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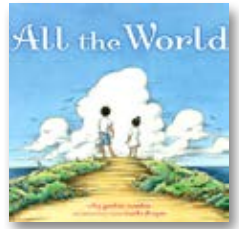
June 28 – July 25, 2019



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La Mesa COURIER



Fav reader of La Mesa
children's librarian
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La Mesa actor stars in "Harry Potter" spinoff production. **Page 11**

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Casa de Pico's traditional Mexican food serves locals, tourists alike. **Page 17**

FEATURE A big birthday



San Diego gets ready to celebrate 250 years. **Page 20**

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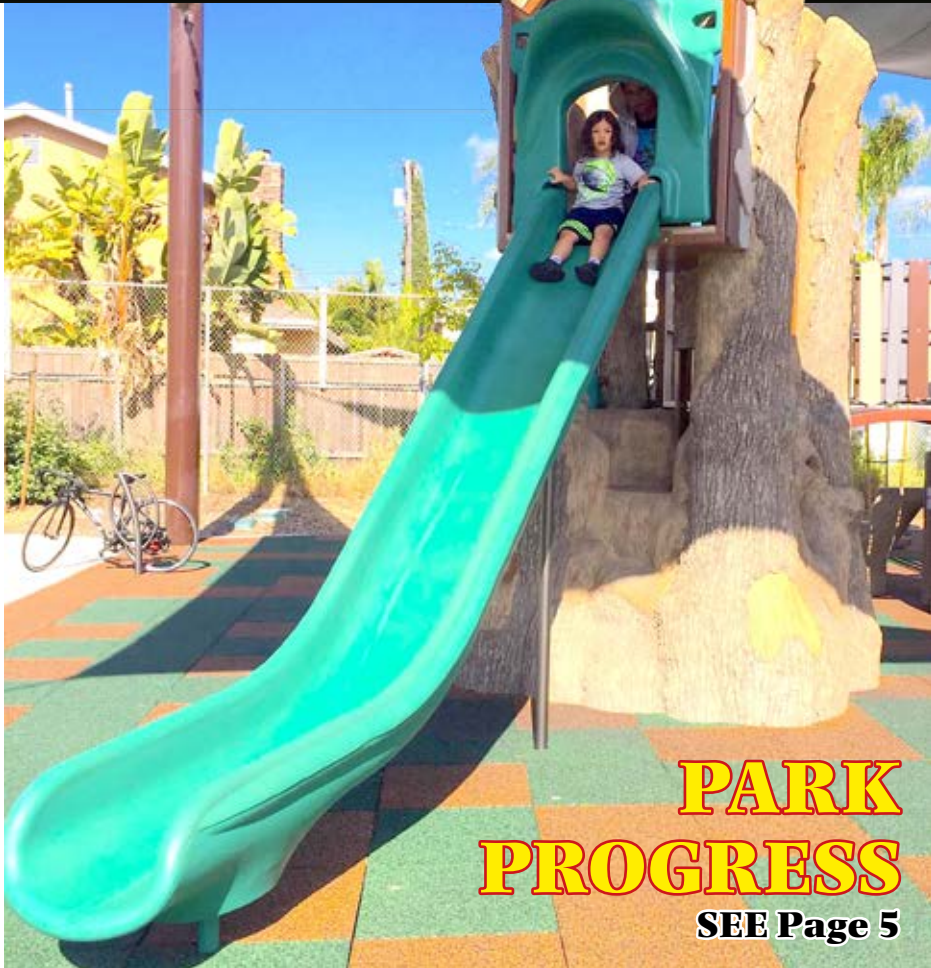
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San Diego Community Newspaper Group



PARK PROGRESS SEE Page 5

A young La Mesa resident on the new playground structure at Vista La Mesa Park
(Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

Commission holds CCA open forum

By DOUG CURLEE | LA MESA COURIER

The city of La Mesa has decided, after four years of effort, that it's time to start the process of actually setting up a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program to take control of energy costs.

CCAs are becoming the way to go for increasing numbers of local governments interested in renewable energy supplies, to meet state requirements for lowering the use of fossil fuels by 2045.

This is part of the overall La Mesa climate action plan passed by the City Council in March of 2018 — in fact, it's the major portion of that overall plan.

The city's Environmental Sustainability Commission held an open meeting on June 17 to tell interested citizens what they might expect to see when this all goes into effect.

On July 15, the commission will present its draft plan to actually make all this happen.

Scott Anders, of CCA 101, told the audience that things will change for them on their utility bills once the CCA is up and running.

"This will place control of your electric rates in the hands of local governmental agencies," he said.

SEE CCA forum, Page 3

Fireworks a go despite funding shortfall

ORGANIZERS SAY NEXT YEAR'S EVENT IS IN DOUBT UNLESS MORE MONEY RAISED SOON

By JEFF CLEMETSON | LA MESA COURIER

Since the July Fourth fireworks display and music festival at Lake Murray was brought back in 2017 after a six-year hiatus, thousands of residents of the Navajo neighborhoods, La Mesa and visitors from all over San Diego County have enjoyed the event and its high-quality family fun and entertainment. This year's festival promises to deliver much of the same. However, organizers are worried about a lack of money raised to seed next year's event and are calling on the community to step up and donate what they can to ensure the local celebration of our

nation's birthday continues into the future.

According to the Lake Murray Fireworks and MusicFest GoFundMe page, the group has raised \$60,000 of its \$85,000 goal, with much of those funds coming from sponsors such as title sponsor Stormberg Orthodontics. Despite the \$25,000 shortfall, the show will go on.

"Right now it's happening," said Rob Hotz, a volunteer organizer of the fireworks festival. "We have enough to pull this year off. We have dipped into the majority of our savings from previous years in order to do that."

SEE Fireworks, Page 4



Volunteer organizers for the Lake Murray Fireworks and MusicFest fundraiser at La Mesa's Flag Day Parade on June 1. (Courtesy photo)



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Grossmont Center plans Wednesday farmers markets

By JEFF CLEMETSON | LA MESA COURIER

Grossmont Center is going big on markets.

In addition to a craft-oriented market it already holds on some Saturdays, starting July 24 the shopping center will hold a farmers market on Wednesday afternoons. And also, Grossmont Center has thrown its hat into the ring to take over La Mesa's Friday Farmers Markets as well.

Trevor Moore, Grossmont Center's director of public relations and events, explained how the new Wednesday market would differ from the shopping center's existing and possible future markets.

"It's going to be a producer-only market," he said. "We are not really going to support the local artisanal community or crafters or self-makers at this particular event. We have another market on the last Saturday of every month called our Shop Local Market which we do have available for anybody to set up a booth — artisanal goods, crafts, things of that nature. This market on Wednesdays is going to be producer only, so just produce."

The next Shop Local market is June 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will be partnered with a health fair put on by East County Chamber of Commerce and Sharp Healthcare.

"We are trying to provide a home for other organizations to partner with us that are good for East County," Moore said.

For the Wednesday markets, Grossmont has teamed up with the La Mesa Parks & Recreation Foundation and some of the proceeds from the events will go to fund park projects in the city.

"I'm all about sustainability," Moore said. "My feeling is that if you have a really decent cause for what you're doing and supporting that with your dollars, that's really good, not only for your own business but also for who you're donating those dollars to."

The new Wednesday markets won't be the first time Grossmont Center has held farmers markets. Moore said the center held a market that was "short-lived" a few years ago.

"It didn't end up panning out," he said. "I think the location of it, the produce that was there, the food trucks — there wasn't a

SEE Farmers Market, Page 3

Competing proposals for La Mesa's Friday farmers market

By JEFF CLEMETSON | LA MESA COURIER

At the end of March, La Mesa City Council voted to allow the city's Friday farmers market in the Village to operate as is until the end of July. The council also initiated the city staff to start looking at other entities to possibly take over the market by putting out a request for proposals (RFP) for a new farmers market, and also give the current market operators, La Mesa Village Association (LMVA), a chance to amend its conditional use permit (CUP) to make the market more palatable for businesses in the Village that claim the market is hurting their bottom line.

The public RFP process attracted four options that the City Council will likely consider.

The LMVA submitted an RFP that would keep the market where and when it is already, on Friday evenings in the downtown Village. LMVA chair Peter Soutowood said the new RFP, however, does include some changes which had previously been suggested by city staff in a report. Those changes include starting the market later to allow restaurants more access to parking during lunch; having drop off and pickup areas for ride-share users; using funds to market La Mesa to visitors; and removing banners from the back of vendor

booths. A city staff suggestion to operate a shuttle was left out of the new RFP because it was cost prohibitive. The LMVA would consider reducing hot food vendors — another suggestion by city staff — if granted another CUP, although Soutowood said the association members would do so grudgingly.

Soutowood said the Village is still the best place to hold the market because of its walkability and proximity to transit — and also its aesthetics.

"The market is — as much as the stands [vendors] — it is the experience of being somewhere lovely, and the Village is the loveliest place to have the market," he said.

There are two proposals that would bring the farmers market back to its previous location of the Civic Center parking lot. One of those proposals is from current market manager Brian Beevers, who would prefer to stay with the LMVA and operate the market in the Village but has opted to have a backup plan in case the City Council votes to remove it from downtown.

La Mesa Chamber of Commerce also proposed a market that it would manage in the Civic Center parking lot. Chamber president Mary England said would bring the chamber's expertise and hundreds of volunteers to enhance marketing and make the markets successful in the old location.

The final RFP was from Grossmont Center to move the Friday market to its parking lot. Trevor Moore, Grossmont Center's director of public relations and events, said that moving the market would provide stability for the event.

"People want something to be done that will at least solidify the long-term plan for that market," he said. "It's been in a state of flux the last few years, which is not good for farmers markets in general. So we feel, with our long-term vision for the center and where we're going as a shopping center in 2020, we feel that we should be the long-term host of either that market or [a] market of that sort that makes sense for the people of East County."

The City Council is expected to vote on the farmers market proposals at one of its July meeting, most likely July 23.

Besides the RFP to run La Mesa's Friday market, other groups in the city are also considering starting markets of their own. Brew Coffee Spot owner Joe Paraiso said he is considering hosting markets in his parking lot, which has already hosted car shows in the past. And activists representing the west side of La Mesa have previously floated the idea of operating markets in that part of the city as well. ■

6 SMART HOME ESSENTIALS

With so many devices and home automation available these days, turning your house into a smart home is easier than you might think. But, there are some things to keep in mind when deciding which devices are essential — and what kind of internet service you'll need to maximize your smart home experience.



- **A home speaker that doubles as a virtual assistant.** Current models can answer questions, turn on lights, play video, access virtual assistants like Siri or Alexa, share weather and news updates, act as a timer, and play music on demand. Some models even help you shop online.
- **Home cameras.** The latest in home monitoring such as Cox Homelife allows for remote live video viewing from your smartphone, video recording and customizable notifications.
- **Smart lights.** Replace existing light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs that can be controlled remotely with a few taps on your smartphone or tablet. Cox Homelife has an automation feature to control indoor and outdoor lights, bringing you (and your pet) peace of mind while you're away from home, as well as saving energy and money.
- **Smart locks.** Remotely control doors in your home. Features can include voice commands, customized chimes, activity logs, integration with other smart devices, and special codes for friends, dog walkers, and deliveries.
- **Smart thermostats.** Programmable thermostats allow you to remotely turn the air and heat in your home up and down, and on and off. Save money and energy, and arrive to a warm or cool home.

- **Smart Search entertainment.** There are many options to watch TV and stream content online, and Cox's Contour TV service brings smart search options, Netflix integration, a voice-controlled remote, and cool apps together into one service that is easy to navigate. Speak into the remote to find the programming you want to watch — use a famous movie quote, the title of a show, a genre, or the name of an actor. You can even say "free movies," and available titles in the On Demand library will pop up.

Just as important as the devices you select is the internet service you choose.

In San Diego, Cox Communications recently doubled internet download speeds automatically for the majority of its customers at no additional charge. Preferred, the company's most popular tier of service, is now up to 100 Mbps, while Essential and Starter, which are ideal for lighter users with one to five devices connected to the home network, doubled to 30 Mbps and 10 Mbps, respectively.

For households with multiple family members who want to connect dozens of devices simultaneously, are heavy gamers or have the need for the fastest speeds around, Cox's Gigablast service offers download speeds of 1 gigabit (1,000 Mbps).

Take a short quiz on the speed advisor at www.cox.com to determine which speed is right for your household.

Cox is also improving the in-home internet experience with Panoramic WiFi, which provides "wall-to-wall" WiFi coverage so you have a connection wherever you may roam in your smart home.



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The Grossmont Center Wednesday farmers market will be held in the shopping center's west-end parking lot beginning July 24. (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

Farmers Market

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

whole lot to attract people to this market and it didn't end up being consistent."

Moore also believes that the partnership with the La Mesa Parks & Recreation Foundation could mean the difference in success for the new market.

"I think that was the sustainability piece that we missed with the last market, engaging the community in a way that you're not just supporting a shopping mall and farmers, but you're supporting local parks," he said. "I think that that is a much better way when you're thinking about voting with your dollars to ensure long-term success and viability. People are always going to look for opportunities to give back in those ways."

As far as the market competing with established stores that lease from Grossmont Center, Moore said it shouldn't be an issue.

"We felt that given our tenant mix and given the fact that Walmart and Target are certainly not hurting, that we feel that providing the community with more

access to healthy foods is a good idea," he said.

The Wednesday market, aptly named Grossmont Center Farmers Market, will be held 2-6 p.m. The market will start with around 10 produce vendors in the first couple weeks and grow to 15 by August, Moore said. The market will be held in the shopping center's west court, along the grassy hill parallel to the Target parking garage near the Center Drive and Jackson Drive entrances close to Dollar Tree and CVS.

Because the market will be held on private property, the Wednesday market will not need permits from the city to operate.

"We've been doing events at the shopping center for about five years under the current management — about a hundred events a year — so to get CUPs for all hundred events is kind of crazy, so the city throws us a bone and says, 'Just continue to operate in a way that puts the interests of La Mesans first and continue to run great, high-quality, family-friendly events,'" Moore said.

However, for Grossmont Center to take over the La Mesa Friday Farmers Market, it will need to get approval from the City Council, like every other entity

that has applied to run the long-time event. And to do that, Moore and Grossmont Center hopes their pitch to the city that they are best suited to run the popular weekly event that currently operates in the downtown Village will win over enough council members to move it to their property.

"We are looking out for La Mesa. We want to build a market that is a destination market — like the Hillcrest Farmers Market, like the Little Italy Farmers Market, like the La Jolla Farmers Market — where these markets are really commerce centers," Moore said. "They're not just quote end quote farmers markets but they are bringing local business, local entrepreneurs and people of those like minds into one place at once."

"And as a shopping mall, I don't think that anybody should be surprised that we are still trying to keep relevant and bring traffic into our shopping center," he continued. "Obviously we made a determination that markets are an effective way to do that, so that's why we threw our hat in the ring [for the Friday market]."

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

CCA forum

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

"They will be able to buy power from sources other than SDG&E, if they can find a better rate somewhere else."

Solana Beach, which has already adopted a CCA, is already planning to buy power from CalPine, an independent energy company.

Some audience members were a little shaky about the possibility of local elected officials setting the rates for their power bills.

David Harris was typical.

"Could you clarify who really runs them? We don't really trust government that much," he said. "Buying and selling things is not something they're really good at."

Anders replied that the law mandates it be done that way.

"Ultimately, CCAs will make money for the cities running them, but that may not happen at first," he said. "This is a new program, a new effort to make renewable

power available for all, or as many as participate in the program."

If you're thinking that SDG&E will suddenly disappear, think again. SDG&E will likely turn out to be the major supplier of power, just as it is now. The utility will be one of the major sources of purchased power. It will just have to compete for the city's business with others.

However this works out, SDG&E will still handle the paperwork — the billing and collection of utility payments from citizens.

This will be automatic for most customers. When the City Council formally adopts the plan, all current SDG&E customers will be automatically enrolled in the CCA. Anyone who does not wish to participate will have to formally opt out, so they can return to SDG&E alone.

This is going to be expensive to start out. The city will have to hire staff people to actually run this program, and that cost will initially come from the city budget.

There is a good chance other East County cities — specifically

Santee — are interested in joining in this effort. One way to handle the expense involved is to form a Joint Powers Authority whereby costs incurred could be defrayed with funding from the various cities.

If all this works, the cities involved believe the CCA will eventually make money for the cities involved — money that La Mesa plans to use to implement other sectors of its climate action plan.

Steve Grooms, who actually helped the Sustainability Commission bring this to where it is now, supports the idea, but admits, "the devil is in the details, isn't it?"

City Councilman Bill Baber, who sat on the Sustainability Commission, thinks it'll work.

"I completely support the concept," he said. "I'm all in favor of it. But we have to make it work in reality."

—Doug Curlee is a freelance writer and former television news personality.■

27 Quick and Easy Fix Ups to Sell your Home Fast and for Top Dollar

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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.

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Fireworks

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

What that means is that there will be no seed money for next year's event. Seed money is required for the necessary permits and fees, and for the vendors that need deposits several months in advance to provide fencing, portable restrooms, the concert stage and even the firework display itself.

"They need the money well before the core of our fundraising effort for that year, so dipping into our savings this year as much as we have does put a damper on what we could pull off next year, or if we can pull it off next year or not," Hotz said.

The fundraising strategy for the fireworks event is two tiered — get corporate sponsorships and also raise money from residents who attend the event through the group's GoFundMe page and a door-to-door campaign where

residents are left an envelope to send in checks.

"Both have been down this year for one reason or another," Hotz said, but added that sponsorships have picked up in the last couple weeks. "On the resident side, it's hard to raise money too early from the community because they are not thinking about the Fourth of July in January."

This year, the door-to-door fundraising only received donations from a few hundred families out of many thousands of envelopes that were delivered to homes.

"There's more than 300 families that go to the fireworks every year so we have a huge population that is not donating and they come to the fireworks. I don't know why that is," Hotz said. "To me, that's a giant frustration. If everyone who went to the fireworks just donated a couple bucks, we'd be there."

Festival organizers always have a booth at the event with a jar to collect donations and typically raise around \$6,000 during the festival, Hotz said, but it is not something he and the other volunteers prefer to do.

"All of us as a committee have made a very concerted effort to say when the Fourth of July event is here, we're here to enjoy the Fourth of July," Hotz said. "I don't want to pound people over the head and beg for money on the Fourth of July, that's not what the day is about."



A view of the 2018 Lake Murray Fireworks crowd. Festival organizers are hoping people attending this year will donate to ensure the event continues in 2020. (Photo by Brett Alan, brettalanphotography.com)

Festival organizers prefer that people who plan on attending the festival make a donation in advance at the GoFundMe page or by sending in a check in the envelopes they received on their doorstep. The suggested donation is \$50 per household but anything people can give is appreciated, Hotz said. To donate, go to bit.ly/2Ufr4MR. For more information about the event, visit lakemurrayfireworks.org.

In addition to funding for the July 4 event, the festival organizers are also in need of volunteers on July 5 to help make sure the park and surrounding neighborhoods are clean. The cleanup begins at 8 a.m. and will finish around noon. Coffee, water and donuts are provided and it is an excellent chance for students to get community service hours logged. People interested in volunteering can sign up at signup.com/go/MEEFODa.

The Lake Murray Fireworks and MusicFest runs 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the Fourth of July. Food vendors participating in this year's event include: Corbin's Q, Dang Brother Pizza, Windmill Farms, Primo's Mexican, Finest City Kettlecorn, Doggos Gus and Rita's Italian Ice. A variety of children's activities will be held throughout the day including a scavenger hunt.

The festival draws a rotating crowd of more than 3,000 people, while the 9 p.m. fireworks show can be seen by an estimated 100,000 people throughout La Mesa and San Diego's Navajo neighborhoods of Grantville, Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, and San Carlos. The music stage is located at Lake Murray Community Park, 7001 Murray Park Drive, in San Carlos.

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

NEWS BRIEFS



Guy McWhirter (Facebook)

COMMUNITY RAISES MONEY FOR FORMER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

Friends of former La Mesa City Council member Guy McWhirter have started a GoFundMe page to help pay medical bills stemming from a recent diagnosis of stage 4 non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

The GoFundMe page shows that just over \$12,300 from 147 donors has been raised toward a \$30,000 goal. The page was put up at the end of February of this year. An update to the page on June 6 reads:

"Unfortunately our friend Guy has had a rough couple weeks. He has been in and out of the hospital with various complications and is really struggling. With this, he is completely unable to work and expenses are mounting. If we can gather a little more together and help relieve this added stress, it would be greatly appreciated more than you can imagine. Guy and family have been so grateful for the donations they have already received and it has meant so much to them to help cover expenses and alleviate some of the strain from not being able to work. There are not enough thank you's for all who have, and continue to support Guy."

To donate, visit bit.ly/2IkUC7Y.

LA MESA RECEIVES URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN GRANT

The city of La Mesa has been awarded a \$385,000 grant from Cal Fire. The grant will support the continued growth of La Mesa's urban tree canopy and implementation of the city's Climate Action Plan (CAP). Through the grant, La Mesa will:

- Develop a comprehensive Urban Forest Management Plan through a public process to manage the health and growth of the city's tree canopy for the next 40-50 years.
- Conduct education and outreach to the public around urban forestry best practices to promote proper care and stewardship of urban trees.
- Plant 200 trees along the right-of-way and in public parks to expand the urban canopy within the city.

La Mesa will partner with multiple organizations to implement the grant project, including Urban Corps of San Diego County, La Mesa Beautiful, Tree San Diego, and West Coast Arborists. The project is expected to begin this

Lake Murray Fireworks and MusicFest schedule:

11 a.m.—noon: TBA

12:30—2 p.m.: Frankie T & The Triple Bee (blues)

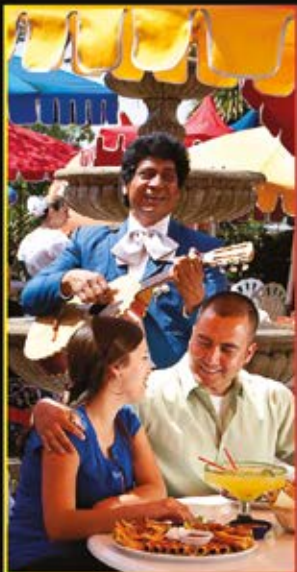
2:30—4 p.m.: Big Time Operator (18-piece big band)

4:30—6 p.m. (Bam Bam (Elvis/British/rockabilly)

6:30—9 p.m.: Republic of Music

9 p.m.: "The Star-Spangled Banner" and fireworks display

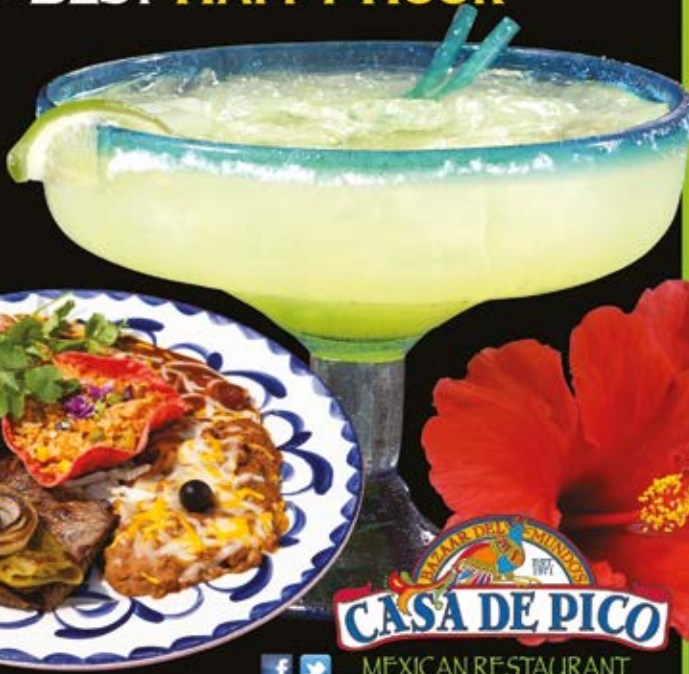
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Vista La Mesa Park reopens as national demonstration site

By JEFF CLEMETSON | LA MESA COURIER

On May 28, the city of La Mesa held a ribbon cutting for the re-dedication of Vista La Mesa Park. The neighborhood park, located at 3955 King St., recently underwent a redesign and renovation and in the process was designated a national demonstration site to study playground use by children.

"In the new world, children as young as 1 years old have a tablet in their hand," said Mayor Mark

Arapostathis. "The idea of being socialized and understanding how to socialize with other young people, there needs to be open space [for that] and we're fortunate that we have 14 of these open spaces in La Mesa — and people do make use of it."

The new, upgraded park features were funded with donations by EDCO Disposal, La Mesa Park & Recreation Foundation, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the California Parks and Recreation Society's



An EDCO play truck is a feature of the new playground.
(Photos by Jeff Clemetson)



(l to r) La Mesa City Councilmembers Dr. Akilah Weber, Colin Parent, Kristine Alessio, Mayor Mark Arapostathis, EDCO President Ed Burr, Councilmember Bill Baber, La Mesa Parks & Rec Foundation President John Fonseca and Sandy Burr

(CPRS) statewide Healthy Play Initiative in partnership with playground equipment companies GameTime and Playcore.

The Healthy Play Initiative is a program that gives discounts for new playground equipment to cities that agree to become national demonstration sites.

"We'll start collecting data and see how active kids are and what they do, what features they like the best," said La Mesa Community Services Director Sue Richardson. "So that not only helps the playground manufacturers figure out what kids like to do, but it also gathers data for children's health."

La Mesa will gather data, basically observing and writing

down what the children play on in Vista La Mesa Park with help of SDSU students, Richardson added.

The new GameTime playground at Vista La Mesa Park features an EDCO truck play structure for ages 2-5 with educational nature and recycle signs nearby. The play structure for ages 5-12 has a tree house with notched stumps for climbing, slides, a tree swing, leaf seat, spinning cattail, and a tree stump balance beam. It is designed to be an overall fun playground for children to use their imagination and be active outdoors. Other upgrades at the park include new landscaping with added trees and a completely

regraded grass area to fix flooding issues; new lighting; a sidewalk that circles the park providing an avenue for children and adults to walk around the entire park for fun and physical activity; exercise equipment placed for parents to watch their children play ball or on the playground; a renovated horseshoe pit; new picnic tables and benches spread throughout the park; a new restroom roof; and a new monument entryway. And one feature Richardson said is new to La Mesa parks:

"This is our very first park that has shade on the top."

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



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Guest Editorials

San Diego school districts should consider building teacher housing

VOICE of SAN DIEGO

By MARK POWELL

[This guest editorial first appeared on the Voice of San Diego website on May 30. Visit bit.ly/2IcP6D0.]

California is experiencing a teacher shortage — even though the enrollment in teacher credentialing programs is rising, the numbers just aren't high enough. Many California teachers have already departed to less-expensive states where housing costs are more in line with salaries, which has exacerbated our teacher shortage.

In San Diego, a school teacher needs to make \$130,986 a year in order to afford a median-priced single-family home. With the average public school teacher salary at \$61,113, purchasing a home is unlikely. San Diego is one of the most expensive cities to live in, with rents among the highest in the state. The only option for most new teachers is to rent — an expense that can eat up over 50 percent of a teacher's pay, and that's not including utilities. To make ends meet, many teachers often take on second and even third jobs. To avoid paying high rents, many teachers spend hours each day commuting long distances to work from areas where rents are less expensive.

District-owned affordable housing projects aren't a new idea — they have been built in Los Angeles, Santa Clara and San Mateo over the last 20 years. But the idea is new for San Diego, where recent state laws make building employee housing easier for school districts.

California's Teacher Housing Act of 2016 allows school districts to provide affordable housing specifically for district employees and their families. The previous law required that homes or apartments be open to anyone who meets the low-income requirement if they used state and federal low-income housing funds or tax credits. But another law^[6] passed in 2017 exempts school districts from some of the usual requirements related to the sale or lease of property if it will be used for employee housing. Districts no longer have to convene an advisory committee when they want to sell, lease or rent surplus property. The bill also exempts the district from property tax on the complex. Building affordable housing can help take off some of the financial pressure for

new teachers, allowing them to focus on teaching kids, not paying the rent.

As school districts in San Diego County struggle to pay salaries that keep pace with the high cost of living, many are turning to incentives such as signing bonuses to attract and retain new teachers. Affordable housing projects for teachers are one more incentive. Building more housing will also help address San Diego's rental crisis by increasing the housing inventory. Non-teaching district employees who are usually paid less than teachers also need affordable housing, so they would be included in the teacher affordable-housing program. District-owned affordable housing projects can be built using several different funding sources, including general obligation bonds that are issued by school districts and community colleges, to finance the construction of facilities. Other funding mechanisms include subsidies from the city, loans, low-income housing tax credits and federal and state grants. The school district that is providing the property does not need to sell the land and can opt for a no-cost, long-term lease.

Having teachers live in the neighborhoods they work in benefits students and parents, because most teachers want the opportunity to connect with the community and families they teach. District-owned affordable housing programs can help make that happen and help create stability in our schools, which is vital, especially in low-income areas, where it is needed the most.

There is no arguing that San Diego has a housing problem, and most agree that there is no individual method to tackle the housing crisis. We will most likely need a multifaceted approach to increase the number and affordability of homes. Due to the complexity of the problem, innovative solutions such as district-owned affordable housing projects need to be given serious consideration, because San Diego is still behind in building housing, which is keeping rents and home prices too high, especially for teachers.

—Mark Powell is a San Diego Association of Realtors board director and San Diego County Board of Education trustee. He's also an adjunct professor at National University. ■

Throwaway plastics threaten our oceans

By TAKHMINA BAZARKHANOVA

[Editor's note: This op-ed was written for Rebecca Skullerud's sophomore English class at Helix High School as part of a 'Call to Action' unit and submitted separately to La Mesa Courier.]

Today, everyone knows that our beloved oceans are under a threat of severe pollution by trash, especially throwaway plastic. According to Mark Spalding, president of The Ocean Foundation, it is "a problem that is both contributed to by most of humanity and potentially harmful to all of humanity."

Pollution is not a new phenomenon; it is older than most people realize. Throughout the centuries, the pollution of water was a catalyst for many typhoid and cholera outbreaks. According to the history of water pollution, it all was initiated in "ancient Rome, where sewers carried human waste into the Tiber River. The river was so polluted the Romans had to construct aqueducts to obtain clean drinking water."

The ocean pollution issue deserves big attention and solutions and should be considered as a world problem. There are a variety of reasons for that: plastic never goes away, poisons our food chain, affects human health, threatens humans and wildlife, and many more.

Who causes this whole mess? People. And who can end it? People. According to Ryan Schleeter, a content editor for Greenpeace, "corporations like Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Nestle, and others are literally choking our planet with a substance that does not just 'go away' when we toss it into a bin" — up to 12.7 million tons of plastic end up in the oceans every year. Americans alone discard more than 269,000 tons of plastic into the ocean per year. There are people who dump the garbage directly into the seas and oceans, and there are times when the litter comes from land-based sources such as trash cans, streets, and sewers.

Most people don't realize that they are doing harm for themselves and others. The idea that we could be harming ourselves by eating seafood containing tiny pieces of plastic — microplastic — is highly frightening. Animals also suffer from

plastic pollution. In fact, they suffer more than humans do. Hundreds of animal species are in danger when plastics end up in bodies of water. As Daniel Victor, a New York Times reporter, writes, "Ingesting plastic gives marine mammals a false sensation of fullness without providing any of the nutrients they need." There are a variety of dead whales that have been found with 13 pounds of plastic inside their bodies, 18 pounds, 64 pounds, 88 pounds, etc. all over the world. Plastics also can entangle and trap animals, sometimes causing them to drown. Plastic destroys habitats and even affects animals' mating rituals, which can have devastating consequences and wipe out entire species.

There exist people who care about our planet. They organize associations to advance global solutions to plastic pollution. For instance, Plastic Pollution Coalition is a growing global alliance of more than 750 organizations, businesses, and thought leaders in 60 countries working toward a world free of plastic pollution and its toxic impact on humans, animals, waterways, the ocean, and the environment. Another crowd-funded organization called Ocean Cleanup has announced that they have raised enough money to tackle the cleanup of the largest accumulation of ocean plastic in the world, a 618,000-square-mile floating mass of trash dubbed "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch." Scientists working for the organization have conducted meticulous analyses of the area and have said that it is possible to clear the plastic waste by utilizing tidal flow to the project's advantage. Break Free from Plastic is a global movement envisioning a future free from plastic pollution. Since its launch in September 2016, nearly 1,500 organizations from across the world have joined the movement to demand massive reductions in single-use plastics and to push for lasting solutions to the plastic pollution crisis. All of these organizations above share the common values of environmental protection and social justice, which guide their work at the community level and represent a global, unified vision.

Ocean threat

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

Of course, recycling alone will never end the flow of plastics into our oceans. Drink companies produce over 500 billion single-use plastic bottles annually; there is no way we can recycle our way out of a problem of that scale. What we can and must do is to cut the source of the problem — slow down the production of all this plastic waste. What I am urging you to do is to stop and think about the place you live in; is it clean or is it dirty, think about how can you contribute to make it much cleaner, and think about how are you able to keep it that way, even make it into a habit of yours. The same exact thought process is needed for the ocean pollution problem: Think about what caused this issue and how does it affect

you, your friends, or the overall community; think about how you can leave your mark on solving this issue, and think about how you are able to stem the source of it forever. Here are some effective solutions to the ocean plastic pollution issue:

- For storing and preparing food, invest in stainless steel food containers with lids rather than in plastic items.
- Use real plates, cutlery and glasses, and cloth napkins, if possible.
- Eliminate unnecessary disposable items, like straws, drink stirrers, toothpicks, and lids for cups, or make available upon request only.
- A river was the starting point of pollution, so let's make an ocean the ending point.

—Takhmina Bazarkhanova is a student at Helix Charter High School.■

News briefs

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summer and will extend through the first quarter of 2022. La Mesa has been designated a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for the past 39 years. In March 2018, the City Council adopted the CAP, which charts a course to reduce community-wide greenhousegas emissions in half by 2035 from the 2010 baseline year. The CAP also establishes a target to plant 500 new trees by 2020 and expand the urban tree canopy from 18% to 33% by 2035 in an effort to sequester carbon and reduce heat island impacts. Funding from Cal Fire will directly support implementation of these goals. For more information about La Mesa's CAP and urban forestry efforts, visit bit.ly/2FgA7HO.

TASTE OF SAN DIEGO – EAST A SUCCESS

On June 3, the La Mesa Chamber of Commerce held the inaugural Taste of San Diego – East event at the Town and Country San Diego in Mission Valley. The event is a rebranding of the Taste of La Mesa event that was held in the city of La Mesa for 10 years. The new location and name was a risk for the chamber, but was deemed a necessity because the event had outgrown its previous location at the La Mesa Community Center. Patrons did not seem to mind as the large ballroom at the Town and Country was mostly filled all evening long. Guests began arriving around 4:30 p.m. and were treated with sample bites of grilled steak, pulled pork, platters

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Guest Editorial

Court decision disadvantages contract workers

By BRIAN W. JONES

Kristyn Hansen used to cut hair in Los Angeles nine hours a day, three days a week. She told the Los Angeles Times that she earned a 60% share of an \$18 haircut and served around 30 clients a day. Her husband carried their health insurance. She said her job's flexibility allowed her to take five college courses and still live a comfortable life. This was all possible because Hansen is an independent contractor.

However, that workplace flexibility has been all but eliminated by the courts. In April 2018, a California Supreme Court decision (Dynamex Operations West, Inc. v. Superior Court) upended how California defines an independent contractor. As a result, contractors such as Kristyn can no longer work with the flexibility she prefers and now she is earning less. In response to the Dynamex decision, many employers have been forced to change their operations, eliminating the flexibility and stability that many independent contractors want. To offset the increased expenses of payroll taxes, sick

leave, vacation and other benefits, employers generally find they have to cut people or pay. In Kristyn's case, her employers now require her to work four days a week, have reduced her share per haircut to 15% and provide her a \$15-an-hour salary. This amounts to about a \$300 decrease in her weekly take-home pay from her original contractual agreement. Unfortunately, millions of California workers are being forced to adjust to this new reality. The post-Dynamex law jeopardizes the livelihoods of contractors from such diverse industries such as barbering and cosmetology, education, health care, construction, technology, media and entertainment. As California's affordability problem worsens, many young adults see few options other than to leave the state for employment opportunities. The Dynamex decision will add to that outflow, unduly and negatively impacting California's young and diverse workforce, who increasingly prefer the flexibility and control that freelancing and independent contracting provides. According to a 2018 Bureau of Labor Statistics Economic report, 79% of independent contractors

prefer their work situation to traditional employment. California's elected officials now have a very important decision to make, that of whether or not to continue allowing workers the choice — their choice — to be an employee or an independent contractor. There's a measure pending in the Legislature — Assembly Bill 5 — that would arbitrarily carve out politically favored vocations from the Dynamex ruling but still keep other struggling vocations under tight restrictions. I soon will be reviewing this measure as it comes to me for a vote. Please always feel free to let me know your thoughts on this issue by emailing me at senator.jones@sen.ca.gov.

—Sen. Brian W. Jones is chair of the Senate Republican Caucus and was elected to the California state Senate in 2018 representing the 38th Senate District which includes Alpine, Escondido, Lemon Grove, El Cajon, La Mesa, Santee, Poway, San Marcos, Lakeside, Valley Center, Rancho Santa Fe, Julian, Ramona, Rancho San Diego, Bonsall, Fallbrook, Borrego Springs, and parts of the city of San Diego.■



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California: Starting July 1, 2019 a law will go into effect that will require all newly installed residential garage door openers and new door installs be equipped with a battery backup. After the deadly California wildfires that killed 44 in 2017, Senator Bill Dodd pushed for revisions of SB-969. Of those who died during the fire, at least 5 were due to the inability to open their garage door because of power outages. A majority of homeowners use their garage door as the primary point of entry to their home. In times of emergency or a power outage, the battery backup will provide up to 24 hours of usage. A battery backup will engage when power is cut from the garage door opener. Ensuring your garage door opener is equipped with a battery backup is a step towards having a peace of mind if the occasion arises.

Garage Door Medics has been serving Southern California since 1990. Over the years we've developed a distinct familiarity with the neighborhoods and communities we work and live in. Many California residents have older garage door systems and heavy one-piece tilt up doors. Garage doors can weigh anywhere from 80-350 pounds or more. During times of crisis and power failure, manually opening the garage door may be difficult, especially for senior citizens or those with disabilities. Many residents are unaware of the Battery Backup law itself, and how it will affect them. At Garage Door Medics, safety is one of our top priorities. We find it important to keep our neighbors and customers informed and up to date with current available options.



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Big Blue Wave Independence Day Celebration



By TINA RYNBERG AND JEFF BENESCH

On Wednesday, July 3rd, La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club will usher in our Independence Day Celebration with a gala barbeque at Harry Griffen Park in La Mesa. Co-sponsored by the San Diego County Democratic Party, this year's picnic promises to be the best ever.

All members and guests are invited to convene at the amphitheater at 5 p.m. for three hours of fun, barbeque hot dogs, music, snacks, beverages, desserts, and our traditional pie-baking contest. Bring a lawn chair, blanket or just sit on the grass in this wonderful park located right behind Grossmont High School, at 9550 Milden St., La Mesa, 91942. While we'll supply the dogs, chips, desserts and drinks, feel free to bring a picnic dish to share, and your own cooler should you wish.

There's no admission charge for The Big Blue Wave Independence Day Celebration that will feature great candidates and public servants from all over San Diego County. We may have a surprise guest or two as the lead up to the election year heats up. California's primary election is early next year and we should have a big say in which candidates will further our progressive ideals on all levels of government, including president. No matter what, we must all work together to end the disaster that is a Trump administration bent on undoing decades of diplomacy abroad and compassion here at home. Our planet's future depends on a new governing regime in Washington not beholden to fossil fuels, corporate welfare and special interest lobbyists.

We've invited the San Diego Democratic Congressional Delegation, all statewide office holders, local Assembly members and Senators, city officials, County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, other significant local Democrats, and

all Democratic candidates for San Diego City, County and East County offices at all levels. Celebrate Independence Day with a party in the park like no other.

Our large and active club represents the communities of San Carlos, Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, La Mesa, College Area, Santee, Mt. Helix, Casa de Oro and Spring Valley and other close-by areas. We normally meet the first Wednesday of each month at the spacious La Mesa Community Center, 4975 Memorial Drive, just north of University Avenue in La Mesa. Please join us as a guest or become a member, with our modest annual dues starting at \$30. However, at our Big Blue Wave Independence Day Celebration in July, new members can join for as little as \$15 each for the remainder of 2019. Like us on Facebook and check out our new website at lamesa-foothillsdemocraticclub.com.

—Tina Rynberg is president and Jeff Benesch is vice president of programming for the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club. ■

Ballot measure threatens Prop 13 protections



By PAT BOERNER

Susan Shelly, vice president of communication for the Howard Jarvis Tax Association, gave an eye-opening talk at the May meeting of the Republican Women of California-Navajo Canyon. Shelly reminded us how important it is to fight to retain the benefits of Proposition 13, which imposes limits on how much our property taxes can be increased.

Before Proposition 13, taxes were based on the assessed market value of your home and taxes were 2.67% of this amount each year. After it passed, taxes were figured on a base of 1% of the purchase price and yearly increases were limited to 2% regardless of any changes in the market value. As an example, a home currently valued at \$500,000 without the protection of Proposition 13 would currently be taxed \$13,400 per year.

Housing in San Diego is already expensive, and the loss of Proposition 13



Carl DeMaio will be the guest speaker at the next Republican Women of California-Navajo Canyon meeting. (Facebook)

would make the dream of home ownership impossible for many people. Of course, rents would also be affected. This is not just hypothetical rhetoric — there will be a measure on the 2020 ballot that will cut off all California businesses from Proposition 13 protections. That means all businesses! Any place you shop will be hit by higher taxes, and these costs will be passed on to the consumer. Some businesses will chose to just leave California.

SEE RWCNC, Page 23

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Congress must codify Roe v. Wade into law

CA 53 BULLETIN

By REP. SUSAN DAVIS



Women's health care is under assault like we've never seen before.

States around the country are racing to enact bans on abortion, which will do nothing more than put women's lives at risk.

So far, eight states have enacted bans. Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, and Ohio have been described as passing bills that fall short of an outright ban. These so-called heartbeat bills prohibit abortions after six to eight weeks.

Since most women don't realize they are pregnant until around 15 or 16 weeks, the laws in these states are outright bans.

The most extreme laws are coming out of Missouri and Alabama, where there are punitive measures included with their bans.

Alabama would jail a doctor for performing the procedure for 99 years. Missouri would subject women who seek an abortion to prison for up to five years. This law is not about preserving life, it's about punishing women.

It's also difficult to believe these laws are about protecting life when many states with restrictive abortion laws also have some of the highest rates of infant mortality. Where's the legislation to bring down these rates?

The supporters of these bills are clear in their objective: to repeal Roe v. Wade.

It's time to settle this issue once and for all.

Congress must pass the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) to codify the Roe v. Wade decision into law. I joined in introducing this legislation in May.

The WHPA is straightforward. It simply prohibits states from imposing the limits and restrictions being put on women.

Existing restrictions in some states require women to drive miles to visit a clinic, incurring travel expenses and having to miss work.

No one is pro-abortion. It's an incredibly difficult decision for a woman to make. If abortion opponents want to really reduce the number of abortions, I invite them to join us in making child care more affordable.

Seventy-five percent of women seeking an abortion are economically disadvantaged.

Financial constraints are regularly cited in a decision to end a pregnancy. We need to help working families afford child care.

The Child Care for Working Families Act would do just that by creating a federal/state partnership to provide high-quality, affordable child care from birth to the age of 13.

It would more than double the number of children eligible for child care assistance.

The Child Care for Working Families Act would also have a positive economic impact, creating 770,000 new child care jobs.

This new workforce of child caregivers will allow 1.6 million parents, primarily mothers, to go back to work. It would also lift 1 million families out of poverty.

Another way we can help hardworking Americans with family-related costs is to pass the FAMILY Act.

Taking time off work to care for a sick child or loved one can create an economic hardship. It's time we provide paid leave for families who find themselves in this unfortunate situation.

These are proven policies that help bring down abortion rates.

Bans don't end abortions, they just make them less safe, putting women's lives at risk.

A recent study by the Guttmacher Institute found that countries with the most restrictive abortion laws have the highest rates of abortions.

Some states are recognizing this and moving in the opposite direction. In Nevada, where women are a majority of the state's legislature, legislation has been passed to reduce restrictions.

Nevada is ending requirements mandating doctors to explain the emotional and physical implications of having an abortion. Nevada is also ending the more ridiculous provision requiring doctors to inquire about a woman's marital status.

Illinois is also looking to reduce restrictions.

Congress needs to follow the lead of states like our own state of California as well as Nevada that understand a decision to get an abortion is best left to a woman and her doctor.

Let's pass the Women's Health Protection Act now.

—Rep. Susan Davis represents central San Diego, including the communities of Grantville, Allied Gardens, Del Cerro and La Mesa.■

News from your County Supervisor

Dianne's Corner

By DIANNE JACOB



Wildfire worries: San Diego County is stepping up its fire preparedness ground game.

Following up on proposals I announced in my State of the County address earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors recently OK'd several initiatives to better protect people and property in our most fire-prone areas.

The improvements include doubling the number of annual property safety inspections, from 10,000 to 20,000, and the creation of a grant program to encourage homeowners to install ember-resistant vents and other fire-resistant materials.

Deadly fires last year across California, and the tragic destruction of places like Paradise, remind us that disaster could strike here again any time. The county has invested more than \$500 million since 2003 on fire protection improvements.

Go to readysandiego.org and see how you can better safeguard your family during a disaster.

Our beautiful backcountry: Thanks to a recently approved land purchase, the county is expanding the scenic Ramona Grasslands by 123 acres.

The acquisition means the preserve now spans more than 3,600 acres — bigger than Del Mar and Solana Beach combined.

Thanks to the community and county staff, the preserve is turning into a real treasure and it's a perfect spot for families to enjoy the great outdoors.

Public safety first:

Community leaders, first-responders, wildfire evacuees and others recently joined me next to state Route 67 to call out SANDAG's executive director for his plan to shelve badly needed safety improvements on the highway and other arteries across the county.

As many of you know, the fall 2007 wildfire season was a nightmare. A half-million people were ordered to evacuate their communities and had to use escape routes like SR-67.

SANDAG promised voters it would improve these major roads, these lifelines, not leave them high and dry. Public safety must always come first.

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

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News briefs

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

of cheeses and carved meats, mini cakes, shrimp cocktail, pizzas and much more. There was also a silent auction for guests to bid on.

LOCAL STUDENTS WIN COX SCHOLARSHIP MONEY

On June 6, Cox Charities hosted its annual Cox Scholars celebration at Coastera Restaurant. This year, in celebration of its 20th anniversary, Cox Charities awarded a total of \$100,000 in scholarships to 20 students — \$5,000 each — the largest amount ever

awarded in scholarships by the foundation.

Helix Charter High School student Elias Gracia was one of three Grossmont Union High School District students to be awarded the scholarship. Gracia will attend Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania in the fall to study behavioral economics and be the first in his family to earn a degree from a four-year university. He is passionate about the importance education has on breaking the cycle of poverty and shedding stereotypes. Gracia volunteers on a bus route through the community to help bring people to church free of charge. He currently lives in Lemon Grove.

Another GUHSD winner is Spring Valley resident and Monte Vista High School student Jeanette Chen, who became a student ambassador through the Better Business Bureau after a family member fell victim to a scam. She plans to pursue a career in finance.

Steele Canyon Charter High School student Ian Hurd was recognized for volunteering at a local food pantry that serves war refugees, despite having Asperger's syndrome, which makes it difficult for him to deal with social situations. He plans on studying physics.

Cox Charities is the philanthropic arm of Cox Communications and is funded by

employee donations, matched by Cox, and overseen by an advisory board consisting of employees who volunteer their time.

When Cox Charities was established in San Diego in 1999, a scholarship program was created to help local youth in their quest for a higher education, particularly those who stayed focused on their education despite facing adversity in their young lives. Through Cox Charities and the company match, Cox employees in San Diego have awarded \$1.6 million in scholarships to more than 650 students.

For more information on the Cox Scholars program, visit cox-charitiesca.org.

ORCHIDS & ONIONS NOMINATIONS BEGINS

The San Diego Architectural Foundation (SDAF) has announced the return of the 43rd annual Orchids & Onions program with the opening of public nominations for the best and "not so best" projects in San Diego County. The SDAF's mission is to educate and promote outstanding architecture, landscape, interior, and urban design to improve the quality of life for all San Diegans. The community can submit their nominations now until July 6. Projects that garner the most online interest during the

SEE News briefs, Page 23



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Big opportunity for a Potterhead

By DAVID DIXON | LA MESA COURIER

There is no shortage of “Harry Potter” fans in San Diego County. However, very few have had the opportunity to be involved with shows that pay homage to, or are inspired by, J.K. Rowling’s popular series.

One of those fans is La Mesa resident Kevin Patrick Lohmann, and he’s currently starring in the comedy “Puffs, Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic.” The production is the inaugural staging from the semi-professional theater company, The Easter, in association with Powpac, Poway’s Community Theatre.

Lohmann didn’t always plan to become an actor. For a senior project at Helix Charter High School, however, he decided to direct and write a short film, while his friend directed a play. They agreed to help each other out in their respective projects.

“I auditioned for his production of ‘Ten Little Indians,’ and I told him to give me the smallest part,” he said. “He ended up casting me in the biggest part, and I fell in love with acting.”

After studying acting in college and performing in various plays, Lohmann took a five-year break from the theater. After hearing about auditions for “Puffs,” however, he decided to audition for the show.

“I spoke with my wife about it, and we both felt like it was the one play that I couldn’t pass up,” he said.

When he was younger, Lohmann was more invested in

the “Harry Potter” movies than the books. This changed in college, where Lohmann gravitated towards, and made friends with, others who loved the series. His enjoyment of Rowling’s work grew, and the franchise made a positive impact on his life.

“It provided me, and a lot of people in my generation, with a way to view the world,” he said.

As a result, the actor started a YouTube channel devoted to the books. Owing to the time involved in starring in “Puffs,” however, this endeavor is currently on a hiatus, but he plans on launching a fourth season of a “Harry Potter” book club on the channel.

The play tells an original story. Lohmann plays the American boy Wayne Hopkins who, after finding out that he’s a wizard, goes to London to begin classes at the legendary School of Magic and Magic. Of the four school houses that students are placed into, Wayne is chosen to be a Puff. Along with his new housemates and friends Oliver (Kevin Phan) and Megan (Sterling Amara), Wayne hopes to make an impact on the world.

Unfortunately, the students in the Puff house are underdogs and generally unpopular.

Given this, an aspect about Wayne that Lohmann really appreciates is the confidence that the character maintains throughout the script.

“I love that he believes in himself and that he’s special,” he says. “Wayne takes his knocks along the way, but he always finds ways to keep training and believing that he’s at the center of the tale being told.”

Lohmann has had ties to La Mesa for most of his life. Although he grew up in Lemon Grove, his high school education was in this part of the county.

“It wasn’t where my house was, but it was my home,” he said.

After Lohmann and his wife returned to the county, they moved to La Mesa when he started to study for his Master’s degree in 2013.

The star of the show lives around the Lake Murray area of the city, and he loves walking

around the reservoir. Other favorite activities include eating Mexican food at El Azteca Taco Shop and spending time with his daughter at one of the local parks.

“Puffs” isn’t the only thing that Lohmann has been working on in the theater world. He is currently working as the associate director of marketing at the San Diego Repertory Theatre.

Lohmann wouldn’t want to be involved in future acting roles if they get too much in the way of his work or the time spent with his family. Still, he hopes to be a part of other shows when he feels he can make the time to perform.

While Matt Cox’s script is a comedy, Lohmann loves the underlying theme of the plot.

“This play is really for people who don’t feel like they are the main character in their own story,” he said. “I think they’ll realize that feeling isn’t always true.”

“Puffs, Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic & Magic” is running at PowPac, Poway’s Community Theatre through July 21. For tickets or more information, visit theeasternsd.com or call 619-768-3821.

—David Dixon is a local freelance film and theater writer. ■



(l to r) The “Puffs, Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic” cast: Kevin Phan, Elisa Williams, Kevin Patrick Lohmann, Randy Coull, Sterling Amara, Marisa Taylor Scott, and Mia Rose Apalategui (Photo courtesy Poway Community Theatre)

‘Sunshine Boys’ opens Lamplighters season

Lamplighters Community Theatre will open its 2019-2020 production season with Neil Simon’s “The Sunshine Boys.”

The play tells the story of Al Lewis and Willie Clark, a venerable vaudeville comedy team, performing on stage, screen and television for 43 years. Eleven embittered years after Al’s abrupt retirement broke up the act, Willie’s nephew, a talent agent, lands a last-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get The Sunshine Boys on a network television special. Al and Willie will have to put aside years of resentment and bickering to make it back into the limelight for one last hurrah.

“The Sunshine Boys” reunites two of San Diego’s most compelling actors, Christopher Pittman and Richard Rivera as The Sunshine Boys, last seen together in 2018’s San Diego premier of “King Charles the Third.” Veteran actor James Steinberg appears as Ben, Clark’s long-suffering nephew. Jennifer McKenna, lead singer for San Diego’s Event Horizon

appears as the nurse with plenty of va-va-voom. Local favorites George Bailey and Deirdre Maloney and newcomer Janet Taylor round out this must-see cast directed by Steve Murdock and produced by Jennifer McKenna.

“The Sunshine Boys” runs July 5-Aug. 4 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. at Lamplighters Theatre, 5915 Severin Drive, La Mesa. Tickets are \$22 for general admission; \$19 for seniors, students and active military; and \$17 each for groups of 10 or more.

This production’s charity sponsor through coordination with The San Diego Theatre Connection is the Alpha Project, which has a mission to empower individuals, families, and communities by providing work, recovery and support services to people who are motivated to change their lives and achieve self-sufficiency.

For tickets or information, visit lamplighterslamesa.com, or call 619-303-5902. ■

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La Mesa AYSO girls net trip to Hawaii

By DAVE THOMAS | LA MESA COURIER

It is not every day that a young soccer player gets to pack their bags and head off to the nation's 50th state.

That said, this is exactly what a young group of La Mesa area girls are doing as June comes to an end.

The La Mesa AYSO girls' under-12 team was drawn in a national lottery (National AYSO) to see what regions, age ranges, and genders get the nod to go to the National Games (June 30–July 7), according to parent Cara Hinchman.

"Invitations to try out for the team were open to all girls that played in the fall 2018 La Mesa AYSO U12 girls core (non-club level) program," Hinchman commented. "There are 12 players comprising our national team. Most are from the La Mesa area, though some are from outside La Mesa, but all East County."

As with any big undertaking such as this one, fundraising plays a key role in making sure the kids can travel. When the travel involves a destination as far away as Hawaii, you can bet some funds need to be raised.

"Our team started fundraising in December by running a coffee cart and snack bars at various soccer tournaments, hosting restaurant fundraisers at multiple restaurants in La Mesa, holding a rummage sale, and a raffle for SeaWorld tickets," Hinchman pointed out. "The kids were the main workers for the snack bars and rummage sale; parents just supervised to make sure all was going well."

It should not come as a big surprise that there is a fair amount of interest in soccer in the La Mesa



The La Mesa AYSO girls' under-12 team (Photo courtesy CaraHinchman)

area, especially when it comes to kids.

According to Hinchman, the La Mesa AYSO serves some 1,000 East County residents on a yearly basis.

AYSO is an all-volunteer organization, dedicated to developing and educating young people by encouraging their interest and participation in soccer. In AYSO, everyone plays, teams are balanced, registration is open to all children between the ages of 4 1/2 and 18, and good sportsmanship is a primary goal enabled by positive coaching.

For now, though, the focus is on Hawaii.

According to coaches John Butcher and Al Watson, the young ladies have been working very hard over the last seven months in their preparation for playing in Hawaii. They added that it has been fun to watch the girls grow as a team. Both point

out that it will be fun to see how the girls stack up against teams from all over the country.

Butcher and Watson also wanted to be clear that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play at the highest competition level for youth core AYSO. Experiencing all Hawaii has to offer isn't too bad either.

For any parents and kids looking to find out more about registration info for the team, visit LaMesaAYSO.org.

Hinchman added that volunteers are always needed and highly encouraged to coach, referee, organize picture day, be a team parent, and other various positions.

As he pointed out, volunteers make the program what it is.

With that being said, let the games begin.

—Dave Thomas is a San Diego-based freelance sports writer. Reach him at hoopsthomas@yahoo.com. ■



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Celebrate 20 years of Parks & Rec at Marina Village fundraiser

Gen-X in La Mesa

By GENEVIEVE SUZUKI | LA MESA COURIER

We have a lot to revel in La Mesa. We have a warm city, inside and out. Our community isn't too big or small, and, to borrow from Goldilocks, "It's just right."

It's no secret one of my favorite things about our city is its parks. They're fresh, fun and free, which means, as a mother to two young children, they're always included in the mix when mulling over weekend activities.

Shucks, I love our green grassy venues so much there was no question where we were going to throw my rambunctious 4-year-old's birthday party: Aztec Park, a hidden gem off Baltimore Drive. I didn't have to worry about whether things were being cleaned enough to ward off disease while the little kids ran, jumped and swung everywhere

before gobbling up pizza and chocolate cupcakes. (Crumbs are OK at parks, another reason to dig the great outdoors.)

This year, the La Mesa Park & Recreation Foundation turns 20. Established in 1999, the organization facilitates projects and programs in our local parks. New playgrounds and summer concerts and movies are just a few items on its monthly agenda.

To commemorate its 20th anniversary, the foundation is holding its annual fundraiser, La Mesa Rocks, July 20, at the Seaside Room in Marina Village. Guests are being asked to don formal white party attire.

As it has in previous years, the night will feature a special guest. It makes sense to toast a native son, who likely used La Mesa park facilities when he was a kid: Basketball Hall of Famer Bill Walton, a Helix High School graduate and UCLA alum who played

professionally for the Portland Trailblazers, the San Diego Clippers and the Boston Celtics.

At just \$50 a pop, the party is a steal. There'll be glitzy cocktails, delicious eats and dancing by the bay. (Picture the same kind of party I threw my preschooler except for adults so, instead of pizza and cupcakes, it's adult bites and the Kool-Aid has more of a kick.) I can't think of a better way to get down with the people who help make our city live up to its nickname of "The Jewel of the Hills."

Visit lamesaparks.org to buy tickets or for more information about La Mesa Park & Recreation Foundation's La Mesa Rocks. The event will be July 20 from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Seaside Room at Marina Village, 1970 Quivera Way, San Diego.

—Genevieve A. Suzuki is a local attorney who lives and works in La Mesa. ■



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Lauren Veal
Jan Jacob Vega
Victor Vega
Kevin Velarde
Jade Verri
Daniel Vilorio Khong
Duong Vo
Aaryonia Walker
Niara Walker
Isaiah Walker-Bey
Essence Ward
Chawnte Ware
Macayle Weddington
Chelsea Weisbrich
Knoel Williams
Lovetee Williams
Skyler Williams
Jocelyn Wilmore
Siem Woldeab
Helen Woldemariam
King Wong
Dmarcus Woodberry
Joseph Wymer
Shabana Zainulabudin
Griffin Zamora
Jeremiah Zumaya

Note: Student names in red type are honor roll graduates.

Once a Scottie, Always a Scottie!

Grossmont grads honored with traditions



Foothiller Footsteps

By **CONNIE BAER** AND **LYNN BAER**

For 98 years, Grossmont High School's students and staff have taken great pride in the traditions surrounding graduation. Thursday, June 6, 440 seniors became part of an amazing group of more than 37,000 Foothiller graduates.

At the beginning of the ceremony, three retiring teachers were recognized for their service to Grossmont: Denise Bates, Tony Camara, and Deb Potter.

Since 1936, graduating seniors have been led into the ceremony by students carrying the Daisy Chain, an 83-year tradition. Each year, the teaching staff selects 50 outstanding juniors on the basis of their school activities, scholarship, and citizenship; being selected is the highest honor awarded juniors. The day before graduation, the students create two ivy chains with daisies interwoven into them. This year again, as in earlier years, the students were excited to use the ivy growing on campus, some

of which was originally planted by Kate Sessions in 1926 on the original school, now the district office.

Each year at graduation, outstanding seniors are recognized for their achievements. This year, five students were recognized for their academic excellence: Valedictorians Preston Burke (4.886 GPA) and Daniel O'Laughlin (4.886) and Salutatorians Benjamin Hale (4.878), Janet Nguy (4.833) and Valiant Smith (4.833).

In his valedictorian address to the class, Burke looked ahead to the future, using the movie "Christopher Robin" as a metaphor for life.

"It is not money that makes us rich — it's simplicity, love, friendship, and family that make our lives rich," he said. "Success does not bring happiness. Happiness brings success. Follow your dreams because sometimes life is about risking everything for a dream no one can see but you... When times are tough, look to your friends, family, and loved ones for support, but when times are good, look to those same people because they're the ones who make it all worthwhile."

Valedictorian O'Laughlin believes, "Since Grossmont is a special place, the skills we have acquired will form the stepping stones to success... The magic in our evolution lies in our

teamwork. As we stand shoulder to shoulder, we are not a collection of individuals, but a symbol of unity. We thank our faculty, our fellow students, and our families and friends. You have been the driving force for our determination. I encourage all of you here today, students, faculty, administrators, and families, to live every day with the determination that is the cornerstone of character that embodies a Grossmont Foothiller. It is truly great to be young and a Foothiller."

Yearly, three perpetual graduation trophies are awarded to seniors. The most prestigious service award given at graduation is the Norman Freeman Award, first given in 1953 as a memorial to Norman Freeman, ASB president, Class of 1947. The trophy is engraved "For the Grossmont student who has most strengthened democracy through participation and leadership in student government." This year's recipient, the 66th, is Kennedy Dirkes.

Since 1927, two identical silver loving cup trophies have acknowledged one outstanding young woman and one outstanding young man. Each trophy has the names of the 91 previous recipients. Joining them this year are Megan Collantes and Benjamin Hale.

In 1925, outstanding seniors were first recognized with a Circle G, which was the highest award then given to graduating seniors. In 2019, for the 94th year, six seniors were honored for their all-around excellence in academics, leadership, citizenship, and service: James Bond, Dominic Espino, Rachel Gallegos, Jaymee Gonnello, Leyikun Solomon, and Calista Zaenger. Each student received a gold pin — a G enclosed in a circle, a reminder of the legacy binding GHS graduating seniors.

Since 1965, the Principal's Letters of Commendations have been awarded to students who



2019 Daisy Chain (Photo courtesy of Boyd Anderson)

have demonstrated leadership in many areas. This year, Principal Dan Barnes recognized 13 students: Tanner Askey, Savannah Baird, Jocelyn Brown-Hill, Jordan Browne, Kira Chong, Emily Fennick, Autumn Maas, Simone Mattia, Daniel O'Laughlin, Kim Sokolnicki, Taylor Vassar, Cameron Williams, and Salem Yohannes.

During the ceremony, Principal Dan Barnes, reflecting on the Class of 2019 and their accomplishments, stated, "Tens of thousands of graduates have crossed this stage before you and many thousands will follow. You are part of a remarkable tradition, one that probably included many grandparents and parents here in the audience this afternoon. So, graduates of 2019, as you celebrate your achievements today, make sure that you take special pride in that tradition."

To discover more about Grossmont's historic traditions, visit our website at foothillermuseum.com or visit the GHS Museum Wednesday, July 3 or Aug. 7 from noon-3:30 p.m. or by appointment. Contact: 619-668-6140 or email ghsmuseum@guhsd.net.

—Connie and Lynn Baer write on behalf of the Grossmont High School Museum. ■

Upcoming Grossmont High School Class Reunions

Class of 1989's 30th Reunion: July 27 at the Doubletree San Diego Downtown. Visit bit.ly/2IVKaCT, call 760-721-0525, email Wendy Hodgetts Shortley at wendyshortley72@gmail.com or call 858-414-7319.

Class of 1974 45th Reunion: Thursday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. alongside the pond at Anthony's Fish Grotto in La Mesa. Visit bit.ly/2JjkdAO. GHS Museum open from 4-6 p.m. before the reunion; campus tour at 5 p.m.

Class of 1970 50th Reunion: Saturday, Aug. 15, 2020. Please register at Grossmont 1970 reunion link, bit.ly/2MVY65m. More information is available at foothillermuseum.com.

Class of 1964 55th Reunion: Saturday, Oct. 19. For information, email ghs64@cox.net. Location, menu, and reservation detail will be provided in a June email.

Class of 1959 60th Reunion: Saturday, Sept. 21. Contact Joyce Schwartz Camiel at joycescamiel@gmail.com or 619-806-7914 or co-chair Carmen Colonghi Gaerin at cgaerin@gmail.com or 619-992-8823.

99th Anniversary and Homecoming: Friday, Sept. 20. GHS Museum open from 4-7 p.m.; campus tour at 5:30 p.m.

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Outside the box



Local artist and fine arts teacher Jessica Velasquez and a group of students from St. Martin of Tours Academy have added their own touch of beauty to the city of La Mesa. As part of a beautification school project, they painted three utility boxes on El Cajon Boulevard.

Under the guidance of their instructor, and with the approval of the design template by the city of La Mesa, the students had fun while developing their artistic skills. People walking by the utility boxes have responded positively to the finished product. Principal Diane Hartley was very pleased with the beautiful boxes and hopes the remaining two boxes along the boulevard will also be approved for painting by the city sometime soon.

(Photos courtesy St. Martin of Tours Academy)

Graduation, foster youth and honor roll award



Helix Highlights

By JENNIFER OSBORN

On Thursday, June 6, 528 Helix Highlanders, donning caps and gowns, crossed the stage and accepted their diplomas, completing their four years of high school. Class valedictorians Luke Babbitt, Sarah Mauricio, Olivia Root, and Jocelyn Willmore each addressed their classmates, giving advice, reliving memories, and expressing their hopes for the future. The Helix staff wishes the class of 2019 all the best as they pursue bright futures.

HELIX SUPPORT FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Fewer than 1 in 10 children growing up in foster care attend college. Only 1 in 100 graduate. These startling statistics are the driving force behind NFL quarterback Alex Smith's efforts to make a difference in the lives of former foster youth. For the past 14 years, the mission of The Alex Smith Foundation (ASF) has been to provide foster teens with the tools and resources needed to transition to successful adulthood by developing and promoting education, advocacy, mentoring, housing, internship and jobs programs.

As a result of ASF's efforts, dozens of former foster youth have had the opportunity to attend, and graduate from, college. Ilyas Beltz is one of those. He entered

the foster care system having experienced more trauma than any child should experience. After many failed placements in the system, he was finally placed with a family who was willing and able to support his many needs, and they ultimately adopted him. Through their incredible efforts, Beltz was able to overcome many of the obstacles in his path, graduating from Smith's alma mater, Helix Charter High School, and continuing on to college.

The ASF has been an integral part of Beltz's college journey. In 2018, ASF awarded Beltz with the Karen Martin Scholarship, providing him with \$8,000 to attend California State University Northridge. At the Helix High School Foundation (HHSF) Highlander Open Golf Tournament at Carlton Oaks Country Club, ASF partnered with the HHSF to present Beltz with the scholarship for a second year to allow him to continue his education at Northridge.

"Our Helix High School Foundation motto is 'It is never too late to give back'. We are honored to be part of the avenue through which a deserving young man like Ilyas is able to continue his education," said HHSF president, Judy Kirk. "Alex was a huge part of Helix High School and we can't thank him enough for supporting a fellow Highlander with his foundation scholarship again

this year. We would also like to thank the family of Karen Martin for carrying on her memory in the work she loved."

Beltz shared his story with donors and tournament participants to let them know how their efforts and involvement in each of the foundations have affected his life.

"We are pleased to award the Karen Martin Scholarship to Ilyas Beltz," said Pam Smith, ASF board member. "Alex, a proud Helix High graduate, understands the importance of education. He has dedicated his foundation work and resources to help former foster youth achieve a college education in order to build a bridge to a successful life. Ilyas has shown his resilience and hard work to overcome huge obstacles to succeed and we are delighted to support him"

HONOR ROLL AWARD

The following is a message from Helix Executive Director Kevin Osborn:

On behalf of the Helix school community, I want to congratulate our students and entire staff! Our school was recently recognized as a 2018-2019 Educational Results Partnership (ERP) Honor Roll School for our high achievement in student success. The ERP Honor Roll program, sponsored by the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE), is part of a national effort to identify higher-performing schools

and districts that are improving student outcomes.

The 2018-2019 ERP Honor Roll utilizes public school student achievement data to identify successful schools and districts. Our school stands above others in the state because of our demonstrated ability to get students to grade-level achievement and beyond. Schools that receive the ERP Honor Roll distinction have demonstrated consistent high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement levels over time and a reduction in achievement gaps among student populations.

Through national research, ERP has identified a common set of success factors in higher-performing honor roll schools and districts. The work of the Helix staff is focused on these success factors that include clear, specific learning objectives aligned to college and career readiness, along with:

- Evidence-based instructional practices.
- A defined system-wide mission of college and career readiness for all students.
- An investment in human capital.
- Maintenance of data and assessment systems to monitor school and student performance.
- Resources and guidance to support schools' efforts in preparing all students for college and career.



Karen Martin Scholarship recipient Ilyas Beltz (center) with Doug and Pam Smith, representing the Alex Smith Foundation (Photo courtesy Helix Charter High School)

We did not apply for this award. Our results led them to us! Because of our accomplishment, we will be featured on the ERP Honor Roll website at edresults.org. To view our school's data, please open the hyperlink, scroll to the bottom of the page, click on the "View Honor Roll Data" bar, and then filter by county (San Diego) and school (Helix High).

We are thankful for the hard work of our students, teachers, and staff here at Helix Charter High School. This recognition is a testament to the sustained focus on academic results and commitment to student success that our school and community have shown over the years.

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

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History shines brightly on Casa de Pico

By FRANK SABATINI JR. | LA MESA COURIER

What started out in 1971 as a humble Mexican restaurant with only 17 tables has blossomed into one of San Diego County’s most colorful dining destinations.

The 500-seat Casa de Pico is a lesson in endurance. After launching almost 50 years ago in San Diego’s Old Town district, the restaurant expanded slowly and steadily until transforming into a bustling environment that drew locals and tourists alike.

As owner Diane Powers recalled in a conversation I had with her earlier this year, she always hired employees who were “really dependable” and she has maintained a sharp eye for hardworking chefs and cooks who display a “keen aptitude for flavors and food presentation.”

Powers lost her lease in Old Town’s Bazaar Del Mundo in 2005, prompting her to move Casa de Pico to its current location in La Mesa. It now resides in a sprawling structure fronting

Grossmont Center mall, and features fiesta-style décor that flows attractively throughout various indoor-outdoor dining areas, including a bright, windowed section resembling a solarium.



Tequila lime shrimp

As part of her family of “casa” restaurants, Powers also owns Casa Guadalajara in Old Town, Casa de Bandini in Carlsbad, and Casa Sol y Mar in Carmel Valley.

Tequila lime shrimp is a long-time favorite — and a shrimp lover’s dream. The plate features about a dozen of the large crustaceans, which are sourced from Baja waters. They’re peeled and deveined, and then butterflied and cooked in house spices along with the booze and citrus.

It felt as though I had landed upon some all-you-can-eat shrimp fest due to the generous portion, part of which came home with me. The dish also includes Mexican rice, tender black beans and a choice of corn or flour tortillas, both made in-house at a grill station just inside the entrance.

Visiting with a vegetarian friend, I also ordered a pair of tacos, one with shredded beef that

tasted under-seasoned, and the other filled densely with lean, flavorful minced chicken. I find that in many Mexican restaurants, poultry comes off as plain and boiled-tasting. This escaped those pitfalls.

From the menu’s limited vegetarian section, my friend ordered the chile poblano fresco plate and an avocado-veggie enchilada. He was impressed by both. And so was I after my wandering fork snagged a few samples.

The non-battered fire-roasted poblano chilies were filled with a medley of zucchini, yellow squash and corn, all seasoned gently with achiote. The cheese factor was scant, but the silky jalapeno white sauce on top provided adequate richness. You don’t always know what to expect when biting into poblano peppers as some can turn up rather hot. These were of the milder variety.

The enchilada had a similar construct with sauteed vegetables inside and a trace of cheese. It too was topped with the jalapeno sauce in addition to red “salsa espanola,” which was chunkier and livelier than traditional enchilada sauce.

Margaritas come in several varieties and sizes, with the largest climbing to 32 ounces. I saw one pass by our table in a glass so large it could have seemingly held a cantaloupe. The short wine list grabbed our attention instead, luring us with



Corn and flour tortillas are made in-house (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

a cabernet by the glass (\$6.95) from L.A. Cetto winery in Mexico’s Valle de Guadalupe.



Beef and chicken tacos with rice and beans

The wine boasted a medium body and a boozy or “hot” finish. Though compatible with our food choices, I imagine it would pair particularly well to beef, such as the restaurant’s famous carne asada tampiquena crowned with grilled onions and Anaheim chilies. (I remember the dish fondly from a visit several years ago.)

Casa de Pico’s menu is a compendium of recipes brought to the table over the years by

Powers and many of her kitchen employees. Dishes go through the rigors of taste-testing before appearing first as specials, and with some eventually graduating to permanent status.

All these years later, the choices are vast. They range from chicken-mango quesadillas and steak picado, to house-made tamales, Tex-Mex fajitas, taquitos rancheros, assorted enchiladas, street tacos and more.

With its stimulating décor and comfortable seating designed for both large and small parties, you can essentially skip the drive to Old Town — or across the border for that matter — and make due with festive meals and drinks in this renowned, welcoming casa.

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

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Prices: Soups and appetizers, \$6.95 to \$14.95; entree-size salads, \$13.95 to \$17.25; tacos, enchiladas and sopas, \$6.95 to \$16.25; combination plates, \$13.95 to \$14.95; vegetarian dishes, \$13.95 and \$14.50; specialty entrees, \$12.25 to \$19.95

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July featured artist: Midge Hyde



By LINDA MICHAEL

Midge Hyde, artist, art teacher and art promoter, is the featured artist at the Foothills Gallery in July. Her work will be on display July 12-31 and she hopes that you will visit the gallery to view and enjoy her work.

Hyde is fascinated with color and the way it influences the canvas narrative. Whether the subject is more realistic or abstract, she enjoys the artistic journey.

Hyde was born and raised in San Diego and graduated from SDSU with a fine arts/liberal arts degree. She also studied at the University of Hamburg in Germany and at Chelsea College in London. Her artwork is shown in collections in Germany, Montreal, Kuwait, San Diego, Los Angeles and New York.

For years, Hyde has taught adults as well as children in Montessori schools, after-school art classes, and classes at the San Diego Children's Museum. Her work has shown in public places in murals and on many electrical boxes, and she has painted for private commissions, as well.

You can learn more about Midge Hyde by visiting bit.ly/2IQSUdM, or her Facebook page, or Instagram. You can contact her at midgehyde@gmail.com or 619-466-3711.



A painting by Midge Hyde (Courtesy Foothills Art Association)

The Foothills Gallery, located at 4910 Memorial Drive in La Mesa,

is free to the public and is open Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

—Linda Michael is editor of Footnotes, the newsletter of the Foothills Art Association.■

New children's librarian shares her favorite books



By CHELSIE HARRIS

Happy summer, La Mesa! This is the busiest season at the library because kids are out of school and parents are looking for ways to keep 'em busy — and reading is a great, safe and fun way to do that. Our Summer Reading Challenge launched on June 1 and continues through Aug. 31. All ages can sign up online at sdcl.org/summer to complete activities in exchange for prizes.

This summer is extra special for La Mesa because we're welcoming a new children's librarian to our team. Her name is Ramona and she has already jumped right in providing storytimes and fixing up our children's area to make it better than ever before. This month, we're highlighting Ramona's top-rated reads!

For children, she recommends "All the World" by Liz Garton Scanlon. This Caldecott Honor picture book is a calm and peaceful read for young ones and their caregivers. With a gentle rhythm and positive message about appreciating the world around us, it's a great bedtime story to read again and again.

"Journey," by Aaron Becker, is another Caldecott Honor book for children. This is a wordless picture book best for kids ages 4-8. A little girl is bored and draws herself a door that leads to adventure. Whether she's exploring a castle, a city, or a forest, there is so much beauty and intricacy in the illustrations that words aren't necessary.

Have a tween looking for something to read this summer? "Larklight: A Rousing Tale of Dauntless Pluck in the Farthest Reaches of Space," by Phillip Reeve, is a science fiction adventure of a house that hurtles through space. Join Art Mumsby and his sister Myrtle as they embark on an escape to save the universe.

And, of course, Ramona loves the "Harry Potter" series by JK Rowling!

Ramona doesn't only read children's books though. She's also an avid reader of adult fiction, and here are a few of her favorites.

Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's "The Great American Read," "Ready Player One," by Ernest Cline, brings readers into a dystopian world of 1980s pop culture and nostalgia.

"Blackout," by Connie Willis, follows the adventures of time-traveling historians as they are thrust into World War II Britain during the Blitz and begin to think that they can change the past.

Author Donna Tartt won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for "The Goldfinch," but Ramona favors her earlier work, "The Secret



History." A group of classics students fall under the cult-like spell of their charismatic professor, ultimately leading to disaster.

If you love fantasy, then check out "Name of the Wind" by Patrick Rothfuss. Also called "The Kingkiller Chronicle: Day One," this book takes place in the fictional world of Temerant and follows the life of Kvothe as he travels through childhood tragedy to happiness as a young man and ultimate exile from his hard-earned success.

Stop by the library to meet Ramona and check out the exciting programs we're offering all summer long!

—Chelsie Harris is managing librarian 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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Mission Trails clears hurdle toward expansion

JEFF CLEMETSON | LA MESA COURIER

Mission Trails Regional Park, already considered to be one of the crown jewels of parks in San Diego, is poised to become an even bigger and brighter gem for outdoor enthusiasts.

On May 21, San Diego City Council voted unanimously to approve a master plan update (MPU) for Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) that maps out how the park will expand acreage, improve infrastructure, provide more outdoor activities, improve trails, and better protect habitat and natural resources.

“Mission Trails is a special place for me, just as it is for thousands of other San Diegans,” said Councilmember Scott Sherman in a statement after the vote. “The area was my playground as a child even before it became an official park, instilling a deep appreciation for the outdoors that I still carry today. I thank the City Council for approving this update so we can continue investing in this natural treasure.”

The most significant change in the MTRP master plan update — it’s first since 1985 — is the addition of new acreage in the East Elliott and Sycamore West sections of the park. The update will increase the size of MTRP from 5,380 acres to approximately 9,780 acres with the potential to acquire additional property in the future — mostly from a planned annexation of the Sycamore Landfill property. Other areas of park expansion would be from private landowners in East Elliott.

As of now, there are no legal trails in East Elliott. Current trails are utility access roads and user-created trails that cross public and private land and are not formally designed or planned and have no legal access. The MPU contains recommendations that provide guidance for the long-term development of a trail network within East Elliott area that can be implemented as lands are brought into public ownership or are permitted for private development. It is anticipated that trail linkages within the area may eventually provide a connection to trails within the county’s Gooden Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve and the West Sycamore area of MTRP.

As the park adds acreage, there will be more rangers added to the staff to patrol and service it, said Dorothy Leanord, chair of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC), a group that worked closely on developing the MPU.

The MPU lays out recommendations throughout the park for planning, management, funding, facilities, habitat/species conservation and recreation. Once the updated plan is ready to be implemented, park staff and the MTRP CAC will work together to prioritize what specific projects are worked on first.

“I anticipate at future CAC meetings asking for input from

the public regarding their priorities,” Leanord said.

Some of the general planning recommendations in the MPU include designing neighborhood or community parks on the perimeter of MTRP to be compatible in design and look and incorporating trail linkages and recreation into developments adjacent to the park; removing the extension of Clairemont Mesa Boulevard and the addition of Jackson Drive within the park boundaries as part of next Tierrasanta community plan update; coordinating with cities and SANDAG to determine the feasibility of locating a bus stop at one or more locations in park; and supporting implementation of the River Park Master Plan within the park.

Management recommendations include developing a fire response plan; conducting paleontological monitoring; and working with tribal councils, educational institutions, etc. to develop strategies for protecting the park and developing park programs.

The funding recommendations direct the park to pursue grants to fund projects in the MPU.

Recommendations for facilities are to keep signs and buildings consistent in design.

The habitat/species recommendations provide guidance on fencing in the park, monitoring of plants and animals, dealing with invasive species and specific plans to protect various endangered or sensitive species.

The recreation recommendations set standards on how trails should look and where and how they should be built.

In addition to the planned improvements to the new sections of the park — East Elliott and Sycamore West — the MPU also lays out specific recommendation for the other sections of the park.

For Lake Murray, the MPU includes a plan for the Mission Trails Golf Course property in the case that running the golf course is no longer viable for the city. If that were to happen, the plan calls for the city-owned turf sections of the golf course between Jackson Drive and Navajo Road to be used for active and passive recreation, family and group picnicking and to build meandering trails and a linear open play area that connects Lake Murray to Cowles Mountain.

Also, the city-owned land southwest of Jackson Drive and north of the lake would be turned into a tree-canopied area for picnicking and small group day use.

Another area slated for improvements in Lake Murray is the undeveloped area south of the ballfields between Del Cerro Bay and Cowles Bay, which would be developed with a group picnic area with small shade structures, tables and benches.

The Lake Murray plan also calls for building a new trail connection from Del Cerro to the western shoreline of Lake Murray utilizing an existing utility access road and

creating an improved trail connection to Sunset Park in La Mesa.

For MTRP’s most popular hiking area, Cowles Mountain, the MPU recommends designing and building an off-street gravel parking area at the Barker Way entrance and another in the area just north of Golfcrest Drive off Mission Gorge Road adjacent to the San Diego County Water Authority pipeline access portal to provide northerly access to the Pyles Peak trail and a potential rock climbing area. The MPU also proposes relocating parking at the south end of Mesa Road and revegetating the existing parking area while keeping the existing trailhead kiosk and gate.

Proposed changes to the Cowles Mountain trails include building a more formal trailhead entrance; restoring trails and closing off user-created paths; and constructing a new trail connection from the Padre Dam water tank to Big Rock to create a portion of a large loop on the east side of Pyles Peak and north of Cowles Mountain.

For the Mission Gorge area of the park, the MPU recommends MTRP consider acquiring the 200-plus acres of land owned by the city of San Diego’s Public Utility District on Kwaay Paay as dedicated parkland.

A major re-naturalization effort is also recommended where the park would coordinate with adjacent landowners to restore

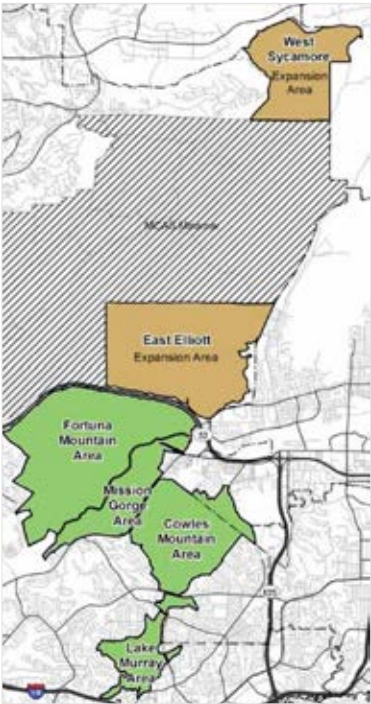
the perimeter around Kumeyaay Lake and redirect the San Diego River back to its former course to reduce sedimentation and spread of invasive species.

Facility and recreation upgrades for Mission Gorge include installing EV charging stations at the Visitor Center; operating Kumeyaay Lake as an overnight campground; expanding the bike skills area; constructing a parking lot on the eastern side of Father Junipero Serra Trail between Mission Gorge Road and Visitor Center; building a permanent restroom at the Old Mission Dam staging area; and constructing a Deerfield Canyon Nature Park in the 2 acres next to the bike skills area with picnic tables, fitness course and children’s play area.

The MPU also recommends building a path along the river in accordance with the San Diego River Park Master Plan and constructing a suspension or truss bridge for pedestrians and bikes to cross the river.

The Fortuna area of the park has the most recommendations in the MPU, almost all of which are to either assess new trails or close and restore existing ones.

“The trails in the Fortuna area were not created as recreational trails but for use by the military and other agencies with easements in the area,” explained Leanord on why the Fortuna area is in need of so much restoration work.



Original boundaries and expansion areas of Mission Trails Regional Park (Courtesy City of San Diego)

Now that the MPU has been passed by City Council, the final hurdle before any of the recommendations can be implemented is a vote by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, although a date has not yet been set.

“We are looking forward to support from the County Board of Supervisors and setting priorities so we can get started on some much-needed trail improvements,” Leanord said.

To view the MTRP master plan update, visit bit.ly/2MEGgDR.

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

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San Diego commemorates 250 years

By KAREN SCANLON | LA MESA COURIER

Once a dusty hamlet and a boomtown gone bust, today San Diego is the eighth largest city in the nation. Put on your party hats — July 16 marks the 250th anniversary of America's Finest City and the celebration is underway.

"The San Diego we know today began on July 16, 1769, with the dedication of Mission San Diego de Alcalá by Spanish friars, Fathers Junipero Serra and Juan Crespi," notes San Diego History Center historians Dave Miller, Ph.D., and Andy Strathman, Ph.D.

Of course, some 2,000 years before the arrival of the Spanish, native Kumeyaay were settled in the area. Miller and Strathman note that, "Archeological evidence of earlier inhabitants supports many elders' belief that Kumeyaay

ancestors have been here far longer, perhaps 10,000 years."

Originally, the mission was located on Presidio Hill. Two-hundred years earlier, the same bit of soil had been acclaimed in 1542 and named San Miguel by Spanish explorer and navigator, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo.

Another Spanish explorer and entrepreneur, Sebastian Viscaino, came along in 1602 and gave the area a new name, San Diego.

Presidio Hill is often mistaken today for Mission San Diego, but that first mission church, barracks of early Spanish soldiers, and the houses of civilians have crumbled over time into shapeless mounds of clay. (Archeological excavation is ongoing.)

This original mission was relocated in 1774 to its present site six miles inland in Mission Valley.

The striking structure that stands on Presidio Hill today was dedicated in 1929 as the Junipero Serra Museum. Constructed in the simplicity of early Franciscan churches, Serra Museum was gifted to the citizens of San Diego by George W. Marston, department store owner, politician, and philanthropist.

Serra Museum would become the keeping place of aged documents, maps, and photographs collected by pioneer historians, and a permanent home to San Diego Historical Society.

GAINING INDEPENDENCE

History notes that the Mexican War for independence began in 1810, and by 1821, Mexico had gained freedom from Spain.



A decrepit-looking Mission San Diego de Alcalá in 1929. The mission was relocated from Presidio Hill in 1774 to its present site six miles inland.

"San Diego became part of Mexico in April 1822 when the Mexican flag was raised over the Presidio." (The early fort, or headquarters of the American Army, stayed put on the hill when the mission was moved.)

Inhabitants of the Presidio began to settle in what is known today as Old Town State Park. New arrivals were few, and in 1838, San Diego's pueblo status was revoked with fewer than 150 residents.

"San Diego remained a small outpost in Mexican California, relying on ranching and the lucrative hide and tallow trade."

After a revolt against Mexican rule, a good bit of fussing and bloody fighting, and a battle at San Pasqual, ultimately the Americans defeated the Californians and the American flag was raised in the square at Old Town. The Mexican-American War ended in 1848, and two years later, California was admitted to the United States as the 31st state in the Union.

'MORE MONEY THAN BRAINS'

William Heath Davis arrived in San Diego in 1850 envisioning a prosperous seaport community. Lumber for building up his New Town was so scarce that he shipped pre-fabricated Saltbox-style houses from Maine. (One of these homes stands on Island Avenue in its third location as the Davis-Horton House.) It was a hard sell for people to leave Old Town.

Davis' wealth had been the result of his developing trade routes between Hawaii, China, and San Francisco. Sadly, a San Francisco fire in 1851 destroyed the bulk of his earnings and he returned to the Bay Area. Davis abandoned his New Town San Diego efforts, and residents dubbed it 'Davis' Folly'.

New Town withered until new life was given it by Alonzo E. Horton

in 1867. Horton was a provisions purveyor during the gold rush, but when that boom died out, he came to San Diego.

Long story short, Horton purchased 960 acres at a land auction. Judge Hollister outbid on a parcel and insisted Horton up the ante. A few cents later Hollister groaned, "You can have it, Horton. I wouldn't give a mill an acre for all you have bought." (A mill equals one-tenth of a penny.) And residents of Old Town were satisfied that Horton must have more money than brains.

"When San Diego attained a long-awaited rail connection to the East in 1885, excitement about the area's future triggered the 'Boom of the Eighties,'" say Miller and Strathman. Population grew from about 2,600 in 1880 to nearly 35,000 by 1887. "Boosters and businessmen built vital infrastructure, including telephone, gas, and water systems."

John D. Spreckels arrived at the boom's height and invested in real estate and wharf facilities.

Land values collapsed by the end of the decade and population dropped to some 16,000. In the boom's wake was left the iconic Hotel del Coronado.

A MILITARY PRESENCE

San Diego's first harbor defense was an adobe fortification known as La Punta de los Guijarros constructed in the lee of Point Loma peninsula, at Ballast Point. In 1852, U.S. President Millard Fillmore signed an executive order to create a military reservation at the peninsula's tip.

Gun emplacements began to dot the hills of Point Loma as early as 1870, and by 1904, the U.S. Army post of Fort Rosecrans was completed. Fifteen gun batteries were constructed. Today their decaying remains are nearly hidden from view.

Chamber of Commerce forged a relationship with the U.S. Navy as far back as 1902 with the building



Dedication of Junipero Serra Museum on Presidio Hill, 1929 (Photos courtesy of San Diego History Center)

of a coaling station at La Playa. Steam ships of the era needed fuel. However, dredging the bay was of critical issue before the Navy could be coaxed into staying.

"Federally funded military infrastructure would benefit growth and commercial shipping," note Miller and Strathman. Pressure of Congress brought the creation of a training station, shipyard, hospital, and other facilities over 100 years, including the U.S. Marine Recruit Depot. "William Kettner, San Diego's 'million dollar congressman' helped establish San Diego as a Navy town in the years between two world wars."

MEN AND THEIR FLYING MACHINES

Names like John J. Montgomery, with his first successful heavier-than-air flight at Otay Mesa in 1883, and the exploits of Glenn Curtis truly established aviation development in San Diego. Curtis began an aviation training school at North Island.

"Commercial aviation took off, too. T. Claude Ryan arrived in San Diego in 1922 to help launch a regularly scheduled passenger airline with flights to Los Angeles, and designed the monoplane that Charles Lindbergh would make famous in 1937," say Miller and Strathman.

San Diego would also become a major center of military aircraft production. In 1933, Reuben H. Fleet relocated his Consolidated Aircraft plant here, which produced the B-24 bomber and longer-range PB-4Y. Chula Vista-based Rohr Aircraft, Ryan Aeronautical Company, and General Dynamics remained regional employers long past the second World War.

EXTRACURRICULAR SAN DIEGO

Rail connections and a readapted train station were in place by 1915 for the opening of the Panama-California Exposition. The fair transformed the open spaces of "City Park" (which became Balboa Park) highlighting Spreckels' gift to the city in the form of the world's largest pipe organ.

Despite intention to build much of the venue as temporary structures, many remain and Bertram Goodhue's Spanish Colonial architecture forever defines Balboa Park.

A second monthslong event, the California Pacific International Exposition, was held at Balboa Park

2019 Civic Celebrations

July 13-14: Mission San Diego de Alcalá

Festival and Blessing of the Bells (bring your own bell to be blessed), Saturday with the ringing of Mission bells at noon. Blessing of the Animals, Sunday at 3 p.m.

Enjoy a two-day festival with food, games, and fun. Visit the mission website for monthly events to honor the 2019 Jubilee Year.

July 16: A civic ceremony commemorating San Diego's past and the site of the first permanent European settlement in California. The event honors the 250th anniversary date of the 1769 dedication of Mission San Diego de Alcalá.

Presidio Hill, 5-8 p.m. Sponsored by San Diego History Center

Sept. 14-15: Founders' Day Festival, celebrating the birthplace of San Diego, will feature entertainment, vendors, and activities for the whole family.

Immerse yourself in San Diego history at this weekend-long festival.

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sponsored by Old Town State Historic Park. Event is free to the public.

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LA MESA COURIER

COMMUNITY AND ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

Saturday, June 29



The Flipside Burners
Grossmont Center's free summer concert series kicks off with the rockabilly music of The Flipside Burners. 5 p.m. at Grossmont Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Drive, La Mesa.

Sunday, June 30



Sundays at Six: It's Never 2L8
Come out and hear the classic rock stylings of It's Never 2L8 as part of La Mesa's summer Sunday concert in the park series. 6 p.m. at Harry Griffen Park, 9550 Milden St. Free.

Thursday, July 4



Lake Murray Fireworks and MusicFest
Family-friendly fun to celebrate the birthday of our nation. Featuring music by Republic of Music, Big Time Operator, Bam Bam and Frankie T & The Triple Bee. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Lake Murray Community Park, 7001 Murray Park Drive, in San Carlos. Free. Visit lakemurrayfireworks.org.

Friday, July 5



'The Sunshine Boys' Through Aug. 4
The story of this play written by Neil Simon follows the attempt by a young theatrical agent to

reunite his elderly uncle, a former vaudevillian great, with his long-time stage partner for a TV reunion. Despite their celebrated reputation, the old men have not spoken in 12 years. Besides remastering their sketch, the two men have numerous issues to work out before they are ready to return to the public eye. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. at Lamplighters Community Theatre, 5915 Severin Drive, La Mesa. Tickets are \$23 general admission; \$20 seniors, students and active military; group rate of 10 or more for \$18 each. Visit lamplighterslamesa.com.

Sunday, July 7



Sundays at Six: Wild Nights
The rock 'n' roll of Wild Nights will be featured at this event, part of La Mesa's summer Sunday concert in the park series. 6 p.m. at Harry Griffen Park, 9550 Milden St. Free.

Friday, July 12



'13 The Musical' Through July 20
Geek. Poser. Jock. Beauty Queen. Wannabe. These are the labels that can last a lifetime. With an unforgettable rock score from Tony Award-winning composer, Jason Robert Brown ("Parade, The Last Five Years, Bridges of Madison County"), "13" is a musical about fitting in — and standing out! Thursdays and Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. at ENCORE! Theatre, 9620 Campo Road, Spring Valley. \$13 tickets available at bit.ly/2KI8hy9.

Saturday, July 13

heART of Mt. Helix Juried Art Show Kick Off Party
Join Nainsook Framing + Art for this kick-off party, a precursor to the annual fundraiser at the top of Mt. Helix (held on Aug. 10). This juried art show will feature the people, places and events of Mt. Helix. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served so bring friends and family to share in this fun event! If you are an artist or photographer and would like to enter, visit bit.

ly/2ISX19f for the prospectus. All art and photography must be turned in to Nainsook on Wednesday, July 10. This free event begins at 6 p.m. at Nainsook Framing + Art, 8130 La Mesa Blvd.

Sunday, July 14



Second Sunday Community Concerts: Danny Green and Tripp Sprague Duo
Second Sunday Community Concerts presents the music of Danny Green and Tripp Sprague. Danny plays piano and has recorded five CDs with this trio. Tripp is the brother of well-respected San Diego jazz guitarist, Peter Sprague. Tripp plays flute and saxophone. Second Sunday free concerts are held at Mission Trails Church, 4880 Zion Ave., San Diego, from 3-4 p.m.



Sundays at Six: Ginger Cowgirl
Ginger Cowgirl brings the country music to La Mesa's summer Sunday concert in the park series. 6 p.m. at Harry Griffen Park, 9550 Milden St. Free.

Wednesday, July 17



Dive-In Movie Nights: 'Hotel Transylvania 3'
Swimming, movie and pizza party for the whole family

at The Salvation Army Kroc Center, 6845 University Ave., San Diego. Doors at 6:30 p.m., movie starts at 7 p.m. \$5 for guests and free for members. \$5 for Woodstock's Pizza, proceeds go to Heroes! Visit bit.ly/2WMBnSu.

Friday, July 19



Movies in the Parks: 'Aquaman'
A special dive-in movie presentation of "Aquaman" will kick off La Mesa's free summer movie series held at parks around the city. 8:15 p.m. at the Municipal Pool, 5100 Memorial Drive.

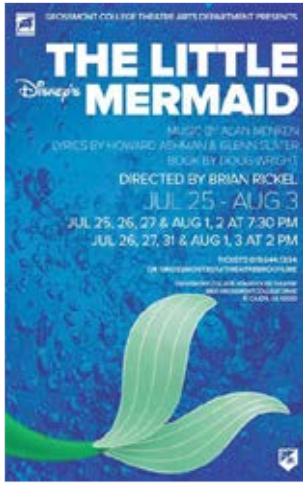
Sunday, July 21



Sundays at Six: 8-Track Highway
8-Track Highway brings its special mix of "yacht rock" to La Mesa's summer Sunday concert in the park series. 6 p.m. at Harry Griffen Park, 9550 Milden St. Free.

Thursday, July 25

'The Little Mermaid' Through Aug. 3
The Grossmont College Theater Arts Department presents Disney's "The Little Mermaid," based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic



animated film. A hauntingly beautiful love story for all ages, this fishy fable will capture your heart with its irresistible songs, including "Under the Sea," "Kiss the Girl" and "Part of Your World." Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and a 2 p.m. matinee, except for opening night July 25. Additional Wednesday matinee on July 31. At The Summer Arts Conservatory, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon. Tickets are \$15 general admission; \$12 for seniors, military and faculty; \$10 for students. For more details, call 619-644-7234. ■

RECURRING EVENTS

Mondays Note Catchers
California Note Catchers, four-part harmony chorus, invite ladies of all ages to their rehearsals 7-9 p.m. Performances throughout SD. Located in Social Hall of La Mesa First United Methodist Church, 4690 Palm Ave. 619-464-3727.

Tuesdays La Mesa Walks!
Enjoy a fun walk with friends and neighbors. First and third Tuesdays, meet at various locations, second and fourth Tuesdays meet at 9 a.m. at La Mesa Library, 8074 Allison Ave. Call 619-667-1300 for more information.

Wednesdays Senior Women's Support Group
City of La Mesa offers senior women's support group, every Wednesday 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the La Mesa Adult Enrichment Center, 8450 La Mesa Blvd. Please contact 619-667-1322.

Wellness Wednesday
Wellness Wednesday is a health series normally held on the fourth Wednesday of each

month in the Herrick Library, 9001 Wakarusa St. in La Mesa. Admission is free and advance RSVP is not required. Light refreshments and informational handouts will be available. For more information, call the library at 619-825-5010 or visit herricklibrary.org.

Thursdays Classic Car Show
The La Mesa Village Association is proud to host this year's La Mesa Classic Car Show featuring pre-1974 cars, trucks, and vans! The event will feature DJs and live bands located at Third Street and La Mesa Boulevard, and an award giveaway at each event honoring the night's best cars. The 2019 La Mesa Classic Car Show will take place each Thursday from 5-8 p.m. starting on June 6 and running through Aug. 29. Note: there will not be a car show on the 4th of July.

Movie Matinee
The La Mesa Adult Enrichment Center hosts a series of modern and classic film viewings every Thursday at 1 p.m. in the center's main hall. Cost is \$2 per ticket. For movie listings, visit bit.ly/2FVrOSQ.

Fridays La Mesa farmers market
La Mesa's farm ers market offers fresh local produce, florals, pastries, live music, and arts and crafts each Friday. 3-7 p.m. along La Mesa Boulevard. Free. Visit lamesavillageassociation.org.

Saturdays Shop Local Market
Last Saturday of the month at Grossmont Center, participating shops set up tables outside and offer markdowns and new product showcases. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 5500 Grossmont Center Drive, La Mesa.

Sundays Traveling Stories
Visit Grossmont Center each Sunday for an interactive story time for kids. Kids visit the StoryTent, pick out a book that interests them, and then read it out loud to a volunteer. The volunteer asks engaging questions that help the child build reading comprehension and critical thinking skills all while earning book bucks to trade for cool prizes. Free. 5500 Grossmont Center Drive, La Mesa. ■

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Sudoku & Crossword puzzle answers from page 23

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

S	M	E	H	T		U	V	E		V	D	O		
E	X	K	C	V		W	E	H	O		I	H	O	N
A	H	I	V		S	V	D	V	L		S	V	H	E
E	C	N	E	M	E	H	E			D	E	C	V	
				L	P	E	N	I		B	E	N		K
V	W	S		I	P	E		S	O	H	V	S		
B	V	T	S		E	L	V		E	N	I	T	E	D
S	H	V	E	S		L	I	N		V	E	H	O	K
	D	E	Z	I	N	O	W	I	S		W	V	T	S
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S	H		T	V	D		S	E	B	O	S			
T	V	B	V	C		D	E	L	I	E	S	N	E	B
E	B	I	C		N	V	D	V	S		C	I	B	N
E	O	B	O		E	H	V	D		C	V	T	I	T
S	B	V	T		D	V	D		S	D	O	H	S	

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RWCNC

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

The attack on Proposition 13 will come in two parts. First, Sacramento will try to eliminate its protections for businesses with a ballot initiative in 2020. If successful, they will attack Proposition 13’s protections for homeowners in a subsequent election. The best way to protect Proposition 13 for homeowners is to defeat the attack on businesses in the upcoming 2020 election. Be educated and be aware of who is trying to push for its repeal.

As exciting and informative as our May meeting was, we feel sure that the June meeting featuring Carl DeMaio will be equally stimulating and educational. As a former member of the San Diego City Council and currently hosting an afternoon daily news and

political show on News Radio 600 AM KOGO, DeMaio is up to the minute on all the hot political issues. He serves as chair of Reform California, which campaigns against tax increases and advocates for multiple government reforms, including the repeal of the gas tax. This is a meeting you don’t want to miss!

We welcome fellow Republicans to join us June 11 to hear Carl DeMaio’s presentation at the Brigantine Restaurant in La Mesa. Check-in begins at 10:30 a.m. for the 11 a.m. meeting. Reservations are required 24 hours in advance. Cost is \$25 and a full course lunch is served. Cash and checks are accepted, but no credit cards. These luncheons sell out quickly, so be sure to RSVP early to RSVPrwcnc@gmail.com. If you don’t receive a confirmation, please call or text Marjie at 619-990-2791.

For more information on our activities and to learn of future events, please visit our website RWCNavajo-Canyon.org and visit us on Facebook at Republican Women of California.

Navajo Nights, a special summer evening get together is being planned for July. It will be a chance to visit friends, enjoy appetizers, hear a Republican speaker and be part of a relaxing happy hour. As we don’t have our regular lunch meeting in July and August, this is a perfect opportunity to meet our members and learn more about Republican Women of California-Navajo Canyon. Plans are being finalized now, so please check our website for an update on the date, time, place and details.

—Pat Boerner writes on behalf of Republican Women of California-Navajo Canyon.■

250 Years

CONTINUED FROM Page 20

in 1935 to promote San Diego’s economy that had slowed during the country’s Great Depression.

Sports and athletics have long been a source of civic pride. Lane Field brought the Padres, who joined Major League Baseball status in 1969. Jack Murphy Stadium was built in 1967, and hosted the hometown Chargers.

Notables in San Diego’s sports history are the arrival of the Gulls hockey team in 1966, creation of the sport triathlon in 1974, and the U.S. Olympic Training Center that opened in 1995.

In 1916, brothers Harry and Paul Wegeforth launched the San Diego Zoological Society and the formation of San Diego Zoo with ‘leftover’ animals from the 1915 exposition.

“The city’s promotion of tourism is also evident in the development of Mission Bay. A 1958 master plan paved the way for boat launches, beaches, playgrounds, hotels, and the opening of SeaWorld in 1964,” Miller and Strathman said.

Turns out, Alonzo Horton had brains and money, that he foresaw a city worth more than a tenth of a penny. Today, he might enjoy a craft beer, a jaunt through vibrant neighborhoods like Barrio Logan, or a trek across San Diego-Coronado Bridge.

Cheers, San Diego, 250 years!

La Mesa Courier thanks San Diego History Center and



Alonzo Horton developed his New Town on 960 acres he purchased in 1867 at a land auction. Shoppers attend to business at Fifth and Broadway, 1903. (Photo courtesy of San Diego History Center)

historians Drs. David Miller and Andy Strathman for contributions to this article. For a complete timeline of San Diego’s history, visit sandiegohistory.org/archives/biographysubject/timeline/

—Karen Scanlon is a freelance writer who can be reached at kws-canlon@gmail.com.■

News briefs

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

nomination period become eligible to be nominated for a People’s Choice Award in August.

“Orchids & Onions provides the community an opportunity to be a part of a larger discussion about the quality of San Diego’s built environment and how it impacts their day-to-day life,” said Laura Warner, Orchids & Onions program co-chair and principal architect for CityWorks. “It provides San Diegans the opportunity to share their thoughts about what makes for a good or bad place that ultimately results in better planning, growth and future development of San Diego.”

Participants can nominate projects for the following categories: architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, interior design, historic preservation, and miscellaneous. The miscellaneous category encompasses other environmental design features such as public art, lighting programs, and wayfinding systems.

Following the nominations period, which began June 1 and runs through July 6, a group of design professionals determine the official Orchids & Onions Awards Ceremony at the historic U.S. Grant Hotel on Oct. 3. The public can nominate a project at orchidsandonions.org/nominate.

PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS OPENS IN LA MESA

Recycled sports equipment retailer Play It Again Sports held a grand opening at its new La Mesa location on June 13. The new shop is located in the La Mesa



Play It Again Sports is now open in La Mesa Springs shopping center. (Courtesy Fishman Public Relations)

Springs shopping center at 8011 University Ave., Suite C-4.

Play it Again Sports buys and sells gently-used sports and fitness equipment — including football equipment, baseball gloves and bats, hockey gear, golf clubs, soccer, lacrosse equipment, motorized treadmills, elliptical and bikes, benches and weights, and more.

The store is owned by Dan Buxton and is open 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Sundays.■

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PUZZLES

ANSWERS ON PAGE 22

SUDOKU

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

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

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16					17					18			
19				20					21				
			22					23				24	
25	26	27		28				29			30		
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38				39			40
	41				42				43		44		
		45						46		47		48	
49	50		51				52				53		
54		55				56					57	58	59
60					61						62		
63					64					65			
66					67					68			

- ACROSS**

 - 1 Stores
 - 6 Worthless entertainment
 - 9 Where scientists work
 - 13 Pretty flower
 - 14 A way to act
 - 15 Double-reed instrument
 - 16 Type of acid
 - 17 Famed astronomer
 - 18 Smooth, shiny fabric
 - 19 Profited from
 - 21 Secret clique
 - 22 Infections
 - 23 Crony
 - 24 Teens go here every day (abbr.)
 - 25 Suitable
 - 28 Fresh Price of ___ Air
 - 29 Ancient city of Egypt
 - 31 Basketball move
 - 33 Polished
 - 36 There’s a north and a south
 - 38 Egg of a louse
 - 39 Once-ubiquitous department store
 - 41 Portray precisely
 - 44 Thick piece of something
 - 45 Period between eclipses
 - 46 Indicates near
 - 48 Investment account
 - 49 England, Scotland, N Ireland, and Wales (abbr.)
 - 51 Beak
 - 52 Void of skill
 - 54 Walked back and forth
 - 56 A display of passion
 - 60 Geological times
 - 61 Type of restaurant
 - 62 Spacious
 - 63 Edible seaweed
 - 64 Utah city
 - 65 Tropical tree
 - 66 Nervous tissue compound
 - 67 Body part
 - 68 Muscles and tendons
- DOWN**

 - 1 Draw out wool
 - 2 Give someone a job
 - 3 Chemical and ammo manufacturer
 - 4 Footsteps
 - 5 The Palmetto State
 - 6 Books have lots of them
 - 7 Diverse Israeli city
 - 8 It’s mightier than the sword
 - 9 Confines
 - 10 First month of the Jewish ecclesiastical year
 - 11 Idaho’s highest peak
 - 12 Prevents from seeing
 - 14 Determine time
 - 17 Father children
 - 20 Tab on a key ring
 - 21 Dog genus
 - 23 Peter’s last name
 - 25 Request
 - 26 Walk heavily
 - 27 Allowances
 - 29 English football squad
 - 30 Fish-eating aquatic mammals
 - 32 South Pacific island region
 - 34 Unaccounted for
 - 35 Small taste of whiskey
 - 37 Ventilated
 - 40 Helps little firms
 - 42 One of means
 - 43 Fencing swords
 - 47 Inches per minute (abbr.)
 - 49 Turn upside down
 - 50 S. African semi desert
 - 52 Dutch names of Ypres
 - 53 Instruct
 - 55 Oily freshwater fish
 - 56 Italian river
 - 57 Sneaker giant
 - 58 The men who man a ship
 - 59 Some need glasses
 - 61 Body part
 - 65 Indicates position



**Happy Summer!
Happy Birthday
America!**

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