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San Diego Community News Network



Hospital administration, employees and Grantville community members browse the Kaiser Zion farmers market at its April 4 opening. (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

## KAISER ZION OPENS FARMERS MARKET

Jeff Clemetson  
Editor

On April 4, Kaiser Permanente Zion Medical Center cut the ribbon on a long-awaited farmers market at the hospital.

"I am off the chart excited. This is something we've been wanting to do for a long, long time," said Jane Finley, Kaiser senior vice president and area manager for San Diego. "[This

market] supports everything we stand for, which is healthy eating and active living — thriving."

The now open farmers market is held weekly on Wednesdays, noon–4 p.m. in the front parking lot of Kaiser Zion Medical Center, 4647 Zion Ave. in Grantville.

Although the plan to open a farmers market at the hospital had been in the works for several years, it was only after Kaiser opened its new San Diego Medical Center in

Kearney Mesa that it became possible.

"We just didn't have room when we had all of our patients coming to one hospital," said Jim Malone, chief administrative officer for Kaiser Permanente San Diego. "The parking lot was full so it was really difficult to find space to do it. Now that we have the two hospitals this one isn't as impacted."

See MARKET page 3

## San Carlos man has surprise encounter with lion

Audrey F. Baker

"I almost hit a mountain lion – in San Carlos!"

Mike Johanning, a San Carlos resident since 1997, was coming home from dinner around 11 p.m. on March 29. Heading westbound on Navajo Road, and approaching the silhouette of Cowles Mountain to his right and Mission Trails Golf Course to his left, his beams lit up an unexpected sight.



Mike Johanning's dashcam caught the mountain lion crossing the road. (YouTube)

See LION page 5

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**Local coach creates aid for power hitters of all ages**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**Local coach creates aid for power hitters of all ages**

**Hit for the future**

**Young coaches' reaches boys and girls in**

**Hit for the future**

**Young coaches' reaches boys and girls in**

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Forum to host 'law and order' candidates

On April 29, Temple Emanu-El will host a "Law & Order Candidate Forum."

The forum will be moderated by Voice of San Diego editor Scott Lewis and county district attorney candidates Genevieve Jones-Wright and Summer Stephan. County sheriff candidate Dave Myers will be answering questions. Sheriff Bill Gore has been invited but has yet to confirm that he will attend the event.

Topics covered during the forum will include criminal justice issues, community safety concerns and victim empowerment, among others. Light refreshments will be served to attendees.

The forum will run 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 6299 Capri Drive in Del Cerro. For more information, call 619-286-2555 or email temple@teesd.org.



The San Carlos Recreation Center boys 14-and-under basketball team (Photo by PBM Images)

### San Carlos Rec Center team wins basketball tournament

The boys 14-and-under basketball team from the San Carlos Recreation Department, coached by Nyk Roberson, won the city-wide Park and Recreation Department's Winter Basketball Tournament.

"We had a total of 21 teams in all age levels as part of our winter basketball program. Coach Nyk volunteers his time and expertise to help his players improve their basketball skills and become a motivated team," said Kristy Wells, center director for the San Carlos Recreation Center.

Robertson has been part of the volunteer San Carlos

See NEWS BRIEFS page 9



# Riverdale Shopping Center might see changes

## New owner looking to see what is legally possible

Doug Curlee  
Editor at Large

Brad Becker is looking to see exactly what he can do with the Riverdale Shopping Center that he recently purchased for \$10.1 million.

His company, Becker Properties, is engaged in the purchase and construction of shopping centers, among other endeavors.

"I think what we have here is a center that's been there

for a long time, and has a solid base of anchor tenants and leaseholders that would like to stay there and prosper as they have in the past." Becker said of the property that is located along Friars Road in Grantville. "What we're beginning now is the process of meeting with all our tenants, trying to see what they need and how we can make that happen for them. The rents there are well below current market, and some of the leases are coming due. We'll be

working on those to try to make everything good for all concerned."

The anchor tenants include Armstrong Nursery and a very busy CVS pharmacy, as well as a major restaurant, Black Angus. That lease is apparently about up, and Becker wants to see what that company's plans are before committing to anything at that site.

When Becker made an informal informational presentation to the Navajo Community Planning group on March 14, he mentioned that one of the things he'd like to see is a pair of drive-thru fast food operations. Pressed by the planning group's board for details, Becker said that an operation like a drive-thru Starbucks and drive-thru In-N-Out Burger have been mentioned in conversations, but no kind of commitment has been made on any of those ideas, and won't be for some time.

That is where Becker might run into a problem with the city of San Diego.

Planning group members Dan Smith and John La Raia reminded Becker that traffic overlay zones in the area prohibit the placing of drive-thrus



The Riverdale Shopping Center in Grantville is anchored by a CVS and Armstrong Garden Center. (Courtesy SENTRE)



Volunteers gathered at Ascension Lutheran Church to help build a new community garden. (Photos by Doug Curlee)

## Allied Gardens Community Garden underway

Doug Curlee  
Editor at Large

"We're all about feeding the hungry ... helping those in need."

You hear Rick Fry say that a lot, and he means it.

That's why his dream of starting a community garden in Allied Gardens is in the process of coming true, because he lives those words, and his congregation is right beside him in those efforts.

Fry is the pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church.

You might recall some months ago, when we covered a story about a small food bank he built alongside his property on 51st Street — a place where people who needed food could come and take what they needed.

It was a start, but Fry has dreamed of a garden where people could get involved in providing fresh-grown food.

On April 7, the initial planting in that garden happened, with a goodly crowd of church members and Allied Gardens citizens looking on and helping out.

The event also featured a table was set up by the Allied Gardens Benjamin Branch Library offering, among other things, little square cartons with seeds that children might want to plant in a planter box for the garden. People who brought trees for planting also gave out Frisbees for children to play with — making it a real community affair.

"This project just sort of took off after word got out about what we were trying," Fry said. "We've had donations from places you might not expect — other area churches have donated money, especially the Latter Day Saints ward next door,

companies like Brightview Landscaping — the list goes on, and we're very grateful."

Shain Haug of the Allied Gardens Community Council says his group is very supportive of the effort.

"It's really good to see this happen — I just wish it could be even bigger," he said.

It very possibly could be.

The Latter Day Saints ward just north of the current garden has a good deal of land it hasn't used for years, and there have been serious talks about making at least some of that land available for the garden's use.

It's a decision that would ultimately have to be made in Salt Lake City, but the possibility is there.

No one believes the Lutheran church can maintain the garden by itself, so there's a way to help if you want.

You could lease a 4-by-10-foot plot in the garden for \$100 a year, or you could maintain a fruit tree for \$150 a year.

That goes all the way up to a golden sunflower patch for \$1,000 a year.

The church needs a couple hundred feet of fencing, several garden hoses, shovels and hoes.

There will always be a need for willing people to come in and actually work in the garden, and Fry said he knows lots of people who like to grub in the dirt.

These days, there is a constant debate about what being a Christian really means — and who knows how many answers to that question.

This garden, and what it will provide to needy people, is as good a definition of Christianity as you're going to find.

—Doug Curlee is Editor at Large. Reach him at [doug@sdenn.com](mailto:doug@sdenn.com). ■



Pastor Rick Fry (second from right) overlooks volunteers planting a tree.

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### To-Do list

- |  |   |
|--|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Hang window treatments  | <input type="checkbox"/> Install moulding                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grout tile floor        | <input type="checkbox"/> Repair wood on deck                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Powerwash deck          | <input type="checkbox"/> Install backsplash                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repair kitchen drywall  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hang mirror in hallway                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fix cabinet hinge       | <input type="checkbox"/> Change ceiling light bulbs                             |
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► Market, from page 1

When most people think of farmers markets, they picture a blocked off street with vendors lining the middle of the road, or perhaps a grassy park area with booths — but what about a hospital parking lot?

“It’s really not as novel an idea as you’d think. We’ve been working on this for a few years. A lot of the Kaiser Permanente facilities have farmers markets around Southern California,” Malone said, adding that Kaiser farmers markets have been very successful and some have been operating for over 10 years.

“Kaiser Permanente tries to promote health and wellness so it goes right along with our mission in trying to bring along a lot of good healthy food to our communities — that’s really one of main reasons why we do it,” he said. “Plus, all our physicians and staff can come out on their break and buy some great, fresh vegetables and healthy kinds of food.”

Healthy, natural food was a theme of the grand opening during presentations by hospital administrators like Finley and Malone, as well as Councilmember Scott Sherman, who lives just four blocks away from the hospital. Sherman thanked Kaiser for opening its parking lot and shared why he is a fan of farmers markets.

“I’ve always been a gardener. I have my plot at the San Carlos Community Garden and I sponsor the urban agriculture incentive zones where we bring community gardens into neighborhoods and give property owners tax incentives to give up a piece of land for a community garden,” he said. “So, I love seeing what’s being brought here. It’s perfect for the



(l to r) Kaiser Permanente San Diego CAO Jim Malone, Councilmember Scott Sherman and Kaiser Senior VP and area manager Jane Finley (Photos by Jeff Clemetson)

hospital and the tie in for healthy living.”

Market manager Brian Beevers of Brian’s Farmers Markets said that he was given “strict direction from Kaiser” as well as his own “pickiness” to provide the market with the best produce he could find.

“We wanted some really healthy food to represent a place of health and so that’s why the vendors that we have here were specifically chosen,” he said.

There are currently 20 vendors at the market offering a mix of fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, hummus, hot food, flowers, plants, and some arts and crafts. More may be on the way. “We have space for more vendors. We can definitely stretch out a little bit further,” Beevers said. “We can probably fit another 15 vendors in here so it would be a nice mid-size market.”

That would be good news for local residents Lindsay Hangos and Dom Mitchell who live near the hospital and were excited to learn that a farmers market was opening in their neighborhood.

“Now I don’t have to drive all the way to Hillcrest. I’m all about the vegetables, nuts and plant-based food,” Hangos said, adding that the midday hours the market is open doesn’t bother her because Wednesday is her day off.

Carmelo Martinez, a vendor from Heritage Family Farms that sells oranges, citrus, avocados, and exotic fruits like passion fruit, is optimistic about the success of the market, even though he conceded that the midday hours of



Vendor Carmelo Martinez of Heritage Family Farms

operation will make it difficult for some people to visit.

“Well it seems like unusual farmers market hours, but it might work since there are patients getting appointments and getting off and the employees themselves at Kaiser,” he said. “So, we might have some sort of traffic flow — it might work for us.”

Tonya Gatsen, one of Kaiser Zion’s approximately 3,000 employees, said she will be a regular shopper.

“I love farmers markets. I get some veggies to make dinner, get fresh flowers for the week,” Gatsen said, adding that she also loves having more lunch options from the hot food vendors.

Although the midday hours and location make the market ideal for Kaiser, it is still meant to serve the broader community.

“I would encourage all the people in the community to come out. [The market] is not just for Kaiser Permanente. I want everyone to know this is open to anyone who wants to come,” Malone said.

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



Brian's Farmers Markets owner Brian Beevers



Da Luca, a San Diego leather goods company, is one of the few crafts vendors at the market.

How Owners Lose Thousands When Selling Their Homes

San Diego - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today’s market. The fact of this matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don’t get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and worse financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitles “The 9 Step System to Get your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar”. To order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800270-1494 and enter 1000. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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► Riverdale, from page 2

on that property, particularly since the property abuts Friars Road, a very heavy traffic area just about any time of day, but especially in the mornings.

“Yes, we understand that,” Becker said. “We’re right now engaged in meetings with the city to see what, if any, exceptions to the overlay zones we might be eligible for.”

He’s also aware that there is support from some quarters for high-density housing in the area, and he’s not sure what, if any, effect that might have on future plans.

However, if all this works out, Becker thinks he has a very good investment in the center.

“The sales volumes of the tenants are excellent, and we can update and refurbish this property, and change the tenant mix if needed, simply because it’s a center that has a great track record that we can build on.”

There’s no hard timeline for any of this, but Becker wants to get going on it.

He’ll be back to the Navajo Planning Group as soon as there are firm plans in mind — and on paper.

—Doug Curlee is Editor at Large. Reach him at [doug@sdccn.com](mailto:doug@sdccn.com). ■

# Grossmont Middle student represents at Poetry Out Loud finals

Margie M. Plamer

Grossmont Middle High School senior Kylie Greaves never expected she’d be chosen to represent San Diego at the Poetry Out Loud state finals — especially since California is the home of the nation’s largest statewide competition.

The program, which is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, is coordinated locally by San Diego Write Out Loud (SDWOL) and it encourages high school students to learn about poetry through performance, memorization and competition.

SDWOL Director and co-founder Veronica Murphy said that the students who want

to get involved with Poetry Out Loud make their own selection of poems that they’ll need to perform out of a 500-poem anthology.

“They have to read these poems and find out which ones resonate with them,” Murphy said. “They need to get really involved with it if they’re going to memorize and recite it. It gives kids an opportunity to stand before their peers and the community, to be confident and to perform.”

Greaves, who has been involved with the C. Hook Theater Company since 2015, said she was introduced to Poetry Out Loud during her junior year.

“I didn’t know what it was about, but I knew I liked poetry,” she said, adding that her English teacher encouraged her

to give it a shot. “She knew I was interested in theater, that I liked poetry and she knew what I liked to do in class and what I would get excited about. I really got into it.”

Fast forward to 2018, when Greaves signed on to compete at the countywide Poetry Out Loud competition at the San Diego Central Library. After placing first at the Feb. 6 event, she advanced to the state finals, which were held on March 18 and 19 in Sacramento.

“I never thought I would advance to state finals, because this one girl, her poems made me tear up and I thought she was going to win,” Greaves said. “I thought everyone who [performed at the countywide competition] was so talented, and that there was no way that I would be advancing.”

Her experience at finals, she said, was equally rewarding.

“[When I met the other finalists], they were the nicest group of people that I’ve ever met and honestly, they were all so supportive,” Greaves said.

Of the 46 participants in the state finals, the top spot went to Alexis Rangell-Onwuegbuzia from Mater Dei High School in Orange County, who will go on to represent California in the national competition held April 23–25 at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. While she wasn’t selected to advance to nationals, Greaves said she was happy to have had the opportunity to represent



Kylie Greaves performing a poem at the Poetry Out Loud state finals (Photo by Ron Logan)

San Diego during the state competition.

“I think with theater and in the arts, you do things to be the best. In theater, you want to get the main role. But with poetry, [this competition] was about supporting everyone and listening to what everyone had to say,” she said, and added that performing poetry on stage is about more than just standing up in front of a crowd. Performing, she said, helps give students a voice.

Greaves also encourages those who have been thinking about getting involved with Poetry Out Loud, but haven’t yet taken the leap, to give it a try.

“I would definitely say to do it, because although standing up in front of people and reading poetry is hard and intimidating, it’s important because it also gives you a voice,” she said. “I think it’s really important to have a voice right now, especially with everything that’s going on in politics. If you feel you don’t have a voice, poetry can give you that.”

—Freelance writer Margie M. Palmer can be reached at [mmpst19@gmail.com](mailto:mmpst19@gmail.com). ■



(l to r) Write Out Loud Executive Director Walter Ritter, San Diego Regional Champion Kylie Greaves and Write Out Loud Artistic Director Veronica Murphy (Photo by Ron Logan)

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► **Lion**, from page 1

“At first, I thought it was a coyote. When I saw its size, fully stretched-out, and that long, cat-like tail, I knew it was a mountain lion.”

His dash cam recorded the incident. Under full stride, the puma crossed Navajo and disappeared into the golf course.

“The adrenaline was really flowing,” Johanning said.

Upon arriving home, he downloaded the footage and uploaded the clip to social media.

“I wanted to get the word out and wanted people to be aware [of the sighting].”

He did just that. On YouTube alone, over 5,000 site visitors vicariously experienced a rare sighting.

For many viewers, the video brings additional public awareness to environmental issues. It illustrates the challenge of maintaining both biodiversity and public safety.

An early response to Johanning’s postings was an invitation to contact iNaturalist, a social network and database of naturalists, “citizen scientists” and biologists.

“I was pleased to have the opportunity to share the sighting with the scientific community,” Johanning said.

Veterinarian and professor Winston Vickers, of the Wildlife Health Center at University of California, Davis, was among those who viewed Johanning’s video. Dr. Vickers’ pursuits include an ongoing study, initiated in 2001, of puma populations in Orange,

Riverside and San Diego counties.

Vickers said the mountain lion seen in the video is an example of a young male exploring unfamiliar terrain.

“Understanding how threatened species respond to natural and human landscapes leads to proactive conservation solutions,” he said.

Research has shown that the prime mover in the biodiversity crisis is human land-use expansion.

When human land use spreads, habitat fragmentation results.

Heidi Gutknecht, a park ranger at Mission Trails Regional Park offers a likely scenario of why the puma crossed the road.

“As natural habitats continue to be broken up into smaller and smaller ‘islands’ surrounded by development, wildlife have no choice but to cross through our human habitats in order to get from one fragment of natural habitat to another,” she said.

Johanning’s video demonstrates the challenges animals face. Highways and roadways are substantial barriers to animal movement and reproductive health. Equally, it alerts us that unpredictable crossings may jeopardize human safety.

Both suggest an increased need for landscape “connectivity” improvements, including corridors between conserved lands and fencing that funnel animals to safe underpass crossing structures. These mitigation measures will reduce

animal/vehicle collisions in future.

Responding to the recent San Carlos sighting, Phoenix Von Hendy, president of the San Diego Tracking Team, offers insights on puma behavior and the rarity of the sighting.

“Mountain lions are quiet, solitary and elusive, and typically avoid people. [They] are not commonly encountered in San Diego County, and attacks on humans are really, really rare,” he said. “Our closest survey location to San Carlos is in Mission Trails Regional Park under Highway 52. Historically, mountain lion evidence has been noted every couple years. Our records show they are not present on a regular basis in any of the locations where we perform wildlife monitoring.”

Bob Forthun, education coordinator for the San Diego River Park Foundation, addressed the issue of preserving our environment for future generations.

“When we educate our children on the importance of creating and maintaining open space, those children will grow up to have a sense of responsibility for the environment, and take positive action,” Forthun said. “Large animals, such as mountain lions, need lots of space to hunt, find water, shelter, and mates. If we create and maintain corridors linking wilderness areas for these animals, we do much to create a



Mountain lions are being pushed from their habitats by human land-use expansion. (Wikimedia Commons)

safe and positive environment for all.”

Heidi Gutknecht, a park ranger at Mission Trails Regional Park advises that any incident of a mountain lion seen leaving Cowles Mountain should be reported to Mission Trails staff, or to U.S. Fish and Wildlife offices. Police contact is appropriate when a large animal is accidentally hit and its body poses a traffic hazard.

In cases of direct contact, Ranger Gutknecht has some recommendations.

“Stay calm. Do not run. Do not approach it,” she said. “Hold your ground and raise your arms up and out to the sides, making yourself appear larger. If it approaches you, yell loudly. On the off-chance that it should

try to attack, fight back. Report the sighting/encounter to on-site staff and local wildlife agencies.”

Johanning said his posting of his “close encounter” video was a “positive experience.”

“If you’re sharing with others and it gets people thinking, and sparks involvement, it’s a great thing,” he said. “I’m glad the mountain lion is safe and hope it stays safe. These intelligent creatures deserve our very best effort at preserving their wild space.”

—Audrey F. Baker is a former trail guide at Mission Trails Regional Park and is currently embarking on a freelance writing career. Reach her at aud1baker@gmail.com. ■

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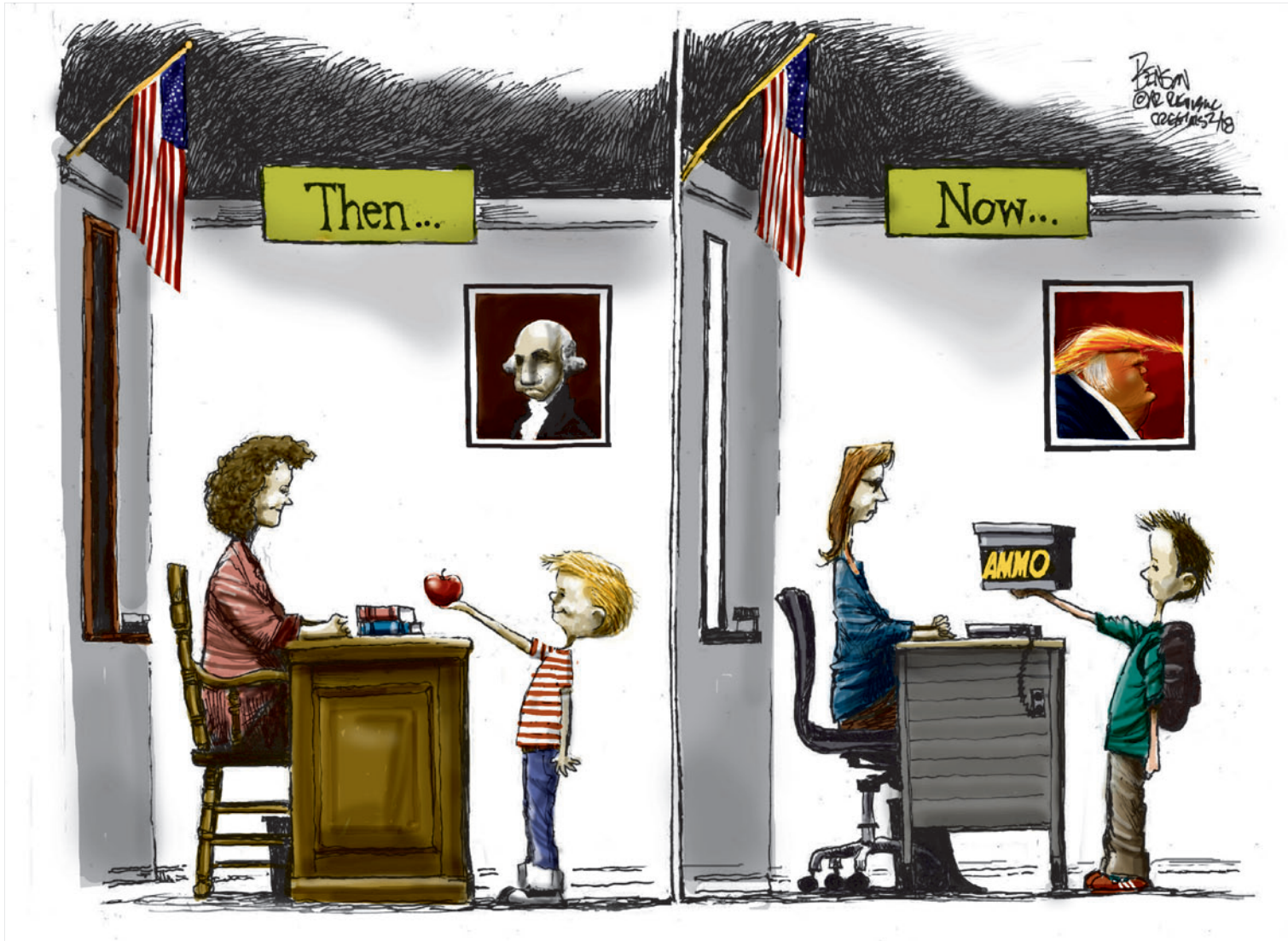
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Guest editorial

Arm teachers with support, not guns

Lindsay Burningham

In the wake of yet another devastating mass-casualty incident, this time in Parkland, Florida, educational leaders across the nation are calling for new gun-safety laws so that teachers and support personnel can focus on nurturing, mentoring, and inspiring students — not tasked with keeping them safe from school shootings. It's time to end the cycle of violence, to listen to the voices of educators and students, and to urge our representatives to pass common-sense gun laws.

Our district is no stranger to these tragedies. Before serving as president of the San Diego Education Association, I taught at Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary, one of the many wonderful schools in the San Diego Unified School District. As a local educator, I am also aware of one of the darkest chapters in the district's history, back in 1979. In January of that year, from her house directly across the street from Grover Cleveland Elementary, a 16-year-old opened fire, and 20 minutes of terror ensued.

As shots rang out, Principal Burton Wragg rushed to move children off the playground to safety; he was gunned down in the effort. Custodian and friend Mike Suchar attempted to save him; he, too, would be killed. After a six-hour standoff, two

district employees were dead, and eight children and one police officer were injured. Despite her troubled history that included shooting out the windows of the same school with a BB gun, the assailant received the .22-caliber rifle with scope as a Christmas gift from her father a month earlier.

Since that shooting, gun violence, while exceptionally rare, has increased on campuses nationwide. In the past, events were years apart, and infrequency led to atrophy. In recent years, the problem has gotten worse. Since 2009, there have been at least two school shootings per year in California, mostly involving student possession of firearms. National statistics are even more grim; sadly, from Lakefront to Marshall County to Sandy Hook and Virginia Tech, these acts of violence in our classrooms have become all too common. Between 2013 and 2015, an average of two school shootings each month took place at K-12 schools nationwide, according to Everytown for Gun Safety.

Thoughts and prayers are important for healing, but they aren't enough to keep our students and educators safe. We now know that it is up to communities, families, activists, educators, and the students themselves to stand up and demand that those elected officials who are trusted with protecting them do their jobs.

Arming teachers with anything except the support they need to effectively educate their students is a bad idea. All available data shows increasing the number of guns not only increases chances of overall gun-related injuries and deaths, it does not ensure safety.

Five heavily-armed and well-trained Secret Service agents were surrounding President Ronald Reagan when he was shot in Washington D.C in 1981. In 1995, the Fort Bragg shooter's rampage was on a military base where many military men were also armed.

Educators will do the educating in their classroom and leave that protection to professionals who are called to that important work. We want our students to be safe; but we also want them to feel safe.

As I ponder the heroic actions of school personnel at Grover Cleveland Elementary almost 40 years ago, I realize armed teachers in that circumstance would have made no difference. Victims never determined the location of the gunfire and were killed in service of their students.

If we care about securing our students' futures, we must have a plan that will keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of dangerous people!

—Lindsay Burningham  
is president of the San Diego Education Association.■

Letters

**Airport plan**  
*Re: "Airport Authority, residents clash over expansion" [Volume 24, Issue 3 or bit.ly/2IkDTQk]*

I am a 20-year resident of Del Cerro. I am also a retired 20-year Naval Aviator and retired captain for a major airline. I have been attending the public meetings for the master plan and I share Mr. Nelson's concerns. My home is located very close to the final approach course of runway 28R, the primary instrument runway for the field. And as I have experienced countless times over the years, located directly under the path taken by aircraft making visual approaches to both runways 28L and 28R.

Mr. Nelson is correct. Moving the displaced threshold back some 1,176 feet to the end of the pavement on runway 28R will do a couple of concerning things. First, it will move both the electronic (ILS) glideslope and the visual glideslope as presented by the VASI system back, as well, to positions supporting approaches to the full length of the runway. The additional length will allow larger aircraft to land to the west on 28R as opposed to circling to land on runway 10L from the west to take advantage of the full length of the pavement. Now here comes the rub. Moving the ILS glideslope and the visual glideslope back will lower the ILS glideslope and the visual glideslope down 61.6 feet (by calculation) and support visual approaches to 28R by larger and noisier aircraft.

Bottom line, we will have larger and noisier aircraft approaching the airport 61.6 feet lower on the ILS glideslope and making visual approaches at least 61 feet lower right over the top of homes in our area. My home is located approximately 4.5 statute miles from the approach end of the runway in question and I can assure you aircraft now making visual approaches to runway 28R

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See LETTERS page 7



► Letters, from page 6

are frequently not established on either the ILS glideslope or the visual glideslope when passing over my home. They are very frequently considerably lower and disturbingly noisy.

Now having said all that, I must add that both the people associated with the city, the airport, and the company contracted to formulate the master plan have patiently listened to my concerns. And I have proposed specific procedures and policies to mitigate the adverse effects of moving the displace threshold. And, believe it or not, I do not necessarily object to the move. As an experienced pilot, I know the merits of landing into the prevailing wind on a longer runway. That said, I most emphatically assert that any such move be made only after having established specific enforceable flight procedures to mitigate the inevitable noise.

—J.M. Regan, Del Cerro

Thank you

Re: "News briefs: G.A.G. Kiwanis founder remembered" [Volume 24, Issue 3 or bit.ly/2GUFwGh]

Thank you for including an article on our "Founding Father" Bob Frankhouser! I was very pleased to see that Bobby made the cut on your latest issue of the Mission Times Courier, and I know many of our club's friends and neighbors will appreciate seeing Bobby remembered in front of the entire community.

I'm very glad that you take the time to look over our club newsletter and occasionally find something worth your attention. Keep up the good work.

—John Robert Crawford, Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis

More thanks

Re: "St. Therese tower being rebuilt" [Volume 24, Issue 3 or bit.ly/2Gy2Wlt]

Many thanks to Jeff Clemetson and to Doug Curlee for responding to my inquiry about the Saint Therese Catholic Church tower restoration project. When such a project happens in your own close neighborhood, it is very gratifying to find out the details. You answered all of my questions, and I am happy for the church's congregation that the expensive and time-consuming work is being done to preserve the tower.

The Mission Times Courier is becoming more interesting with each issue. Thank you!

—Jan Roese, Del Cerro resident

Two sides to every review

Re: "Tostadas with a view" [Volume 24, Issue 3 or bit.ly/2IoSTKv]

I just finished reading your review of Emiliano's Mexican Restaurant and really appreciated your comments and excellent review in the Mission Times Courier. It seems that most restaurant reviews in small local newspapers are positive. Yours got down to the nitty-gritty.

I love Mexican food and wondered if you can recommend some in this area?

—Jim Barta

I feel [your] article was very damaging and unfair to the restaurant, owners and waiters. Emiliano's Mexican Restaurant has been there for 13 years and we have been going there for 11 years. The owners have been there every time we have gone and are very friendly to their guests. The waiters have always been friendly and very personable.

I have always enjoyed their food. We went there last night and I had the chili verde. It was very good and plenty to eat. The chips, salsa and carrots/onions are good and fresh. The margaritas are the best I have found in San Diego. I always recommend the restaurant when people ask me about Mexican restaurants.

The writer was correct when he wrote, "The appealing view and colorful décor are the restaurant's strong points." The patio overlooks the Admiral Baker Golf Course. Maybe the writer should visit the restaurant in the evening and meet the owners before writing such a scathing article. Every evening that we have gone, the parking lot is packed and the restaurant is well attended. The guests are having a fun time. It's a good family restaurant enjoyed by young kids to seniors. They also have a full bar and separate banquet room. It's a shame to put down a business within our community that is enjoyed by our neighborhood patrons and other visitors just for the sake of an article. Maybe you should come some evening and enjoy the fun, food and margaritas! We sure do!

—Doug Gardner■

# Mark Larson to speak at Republican Women meeting



Judy McCarty



It's been almost a year since local legend Mark Larson returned to AM 760 where he began his talk show career. Each week, his voice is heard on a variety of programs and commercials via more than 2,000 radio stations, podcasts and TV outlets worldwide. Mark Larson's Southern California talk show airs on AM KFMB weekdays from 10 a.m. to noon. He often appears on Fox News Channel and serves as a news analyst and commentator on KUSI in San Diego.

Known for travelling the world to gain insight on important stories, he's covered the Iraq War on location and done groundbreaking broadcasts from war zones, including the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan. At home, he is a generous community booster, for example serving



Ruth Weiss, Election Integrity Project chair and recipient of GOP Coalition Partner of the Year 2018

his fifth term as chairman of the board of directors for the San Diego Air and Space Museum.

On Tuesday, May 8, Larson will highlight the Navajo Canyon Republican Women Federated (NCRWF) luncheon meeting at The Brigantine in La Mesa. Check-in begins at 10:30 a.m. for the 11 a.m. meeting. Lunch is served at noon



Kat Culkin, NCRWF president and recipient of GOP Woman of the Year Award 2018 (Photos courtesy NCRWF)

followed by our program. Cost of the luncheon is \$25 and reservations are required. RSVP at ncrwf99@gmail.com (use "luncheon" in subject line) or call 619-990-2791. We all enjoy Larson's lively humor that informs and entertains San Diegans and we hope you will join us.

See NCRWF page 8

## Progress on road repairs in 2017

### District 7 Dispatch

Scott Sherman



Since taking office in 2012, the City Council and Mayor Faulconer have been working tirelessly to improve the city's crumbling infrastructure and working to deliver smooth and pristine roads that taxpayers demand.

It is no secret that previous administrations have underfunded vital city services such as infrastructure in order to fund out-of-control pension costs. Since that time, the city has invested historic amounts of funds into San Diego's roads.

In addition to committing millions in additional money to pave more roads, under the leadership of Councilmember Mark Kersey, the City Council placed an infrastructure measure on the ballot that will dedicate 50 percent of new revenues to improving infrastructure. The measure was approved overwhelmingly by voters in November of 2016.

The results of these reforms are beginning to show in a summary of repairs in District 7. Below is a list of work performed in District 7 in 2017:

- Miles of streets repaired (paved/concrete replaced): 10.4 miles
- Miles of streets repaired (slurry sealed): 16.0
- Number of potholes repaired: 4,340

- Number of trees trimmed: 4,743
- Square feet of sidewalk replaced: 6,078
- Number of sidewalk locations repaired: 1,593
- Square feet of graffiti abated: 46,292
- Number of street lights repaired: 662

While these numbers are encouraging, much more work needs to be done and I will continue to push for increased funding to fix our infrastructure.

—San Diego City Councilmember Scott Sherman represents the District 7 neighborhoods of Mission Valley, Grantville, Allied Gardens, Del Cerro and San Carlos.■

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# Dems drive to replace Duncan Hunter



Yahairah **Aristy** and  
Jeff **Benesch**

On Wednesday evening, May 2, the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club will be hosting a star-studded panel to examine the 50th Congressional District's embattled Rep. Duncan Hunter and his host of reported ethical and financial irregularities — primarily the use of campaign funds for personal use.

A grand jury investigation into his questionable financial expenditures is ongoing. And according to a recent article in Politico, "Hunter has developed a reputation on Capitol Hill for drinking heavily and carousing, according to multiple lawmakers and staffers who have witnessed his behavior over the past several years."

The Union Tribune has reported that Hunter's campaign expenses at drinking establishments far exceed those reported by campaigns for the other four members of San Diego's Congressional delegation, FEC data shows.

For the filing periods covering Jan. 1, 2015 through March



Ammar Campa-Najjar



Jon "Bowser" Bauman

31, 2016, Hunter's campaign reported 66 transactions totaling \$36,358 at bars, pubs, cigar lounges, liquor stores and other establishments known for their alcoholic beverages. During the same time period, the next-biggest San Diego area campaign spender at such establishments was Rep. Darrell Issa, whose campaign reported 13 charges totaling \$5,402.

CREW, an ethics advocacy group, has filed complaints with two federal oversight agencies, asking officials to investigate what the group describes as a pattern of questionable campaign spending by Hunter.

The complaints, filed with the Federal Election Commission and the Office of Congressional Ethics, describe thousands of dollars Hunter's campaign spent on personal items, including video games, school lunches, airfare for a pet rabbit, gold jewelry, and services of an oral surgeon — and raises new questions about spending on what appears to be

a vacation to Italy. Federal law forbids spending of campaign funds for personal purposes or benefit, to guard against corrupting influences by donors. In Hunter's case, defense contractors, the vaping industry, and others with interests before committees on which he serves, are his primary contributors.

Headlining our panel, and a veteran political operative, is Jon "Bowser" Bauman, uncle of Eric Bauman, the chairman of the California Democratic Party. Jon is best known for his decades-long association with the oldies group, Sha Na Na.

Bauman regularly campaigns for Democrats in special elections and endorsed Barack Obama for president in 2008. He has also worked as a spokesman for the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and is currently president of Social Security Works PAC, a national organization working to elect candidates who support

protecting and expanding Social Security benefits.

We'll also have on the dais, our club- and party-endorsed candidate to replace Hunter in the East County District, Ammar Campa-Najjar.

Campa-Najjar was born in La Mesa and later attended Catholic school in the Gaza Strip. Upon his family's return to San Diego in 2001, he attended Islamic School of San Diego for elementary school, Eastlake High School, and community college at Southwestern College. He graduated from San Diego State University, where he earned dual bachelor's degrees in philosophy and psychology.

During the Obama administration, Campa-Najjar served in the Labor Department's Office of Public Affairs for the Employment and Training Administration.

Citing bipartisan support for the program, Campa-Najjar has called on the Trump administration to expand and strengthen the Registered Apprenticeship job training initiative. He supports environmentally sustainable development and wants to encourage development of solar farms and bring SpaceX to his district.

The La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club meets the first Wednesday of every month at the La Mesa Community Center, 4975 Memorial Drive in La Mesa starting at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit [lamesafoothillsdemocraticclub.com](http://lamesafoothillsdemocraticclub.com), and like us on Facebook.

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



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### ► NCRWF, from page 7

#### Winning members

We are proud that two of our NCRWF members were honored recently as recipients of awards given out at the Lincoln Reagan Dinner 2018 event.

Our president, Kat Culkin, received the Louisa Akins – Woman of the Year award. It is based on her many years' efforts on behalf of Republican causes. This is significant because the Louisa Akins award was named after one of our deceased members and mother of long-time member Carol Reed.

Ruth Weiss is another of our members who works tirelessly leading the Election Integrity Project. Many of our members are volunteers with EIP, trying to keep elections honest. Her leadership was honored as the Republican Party's Coalition Partner of the Year. These two women inspire us all.

#### Make San Diego County Greater

Our April "Make San Diego County Greater" event once again drew a huge crowd! Featuring KFMB radio personality Mike Slater, a silent auction and several candidates running in the June 5 primary election, the evening was lively indeed.

Among candidates speaking at our 'Candidate Express' were David Hernandez, Lt. Governor; Larry Wilske, 71st Assembly; John Moore, 79th Assembly; Juan Hildalgo, 51st Congressional; John Horst, 52nd Congressional; Dr. James Veltmeyer, 52nd Congressional; Brett Golda, 53rd Congressional; Morgan Murtaugh, 53rd Congressional; Bonnie Dumanis, Board of Supervisors; Vickie Rothman, Superior Court Judge; Judge Robert Amador, Superior Court (unopposed); Judge Herb Exarhos, Superior Court Seat 28; Mark Arapostathis, La Mesa Mayor; Bill Baber,

La Mesa City Council; Guy McWhirter, La Mesa City Council; and Andrew Hays, Lakeside School Board. That's quite a slate of speakers and a lot of time for interesting political conversations.

The evening was capped off with an amazing PowerPoint presentation of all the promises kept by President Trump: 2.4 million new jobs, unemployment at 45-year low, tax cuts, bonuses to workers, fewer Americans on food stamps, approval of more generic drugs, extinguishing most of the Islamic State group's territory, and keeping Guantanamo open among many other things.

#### Voter registration

The last day to register for the June 5 primary is May 21. On April 18, NCRWF will take the lead at the New Citizen Ceremonies for voter registration downtown at Golden Hall. Voter registration is important to our new citizens and we want to welcome them to the Republican Party. They'll be able to vote in the primary!

For more information on our plans and programs, visit us at [navajocanyonrnf.org](http://navajocanyonrnf.org) and check us out on Facebook.

—Judy McCarty is publicity chair of the Navajo Canyon Republican Women Federated. Reach her at [jhmccarty@cox.net](mailto:jhmccarty@cox.net). ■

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# Bringing the Bard to a new generation

David Dixon

A family tradition in Balboa Park is returning on April 28. On the last Saturday of the month, the 13th annual Student Shakespeare Festival, presented by the San Diego Shakespeare Society, will feature students from kindergarten to high school performing scenes that the Bard wrote for his famous plays.

The event was originally started by the founder of the society, Alex Sandie. Alex was born and raised in Scotland, and now lives in Del Cerro after bouncing around the world.

Sandie met his wife in Egypt during their time working for the Royal Air Force. Ironically, they both lived less than 30 miles away from each other in Scotland.

Dissatisfied with his work and housing situation, Alex and his wife moved to Canada for a period of time, and then to Los Angeles.

After eight years in LA, Alex was offered a job opportunity in San Diego, and he's been a Del Cerro resident since 1971 — a neighborhood that he enjoys for its proximity to natural areas like Mission Trails Regional Park.

"I'm at the age now where I have to drive through the trails instead of walking through the regional park," he said. "It's wonderful. I also really like Lake Murray. You're still in the city, but it really feels like a part of nature."

Wanting to create more Scottish organizations, Sandie founded six Scottish-themed groups in San Diego such as the San Diego Edinburgh Sister City Society and the Robert Burns Club of San Diego.

In addition, he's acted in productions all over San Diego County.

As Shakespeare is something that Sandie is passionate about, he founded the San Diego Shakespeare Society. Although he has since resigned as the president of the company, Sandie still serves as the artistic director.

"We want to bring the education of Shakespeare to students at an early age," he said of the Student Shakespeare Festival's mission.

Six stages are being rented for the Shakespeare Festival, both at the El Prado pedestrian promenade as well as the Casa Del Prado area.

An aspect about the Shakespeare Society that Alex Sandie hopes to see evolve is the use of volunteers.

"We need more volunteer workers to head up the annual events," he said. "We need people to act as a treasurer, helping with fundraising, etc., with the six events that the society puts on each year."

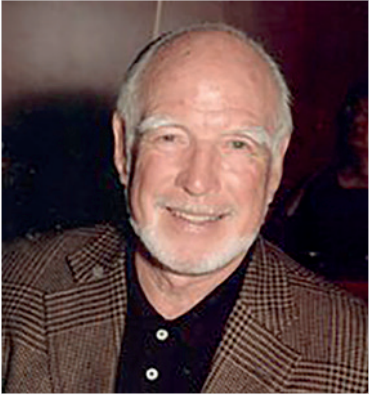
Sandie's daughter, Lisa, is the current festival director. Her responsibilities include getting volunteers, reaching out to schools that participated in previous festivals, and contacting new schools.

She has attended the event every year, to support her father and family. Lisa, who currently lives in Vista, grew up in the Del Cerro house.

When asked about ways that the Shakespeare celebration can expand, Lisa feels that there are multiple ways to achieve success.

"I think that we need a bigger organization that can get the grants that we can't," she said. "We're going to be looking into ways to increase attending, funding, and publicity."

Outside of the festival, Lisa owns a homeowner's association management company. "The festival project has been passed on from my dad as a labor of love," she said. "I want



San Diego Shakespeare Society founder Alex Sandie

my children and grandchildren to appreciate the arts like my parents taught my sister and I."

Following the festival, Alex Sandie is going to continue being a part of the Shakespeare Society.

"I spend probably more hours than I should on the computer working on society business," he said.

Sandie loves the enjoyment that students get out of the festival.

"A teacher keeps on telling me that most of her kids say this is the best day of their lives," he said. "It's very heartening and educational for them."

Given how impactful the tradition continues to be for audiences and rising performers, Sandie has plenty of reasons to be proud of all his accomplishments. A large number of children and teenagers are going to become Shakespeare aficionados for life because of his work and success.

The 13th annual Student Shakespeare Festival will be held at Balboa Park on April 28. For tickets or more information, visit [sandiegoshakespeare.society.org](http://sandiegoshakespeare.society.org).

—David Dixon is a freelance theater and film writer. Reach him at [daviddixon0202@gmail.com](mailto:daviddixon0202@gmail.com).



Students performing a scene from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the 2015 Student Shakespeare Festival. (Photos courtesy San Diego Shakespeare Society)

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### ► News briefs, from page 1

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### Fundraising begins for Lake Murray Fireworks

On Saturday, April 21, Lake Murray Fireworks will begin its fundraising push for the annual Fourth of July event with a kickoff party at Lake Murray Community Park.

The group organizing the fundraising is looking for volunteers to help deliver flyers door-to-door that will ask residents from the 92120, 92119, 91942 and 91941 zip codes to contribute funds for the fireworks and music festival. Organizers report that last year's flyer campaign raised over \$20,000 toward the cost of putting on the fireworks and music festival. Interested volunteers should meet at Lake Murray Community Park by the playground at 8 a.m. and be

prepared to pick a route to canvas with the flyers.

Organizers are also interested in business sponsors. For more information, visit [lakemurrayfireworks.org](http://lakemurrayfireworks.org).

### Creek to Bay Cleanup seeks volunteers

I Love A Clean San Diego (ILACSD) is now accepting volunteers to register for its countywide Creek to Bay Cleanup.

This year will be the organization's 16th one-day cleanup event that gives residents the opportunity to donate their time to create a cleaner, healthier San Diego County. ILACSD anticipates over 6,000 volunteers will participate in this year's cleanup, held April 21, from 9 a.m.—noon.

There are 114 cleanup locations in neighborhoods, parks, beaches and open spaces throughout San Diego County for volunteers to get involved. A complete list of cleanup sites is available at [CreekToBay.org](http://CreekToBay.org).

With a tagline of "Your Neighborhood, Our Environment," Creek to Bay highlights the importance of

acting locally to contribute regionally. Volunteers can get involved at a site in or nearby their neighborhood and make a difference for the overall health and beauty of the entire county. In 2017, more than 6,500 volunteers removed over 190,000 pounds of litter and debris during the three-hour event.

While trash removal is a large focus of the event, volunteers will also enhance their communities through beautification projects such as native planting and graffiti removal. These beautification projects restore local outdoor areas and evoke a strong sense of community pride.

Citing a commitment to zero waste practices, ILACSD encourages volunteers to bring their own reusable water bottles, gardening or work gloves, and buckets to this year's cleanup. By choosing reusable options, volunteers will reduce the amount of plastic waste produced at the cleanup, keeping thousands of single-use bags and disposable gloves out of San Diego's crowded landfills.

See NEWS BRIEFS page 17



## HIDDEN IN HOTEL CIRCLE

## Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



I'm guessing that 95 percent of the local population has never heard of Seaglass Restaurant. And here's why.

For starters, it's tucked away in the Doubletree Hotel by San Diego Hilton, which is partly obscured by large trees at the west end of Hotel Circle South. If you do happen to momentarily spot the circa-1971 structure while whizzing down Interstate 8, there's nothing about it that really jumps out.

Secondly, the restaurant is a recent reinvention of Panini Grill & Bar, so there still isn't a website for it, let alone any

presence on Facebook, Yelp or Google. That will change, however, in the next month or so, according to food and beverage director Shauna Aguirre.

And then there's the fact that San Diegans generally don't patronize hotel restaurants unless they have friends and relatives staying at them. But exceptions should maybe be made in this case because the food is seriously good, parking is free and easy, and the face-lifted property has begun selling day passes to the public for use of its swimming pool, where customers can enjoy full food and beverage service.

There's also some history here. The famous Butcher Shop steakhouse resided in this exact space from 1972 to 1986, before moving to its current home in Kearny Mesa. Sadly, recent renovations did away with the last vestiges of the Frank Sinatra-type restaurant, which I'm told were red velvet panels adorning the front and back of the bar.

The new look is clean and sleek, albeit an offshoot to the hotel's refurbished lobby that was designed with a safe, corporate touch.

A historical nod, however, is given to Albie's Beef Inn, the iconic restaurant and lounge that operated down the street

for 53 years until closing in 2015. Seaglass pays tribute to it with the Albie's French dip sandwich.

I could barely contain myself when biting through the buttery roll and into layers of the thinly sliced house-roasted beef inside. The meat was supremely tender and completely gristle-free. The jus served alongside for dipping was a tad weak in flavor, but I didn't care because the accompanying horseradish sauce gave the sandwich all the perk it needed. Dare I say, it was better than the French dip I ate a few times at Albie's.

My sister visiting from the Chicago area joined me at Seaglass. She was initially skeptical about eating here, assuming we'd be subjected to banquet food served in some outdated mauve-colored dining room. With neither being the case, we learned there's an executive chef and a pastry chef in place, and that nearly everything is scratch-made: soups, sauces, flatbread, pizza dough and even the bar syrups used in a variety of contemporary cocktails.

The house salad with raspberry vinaigrette featured spinach leaves that were properly de-stemmed and tasted uber-fresh, as though they were plucked from the soil moments

before we dug in. (Our server told us the produce is locally sourced.) The jumbo medley also featured ripe strawberries, candied walnuts and creamy bleu cheese crumbles.

We ordered the Caesar salad as well, a straight-forward composition of crispy, chilled hearts of romaine strewn with coarsely shredded Parmesan cheese and garlic-kissed croutons — a respectable Caesar with no deviant surprises.

A snappy lime-cilantro vinaigrette cloaked five large shrimp and seeped into a bed of outstanding cabbage-apple slaw accented with tarragon. Everything jived with the chary pith of the flame-grilled shrimp. We agreed the appetizer was constructed with same finesse as any you'll find in hyped-up restaurants.

I don't ever recall ordering pizza from a hotel restaurant — until now. We chose a 16-inch pepperoni pie that offered a refreshing change of pace from the thin, cracker-like crusts served everywhere else. It was neither thick or thin,

but rather the medium-girth that pizzerias of yesteryear commonly made — and with quality cheese and sweetish red sauce that also tasted nostalgic.

Many items at Seaglass are fairly new, such as New England clam chowder, corn elotes, shrimp scampi, flatbreads, several burgers, and prime rib, which serves as yet another tribute to Albie's.

One of the carryover dishes from Panini Grill is a tempting turkey panini constructed with rosemary ciabatta, herbed mozzarella and breast meat roasted in-house. There are also tacos and quesadil-

las — obligatory chow for those overnight guests rolling in from places devoid of Mexican cuisine.

With the first phase of the hotel's remodel completed, renovations to the rooms and outdoor areas are slated to begin in the next two months.

—Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of "Secret San Diego" (ECW Press), and began his local writing career as a staffer for the former San Diego Tribune. Reach him at [fsabatini@san.rr.com](mailto:fsabatini@san.rr.com). ■



The "Albie's" French dip sandwich  
(Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

## Seaglass Restaurant

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[doubletreehotelcircle.com](http://doubletreehotelcircle.com)

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# Patribots comeback to end robotics season on a high note

Adria **Van Loan-Polselli** and  
Harold **Mumford**

The Patribots — Patrick Henry High School's competitive robotics team — returned home from Las Vegas on Sunday, March 26, tired and inspired from three rigorous days of robotics competition. Their return marked the end of a season of firsts for the team — a season that was almost derailed far too early.

The team competed in the 2018 For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics POWER UP Championships as defending regional champions. The team worked hard in 2018 with hopes of capturing a return bid to the Houston World Championships, one of high school robotics' most competitive technological challenges.

On Feb. 20, the Patribots completed their robot they named "The Milkman." Teams were given only six intense weeks to design, build, program, and test a robot to compete in the game.

"We named it The Milkman," said team vice president Harrison Lange, "because it delivers milk crates. It takes dedication, organization, and commitment to complete a robot."

The Patribots battled March 8–10 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds Stadium to defend their title. Their best efforts and preparation, however, were thwarted on the second day, when a collision with an opposing robot shattered the radio on the robot, plaguing the team's communication system for the remainder of the competition. The accident broke more than a radio, it shattered the team's hopes of making it into the finals as they fell in the rankings from 18th to 55th out of the 66-team field. A broken robot could be fixed, and so, too, could the team's broken hopes. The team knew that "The Milkman" was better than its 55th place finish.

The loss challenged the team to work together to find a way to compete in a second regional. Student members, on their own, contacted FIRST Regional Directors throughout the United States to secure an invitation. They were invited to compete in Las Vegas.

On March 21, the Patribots traveled to Las Vegas. Due to the short, two-week turn around and conflicting commitments, only a mentor, a parent, and five students traveled to Las Vegas with the robot. A second mentor and student arrived the first day of practice.

Many San Diego teams were in Las Vegas, including the 2018 San Diego Regional Chairman's Award-winning team, The W.A.R. Lords, from Francis Parker High School and the Super NURDs from San Pasqual High School in Escondido.

After starting the day 0-5, the Patribots won their first match to begin a nine-win streak. In its seventh match of the day, the Patribots stacked up a score of 516, just five

points less than the tournament high score of 521.

Their final qualification match of the day would test the team's skills. They had a face off with the undefeated, and No. 1-ranked, W.A.R. Lords. Allied with the 26th- and 29th-ranked teams, the 35th-ranked Patribots turned to playing defense against the efficient scoring of the W.A.R. Lords. When the buzzer sounded, the Patribots extended their winning streak to three, handing the No. 1 seed its first loss of the tournament 252 to 91. The Patribots piled up points to win their final four qualification matches. At the end of the qualification rounds, the Patribots ranked 11th out of the 44-team field.

A season goal was within the team's reach: becoming an alliance captain. The previous year, the team was the second team picked in alliance selections. This year, the team ended up as the 8th-seeded alliance captain. This would mean a showdown with the No. 1-seeded alliance.

In the quarterfinals, the underdog Patribots allied with 19th-ranked Team Element from Van Nuys and 34th-ranked MindCraft from Fresno,

California. It would be a long shot for the alliance to unseat Francis Parker and its alliance of the 2nd-ranked Super NURDs from Escondido and the 15th-ranked Gravediggers from Sandy Utah. The Patribot alliance should have been buried.

Instead, they outstacked their opponents in the first quarterfinal match to pull off an exciting victory 337-310, capped by a Patribot climb worth 30 points, sending a message that the team was not going away without a fight. In this best two-out-of-three match, the Patribots proved they were not afraid of "war" or "the grave."

In the second quarterfinal match, the alliances traded control of the scale until the Patribots piled three consecutive milk crates to control the game, after the Super NURDs robot fell to the carpet. Defeating the No. 1 alliance by a score of 397-351, the Patribots advanced to the semifinals as the comeback and Cinderella story of the tournament.

The Patribots lost in the semifinals to the No. 4 alliance. But, they proved to themselves that they are ready to compete as a top team in FRC and work to inspire youth in the community.

"If we work together, communicate, and practice," said team president Anna Linberg, "we should do well in competition."

Communication was this year's team goal for the Patribots. FIRST encourages teams to grow as young professionals with each design challenge.

This year, the team was dedicated to learning by design, led by design lead Jacob Lerner. The team did math as they designed, prototyped, and modified the robot. The team's 37 student members and nine

See PATRIBOTS page 21 —————>



The Patribots team with their robot "The Milkman" (Courtesy Patrick Henry High School)



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**PATRICK  
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Patrick Henry High School News

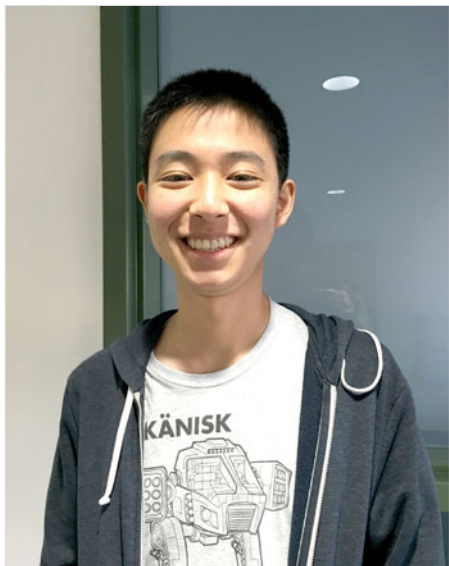
Elizabeth Gillingham

## Presidential Scholar candidate finalist

Two dozen students have been named as semifinalist in the United States Presidential Scholars program and senior Kalos Chu is proudly representing PHHS.

This program was established in 1964 by executive order of the president and recognizes some of the nation's top graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize distinguished students in the arts, and in 2015, to recognize outstanding students in career and technical education.

Each year, 161 students will make the final cut and receive and all-expenses-paid



Kalos Chu (Photos courtesy PHHS)

trip to Washington D.C. in June where they will meet educators and government officials.

## College and Career Fair



(Courtesy PHHS)

Last month, PHHS counseling staff sponsored a College and Career Fair for students to walk through and talk to various representatives about secondary

options available in the Henry Cafetorium. Students received information regarding different universities, community colleges and vocational programs available

for them to consider and apply. Counselors were available to help them match their college and career goals to their current schedules as well.

## Student of the Month

Stephanie Smith is a senior at Henry and was selected as the PHHS Student of the Month for March. She was honored during the Grantville/Allied Garden Kiwanis Club meeting last month by Vice Principal Bill Miller.

Smith was nominated because of her commitment to school, athletics, and clubs on campus. She is noted for always having a smile on her face and always being willing to help any staff or student.

One teacher stated in her recommendation, "Stephanie is one of those students who walks in to class excited to learn, even with what others would think could be a 'boring' subject. She always has a smile on her face and is very genuine. She will stick around after class to learn more and ask for help. She advocates for herself which is really important and she works hard. In class discussions, she isn't afraid to ask questions, even if she already gets it, because

she is aware that her classmates around her are still confused and wants them to feel successful. And it's really cool when I get to hear from her English teacher that Stephanie was tying in her psychology class information into their class discussions. Exactly what every teacher wants to hear."

Another teacher reported, "Stephanie is such an awesome student because she always has a smile and encouraging words for everyone, teachers, students, anyone. Stephanie always puts a positive spin on everything. She is also a student athlete who completes her work on time, [is] field hockey captain and president of the art history club. She is currently working with her community center to



Stephanie Smith

create a tutoring program for elementary students to college level students."

Smith is an amazing student, and can teach us all about how to go above and beyond in preparation because of her commitment to school!

## Patriot Day at Henry

On March 22, PHHS celebrated Patriot Day by inviting local eighth graders to a pep rally and school orientation. Eighth graders and their teachers arrived from Lewis and Pershing middle schools to briefly tour the Patrick Henry campus and experience the school's extracurricular programs in action through a student-sponsored rally. Students from other schools were also invited to attend.

The students began the day with a welcome from our Link Crew and the PHHS Cheer Squad. ASB President Vina Duprat and ASB President-elect Chris Stagner welcomed



(l to r) Lewis Principal Brad Callahan, Henry Principal Listy Gillingham, and Pershing Principal Susan Levy

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See PHHS page 13



► PHHS, from page 12

the students and helped introduce the Bel Canto choir who sang the national anthem. Principal Listy Gillingham was onboard to welcome the new students and introduce them to the Patriot team of vice principals Bill Miller and Jennifer Pacofsky.

The Dance team, Cheerleaders, Drum Line, and NJROTC drill team all gave a brief performance to invite the new students to consider trying out for their teams next year.

ASB members and student athletes Summer Merrill and Ally Arkin talked about sports at Henry and shared their experiences about joining clubs for their freshmen year. The Improv team did a fun skit and the Link Crew members did a few activities to demonstrate school spirit.

The class of 2022 had a chance to demonstrate their spirit and come together for the first time at Patrick Henry High School to feel the welcoming spirit of the campus!

# President's Volunteer Service Award

Congratulations to Patrick Henry High School (PHHS) senior, Sophia Pruden, for qualifying to receive President Trump's Volunteer Service Award for her outstanding work with the Leukemia Association. This award recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered a significant amount of their time to serve their communities and country and is granted through the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. PHHS nominated Pruden for national

honors this fall in recognition of her volunteer service.

"The recipients of these awards demonstrate that young people across America are making remarkable contribution of the health and vitality of their communities," said John Strangfeld, chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial. "By recognizing these students and placing a spotlight on their volunteer activities, we hope to motivate others to consider how they can also contribute to their community."



Sophia Pruden (Photos courtesy PHHS)

## March for Our Lives rally

PHHS students have been seen speaking out in regards to recent events that have been happening across the country regarding school shootings and safety. Hear Our Voice is a PHHS club that encourages students to share their opinions by standing up to others to help make changes on campus, in the community, and across the country.

On March 24, club president Maya Dixon, and club members Brian Huynh and Darartu Mulugeta performed a spoken-word poem at the March for Our Lives rally to a crowd of close to 10,000 protestors in Downtown San Diego.

"I am proud to have stood with such passionate and determined young people," Dixon said. "The march gave me hope in the future of this country because we young people refuse to allow it to be destroyed by violence and hate."

The club advisor, Mr. Patrick Schoettler, was proud to see them take their message on the road and make an impact in a city-wide rally.



(l to r) Brian Huynh, Darartu Mulugeta and Maya Dixon

"Regardless of how you feel about the debate over gun control, it has been inspiring to see these brave young people from around the country get engaged in politics and stand up for something they believe in," Schoettler stated. "The spoken-word poem performed by PHHS students Maya, Brian,

and Darartu at the march was so eloquent, and passionate that as their teacher, I was humbled and proud to simply be in the audience watching these future leaders find their voice."

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

## Henry Cluster STEMM Foundation news

Jay Wilson

Opportunities to establish partnerships between SDSU and the schools in the Henry Cluster continue to evolve.

On March 17, I attended the (STEM) 2 Exploration Day. Virtually SDSU each department held an open house and every campus organization staffed a booth to promote their organization and I made several good contacts, including:

- Women In Science Club and their faculty advisor, Dr. Veronica Casas, who is a member of the biology department faculty.
- The teaching STEMM student organization.
- SDSU Math Club which is interested to include the HC STEMM schools as part of their community outreach effort.
- The Engineering Department's Racing program conducted by Dan Jennings. The students build

a student-driven racing car and annually participate in a race against other cars built by college students from throughout the United States. We look forward to arranging for engineering students from Lewis and Pershing middle schools to take a tour of the racing development workshop.

On April 6, board members Karen Miller and Dr. Andrea Miyamoto were invited to observe the (STEM)2 Exploration Day at SDSU. The day was hosted by Dr. Cynthia Park of the San Diego State University Pre-College Institute. Three-hundred ninth- and 10th-grade students from 12 high schools were given the opportunity to hear guest speakers, visit campus research labs, and interact with SDSU students in hands-on learning activities and panel discussions.

"It was interesting and inspiring to see so many students and professors committed to STEM education and STEM careers," Miller said.

Part of the follow-up will include meeting with Dr. Park to discuss the opportunities of developing and implementing more partnerships with SDSU.

"I look forward to meeting with you after [(STEM)2 Exploration Day] to explore ways that the SDSU Pre-College Institute, which I direct, can engage more fully with the Patrick Henry cluster," Park said. "I am also a faculty member of SDSU's Center for Research in Math & Science Education."

We will also be meeting with Mrs. Nadia Rohlinger, the coordinator of the Pathways Office for Careers in Math & Science Education.

Visit the HC STEMM Foundation website at hc-stemm.org for more information about our nonprofit foundation, our activities and to donate.

—Jay Wilson is a board member of Henry Cluster STEMM Foundation.■

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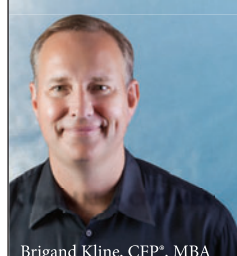
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# Kindness celebrated at ‘Above and Beyond’

Jeff Clemetson  
Editor

When you think of honoring firefighters for their deeds, the heroic acts of running into burning buildings to save a crying baby or parachuting into a blazing forest fire come to mind. The men and women of San Diego Fire and Rescue certainly rise to the occasion when these kinds of challenges present themselves, and are given the proper accolades when appropriate. But in addition to bravery and courage in the line of duty, there is another quality that San Diego firefighters are rewarded for: kindness.

On March 23, the San Diego Fire Rescue Foundation (SDFRF) honored the kindness of San Diego firefighters at an event called “Above and Beyond” at the Bahia Hotel in Mission Bay. The luncheon fundraiser and honorees ceremony was emceed by ABC 10 news anchor Kimberly Hunt and featured appearances by San Diego City Council President Myrtle Cole, former City Councilmember and SDFRF vice chair Marti Emerald, and San Diego Fire Rescue Chief Brian Fennessy.

Although the purpose of the event was to honor firefighters and first responders for going that extra mile in serving the public, it was also a chance for Chief Fennessy — who will be leaving the department after 28 years for a job in Orange County — to say farewell to the foundation members who have helped to financially support the Fire Department.

“It’s been an honor and a privilege to serve as a member of this department for as many years as I have,” Fennessy said. “Public safety has always been a top priority for Mayor Faulconer and the City Council. We’re very fortunate to have their strong support and you can imagine there are many competing demands on a limited city budget. This is where the San Diego Fire Rescue Foundation comes in. The foundation has been a great partner.”

Speaking to the nature of the Above & Beyond honors, Fennessy said the public has three expectations from their Fire Department: to respond to

emergencies quickly; to be well-trained and know what to do; and to treat people with dignity and respect.

“This sounds like a no-brainer, but trust me when I travel and have conversations with fire chiefs from throughout the U.S., this isn’t always the case. We have something very special here in San Diego,” he said, adding that the awards are for firefighters who “demonstrated acts of kindness above and beyond our expectations.”

The first two honorees were not firefighters or lifeguards. Peter Seidler and Dan Shea are homeless advocates who were instrumental in building the industrial tent shelter. In a video presentation, the two said the hepatitis A outbreak was what “pushed the city into doing it.” The pair also said the program has been a success, taking over 700 homeless off the streets and cutting down on the number of emergency service calls dealing with homeless. The two were not in attendance but were each given an honorary white fire chief’s helmet.

Captain Kieran Maloney, engineer Steve Adler, firefighter-paramedic Justin Loftis, and firefighter Charles Lacey from Mission Valley’s Station 45 were honored for kindness they showed when they responded to a call where woman had taken her own life and then learned she was a police officer.

Lacey suggested getting a flag to honor the officer, and presented it to the police sergeant on the scene. When the medical examiner brought the body out, it was draped in the American flag, which was later given to the family.

“Maybe it seems like a simple thing, but it did mean a great deal to the fellow officers that were there,” Hunt said in her presentation. “It helped on that dark day.”

Capt. David Allen, engineer Arlo Nieto, firefighter-paramedic David Ross, and firefighter James Montgomery of Station 33 in Rancho Bernardo answered a call to help a man who had fallen and was pinned to the floor. The paramedic stabilized him and took him to hospital while the rest of firefighters stayed behind to clean his house.

“The whole level of professionalism and kindness they showed throughout the whole event was just overwhelming,” said a family member of the man in the video presentation.

When a 2-year-old girl got her hand stuck in the door of a truck, Captain Jack Middleton, engineer Jesus Arce, firefighter John Hernandez, and firefighter Isaac Chavez of Station 12 in Lincoln Park not only freed her without major injury, but also made sure she would see firefighters as people who help. Two days after the incident, the firefighters showed up at her door and brought coloring books and toys.

A letter to Chief Fennessy earned firefighter Sierra Brown an Above & Beyond award. Brown had responded to a job site accident where a man fell on the job and died in route to the hospital — it was supposed to be his last job before retirement. A few days after the accident, Brown spoke with the man’s niece and shared with her that her uncle had fought hard.

“She showed the human side to firefighting in my eyes and I



(l to r) San Diego Fire Rescue Department Chief Brian Fennessy with firefighter Charles Lacey, Captain Kieran Maloney, engineer Steve Adler and Kevin Leap of Mission Valley’s Station 45  
(Photo by Natalia Robert Photography)

will not forget that,” the niece wrote of Brown in her letter to the chief. “If there is a kind and compassionate award the city gives to staff doing more than their job description, Sierra should win.”

Lifeguard chiefs James Gartland and Rick Wurts (ret.), Lt. John Sandmeyer, Lt. Richard Stropkey, and the Frost Family and Beach Cottages were honored for kindness they showed during the search for Taylor Watts, who fell off a pier and was missing for several weeks before his body was found. The lifeguards brought meals to

and made personal connections with the Watts family, who flew out from their home in Houston, Texas, and even helped get them discounted hotel rooms while they went through the ordeal.

The San Diego Fire Rescue Foundation was founded 13 years ago with mission to provide equipment, training, technology and community education resources above what the city budget can provide. For more information, visit [sdfire-rescue.org](http://sdfire-rescue.org).

—Reach Jeff Clemetson at [jeff@sdenn.com](mailto:jeff@sdenn.com).■

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# Take the City Nature Challenge at Mission Trails Park

Spring is here and plants will be blooming, birds will be singing, and insects will be buzzing all around us. Time to get outdoors and observe nature! This year brings a special four-day event over the last weekend in April where everyone can focus efforts and achieve a goal: Help San Diego County win the international City Nature Challenge! In San Diego, the 2018 City Nature Challenge is being spearheaded by the San Diego Natural History Museum. You can join in the fun by joining the iNaturalist project and submitting observations beginning Friday, April 27, and ending Monday, April 30. On May 1–3, the Natural History Museum will identify what was found.

More than 60 cities will compete to see who can make the most observations of nature, find the most species, and engage the most people in the worldwide 2018 City Nature Challenge. San Diego is one of only 35 biodiversity hotspots in the world, meaning areas that have the highest concentration of different species of any geographic area of similar size. We're hoping San Diego residents and visitors rise to the occasion and opt outside during this worldwide competition. Become a citizen scientist and help San Diego win.

Mission Trails Regional Park is an oasis of nature in urban San Diego which can yield thousands of observations during that period with

our collective efforts. (Your observations during that period will also be part of the Mission Trails Regional Park Biodiversity Project.)

The City Nature Challenge was started by the citizen science teams at Natural History Museum of Los Angeles and the California Academy of Sciences in 2016 as a friendly competition to document urban biodiversity in their respective cities using the iNaturalist database. Over 20,000 observations were made by more than 1,000 people in a one-week period. Due to the excitement and interest from people in other cities, in 2017 the City Nature Challenge became a national challenge, and is now an international event. In the first City Nature Challenge, Los Angeles beat San Francisco. In 2017, Texans ruled the day: Dallas/Ft. Worth had the most observations (23,957) and Houston had the most species (2,419). 2018 is our chance to show the world that San Diego County is a true biodiversity hotspot, full of eager citizen scientists!

Taking part is easy. First you just go out and find wildlife. It can be any plant, animal, fungi, slime mold, or any other evidence of life (scat, fur, tracks, shells, carcasses) found while out on a hike, during your lunchtime stroll, or even when you are kicking it in



(Courtesy iNaturalist.org)

your own backyard. Next, take a picture of what you find and be sure to note the location of the critter or plant. Finally, share your observations by uploading your findings through iNaturalist.

Not familiar with iNaturalist? Not to worry, it's very user-friendly. All you have to do is download the free iNaturalist app to your Android or iPhone; join the Nat's 2018 City Nature Challenge: San Diego iNaturalist project; and take photos. Every observation you make with iNaturalist — from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed — helps scientists understand the diversity and abundance of species. Here are some tips on taking photographs:

- Be a safe, respectful naturalist; do not touch wild animals or poisonous plants, and stay on trails.

- You can upload several pictures per observation.
  - Take photos that are sharp and in focus.
  - Try to take a well-lit photo; keep the sun at your back.
  - Get close, but not too close so neither you nor the animal is harmed.
  - Make sure the phone location services are on to record the exact location (longitude and latitude) of the photo.
  - You can make observations in airplane mode and then upload them later; original time and location will upload automatically.
  - Photograph entire plant, animal, insect; take photos from different angles and surrounding environment.
- Let's make Mission Trails Regional Park stand out by submitting observations from every corner of the park!■

► **News briefs**, from page 9

There will also be a “Bling Your Bucket” contest that encourages creativity and conservation. Kids and adults can submit a photo of their decorated reusable trash collection bucket for the chance to win fun prizes.

The Creek to Bay Photo Contest, sponsored by Sony, will also be returning for another year. The photo contest allows volunteers to celebrate their volunteerism and commitment to reducing waste through reusable items. This year's theme, “Rocking Reusables,” encourages youth and adults to capture photos highlighting their zero waste cleanup habits. The winner of this contest will receive a Sony Cybershot Camera.

Registration information and details regarding the Creek to Bay Cleanup can be found at [CreekToBay.org](#).

**County looks to join lawsuit against state**

San Diego County may soon throw its hat in with the Trump administration's lawsuit against the California Values Act, SB 54, that will essentially make it state law to not aid federal agencies in deporting noncitizens.

County Board of Supervisors chairperson Supervisor Kristin Gaspar told Voice of San Diego that she plans on taking up actions against the sanctuary

See **NEWS BRIEFS** page 20 —>

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# Navajo Planners elections bring new members and new officers

Doug Curlee  
Editor at Large

The April 11 meeting of the Navajo Community Planners, Inc. saw some changes to the board after its annual election of officers. The Navajo Community Planners group will see a new chair in charge of the board in 2018.

Longtime chair Matt Adams is stepping down to vice chair, but will remain on the board to help new chair David Smith get acclimated.

Adams is in his last year on the board, and will leave altogether next year.

“I’ve enjoyed the challenge over the years, but it’s time for me to step away,” Adams said.

Marilyn Reed was reelected treasurer, and Rich Berg will continue as secretary.

The officer vote came in the wake of the March 14 board elections, in which eight of the 16 seats were up for a vote.

Each board member is elected for a two-year term, and the terms are staggered so that there is always veteran presence on the board.

21 votes were cast in each of the four geographic areas represented.

Stephen Dahms and David Hardy were reelected to represent Allied Gardens as were



NCPI board vice chair Matt Adams (Twitter)

Doug Livingston and Lance Grucela from Del Cerro.

Board members are limited to eight consecutive years on the board. Livingston had come to the end of his time, but was reelected anyway because, with no opposition, he could serve another two-year term if he got at least 2/3 of the votes. He received 20 of 21 votes, so no problem.

Newcomer Tommas Golia, a real estate agent, will represent Grantville along with Dan Smith.

Danny Fitzgerald and another newcomer, Robert Weichert, fill the San Carlos seats.

Weichert will fill the seat of Dan Northcutt, who’s leaving the board after four years.

—Doug Curlee is Editor at Large. Reach him at [doug@sdenn.com](mailto:doug@sdenn.com).■

# Speaking out against gun violence



(Photo courtesy of Michele Nowicki)

On March 14, students at Lewis Middle School in Allied Gardens joined hundreds of thousands of other students from across the country in a walkout to protest gun violence in schools following the death of 17 students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida one month earlier.

The Lewis students rallied on the school field, carrying cardboard signs. Some carried 17 orange balloons to symbolize the victims, and some read poetry. Callianna Priebe, 8th grade, read a

poem written by one of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas victims and Iris Drake, 8th grade, read aloud an original poem.

“When I was little, I was terrified by the raw power of a shotgun. I had just seen my grandfather pull the trigger, and I was immediately enamored and fearful with its sheer strength,” Drake read.

“Nine long winters have passed since that thanksgiving in Montana, but I remember the gun all the same. It has an elegance of sorts to it, a brutal, awful elegance. And It

was just last year I shot a gun for the first time, and the incredible power you feel, to rest your finger around the cold metal trigger, it is a feeling not unlike falling, fear and exhilaration wrapped up in fun and excitement. Perhaps this is the cruel truth of the gun, that the weak and broken will always reach for an assault rifle simply to give them that moment of fear and power and enlightenment.

“Maybe it seems that we’ll be lost in the winds of time to the guns and people we can’t control...”■



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DCS is now enrolling. For more information, please contact Charles Schechter, regional manager at 619-876-7380 or visit our website at [dcsocal.org](http://dcsocal.org).



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# MOVE



► News briefs, from page 17

bill and a possible lawsuit against the Trump administration's plan to add a citizenship question to the census at the Board of Supervisor's next closed session on April 17.

San Diego would be joining neighboring Orange County in the lawsuit against the state. Orange County's supervisors voted unanimously on March 27 to sue the state over SB 54.

San Diego's all-Republican County Board of Supervisors are likely to follow, although only Gaspar and Supervisor Dianne Jacobs have made official statements supporting the Trump administration's lawsuit.

"I've always supported the great working relationship between the Sheriff's Department and federal law enforcement agencies, and it needs to continue," Jacobs said in a press statement. "I support the county joining the lawsuit and look forward to this being on the next closed session agenda."

**City offers new water meter testing**

On April 2, the city of San Diego unveiled new water meter testing equipment at a demonstration for media to show its features and how it works.

The new water meter calibration equipment is an upgrade that more accurately determines water flow and allows for adjustments for multiple meters and different sizes. The new \$400,000 equipment was purchased and installed following concerns by customers about water meter readings.

Recently, San Diego admitted to overcharging around 300 customers for water. The new equipment will allow customers who think they have a problem with their bill to perform a "controversy test" for a small fee and whether their water meter was working properly or not, they will receive a new smart meter. The city has been replacing old water meters with new smart

See NEWS BRIEFS page 23 —>

# A desert paradise

## Bachelorettes wander through the wonders of Palm Springs

Jen Lothspeich

Palm Springs is known for many things: boutique hotels, trendy clubs, golfing, upscale dining — and, apparently, bachelorette parties.

With a stash of Champagne, swimsuits and the desire to relax and let loose, a group of friends and I recently took a bachelorette weekend trip to this oasis in the desert.

Arriving ahead of a crazy busy time in the area, we beat the rush for Coachella, Dinah Shore Weekend, Stagecoach Festival and the White Party, but discovered we were one of at least a dozen bachelorette parties with the same idea.

And with good reason.

It may sound cliché to say a travel destination has something for everyone or invites all walks of life, but in gallivanting through the downtown area, we found both to be true. Along with our to-be-wedded counterparts, we found our fellow revelers were young spring-breakers, couples of all ages, vacationing families and even celebrities (hey, Kelsey Grammer!).

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But before making it to our destination for relaxation, we decided to do a little physical activity and detoured to Joshua Tree National Park. On an ideal 75-degree day, we enjoyed a couple short nature walks (Barker Dam and Hidden Valley) while a soft breeze kept us comfortable. I could attempt to describe the natural beauty here but it's better experienced first-hand in this magical place.

Then it was on to where we would rest our heads.

With its bold pyramid-shaped exterior, The Hard Rock Hotel looks plucked from the strip in Las Vegas. Music memorabilia and loud tunes greeted us as we walked through the David Bowie-adorned doors. The party atmosphere was set.

While the rooms were spacious and the beds cushy, a few issues arose in our first hours. A broken coffee maker, faltering light bulbs and speakers, and a few other dinged-up items caught our attention, but we were quickly visited by hotel staff who fixed the problems.

What didn't come as rapidly was our luggage, which we had to call for several times. This caused frustration as five women tried to prepare for a night out with limited time and bathrooms.

Back on the bridal party track, we headed to Lulu California Bistro where we and several other bachelorette parties had dinner reservations. The brightly lit restaurant was adorned with colorful artwork and plenty to look at from our central downstairs table.

For dinner, a few opted for entrees, others stuck to appetizers and I went for the \$20, three-course, prix-fixe menu while we enjoyed beer and wine. Around the table everyone was pleased with their lobster quesadilla, roasted chicken, and my savory plate of ziti. For dessert, we balanced our booze buzz with a sugar rush ordering a comically sized cotton candy that didn't warrant its \$15 price tag. Rumor has it that if you mention a birthday when reserving at Lulu, that

puffy pink mess arrives on the house.

Next up was Village Pub, which offered different dance and bar areas to choose from. We made our way to a small room where a DJ spinning mostly pop, hip-hop and rap got us dancing like we were half our age. But it quickly filled with people and became a sauna.

A bar area close by offered respite from the heat and a view of a live band who played '80s and '90s hair bands along with strangely spot-on modern covers.

From there, we went to a quintessential spot on a Palm Springs trip — a gay bar. Hunters had both a nightclub feel with go-go dancers, flashing lights and a DJ, plus an inviting bar and lounging areas for a nice balance. The large space wasn't particularly packed and we spent several hours dancing and drinking.

Forgetting we are all in our 30s, we proceeded to the dance club connected to our hotel simply dubbed The Club. As they were on their last hour of business, they ushered us in sans cover charge and we found less than a dozen people inside. This did not stop us from dancing until we could no longer stand. And the bouncers made us leave.

Choosing convenience over walking and waiting, the next morning we ate breakfast at the Hard Rock's restaurant, The Kitchen. Our server, though sweet, was a bit absent-minded and we didn't bring two ordered items and had to ask for them to be removed from the bill. The meal wasn't impressive or disappointing and we got to move on with our day without much fuss.

The hotel pool was a major selling point when we planned our trip and we had no complaints. Their DJ churned out '80s, '90s and '00s jams appealing to everyone in our group, and seemingly everyone in the pool area. After buckets of beers and bottles of Champagne, several parties



Beautiful rock formation with the Joshua Tree National Park make for a wonderful hiking experience. (Photo by Jen Lothspeich)

began mingling and all we encountered were in celebratory spirits.

Another dinner reservation seemed too far off after a day in the sun, so we made our way to the "casual upscale" Eight4Nine Restaurant & Lounge earlier than planned and managed to get a table at the bar. This was a stellar move as the appetizers and discounted drinks were satisfying and money-saving. The ambience was chic and modern with bright pink accents on stark white backdrops. Our shared meal, even with several drinks, made this one of the thriftiest eating stops on our trip — but make no mistake, the dining room offers a fancier feel and a higher ticket.

Hearing Tiki-themed places are all the rage in Palm Springs, we chose the first one we came upon. Tonga Hut has an eclectic drink list, along with island-style food that looked and smelled delectable. We enjoyed Honi Honis (whiskey mai tais) while playing Jenga and Taboo like proper suburban housewives who also enjoy strong cocktails.

Though we'd talked about seeing a burlesque show, on this particular night, we remembered we are all in our 30s and opted for the hotel bar where we lounged and sipped Champagne until the comfy beds upstairs beckoned us.

After a subdued second night, we made good use of the last few hours of our jaunt with a drag queen brunch on Sunday morning.

Rio Azul is an unassuming Mexican restaurant, which happens to devote a room to a drag show with two showings Sundays. The ambience was a bit strange but with delicious \$17 meals and plentiful drink specials, we settled in with a stack of \$1 bills and watched the ladies get to business. The show was extremely entertaining with R-rated jokes, high kicks, stunning costumes and impersonations, and fabulous photo-ops to round out our trip. As we departed our final stop, we high-fived fellow bachelorette parties and blew kisses to the queens who had given us our last hurrah of the weekend.

With wrinkled dresses, sore feet and thousands of photos, we made our way back to San Diego with great memories and already-plotted plans to return.

— Jen Lothspeich is a wine-drinking, cat-cuddling native San Diegan who dreams of writing a best-selling true crime novel. Find her on Twitter at @Jen\_Evel.■

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# Del Cerro Action Council news

Jay Wilson

The quarterly meeting of the Del Cerro Action Council (DCAC) will be held on Thursday, April 26, 7 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El.

Del Cerro residents continue to be concerned with the proposed updates for the Montgomery-Gibbs Airport that may lead to an increased number of low-flying jets on their approach to the airfield. Ralph Richardson, an active community member from Allied Gardens, has been following this matter very closely and offered to provide an update for us at our April meeting.

Mark Rawlins, the chair of the DCAC reported that the Del Cerro Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) project is still on hold. The city is appealing

the La Jolla MAD lawsuit. The court date was initially to be in April but has been postponed until June. Volunteers for this effort are standing by and ready to go. If all goes well for the city's lawsuit, the Friends of Del Cerro can begin collecting signatures for a petition in late June that could lead to a vote by all Del Cerro property owners.

Rawlins also reported an increase in car break-ins. If you see something, report it to the Police Department. Call 619-531-2000, the non-emergency number for the police. Also, make sure if your car is parked outside, remove all items of value out of sight such as phones, computers, briefcases and loose change. With everyone watching out for one another, we can reduce crime in our neighborhoods. If you do not have an active Neighborhood Watch, be

the person in your neighborhood to step forward and establish one. Call or email John Steffen, our Police Community Relations Officer at Eastern Division. His email address is jmsteffen@pd.sandiego.gov and his work phone number is 858-495-7971.

Officer Steffen is scheduled to be at our April DCAC meeting and will provide an update on the car break-ins and any other matters impacting Del Cerro. Joining Officer Steffen will be Corporal Mark Peterson from SDSU who will also update us regarding any SDSU police-related matters, including Adobe Falls.

—Jay Wilson is secretary for the Del Cerro Action Council. Reach him at jwilson2@cox.net. For more information, or to receive DCAC updates, visit delcerraactioncouncil.org.■

# San Carlos Area Council news

Mickey Zeichick

The next meeting of the San Carlos Area Council (SCAC) will be held on Wednesday, May 2, at 6 p.m. in the San Carlos Branch Library 7265 Jackson Drive. Our guest speaker will be Darnisha Hunter from Mayor Kevin Faulconer's office. If you have questions you would like her to address, please email them to me no later than April 26.

## Street repairs

To find out if street work is scheduled for your area, visit streets.sandiego.gov. Our city has made many miles of street repairs in the past fiscal year, but why does it seem those repairs need to be repaired all too soon afterward?

## Help Henry

Be a permanent part of Patriot history and support our school's new stadium with the Patrick Henry High School Stadium Brick Project, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Grantville-Allied Gardens. Patrick Henry High School (PHHS) is completing brick walkways in the new stadium areas. Did you or a

family member attend PHHS? This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to them and the school. For more information, please contact John at PatrickHenryBricks@allied-gardenskiwanis.org.

Prom is in June and I am pleased that due to the great outpouring of donations in the past few years, there are dresses and men's clothing available. Also, PHHS has a thrift store on campus and they are looking for everyday school clothes, supplies and personal care products to be donated. If you would like to contact me for a list of what is acceptable school clothes (colors, no logos other than sports, etc.) I will be happy to email the list to you.

## Dog park

We have formed a committee to see if we can have a dog park in the San Carlos/Allied Gardens/Del Cerro area. Shortly, we will hold our first meeting.

## Welcome

Welcome to our new neighbors Brew Appetit (in the former location of McCarters). Great venue for parties, brews, food, sports and fun; opens at 4 p.m.

## Fireworks

Plans are underway for the wonderful Fourth of July fireworks display like we had last year. If you would like to make a financial donation to this 501(c)(3) organization, make your check payable to "Lake Murray Fireworks" and send it to: Lake Murray Fireworks C/O SCAC, Attn: Tracy Dahlkamp, PO Box 19246, San Diego, CA 92159. SCAC is a proud sponsor.

## Council business

SCAC elections are in May, if you are interested in joining our board of directors please let me know. The time commitment is only two or three hours a month (if that).

SCAC dues are due (\$7 per household). Please send your check for Membership to: SCAC P.O. Box 19246, San Diego, CA 92159-0246. If you wish to be added to The Interested Persons List, please contact me at mrzeichick@gmail.com. If you have a topic you would like to hear about, please let me know and perhaps we can have this be our "guest topic" of our bi-monthly meeting.

—Mickey Zeichick is president of the San Carlos Area Council.■

## ► Patribots, from page 11

adult mentors worked to make this a successful season by turning schematic drawings into working parts. In addition to a robot, the team built a new pit and storage system that was revealed at the 2018 competition.

A constant hum of drills, saws, grinders, and mills fill the new Engineering Workshop. The team is really excited about the growth of the Engineering Program at PHHS. New engineering labs and a workshop have made the team more productive as evidenced by students working the machines with skill and precision. The bright

lights in the workshop that burn past 9 p.m. each evening during build season symbolize the bright future at Patrick Henry Engineering. There is a growing emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education throughout the Patrick Henry Cluster, and future students will enjoy the bright new facilities.

It takes a community to build a robot. The team is proud to represent Qualcomm, TSI, Northrop Grumman, The National Defense Education Program, All Star Glass, Strategy Builders, General Atomics, the PHHS Engineering Program, PHHS Foundation, and Natural Networks. The marketing team

helps the Patribots get the word out about STEM. Sponsor decals enhance the physical appearance of the robot, the robot pits, and the team swag, which include buttons, wristbands, T-shirts and more. The work of the marketing teams creates an exciting, sporting atmosphere in the team pits that rivals NASCAR.

The Patribots are always looking for additional community support; if you are interested in being a mentor or a sponsor, please contact Adria Van Loan-Polselli at avanloan@sandi.net.

—Harlod Mumford is Patribots coach and Adria Van Loan-Polselli is an engineering teacher at Patrick Henry High School.■

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# News from the Allied Gardens/Grantville Community Council

Shain Haug

The next Allied Gardens/Grantville Community Council (AGGCC) Town Hall Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the Benjamin Library at the corner of Zion Avenue and Glenroy Street in Allied Gardens. We will present a discussion of the competing initiatives for development of the San Diego County Credit Union Stadium property.

Honorable Toni G. Atkins was our guest for the March 27 Town Hall Meeting. She was sworn in as the 48th President pro tempore of the California state Senate on March 21. Elected to the state Senate in 2016 after serving as Speaker of the California State Assembly, Sen. Atkins represents the 39th District, which includes the cities of San Diego, Coronado, Del Mar and Solana Beach. Her discussion of the issues confronting the state and our community was deep and illuminating. A full report of that presentation will be found in our newsletter that will be mailed in early May 2018.

We're excited that to date, San Diego Urban Forestry has planted 60 trees along Zion Avenue. Now it's up to the community to make sure these trees prosper and fully mature. The rain this winter never really came so we've been placing 5-gallon gator bags around the trees in order to help the neighbors adjacent to the trees more easily water them. The bags, when filled, will slowly drain the water into the base of the tree over a 24-hour period. We hope that you will adopt a tree near you by watering it regularly.

Our urban forestry success is the result of the commitment and hard work of AGGCC board members Sophia Frost and Jessica Read.

Frost has been a resident and homeowner in Allied Gardens since 1990. She is proud to have raised both her children in this community. She works as a counselor for both public and private schools in San Diego County. She joined the Allied Gardens/Grantville Community Council in 2017 and helped establish the board's Beautification Committee.

Jessica Read was born and raised in San Diego and joined the Allied Gardens community after coming back from college in 2005. When she's not working in the lab doing cancer research for the biotech industry, she enjoys the outdoors by hiking, climbing, biking and skiing. In the little spare time she does have, she spends it beautifying the Allied Gardens-Grantville community by getting more trees planted in the neighborhood, organizing the Arbor Day Festival and helping to start the community garden started.

The AGGCC board of directors meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Benjamin Library, at the corner of Zion Avenue and Glenroy Street. Our next board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 1. Join us!

—Shain Haug is the president of the Allied Gardens/Grantville Community Council. Reach him at [aggccshain@yahoo.com](mailto:aggccshain@yahoo.com). Visit the AGGCC website at [aggccouncil.org](http://aggccouncil.org). You can also give suggestions at [aggccouncil@gmail.com](mailto:aggccouncil@gmail.com). ■

## ► News briefs, from page 20

meters for its customers and hopes to have the approximately 270,000 customers it serves on smart meters by 2020. To report a problem with your water meter or to request a test, call San Diego Public Utilities water department at 619-515-3525.

**Sen. Toni Atkins leads state Senate**  
In a ceremony at the state Capitol on March 21, Sen. Toni Atkins was sworn in as the 48th president pro tempore of the California Senate. Atkins praised predecessor Kevin de León's commitment to expanding opportunity for all Californians. Atkins is the first woman and the first open member of the LGBT community to lead the California Senate. "It's the first time. And it's about time," Toni Atkins said in a press release. Women and LGBT activists "weren't waiting — they were working. Marching in streets. Battling in courtrooms. Speaking out. Stepping up. This ascension is their accomplishment, not mine." She's also the first person to serve as speaker of the Assembly and president pro tem of the Senate in 146 years. The new Senate leader referenced the culture of sexual harassment that has been allowed to fester in the Capitol community. "To some extent, we bear the burden of past sins too often swept under the rug. We can't change the past. But we can and should be judged on how we shape the future," Atkins said, adding that "we know that true culture change cannot be

legislated or decreed. It doesn't occur overnight. And it doesn't get solved simply by electing women to leadership." There will be a San Diego swearing-in celebration on Friday, April 13, at the Jacobs Center Celebration Hall, 404 Euclid Ave. at 2 p.m., followed by a reception. For more information about the event, visit [bit.ly/2GfvShq](http://bit.ly/2GfvShq).

**Kaiser Zion looking for volunteers**  
Kaiser Permanente Zion Medical Center is looking for compassionate volunteers for a variety of programs. "With our new hospital opening last year and Zion developing some new programs, we are in need of finding more volunteers from the nearby community," Katie Williams, Assistant Volunteer Director for Kaiser Permanente Zion Medical Center, stated in an email to the Mission Times Courier. According to Kaiser, studies show that a compassionate ear helps patients experience better healing, less anxiety, less pain and ultimately require less medication.

Examples of the types of work volunteers do at the hospital include greeting patients with a smile and escorting them to their destination; getting a blanket or socks for a patient who feels cold; and comforting family members and keeping them informed. Volunteering opportunities are available on every day of the week from 8 a.m.—8 p.m. Volunteers are expected to: ● Be able to make a minimum one-year commitment to a regular weekly schedule and assignment, usually four hours per week. ● Attend a meeting with the director or assistant director

of Volunteer Services and complete required paperwork. ● Attend a three-hour general orientation and a four-hour hospital or clinic orientation. ● Complete a health screening including TB testing and a background check, provided by Kaiser Permanente. ● Maintain an attendance standard of 75 percent of scheduled shifts. ● Be placed in a volunteer assignment after completion of orientation and training. Placement is based on volunteer's availability, current schedule openings, volunteer's interest and fit for the position, and hospital or clinic needs. On April 17, Kaiser Zion will hold its annual volunteer appreciation event, which will also serve as an opportunity to "talk [the volunteers] up to the community while also letting others know they can join us," Williams stated. For more information on the April 17 event, volunteering opportunities and how to apply, call 619-528-5191 or visit [k-p.li/1E68nRD](http://k-p.li/1E68nRD).



**Crusaders Soccer MICRO players**  
(Photo by Jay Coulter)  
**Crusaders Soccer wrapping up spring, preparing for fall**  
The Crusaders Soccer Club spring season is half over, with well over 425 boys and girls playing on Sunday afternoons through May 6 on the artificial

See NEWS BRIEFS page 25 —>

# WORSHIP DIRECTORY

**Calvary Chapel**  
Wed. Night.....6:30pm to 8:00pm  
Sat. Night.....6:30pm to 8:00pm  
Sunday.....10:00am to 11:30am  
Tuesday.....6:30pm to 8:00pm  
**619-697-7221 Pastor Chris Pawlowski and Pastor Dave Riley**  
Calvary Chapel 7525 El Cajon Blvd.  
La Mesa, CA 91942.

**San Diego Church Of Christ**  
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Patrick Henry High School  
6702 Wandermere Dr  
April 15th  
Service will be held at Golden Hall  
Downtown @10AM  
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# PUZZLES ANSWERS ON PAGE 16

**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.

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

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## CROSSWORD Spring Into Action

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59							60					61		
62							63					64		

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE By Charles Preston

- ACROSS**

1 Cord or Reo  
5 Enclose  
10 Nick and Nora's pet  
14 African village  
15 Governor Cuomo  
16 Small barracuda  
17 Acrobatic feat  
19 Waste allowance  
20 Perfectly
- 21 Like some enlargements  
23 Bull fiddler  
27 Realize  
28 Royal realm  
29 Counsel  
30 A kind of gift  
33 Laconic  
34 Early French king Hugh  
35 Social gathering  
36 Sale sign
- 37 Roadside stop  
38 Is wrong  
39 Boys no more  
40 In mushroom  
41 Adroit  
42 Unit of work  
43 Swan genus  
44 Paternal kinsman  
46 Young hog  
48 Hid  
49 Morning prayer
- 51 Triplet  
52 Rabbit or Fox  
53 Youth  
59 Toward shelter  
60 Jubilate  
61 Controversial pesticide  
62 \_\_\_ and Lovers: Lawrence  
63 Profound sleep  
64 Polynesian chestnut
- DOWN**

1 Ski wood  
2 Ms. Hagen  
3 Whip  
4 Australian river  
5 Levy  
6 Corday's victim  
7 Whale's tidbit  
8 \_\_\_ Heldenleben  
9 Bad poetry  
10 White spectral type
- 11 Academic interruption  
12 Preadult  
13 ABA member  
18 Evoke  
22 Rave's relative  
23 Evolved  
24 Entertainer  
25 Boss Bruce  
26 Perches  
27 Coat part
- 29 Irrigate  
31 Ventilate  
32 Worsted  
34 19th cent. French painter  
37 Treacle  
38 Sicilian province  
40 Dawdle  
44 Sighting device  
45 Tam-tam  
47 Takes on
- 48 Platonic dialogue  
49 Grad. school degrees  
50 Woody's son  
51 Gin  
54 Mideast gp.  
55 Sailor  
56 Dockworker's org.  
57 Car-floor covering  
58 Important period





### 'Arts Alive: A Show in Living Color'

San Diego's March show-ers bring April flowers to the San Carlos Branch Library. The paintings of San Carlos Friends of the Library (SCFOL) art chairperson Barbara Stewart and Maria Louisa Dominguez, will be the inspiration for members of the San Carlos Garden Club to host "Arts Alive: A Show in Living Color" in the Winer

## Art in bloom at the library

Family Community Room & Art Gallery on Friday, April 20, 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., and Saturday, April 21, 9:30 a.m.–2 p.m. The show is free and open to the public.

Arts Alive shows are the pairing of creative floral designs with the paintings that inspired them. For two days, you can experience an array of exceptional eye candy art and floral arrangements. Artist Dominguez is an accomplished oil, watercolor and pastel artist. The naturally talented Stewart prefers pastels as her medium of choice, although she incorporated all art forms into her teaching career. Their paintings will be on display before and after the Arts Alive show, from April 10–May 3.

On April 20, at 11 a.m. and again at 1 p.m., enjoy Garden Club flower arranging demonstrations. Saturday, April 21, continue viewing the beautiful art and matching floral displays; stay for the special drawing around 2 p.m.

During the two days, Garden Club members will be available to answer your questions and refreshments will be served. This year's San Carlos Garden Club floral arrangement designers include Ruth Casady, Jo Cormier, Sondra Courter, Barbara Daub, Genny Deutsch, show chairperson Dorothy Driscoll, Bianca Kressel, Rita Kuehn, Joyce McManus, Marty Minney, Marj Myers, Marilyn Nemeroff, Susan Pappert, Gayle Regan, Jackie Rodriguez, Terry Seaburg and Tanna Wilson.

We thank the San Carlos Garden Club for beautifying our branch library since 1985, and want them to know how much we enjoy their colorful floral arrangements. We hope they will continue the tradition for many years to come.

### Youth special events

Wednesday, April 18, 2:30–3:30 p.m., it's "All About Recycling" for ages 4–10.

Have you ever wondered what can and cannot be recycled? Come and meet Jeanne Patton, our community recycling specialist, and learn how you can help protect the environment. This interactive program will provide information on reducing, reusing, and

recycling in the city of San Diego, followed by a fun craft made from recycled materials.

Saturday, May 5, is Free Comic Book Day. Discover the amazing world of comic books! Stop by the library all day long to pick up your age-appropriate, free comic book. Drop in 1–3 p.m. and kids can create a special "comic craft." While you are there, join in the fun of our "Star Wars" scavenger hunt, happening during the entire month of May.

Did you know that "Wonder Woman" is 76 years old this year? The comic literary form was first introduced to the American public in 1842 but not until 1934, with the publication of the first comic books and the 1938 introduction of "Superman," did the Golden Age of comics begin.

Saturday, May 12, 1–3 p.m. ages 9–12 can join us for an "Ozobot, Moon Adventure." Students will work in teams to rescue a space ship stranded on the surface of the moon due to a battery failure. Teams will develop codes using markers to guide a mini-robot, called an Ozobot, to retrieve supplies for this hands-on outer space rescue. This program is presented by Microsoft. Register at [sandiego.library-market.com/ozobot-program](http://sandiego.library-market.com/ozobot-program). Limited space — advance registration is required. This class is part of the San Diego Public Library's "Spring into STEAM — Blast Off" program series.

### Challenge Island

On April 25, 4–5:15 p.m., Challenge Island — a science program for kids ages 8–12 — presents "Tree Top Tower." Kids will learn about the people living in the rain-forest and their towering tree houses. Then, working with their teammates, kids will build the tallest tower they can. Registration is required; please call 619-527-3430.

### Authors and books

On Friday, April 27, 2–3 p.m., Susan Meissner will be discussing "The Forgotten Flu" which is the basis of her novel, "As Bright As Heaven." The story takes place in 1918 Philadelphia when the Spanish Flu took the lives of 50 million worldwide, including members of the Bright family. Taking in a baby orphaned by the disease becomes the Brights' single source of hope.

Meissner is a multi-published author, speaker, and writing workshop volunteer for Words Alive, a San Diego nonprofit dedicated to helping at-risk youth foster a love for reading and writing. Her novels include "A Bridge Across the Ocean," "Secrets of a Charmed Life," and "A Fall of Marigolds."

On May 10, 12:30–2 p.m., the Library Book Club is discussing J.D. Vance's memoir,



The Arts Alive show features paintings paired with floral arrangements. (Photos courtesy SCFOL)

"Hillbilly Elegy." Vance is a Marine veteran and Yale Law School graduate with Appalachian hillbilly roots. He uses his memoir to illuminate the struggles of America's lower working classes to obtain the American dream.

### Free OASIS programs

These presentations are part of the Healthy Habits series.

April 13, 2–3 p.m.: "Eating the Rainbow: Love Your Fruits & Veggies." Find out why it's important to "eat the rainbow." Learn and taste test a unique and time-efficient way to add colorful foods to your daily diet.

May 11, 2–3 p.m.: "Enjoy the Power of Fiber in Your Diet." Learn more about how foods rich in fiber boost health and keep our digestive system functioning healthily. Every attendee will receive a free, healthy snack and wellness guide with recipes and tips for healthy living at both free presentations.

### Dates to remember

- April 18, 4–5:30: SCFOL monthly meeting, please join us
- April 19: "Process Art" — CANCELED
- April 20, 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.: "Art Alive: A Show in Living Color"
- April 20, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.: Flower arranging demonstrations
- April 21, 9:30 a.m.–2 p.m.: "Arts Alive: A Show in Living Color" and special drawing
- April 21: Meditation — CANCELED
- May 4, 1:30–3:30 p.m.: Friends of the Library only, Used-Book Pre-sale. Join SCFOL during the sale
- May 5, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.: SCFOL Monthly Used Book Sale and Free Comic Book Day
- May 13: Mothers' Day

—Sue Hotz is board member and publicity chair of the San Carlos Friends of the Library. Reach her at [publicity@sancarlosfriendsofthelibrary.org](mailto:publicity@sancarlosfriendsofthelibrary.org). ■



Susan Meissner, author of 'As Bright As Heaven,' will speak at the San Carlos Library April 27



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# Happening at the Allied Gardens Library

Danielle Ghio

Help us celebrate National Library Week (April 8–14) by showing your love for the library. One way is to join our wonderful Friends of the Library group. This amazing group of volunteers works to support many of the fun-filled library programs we offer. If joining is not an option, you can support the Friends by shopping their ongoing book sale located in the Reading Lounge.

## Breaking News @ The Library: Be A Citizen Journalist

Have you ever wondered how reporters come up with the news they publish or how the news works? Then come to this session to learn the basics of the news business from local working journalists who will answer your questions on what goes into covering the news of the day. Learn the difference between real news and “fake” news. Presented by the San Diego Press Club, San Diego Society of Professional Journalists, and the San Diego Union-Tribune. April 10, 6–7:30 p.m.

## Keeping your wits

Oasis presents another fascinating talk on “Why Brain Function Declines and 10 Ways to Prevent It,” hosted by Phil Goscienski, M.D. Most of the decline in our mental functioning has nothing to do with aging. Come to this informative lecture to find out 10 things that you can do to keep your brain working! April 20 at 2:30 p.m.

## Tax help

Tax help at the library continues this month on Mondays and Tuesdays. Older adults, or those with limited income, are welcome to have their taxes prepared by AARP volunteers. This program is offered on a first-come, first-served basis and takes place on Mondays, 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m., and Tuesdays, noon–4 p.m. Please note that the final day of tax help will be April 10.

## Spring gardens and fresh recipes

April is a great time to get those gardens started! We have a wonderful selection of



Hullabaloo bring their ‘free-range, organic kid-folk’ to the Allied Gardens Library on April 14. (hullabalooand.com)

gardening books on display this month. From planting your first tomatoes to introducing indigenous flora to attract local wildlife, we have books for you! We also have a great selection of cookbooks highlighting fresh and yummy vegetable recipes to jump-start your healthy eating plans.

## Handmade @ Your Library

Join Ms. René on Saturday, April 21, at 2:30 p.m. and learn how to create charming little “dry” terrariums with glass orbs, preserved moss, sand and shells. These mini-gardens are perfect for those house-plant challenged among us!

Sign up at the front desk. Space is limited. This class is designed for seniors but all adults are welcome. All supplies will be provided but feel free to bring your own figurines and found objects to brighten up your “garden.”

## Kids’ Corner

**STEAM Storytime:** Start your weekend off right with our brand new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Storytime. Each week we will read some fun stories, sing some catchy tunes and of course do some weird, quirky, magical science. Children of all ages welcome.

**Black Cat Scavenger Hunt:** The library has been invaded by black cats! They have hidden themselves all over the library and we need your help to find them. All day on April 13, we encourage both our young and young-at-heart patrons to come in and find all the black cats hidden in the library, when you can tell us how

many there are we will give you a delicious prize!

**Hullabaloo:** Join us on Saturday, April 14, at 10:30 a.m. for a foot-stomping, wing-flapping celebration of songs for the young and young at heart. (This program will be present in lieu of STEAM Storytime.)

**Teen Scene:** We continue to offer our popular Teen Scene which takes place on Tuesday at 3 p.m. with the addition of two new programs: Video Gaming and Game On! board games at the library. Video gaming is offered every Wednesday, 12:30–2:30 p.m. and Game On! is every Thursday, 3–5:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!

## Attention teachers: The library wants to help you

Would you like to schedule a class visit to the library? Would you like us to come visit you in your class? How about a book talk or database demonstration? Or maybe an introduction to our online tutoring resources? We offer all this and more! If you are interested in having the library help you, please contact us here at the branch. We look forward to hearing from you.

We continue to offer storytimes for babies, toddlers and preschoolers throughout the week, as well as our popular adult programs. Please visit the branch or check out our Facebook page for a schedule.

—Danielle Ghio is the youth services librarian of the Allied Gardens/Benjamin Branch Library. Reach her at dghio@sandiego.gov.■

## ► News briefs, from page 23

turf fields at Pershing Middle School. At the same time, try-outs continue for the 2018/19 fall season.

Stop by the Pershing fields between noon and 1 p.m. on any Sunday through May 6 to see the mighty MICRO teams (ages 3 and 4) in action on the north end of the field closest to Navajo Road. There games are on-going until 5 p.m. for players up to 14 years of age.

“Spring soccer is a great family event whether you have a child or grandchild playing or not,” said Crusaders Soccer President Terry Cords. “Stop by and check out the excitement

and enthusiasm of the players and the families supporting their players.”

Jay Coulter is a long-time resident of San Carlos and his avocation is photographing sports events; primarily youth sports which includes the Crusaders Soccer Club — something he has been doing for more than a decade. Check out his website at jaycphotos.com.

Registration for the recreational fall season will open on May 21. The season will run from Sept. 8 through Nov. 17 for soccer players ages 3 to 19. To register for the recreational fall season, go to sandiegocrusaders.com and click on Fall Recreational Soccer beginning May 21.

Crusaders is always looking for additional volunteer recreational coaches interested in helping to develop players while teaching them sportsmanship, team play, cooperation and soccer skills. For information about coaching, contact Jay Wilson at cscjay@cox.net.

Tryouts continue for the Crusaders Soccer Club’s 30-plus competitive teams for boys and girls born in 2001 up through 2010. Motivated soccer players interested in playing at a competitive level who want to improve their soccer skills with a professional soccer coach, should contact Crusaders Soccer Director of Coaching Rene Miramontes at futbol11@aol.com.■

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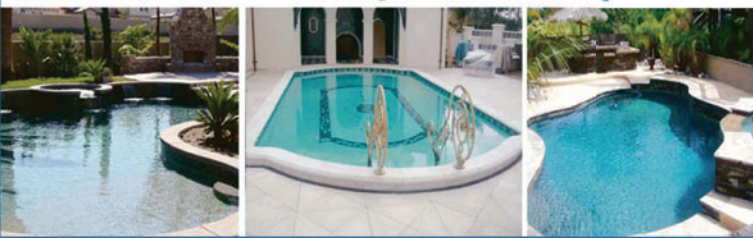


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MISSION TIMES COURIER  
COMMUNITY AND ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR



**Salsa Under the Stars**  
Grossmont College's salsa music and dance event raises money for the school's music scholarships and offers attendees a chance to learn Latin dance from instructor David Luu to the music of internationally-known salsa bandleader Manny Cepeda. Dance instruction begins at 5:30 p.m. and the live music concert begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Quad at Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon. Tickets are \$20 for the public, \$10 for students and are available at the door.

**'The Constitution'**  
Kidz Danz Kompany presents "The Constitution," a celebration of U.S. history — thorns, roses and all. There will be dances that tackle the 13th Amendment, the 3/5 rule on African-Americans, immigrant "dreamers," the love letters of John and Abigail Adams and more. 7 p.m. at the San Diego Performing Arts Center, 4579 Mission Gorge Place on April 13-14. Tickets are \$14-\$25; available at visionarydancetheatre.org.



**2018 Warbird Expo**  
Take an exciting flight in WWII B-25 or T-6 aircraft as part of Air Group One's annual event. The event will also feature vintage and classic cars, local vendors, a WWII memorabilia and aviation swap meet, and more. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gillespie Field, 2111 North Marshal Ave., El Cajon. For more information and to book a ride in a plane, visit aglcaf.org. Parking is free.

**End of Life Planning and Choices**  
This seminar will cover DNR (do not resuscitate), AHCD (Advanced Health Care Directive), POLST (physician orders for life-sustaining treatment), hospice care, palliative care, the End of Life Option Act, and VSED (voluntary stopping eating and drinking). 9 a.m. at Grossmont Healthcare District Conference Auditorium, 9001 Wakarusa St., La Mesa. Free and open to all ages. RSVP to erui@compassionandchoices.org.



**Peter and The Starcatcher' Through May 13**  
Lamplighter Theatre presents "Peter and The Starcatcher," the musical swashbuckling prequel to "Peter Pan" that reveals the origin story of "the boy who wouldn't grow up." The Lamplighter's cast of 12 will portray over 100 characters, including pirates, orphans, secret agents, a queen and more. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. at Lamplighters Community Theatre, 5915 Severin Drive, La Mesa. Tickets are \$23 adults, and \$20 for students, seniors and active military; available at lamplighterslamesa.com.



**San Diego Guitar Festival Through April 29**  
Celebrate the many styles of the six string at the San Diego Guitar Festival. This year's fest includes performances and workshops by Shin-Ichi Fukuda at the Japanese Friendship Garden on April 20 at 7 p.m. and April 21 at the Carlsbad Library at 7 p.m.; Kiko Loureiro on April 22 at SDSU Rhapsody Hall at 4 p.m.; Gohar Vardanyan on April 27 at SDSU Rhapsody Hall at 7:30 p.m.; the Beijing Guitar Duo on April 28 at the Carlsbad Library at 7 p.m.; and Richard Savino on April 29 at SDSU Rhapsody Hall at 4 p.m. Ticket prices vary and different packages are available. Visit sdguitarfest.org for more information.



**EarthFair and Earth Day Parade**  
The 29th annual EarthFair in Balboa Park is the largest free, annual environmental fair in the world, drawing around 60,000 people. This year's theme is "We're All in this Together" and will feature more than 300 exhibitors, theme areas, a food pavilion, children's activity area, four entertainment venues, the eARTH Gallery arts and crafts show, the Cleaner Car Concourse, and more. The fair is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and the parade starts at 10:30 p.m. at the Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado. For information about volunteering, visit EarthDayWeb.org. To register for the parade, visit EarthParade.org.



**Artists' reception: 'Songs of Baja Ranchos'**  
The Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation will hold an artists' reception for its exhibition "Songs of Baja Ranchos." Seven award-winning artists who teach with Baja Rancho Art — Carol Catalano-Webb, Rose Irelan, Eileen Mandell, Ellen Parry, Rick Phillips, Helen Shafer-Garcia, and Jeff Yeomans — are featured in the exhibition which will be on display in the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center Art Gallery April 14-May 11. Baja Rancho Art works with professional artists to bring fine art instruction to a unique and historic region of northern Baja California. Visit bajaranchoart.com. The public is cordially invited to a reception in honor of the artists on Sunday, April 22, 1-4 p.m.



**San Diego Concert Band**  
The San Diego Concert Band presents the 29th annual Spring Celebration Concert. 7 p.m. at the Kroc Center, 6845 University Ave. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, military and students. Children 5 and under, free. Visit sandiegoconcertband.com.



**East County Career Expo**  
A record number of employers will be recruiting at the 26th annual East County Career Expo at Cuyamaca College. At least 65 businesses representing a wide swath of career and job fields, including health care, child care, education, municipalities, county agencies, public utilities, nursing homes, nonprofits, law enforcement, gaming, landscaping, local legislators, San Diego radio stations, and more will be on hand to talk with prospective employees. The expo is free and open to the public. Employers can pay a \$50 registration fee to reserve a table online to bit.ly/2q5KGot. 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Cuyamaca College Student Center, Room I-207, 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, El Cajon.



**Spring Garden and Butterfly Festival**  
Now in its 25th year, the Water Conservation Garden at

Cuyamaca College's annual event is expected to draw up to 5,000 visitors to the family-friendly event featuring landscape design consultations, butterfly releases, Kumeyaay fire making and artifacts demonstrations, and more. 9 a.m. at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. Free and open to all ages.

**Miss San Diego Cities Pageant**  
4 Points Productions presents Miss San Diego Cities 2018 Pageant. The pageant program focuses on community service, providing a mentoring and leadership opportunity for young women, and preparing titleholders to compete in the 2019 Miss California USA Pageants. 7 p.m. at the Kroc Center, 6845 University Ave., San Diego. Visit misssandiego.org for more information.



**Adams Avenue Unplugged**  
The seventh annual Adams Avenue Unplugged will feature 60 artists performing on 24 stages along Adams Avenue, from University Heights through Normal Heights to Kensington. The 2018 headliners are Little Feat vocalists/guitarists Paul Barrere and Fred Tackett. They will perform one set on Saturday evening in the intimate sanctuary of the Normal Heights Methodist Church. Tickets for this performance are \$15 and available online. Also performing will be Gregory Page, Sara Petite Band, Stephen El Rey, Nina Francis, Blue Creek Band, and Shawn Rohlf Band. These performers and many more will perform free multiple sets at participating restaurants, bars, and coffeehouses along Adams Avenue. In addition to the great music, there will be a beer garden. Tickets for the beer garden will be \$19, which will include four 14-ounce beers and a plate of food from City Tacos. For the lineup, schedule, concert tickets for Paul Barrere and Fred Tackett, beer garden tickets, and further information, visit bit.ly/2Iin6g3.



**'Law and Order' candidate forum**  
Candidates for district attorney and sheriff will speak on law and order in San Diego County. This event will be moderated by Voice of San Diego's Scott Lewis. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 6299 Capri Drive.



**Live music: Karen Giorgio**  
Pianist and vocalist Karen Giorgio performs for free. 12:30 p.m. at the College Avenue Center, 6299 Capri Drive, San Diego.



**Screen Your Teen**  
The Eric Paredes Save A Life Foundation provides free heart screenings to youth, ages 12-25, in order to detect heart conditions that can lead to sudden cardiac arrest. The foundation is hosting a free heart screening 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Patrick Henry High School, 6702 Wandermere Drive. Participants can register for the free screening at EPSaveALife.org, where they will download a screening packet and bring to the event.



**Film: 'The Post'**  
Steven Spielberg directs this film starring Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep about the Washington Post's involvement in the Pentagon Papers. 1 p.m. at the College Avenue Center, 6299 Capri Drive. Free.



**Navajo Community Planners, Inc.**  
The Navajo Community Planners, Inc. is the local planning group for the neighborhoods of Grantville, Allied Gardens, Del Cerro and San Carlos. The group makes recommendations on local land-use issues to the city of San Diego's Planning Commission. 6:30 p.m. at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, 6660 Cowles Mountain Blvd.



**'Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure' Through May 19**  
Grossmont College presents a play about the world's most famous detective. Sherlock Holmes and his sidekick Watson are on the case when the King of Bohemia is blackmailed and caught up with a famous opera singer. May 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m., and special matinee performances on May 12 and 19 at 2 p.m. at the Grossmont College Stagehouse Theatre, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon. Tickets are \$10-\$50; available at bit.ly/2ymyrCU.



**Mother's Day Celebration**  
Eileen Wingard entertains and This String Trio plays music by composer Cecile Chiminade. 12:45 p.m. at the College Avenue Center, 6299 Capri Drive. Free event.



**Spring Coin Show**  
The Heartland Coin Club of El Cajon hosts a coin show featuring 30 dealers who will present U.S. and foreign coins, currency and related numismatic items for sale. A Coins FO Kids Corner will feature information about coin collecting, plus free and discounted items for youth interested in numismatics. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Cunane Social Center at the Guardian Angels Church, 9310 Dalehurst Road, Santee. For more information, call John Weiss at 619-448-8702.



**Rey Mysterio's Luche Libre Mayhem**  
Join celebrity wrestlers Rey Mysterio, John Morrisson, Taya, Brian Cage and more for an action-packed night of Luche Libre wrestling. 8 p.m. in the Live & Up Close Theatre at Sycuan Casino, 5469 Casino Way, El Cajon. Tickets are \$29-\$49; available at Sycuan.com. Must be 21 and up. ■



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## Community Helping Hands Food Drive - Thank you Neighbors!



Thank you to our many neighbors who stopped by Ideal and made a donation to the San Diego Food Bank. We are truly grateful and impressed by your giving spirit! We'd like to give a special thanks to Cub Scout Pack 975 who collected, packaged, and donated 24 boxes of food - wow! Thank you also to Chris and Gay Holbrook of Allied Gardens Grocery Outlet for collecting donations in their store.

Last year the collaborative effort of the *Community Helping Hands Food Drive* yielded 40,423 pounds of food, which equals 33,686 meals provided for hungry families in San Diego. We anticipate this year is another success, thanks to your generous donations!



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