover a full range of dance genres — modern, jazz, hip hop, ballet, musical theater and contemporary. The showcased pieces for this concert are created by Grossmont

College dance student choreographers. Nov. 16, 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Joan B. Kroc Theatre, 6611 University Avenue, San Diego. Tickets \$12 presale; \$15 at the door. Contact 619-644-7766.



#### San Diego Oasis **Distinguished Speaker Series: Tom Karlo**

Tom Karlo, general manager of KPBS, will share his insights into local news and his vision to make KPBS the most trusted source of serious journalism. Wine and cheese reception to start. At San Diego Oasis, 5500 Grossmont Center Drive, Suite 269, 3:30-5 p.m. Cost is \$35, register at SanDiegoOasis.org/classes.



#### JDog Junk Removal and **Hauling Ribbon Cutting**

Welcome veteran-owned local business Dog Junk Removal & Hauling to the neighborhood. The celebration features an open house, ribbon cutting, barbecue and more. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the American Legion Post 282, 8118 University Ave. RSVP required at rsvp@lamesachamber.com. Call 619-465-7700.



#### 60th Annual Pre-Thanksgiving **Community Breakfast**

Soroptimist International of La Mesa invites you to their annual breakfast to honor local women who have received the Soroptimist "Live Your Dream" award. All proceeds will benefit programs to help women and girls overcome challenges. LaDreda P. Lewis is the keynote speaker. Tickets \$40. 7–9 a.m. at Handlery Hotel & Resort, 950 Hotel Circle North in Mission Valley. Visit http://bit. ly/2ifuAZc or call 858-279-7200.

# **RECURRING EVENTS**

La Mesa Craft Corner: Calling all artists and art lovers: La Mesa Craft Corner is

back. Show, sell or buy handmade items every second and fourth Sunday at La Mesa Craft Corner. The event will also be held on Nov. 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at La Mesa Boulevard and Allison Avenue. Visit bit.ly/2q8NrZd.

Caregiver Support Group: Caregivers are welcome to this inclusive weekly support group that offers relevant information and resources. Free parking. Ring the bell upon arrival. The events are held 10 a.m. at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, Braun Library, 6600 Cowles Mountain Blvd., San Carlos. Contact Sandy McCauley at 858-442-8412.

# **Fridays**

La Mesa Village Farmers Market: Fresh fruits, vegetables and craft specialty food vendors highlight the La Mesa Village Farmers Market. Held at the La Mesa Civic Center, at the foot of Date Avenue across form the La Mesa Police Station. 2-6 p.m.■

# Wednesdays





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