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Fowl play at Lake Murray?

Missing geese has some visitors worried

Jeff Clemetson
Editor

When a person is missing, communities react with organized search parties, fliers posted on light poles, even announcements on milk cartons. But for Blue and Squeaky, two geese that have been missing from Lake Murray for over two months, a small memorial rock garden located next to a tree near the parking lot by Shira Field will have to suffice.

"I know to many people they're just geese, but they're not geese to me. They're family to me," Anna Falco said. "It breaks my heart because I don't even want to come here [to Lake Murray] anymore."

Falco, along with her friend Lori Ciprian and other Lake Murray regulars that admired

Blue and Squeaky, erected the memorial to the missing geese in mid-July after extensive searches of the lake proved fruitless in finding the missing birds.

"On days that Lori was here, she'd go to different parts of the lake to look. We both can't do from one end of the lake to the other in one day to look for them thoroughly. And we went and we checked the entire water," Falco said, adding that they even recruited the help of reservoir keeper Gayle Havens to mount a search by boat.

But they found no sign of the geese — not even a feather.

Falco has all but given up on ever again seeing Blue and Squeaky, an oddball pair of birds — a white domestic goose and a brown Canadian. She befriended the couple around six years ago on her one of her daily walks around Lake Murray

and said she saw them every day ever since.

"I've gotten a bond with them. I fed them every day," Falco said of the daily feeding of Romaine lettuce she provided the geese. "They started to trust me and started to love me and it was a bond that was, to me, a gift."

Because of the odd pairing of two different species, Blue and Squeaky made an impression on many of the birdwatchers and other visitors to the lake. The "interracial couple," as some people described them, were also sometimes called by other pet names like Elvis and Marilyn, Bonnie and Clyde, or Romeo and Juliet.

"We always knew where they were because one's white and one's brown," Falco said, adding that if they were at the lake, she'd know. She also doesn't think the pair migrated.

"As long as I've known them for six years, I have never seen them leave. They've never gone," she said.

Blue and Squeaky aren't the only geese to suddenly disappear from Lake Murray recently. Falco noticed another pair and a single bird come up missing a year ago.

Falco said that most people she talks to suspect coyotes, and admits that that is a likely scenario. However, she also hasn't ruled out foul play — which is not as far-fetched as it might sound.

According to Millie Basden — recreational birder, certified California naturalist and volunteer trail guide at Mission Trails Regional Park — goose snatchers are actually a distinct possibility.

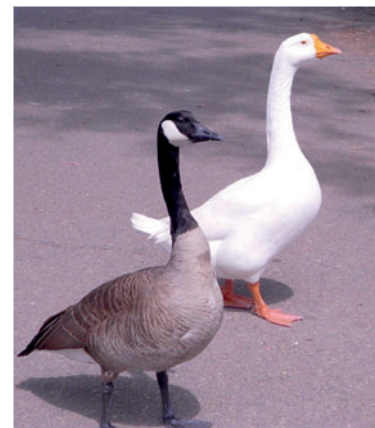
"Of [several] possible explanations, capture by people seems most likely to me," she said. "I am not aware of any actual documented cases, but it would not surprise me that someone would decide to have a goose for dinner or to keep them for eggs. Since these geese were habituated to people, it would be easy to capture them."

Although not ruling it out, Basden said coyotes attacking adult geese is rare and that if coyotes did attack Blue and Squeaky, it would be likely that only one would be taken, not both.

The geese might also have flown away, perhaps to another lake. Falco said she had already searched Chollas Lake for her feathered friends but did not find them there. Basden said the flying off theory would make more sense if both were Canadian geese, but didn't rule out the possibility.

"Why they would decide to fly away after years of hand-outs is a mystery, but birds do take off," she said. "They may be at Lindo Lake or they may have left the area entirely."

The annual molt, when geese shed and regrow their feathers, might also be an explanation for the missing birds. If a molt migration to another lake area is the cause of them leaving, or perhaps hiding really well, the



Squeaky, a brown Canadian goose, and Blue, a white domestic goose, have been missing from Lake Murray since June. (Courtesy Anna Falco)

pair might one day turn back up at Lake Murray, Basden said.

That would, of course, be the preferred outcome. But if it is poachers taking the geese, Falco hopes the attention she's bringing to the disappearances of the Lake Murray geese will get the word out about this illegal activity — a violation of California State Penal Code 597. According to signs posted around the lake, a person caught harming or harassing animals can be punished with a \$20,000 fine and/or prison.

"We're their voice," Falco said. "[Blue and Squeaky are] dead and gone, but if we can get the word out, spread the word, we can maybe somehow stop this."

—Lori Ciprian contributed to this report.

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



(l to r) Anna Falco and Lori Ciprian (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)



Blue and Squeaky's memorial (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

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Councilmember Scott Sherman speaking at the ranger station groundbreaking. (l to r) Mission Trails Regional Park rangers Mansour Habis, Chris Axtmann, and Heidi Gutknecht; Casey Smith, deputy director, City of San Diego, Parks and Recreation Department Open Space Division; Councilmember Scott Sherman; County Supervisor Kristin Gaspar; Dorothy Leonard, Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation president; MTRP senior ranger Ryan Robertson; Joseph Morse, Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation Board secretary/treasurer. (Photo by Angie Ollman)

► Ranger Station, from page 1

Trails community, rangers still worked in very crowded trailers or offices in the visitors center. This new station aims to solve that problem by adding office spaces for the 13 rangers that currently work at Mission Trails.

“There will be a small area where you can go in and pick up brochures so the public can come in and get information, but it's [the new ranger station] mainly for park staff,” said Dorothy Leonard, one of the original founding members of the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation.

The new ranger station will also feature artwork by Encanto resident and artist

Roman de Salvo who previously designed a playground for the city of San Jose and the Riparium public art at Ruocco Park north of Seaport Village.

“The trails inspired this work,” de Salvo said. “I’m a trail user here and I’m really into the trails, the river and wanting to celebrate the trails and the water here. We came up with this idea of how to create an abstract rendition of the park in a sculpture.”

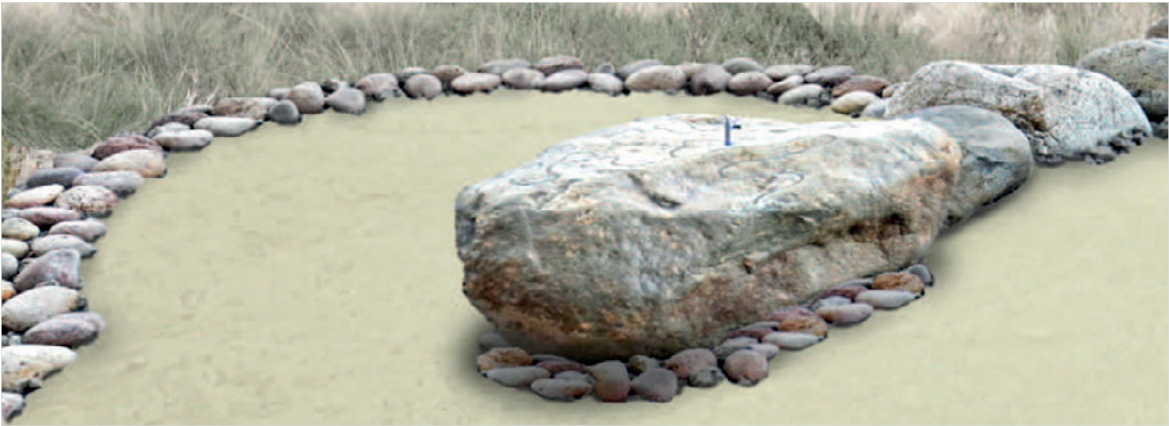
The project totals a \$6,638,550 investment — \$867,540 from the Mission Trails Regional Park Antenna Fund; \$4,071,010 from the city’s Environmental Growth Fund; and a \$1.5 million donation from the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation.

“We’ve been trying for a long time to preserve and promote nature in a very urban environment like San Diego,” County Supervisor Kristin Gaspar said. “If people haven’t been out here, they need to get here right away because this is a jewel for San Diego, it’s a hidden gem.”

Construction of the new ranger station began on Aug. 6 and is set to be completed next summer.

For more information about the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation or the New Ranger Station, visit mtrp.org.

—*Jess Winans is editorial assistant for SDCNN, parent company of Mission Times Courier. Reach her at jess@sdcdn.com.* ■



This rock sculpture by artist Roman de Salvo will be installed at the front of the new ranger station. (Courtesy City of San Diego)

How to Avoid Costly Housing Mistakes Before and After a Divorce

San Diego - Divorce is rarely easy and often means a lot of difficult decisions. One of the most important decisions is what to do about the house.

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Probably the first decision is whether you want to continue living in the house. Will the familiar surroundings bring you comfort and emotional security, or unpleasant memories? Do you want to minimize change by staying where you are, or sell your home and move to a new place that offers a new start? Only you can answer those questions, but there will almost certainly be some financial repercussions to your decision process. What can you afford? Can you manage the old house on your new budget? Is refinancing possible? Or is it better to sell and buy? How much house can buy on your new budget?

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San Carlos welcome sign repaired

Sherman 'goes rogue' to finish project stymied by red tape

Doug Curlee
Editor at Large

Last year, someone vandalized the “Welcome to San Carlos” at Navajo Road and Park Ridge Drive. The “S” and the “C” were ripped off and taken away.

A lot of people didn't like that, and wanted the city to repair it, which didn't happen as soon as people seemed to think it should.

One of the more vocal critics was San Carlos resident Jeff MacMaster, who more or less mounted a campaign to see that it got done.

After getting no satisfaction, or even response, from the city's “Get It Done” website, MacMaster turned his attention to Councilmember Scott Sherman's office, San Carlos being in his District 7.

He says he got no response there for a long time, and never did speak personally to Councilmember Sherman.

“I have learned that no one takes responsibility for maintaining this sign. Frankly, I cannot understand why this sign was built with no money earmarked for its maintenance” said MacMaster.

That's a fair question. It seems the “community” paid for and built the sign, but no one seems sure exactly who the “community” is.

The replacement letters cost about \$250 — as far as city expenditures go, that's not very much.

More on that later.

Liz Saidkhanian, director of outreach for Councilmember Sherman, said staff replied to all of MacMaster's emails, but getting answers out of a city bureaucracy often takes time.

Saidkhanian admits this took way more time than it should have, but again points to having to go through the dance steps mandated by the city.

“We had to wait until the contractor we identified to do the work could prove he had the necessary insurance to work on a city job, and that takes time. We had to wait for the people who make the letters to send an invoice, and this whole thing just wound up taking way too much time,” she said.

Saidkhanian said Sherman's office, and Sherman himself, are working to try to simplify and speed up the way the city handles things like this by cutting away pointless red tape.

“There's no way this should have taken this long,” she added.

The way this was finally accomplished was, in effect, a



Councilmember Scott Sherman glues on the replacement letters for the San Carlos welcome sign. (Courtesy Scott Sherman)

throwback to the days when there wasn't a multi-volume set of rules and regulations to deal with — when bureaucracies didn't rule.

It was also probably technically illegal, but no one has sworn out an arrest warrant.

“We just went rogue,” Saidkhanian said.

Sherman's office had the replacement letters in hand, and were more than a little frustrated, as was Jeff MacMaster.

They'd all had enough.

Councilmember Sherman finally just grabbed the letters

and the glue, jumped in the car, drove to Navajo Road and Park Ridge Boulevard, and glued the letters in place — with his own two hands.

Sherman has done things like this from time to time, we're told.

It might have been a nice gesture to invite Jeff MacMaster to join him there, but that didn't happen.

Too bad.

—Doug Curlee is Editor at Large. Reach him at doug@sdenn.com. ■

► News briefs, from page 1

For more information about the Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis, visit alliedgardenskiwanis.org.

Crusaders Soccer Club

On Saturday, Sept. 8, the Crusaders Soccer Club (CSC) 2018 fall soccer season will begin with over 1,000 players on 103 teams on many of the fields in our community. There is a wait list for playing in the CSC fall program. There is no charge unless the child is placed on a team.

The CSC annual “recreational division individual and team photo day” will be at the Allied Gardens Recreation Center on Sunday, Sept. 9. The event is the second day of the Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis Club's pancake breakfast fundraising event that raises money for community service projects. A rummage sale on Sept. 8 kicks off the weekend events. Breakfast will be served starting at 8 a.m. both days.

Practice for the teams begins soon for children throughout the Navajo Community and players wearing their CSC T-shirts provided by recreation and competitive sponsor Jersey Mike's Subs will be seen at various sports fields in the area.

This will be a challenging season for game and practice space through the middle of October due to the renovation of fields. Fortunately, the City of San Diego, through funds allocated by the Allied Gardens Recreation Council, is refurbishing three of the largest fields normally used by players for practices and games, and by schools as part of their physical education curriculum. Skunk Hollow, Lower Lewis and Dailard Elementary fields are receiving a much needed renovation. When completed, the community will have three very green, safe and healthy fields.

Crusaders Soccer recently experienced a break-in and a loss of soccer equipment similar to what has transpired at the Mission Trails and the San Carlos Little Leagues this year as well.

See NEWS BRIEFS page 8

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► Blankets, from page 1

work on fleece blankets and other products, most of which end up donated to various charities around San Diego.

One such recipient is the new veterans center going up in the former Motel 6 building on Alvarado Canyon Road in Grantville.

“When we heard about the motel being converted for homeless vets, we contacted [Councilmember] Scott Sherman’s office. We asked for some more information. He told us these guys would be moving in probably in October,” shared Florence Helms, Wrapped in Love member and secretary of St. Therese Charities. “We said we wanted to do something.”

That something is 90 fleece blankets that the group churned out to donate to the veterans.

“We understand there will be 85 veterans so we made 90 blankets because we didn’t want the last one to not have a choice,” said Sharon Dilloway, who spearheaded the project for the veterans’ blankets. “Our veterans so often get ignored, neglected, unappreciated and we thought this is something we can do for them.”

At a media event Wrapped in Love held on Aug. 1 to highlight the completed blanket project, Councilmember Sherman thanked the group for its charitable work and for supporting the veterans center.

“So many times — especially with the homeless veterans center that’s opening up just down the way in Grantville — when we try to help the homeless and we try and open these facilities, people come in and say, ‘Yeah, we love the idea but just don’t let it be in my backyard.’ And you ladies aren’t doing that,” he said. “You’re being part of the solution instead of part of the problem.”

Although the blanket project is the first to garner Wrapped in Love a lot of attention from the media, the group has been donating its work since the beginning — and not just blankets. Wrapped in Love has knitted and crocheted hats and booties for infants, scarves and hats for adults, lap quilts and more. Recipients of the handmade products include Ronald McDonald House, The Salvation Army Door of Hope, Catholic Charities Immigration Services, The Trinitarian Sisters Orphanage in Tecate and The Alpha Project Tent City.

“Right now, these baby blankets we’re making today are going to Balboa Naval Hospital because they give care packages to newborns and they take them home,” said St. Therese Charities President JoAnn Rossi. “We’ll also be doing some lap blankets for adults that are in other programs there at the hospital.”

Even though giving is the main reason for Wrapped in Love members make the various craft projects, not every item is given away to a charity group.



A pile of blankets, pillows shawls and more, ready to be donated (Photos by Jeff Clemetson)

“Some of the people that are coming up here each week are making things for themselves, which is OK,” Helms said, adding that all the fabric and materials for the various projects

are either purchased through St. Therese Charities donations or by the group members themselves.

Wrapped in Love has around 20 members and

is open to anyone from the community and meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon in the St. Therese Social Center. For more information, or to inquire about future

meeting or projects, call St. Therese Catholic Parish at 619-582-3716.

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



Councilmember Scott Sherman stopped by a media event on Aug. 1 to give thanks for supporting the homeless veterans center.

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CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

Guest editorial

Police work needs more transparency

California News Publishers Association

Governor Jerry Brown signed Penal Code 832.7 into law in 1977, making secret any information about the advancement, appraisal, or discipline of a peace officer. That means all records related to an investigation into an officer, including for serious misconduct, is confidential. Today, it is widely reported that California is among the most secret of any state with respect to police records. California also has more police shootings resulting in death annually than any other state.

Recent events, like the death of Stephon Clark in Sacramento, and those seared into California's history, like the beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles, underscore the immense public concern related to police and community interactions. But under current law, the public has little ability to access records related to police misconduct and use of force, depriving the press of the ability to fully investigate the activity of one of the most powerful public institutions.

That's why SB 1421, introduced by Senator Nancy Skinner, should pass. The bill would make certain police records disclosable under the California Public Records Act, in three instances: 1) When there is a serious use of force which could lead to injury or death; 2) where there is a sustained finding of an act of dishonesty like perjury, falsifying evidence, or other similar act that compromises an individual's due process rights; and 3) where there is

a sustained finding of sexual misconduct.

Courts have long recognized that activity of police officers is of the highest public concern, particularly when they use serious or deadly force. Law enforcement officials wield immense power. For that reason, they should be subject to the same level of scrutiny as all other public employees, whose personnel records are disclosable in cases of public concern. The same reasoning applies to the substantiated cases of sexual misconduct or incidences proven dishonestly against a police officer as this conduct represents a serious abuse of power.

In the case of police shootings, the public interest in disclosure is at its zenith, even when there is no claim of misconduct and a use of force is "within policy." The Sacramento Bee reported that 172 people died in law enforcement custody last year. There should be a report issued on each death.

The current lack of transparency results in distrust, which SB 1421 seeks to cure. The bill's disclosure scheme, which is not opposed by the California District Attorneys Association, provides flexibility for public agencies to disclose information and gives certainty to families and the public who seek to know, "What happened?"

The Los Angeles Times recently reported on the questions lingering for John Weber, whose 16-year-old son was killed by sheriff's deputies in February. "What exactly happened in the moments before Anthony Weber was shot in a south LA apartment courtyard? Was

he wounded in the back as he was running away? Did he lie on the ground struggling for life, or die instantly? Who were the deputies? How long had they been on the job? What were their records?"

The Sheriff's Department responded that it would remain silent on the case. But that's because the law facilitates, even demands, such silence. Peace officer personnel records are confidential and can be disclosed only in very limited circumstances. This adds insult to injury when families are left to plan funerals and mourn children without understanding the facts surrounding their death.

The Sacramento Bee reported that Brigett McIntyre filed a federal civil rights lawsuit in an attempt to force disclosure of details of how and why her only child, Mikel Laney McIntyre, was fatally shot in 2017. The Bee reported that police have not contacted McIntyre since the day of her son's death. This silence leaves McIntyre and communities across the state feeling that police are above the law and unworthy of public trust.

By changing the law to ensure that the public has a right to know what police agencies are doing about the state's record number of deaths at the hands of law enforcement, SB 1421 would bring comfort to those who are currently in the dark.

—For 130 years, the California News Publishers Association has protected the interests of newspapers throughout the state, from the smallest weekly to the largest metropolitan daily.■

Letters

Freedom reminder for Fourth of July

In our Nextdoor web page, in 2017, I wished my neighbors a happy Fourth of July and addressed the freedom of our country and the liberties that our people enjoy. I encouraged [them] to remind [their] children about the high cost of the privileges that we enjoy today and tell them that history repeats itself. Those of us who have been there, done that and seen that, have frequent lingering reminders.

In that post, I mentioned that I was in WWII and the Dachau Concentration Camp in Germany a few days after it was liberated. I mentioned that we saw the mound of human ashes and 22 train-car loads of dead people, and looked into the windows of the souls of the very few survivors and saw a slight glimmer of hope that reminded us why we were there. There were many kind responses to that Nextdoor post and all were appreciated.

However, not too long after that post, I was denied the opportunity of contributing to the Nextdoor web because, I think I was politically incorrect about something. The post offended someone who may have doubted my sincerity in sharing something that they don't believe, like the landing on the moon, or maybe it was something I said about the Commoner in Chief of our Armed Forces criticizing one of our pilots for being captured and living in a cell about the size of our refrigerators for five and a half years. Because of whatever, I was denied the opportunity to share the following this Fourth of July:

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See LETTERS page 19 —>

Lincoln Club focus of next Dem meeting



Tina Rynberg and
Jeff Benesch

In a 2014 San Diego CityBeat article, journalist Kelly Davis noted: “If money equals power, the Lincoln Club wields it like no other local political organization.”

Professor Jim Miller — a featured speaker at the Wednesday, Sept. 5 meeting of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club — will talk about the effect of Lincoln Club actions both on local races (i.e. Photoshopped hit pieces on the Alvarez mayoral campaign) and on California and national campaigns.

Think of the Lincoln Club as the “dirty tricks” right-wing operatives for any local campaign, able to throw unlimited amounts of money behind the candidates or propositions they think best represent their corporate interests, and hit pieces against opposing Democrats and progressive candidates and ballot issues. What exactly is the “shadow government” that the Lincoln Club and their minions perpetuate? What other examples are there in recent elections? What’s their success rate and their most obvious recent failings?

Miller will also talk about how labor unions and pensions

are affected by Lincoln Club activity and how their money and influence stack up against each other. What can we expect the Lincoln Club to do in the upcoming November election? How is the Trump effect intertwined with Lincoln Club actions, if at all? What can we do as progressive political activists to counter the Lincoln Club and their nefarious strategies? Is there a future in San Diego County where the politicians will work solely for the community benefit and real solutions, and not the dictates of the very rich and corporatocracy?

Joining professor Miller will be the ultimate political underdog, who garnered nearly 45 percent of the vote in the June primary election for county sheriff, Dave Myers. Myers battled the nine-year incumbent Sheriff Bill Gore on nearly equal terms in an election that sent shockwaves through the San Diego political establishment.

A justice reform candidate, Myers is a 33-year veteran of the Sheriff’s Department and rose to the rank of commander before retiring this year. He is a LMFDC member, a La Mesa resident, and took the brazen step of coming out as a gay man while serving in the traditionally conservative law enforcement community for over three decades. Born and raised in Allied Gardens, Myers has a unique perspective of the social inequities and “good old boys” network that perpetuates the criminal justice system in San Diego County.



Dave Myers

Jim Miller

When Sheriff Gore promoted Myers to his commander post in 2012, the sheriff lauded his decision. “Dave is a motivator and innovator,” Gore said in a press release. “Dave will undoubtedly bring new ideas and thinking to the table.”

Unfortunately, Myers now says, his ideas were generally met with resistance. Disappointed doesn’t begin to describe how Myers feels about it, given his extensive track record in practically every law enforcement position you could hold. He’s worked in the field, the jails, on homicide investigations, on border-crime issues, and oversaw security in the county’s handful of courthouses and also special events.

Come hear Miller and Myers speak on Wednesday, Sept. 5, at the La Mesa Community Center, 4975 Memorial Drive, La Mesa starting at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit lamesafoothillsdemocraticclub.com.

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

News and notes from your County Supervisor

Dianne’s Corner

Dianne Jacob



Are you ready?: The terrible loss of homes and other property during a recent wildfire in Alpine is the latest reminder of the importance of being prepared in case of disaster.

Be sure to do all you can to safeguard your family and property. This is especially important now, as the hottest, driest part of the year bears down on our region.

Go to readysandiego.org, a hub of must-have information. Clear brush and debris around your home. Sign up for the AlertSanDiego notification system. Download the SD Emergency app on your smartphone. Prepare a family disaster plan.

These steps and others could be real lifesavers.

Books and buildings: Lakeside recently took a huge step towards its dream of a bigger, better library.

The Board of Supervisors approved a design-build process for the 17,000-square-foot facility planned for Woodside Avenue, in the heart of town.

Groundbreaking could be as soon as March.

The project comes as the county continues to pursue improvements at other branches and plans for the construction of a new library in Casa de Oro.

Protecting taxpayers: My colleagues on the Board of Supervisors recently endorsed my proposal for a November ballot measure related to county finances.

If the measure is cleared for the ballot, voters will be asked to amend the county charter to help keep pension funds stabilized and limit the use of long-term debt proceeds.

We have managed over the years to improve public services while also working hard to safeguard taxpayer dollars — a feat that has gained us national recognition and triple AAA credit ratings.

Prudent fiscal practices are part of the county’s DNA — and we want to keep it that way!

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

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► News briefs, from page 4

Throughout the summer, CSC is offering free Friday evening clinics at Pershing Middle School. Check their website at sandiegocrusaders.com for more information on all their programs.

City seeks input on investments

The city of San Diego is preparing its new five-year consolidated plan for allocating funds provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The plan will determine how HUD funding will be directed through the fiscal years of 2020–2024.

Local officials are asking for input from residents and will host a series of forums throughout the city in July and August.

“Understanding the communities’ priorities is critical to ensure San Diego is leveraging federal funds for the maximum possible benefit,” Erik Caldwell, economic development director, said in a press release.

Programs to be discussed include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG); HOME Investment Partnerships Program; and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). More information

See NEWS BRIEFS page 19 →

Del Cerro Action Council news

Jay Wilson

The July Del Cerro Action Council (DCAC) met on July 25. The minutes of the April meeting are posted on the DCAC website. The next meeting will be held Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El.

Police reports

San Diego State University Police Corporal reported officers from the department have been routinely policing the Adobe Falls area. The fall semester begins Aug. 27 and the primary student move-in dates are Aug. 23 and 24. There will initially be a lot more traffic as students find their way. Email officer Peterson at mpererso@mail.sdsu.edu.

SDPD Community Relations Officer John Steffen reported there have been very few crimes in the recent weeks and he encouraged everyone to keep their doors and windows locked even during the summer months. Don’t give a criminal an opportunity. To contact Officer Steffen, email him at JMSteffen@pd.sandiego.gov

Elected officials reports

Jonathan Clark from Rep. Susan Davis’ office reported the congresswoman has been working diligently on the AIM Higher Act program to determine how we make college affordable and make it affordable for as many students as possible with better repayment

plans. She has also been working on a bill to provide funding for apprenticeships throughout the nation.

Rep. Davis scheduled two community events. On Saturday, July 27, there was a panel discussion at SDSU regarding U.S./Russia relations and on Aug. 4, there was a town hall meeting at Southwestern College. The website for Rep. Davis is susan-davis.house.gov.

Liz Saidkhanian, manager of community outreach for Councilmember Scott Sherman, reported that to minimize the homeless situation along the San Diego River, in the past year crews removed 260,000 pounds of debris. This included 474 tires, 4,109 mattresses and box springs, 1,539 shopping carts and 198 appliances.

The city no longer has to give homeless individuals a 72-hour official notice to vacate public property due to the opening of the new homeless storage facility.

“With the new storage facility, we only have to give a three-hour notice since there is now a place for individuals to store their belongings,” Saidkhanian said. “So far, 150 people have taken advantage of the program.”

To contact Saidkhanian, email her at ESaidkhanian@sandiego.gov.

All Peoples Church

Marcella Escobar-Eck, a principal with The Atlantis Group, the land use planning firm for All Peoples Church, stated the Navajo Community Planners recommended approval of the request by the All Peoples Church to initiate a plan amendment to the Navajo Community Plan (NCP). This allows the church to proceed with an application to amend the NCP. There will be community outreach in the neighborhood regarding their application.

Dr. Eric Frost, a resident of Del Cerro asked the church to look at the lack of lighting

along the College Avenue sidewalk from Interstate 8 to Del Cerro Boulevard. He is asking because it is not safe at night for anyone walking home into Del Cerro.

Pastor Robert Herber and Marcela were asked about residential units. The answer was no residential units are being built on the property and there will be no daycare or a school. The main activity is Sunday with much smaller meetings during the week.

Marcela mentioned that in a preliminary hearing, the city planning commissioners commented that the church needs to be conscious of the traffic.

SDSU

Rachel Gregg, the Government and Community Relations Manager for SDSU, stated that the university is working with the San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC) regarding Adobe Falls to gain access to the property for restoration of the property following the fire. The SDRC is evaluating what can be done.

Caltrans recently installed the long-awaited gate on the SDSU side of the storm drain tunnel that runs under I-8 with direct access to Adobe Falls.

Gregg mentioned Dr. Frost and SDSU staff are working on solutions for Adobe Falls after the fire. She also invited anyone to come for a tour of SDSU. Her email address is rgregg@sdsu.edu.

“We are looking at the possible solutions for any upcoming rains — El Niño possibility is building,” Dr. Frost commented. “The Adobe Falls fire burned a number of homeless encampments. One simple thing being done, is to try and break up the crust of the ground to help the water seep into the ground instead of rolling off into the Adobe Falls creek.”

Dr. Frost pointed out that in 1960, when the I-8 freeway was built, the Adobe Falls Creek path was changed. Virtually all of the area in the Adobe Falls Canyon is compacted from the freeway construction.

Dr. Adella de la Torre has been invited to meet the residents of Del Cerro at the October DCAC meeting. To accommodate Dr. de la Torre’s schedule, the meeting will be on Monday, Oct. 22. She wants to know more about our community.

Fire-fighting tools for San Diego Fire-Rescue

Jay Wilson

The recent Adobe Falls Canyon fire that impacted 40 acres caused neighbors to ask, “How can we say thank you to all the firefighters who successfully battled that blaze?” The Del Cerro Action Council has been asked by the Friends of Del Cerro to join them in an effort, along with the San Diego Fire-Rescue Foundation, to raise the remaining \$10,000 for purchasing specialized hand tools in order to effectively battle the increasing number of canyon and wildland fires in our city.

Glenn Thomas and other members of the Friends of Del Cerro approached Don Teemsma, the owner of Ideal Plumbing, and a board member of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Foundation (SDFRF), to lend a hand. Teemsma and the SDFRF board members have already secured a

\$10,000 donation from the San Diego Padres and the goal is to match that amount for a total of \$20,000, which will allow all the necessary tools to be purchased.

There are thousands of acres of very dry brush in the Navajo Community that could easily erupt into a devastating fire. Remember, just because you don’t live on a canyon rim does not mean your home is safe. Embers can be blown up to five miles. If you have not protected your home from a wildland fire itself, or a floating ember, do it now!

To help reach the funding goal of \$10,000, the Friends of Del Cerro have set up a fund-raising account through their website at friendsofdelcerro.org. The Del Cerro Action Council will be contributing \$1,500 toward that goal. Let’s all pitch in and help the Friends of Del Cerro, the Del Cerro Action Council and the San Diego Fire-Rescue Foundation reach the goal.■

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Community business

The DCAC was asked to again look into:

- Reinstalling the “No U Turn” sign, facing west, in the median at Del Cerro Boulevard and Marne Avenue.

- Whether the red curb by the mail box be painted white to legally allow a car to stop by the mailbox to mail a letter.

- Whether the property owners of the Windmill Shopping Center should designate a pathway for pedestrians walking up from Del Cerro Boulevard and/or Madra Avenue into the shopping center. This will improve safety for everyone walking to the Windmill Shopping Center.

—Jay Wilson is secretary of the Del Cerro Action Council. Visit delcerroactionconcil.org.■

Allied Gardens Grantville Community Council news

Shain Haug

Town hall meetings

Our thanks to San Diego City Councilmember Scott Sherman for his presentation at our July 24 town hall meeting. His candid explanation of what the city did and what it did not do when it established the rules for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs, commonly known as “granny flats”) was the beginning of our understanding of this complex matter.

As he described the process, the city spent a lot of time on the question, but the discussion barely reached the community residents most affected. If we are to protect the character of our neighborhood, it is up to us to take to the powers that be the problems of owner residence, placement of the units on the residential lots, parking, and other related issues. We should begin with the Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (NCPI), the formal representative of our community in matters of land use, planning and development. The governing board of that organization next meets on Sept. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Tifereth Israel Synagogue, 6660 Cowles Mountain Blvd.

The Allied Gardens Grantville Community Council (AGGCC) has made a formal request for time on the Sept. 12 agenda to express our need for NCPI action.

As brief as this presentation may be, it is your attendance that will give it meaning.

By the end of the year, 84 homeless veterans will leave the streets to begin residence in studio apartments at the converted Motel 6 on Alvarado Canyon Road. Our September article in the Mission Times Courier will offer some background information, and our town hall meeting on Sept. 25 will be devoted to this matter.

Beautification Committee report

It has been inspiring to see the progress the committee and the community have made so far! Not only because of the dozens of shade trees that we planted with the city of San Diego and the Urban Forestry Program along Zion Avenue, but by the “village” of neighbors who are stepping up to water, fertilize, and care for them.

The Zion Avenue tree project “village” is made up of neighbors who live along Zion Avenue and its adjoining streets and those who live blocks away who are finding creative ways to transport water to a tree each week. Some members of the Zion Avenue tree project even live in neighboring communities, but drive up and down Zion Avenue regularly and take pleasure in seeing the trees thrive.

We hope that our Zion Avenue tree project will inspire

others to plant new trees in front of their homes or to care for the trees that are already there. As a homeowner, you can sign a tree permit and the city of San Diego will plant trees in front of your home — all you need is to agree to water them until they become established.

Some may even be inspired to start their own street tree project by rallying neighbors to help transform a street in our community by adding shade trees in the parkways. Please contact the Allied Gardens Community Council Beautification Committee for more details at AGGCCouncil@gmail.com. We will be there to give you whatever guidance and help you need.

Thank you for beautifying our community — it takes a village to do so!

—Sophia Frost and Jessica Read

Board of directors meeting

The AGGCC board of directors meets 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, Sept. 4.

—Shain Haug is the president of the Allied Gardens Grantville Community Council. Reach him at aggccshain@yahoo.com, or visit aggccouncil.org.■

News from the San Carlos Area Council

Mickey Zeichick

The next meeting of the San Carlos Area Council (SCAC) will be Wednesday, Sept. 5, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Carlos Branch Library 7265 Jackson Drive. We will be meeting monthly and please note the new time. Our focus will be on the elected officials’ representatives and of course the fire and police departments.

Our monthly meetings will alternate between more in-depth reports from elected officials’ representatives one meeting and the next month’s meeting will have a speaker as the focus, however, elected official office representatives will be invited to provide brief updates.

Parks Master Plan

The city of San Diego’s Parks Master Plan is a three-year planning effort to shape our future parks, recreation facilities and programs over the next 20 to 30 years. I attended the public outreach meetings and was very vocal in wanting an off-leash dog park in the San Carlos area and rest benches for those of us who are “challenged,” and yet want to walk about our beautiful area. Walking and swimming are two of the most beneficial ways to exercise — and generally do not cost much money. But we need to rest and catch our breath or let our bones settle in.

I also stated that we need more sports fields and would like to see a skateboard area for our youth. I do believe I was

heard, and now let’s see how we do. Don’t give up on our getting an off-leash dog park — stay with me on this.

Lake Murray Fireworks and MusicFest

The fireworks were even more spectacular than last year’s (which were fabulous). You can still make a financial donation to this 501(c)(3) organization to help fund next year’s event. Please 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.

San Carlos sign

The “Welcome to San Carlos” sign has been fixed! Government

works slowly, and I believe our Councilmember Scott Sherman just wanted one more thing to do, so I understand that he just rolled up his sleeves and did it. Way to go, Scott! The sign is very nice. Thank you.

Membership

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 or have a topic you would like to learn about, please contact Mark Schulze at mark@crystalpyramid.com.

—Mickey Zeichick is secretary for the San Carlos Area Council.■

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RSVP Needs Your Help!



San Diego Police Department's Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) is seeking individuals to volunteer to assist the department in providing neighborhood safety and crime prevention.

What do RSVP Officers do?
These volunteers help the officers by performing tasks that allow the police to focus on crime fighting. Some of the work that RSVP officers do include:

- Patrol neighborhood streets in a patrol car.
- Search for lost children and Alzheimer's patients.
- Perform business security checks.
- Help with graffiti abatement.
- Check on homes of vacationing neighbors.
- Issue citations for disabled parking violations.
- Visit homebound seniors.

Volunteers must be at least 50 years of age and able to commit a minimum of three and a half days per month.
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iNaturalist observation of the month: Blue grosbeak

Patricia Simpson

There are a few species of birds at Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) that sport a bright blue coat with orange accents: The common and year-round resident western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*), the summer breeding lazuli bunting (*Passerina amoena*) and its cousin, the blue grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*). These three were among the 82 species of birds spotted in the park this April and recorded on iNaturalist.org.



Blue grosbeak (Photo by Roger Uzun)

The magnificent blue grosbeak, recorded by Roger Uzun at bit.ly/2LGPdM0, is found in San Diego County from mid-April to mid-August. It relies on native habitat such as riparian areas or grasslands and nests in low to medium growing shrubs. MTRP offers pristine breeding grounds for this thick-billed bird, which tends to poorly adapt to urbanization, according to the “San Diego County Bird Atlas” by Philip Unitt.

As with most bird species, the male is the one wearing the attractive “make-up” consisting of a vibrant blue plumage and orange wing bars. He will be the first to arrive on the summer premises and once joined by a female, they will proceed to raise up to two broods before departing south to their wintering homes.

You can check out the other bright blue/orange birds spotted in April: The western bluebird (bit.ly/2O0jv9a); and the lazuli bunting (bit.ly/2vn33rK).

—Patricia Simpson is a trail guide at Mission Trails Regional Park.■

David D. Cooksy

This is the final installment of a glimpse into habits and techniques of big birds of Mission Trails Regional Park as they hunt and consume prey. Here, a snowy egret displays the sensitive touch of its feet and deft skill of its bill.

While the great blue heron certainly showed determination, if not brute strength, to corral a bullfrog and catfish, the snowy egret was cunning and methodical. As with previous examples, capturing the meal is seemingly the hardest step, for if you do not have the meal in the first place, there will not be consumption. Seems obvious. But, what if you cannot even see the prey? What if the only option to locating a meal is to flush it out of hiding then chase it down? I guess it depends upon how hungry the hunter.

In searching for crawdads, the snowy egret moves slowly along the shallow water, one stride then another, almost shuffling, a vibration of its foot stirring the soft mud. And then, like the great blue heron in catching a bullfrog or catfish, the strike — the long neck shooting forward to seize the prey. Unlike a bullfrog or catfish, a crawdad poses a problem — pinchers and shell. What to do about pinchers and shell? Simple, just remove them.

If the method of locating is not impressive, watching how

to declaw and shell a crawdad is very impressive. The snowy egret is part juggler, magician, and gourmet chef knowing the difference between carving and fileting. The requisite meal preparation process includes tossing, flipping, crunching, dunk for a rinse, followed by more flipping, crunching, and tossing. However, with each flip, off flies a claw; with each toss and crunch, off comes pieces of the shell.

At times, it appears that the snowy egret drops what remains of a crawdad. But, with precision, the shell is discarded, and soft meat of the meal caught ... before it hits the ground.

With the process of meal preparation nearly complete, there is just one last step. When battling a king-sized bullfrog or a foot-long catfish, the final step requires a bit more consideration. However, with a cleaned crawdad trimmed to bite size, maneuvering into position is simple. Given the extreme preparation of a crawdad, I’m not sure if it matters or how a snowy egret can determine head from tail. That question remains important nonetheless.



A snowy egret snacking on a crawfish in Mission Trails Park (Photo by David D. Cooksy)

In the feeding I witnessed, in moments it was gone — head first.

The series of photographs of the snowy egret eating a crawfish were taken near Old Mission Dam on a day that could not decide whether to rain or shine. For the wildlife photographer, weather does not dictate whether to shoot — only what to shoot. In fact, rainy days are ideal to capture certain birds. On this occasion, I found not only the snowy egret feasting near the dam, but two great egrets and a great blue heron. That all four birds were together at the same time was not the more remarkable aspect of the experience — which was that weather had kept people home and I had them all to myself, making the moment possible. I sat in the dirt near the dam watching these great birds and shot over a thousand images. Not the first time I have had such an experience but memorable just the same.

Thank you for reading my “How To” stories and I hope one day you too observe these great birds in action. See you around the wild kingdom!

—David D. Cooksy is a trail guide at Mission Trails Regional Park.■

SUDOKU & CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FROM P. 19

6	3	1	4	6	2	8	7	5
8	4	2	3	5	7	6	1	9
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AP	PA	LL	ME	DI	AP	PA	LL	ME
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SP	UR	EN	TE	RI	SP	UR	EN	TE
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6 SMART HOME ESSENTIALS

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Birds in photos and nature at Mission Trails



Jennifer Morrissey

The Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Foundation presents art exhibitions year-round at the

park's Visitor and Interpretive Center. Focusing on themes related to nature and Mission Trails, the exhibitions offer visitors the opportunity to engage with the park in yet another way, and give artists the chance to share their vision with others.

Beginning Aug. 18, "The Art of Bird Photography" will be on view at the MTRP Visitor Center; the exhibition features stunning images of bird species, from owls to egrets, blackbirds to juncos. Award-winning photographer Blake Shaw combines his background in fine art photography with years of classroom study and field observation to create unique, artistic portraits of birds in their environment. The birds featured in the exhibition are from California, Baja California and beyond. A San Diego native, this is Blake Shaw's fourth solo exhibition of bird photography at MTRP.

The photographs will be on view from Aug. 18 through Sept. 14, with a public reception for the artist taking place on Sunday, Aug. 19, 2–4 p.m. at the Visitor Center. The photographs are available for sale with a percentage benefiting the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation.

If you are interested in birds or want to learn more about them, consider attending our Birding Basics class on the last Saturday of every month (except November and December) at 1 p.m. Join MTRP Trail Guide and experienced birder, Winona Sollock, for this educational bird identification class and learn five simple techniques to identify birds at a glance. You will also learn how to use a field guide, so bring one along if you have it.

The Birding Basics classes meet at the Visitor Center in Classroom A and, during summer, are a nice way to continue your engagement with nature while beating the heat. The classes are free and open to the public, with no reservations required.

Every first Sunday of the month between 9 a.m. and noon, local falconer Bob Gordon is at the MTRP Visitor Center with his feathered friend, "Huxley" the Harris Hawk. Get up close and personal with this majestic bird of prey, and learn from Gordon what makes them so special and how you can help protect them. This is a free, drop-in event.

Another monthly event for bird enthusiasts are our guided bird walks with MTRP birders, Jeanne Raimond and Millie Basden. The walks take place the third Saturday of the month from 8–10 a.m., but the locations change.

On Sept. 15, the group will explore the area around the historic Old Mission Dam. In this dry season, the water will attract birds and some migratory species will start to arrive. Meet in the Old Mission Dam



A recent guided bird walk at Lake Murray (Courtesy MTRPF)

parking lot and bring binoculars and/or a field guide, if you have them. Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and always bring water. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended, and walks are canceled if raining. On Oct. 20, the area of focus will be the Kumeyaay Lake; and on Nov. 17, the group will tour the Oak Grove Loop. For more information, visit the events calendar at mtrp.org.

The MTRP Visitor and Interpretive Center is located at 1 Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego and is open daily from 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

—Jennifer Morrissey is executive director of the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation. Reach her at jmorrissey@mtrp.org.

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK
CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

Wildlife Tracking Walks: 8:30 a.m., first Saturday each month – Visitor Center

Live Hawk Talk: 9 a.m.–noon, first Sunday each month. Meet Huxley, the Harris' Hawk! – Visitor Center

Guided Nature Walks: 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday each week – Visitor Center

Guided Nature Walks Kumeyaay Lake Campground: 8:30 a.m., second and fourth Saturday each month – KLC Campground

Discovery Table Activities: 10 a.m.–1 p.m., second Saturday each month – Visitor Center

Family Discovery Walks: 3 p.m., fourth Sunday each month – Visitor Center

Lake Murray Walk and Talk: 9 a.m., third Tuesday each month – August meet at Lake Murray Ball Fields

Birding Basics: 1 p.m., last Saturday each month – Visitor Center

Summer Evening Bird Walk: 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 11 – meet at Bushy Hill Parking Lot, across from KLC Campground; space limited, pre-register at 619-668-3281.

Spanish Language Nature Walk: 8:30 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 18 – KLC Campground

Summer Twilight Walk: 6:45 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 18 – meet at Bushy Hill Parking Lot, across from KLC Campground

Star Party: 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 18 – meet at KLC Campground Day Use Lot

Native American Flute Circle: 1–3 p.m., second Sunday each month – Visitor Center Outdoor Amphitheater

Art Show Reception: 2 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 19

Free Concert Series: 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19, Java Jazz, featuring N. Scott Robinson – Visitor Center Theater

Free Concert Series: 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 2, Danny Green Trio – Visitor Center Theater

*Partial listing of Monthly Events at Mission Trails Park. View our website for full calendar of free activities and programs, visit mtrp.org, or call the Visitor Center at 619-668-3281.

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'Q' FOR ALL SEASONS

An early peek into The Pioneer

Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.

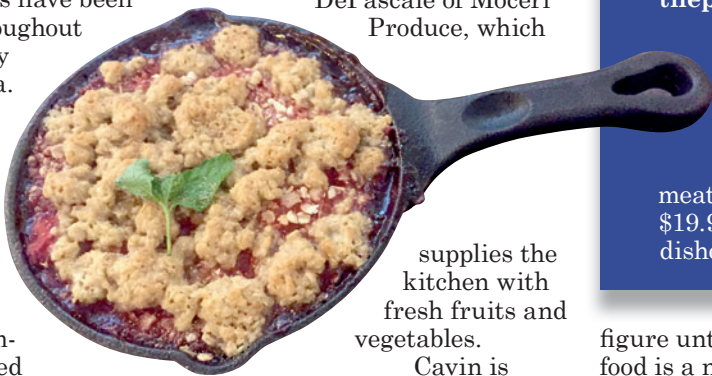


Barbecue joints have been sprouting up throughout San Diego County like bougainvillea. Once far and few between, they're now everywhere.

The latest buzz-worthy establishment is The Pioneer in San Carlos, an impressively designed restaurant and bar spearheaded by a trio of local industry experts.

What used to be McCarter's Bar & Grill on Lake Murray Boulevard was given a

complete makeover for the arrival of restaurateurs Hanis Cavin of San Diego's Carnitas Snack Shack and David Cohn of Cohn Restaurant Group. Also on board is Willie DePascale of Mocerri Produce, which



Hot strawberry cobbler

supplies the kitchen with fresh fruits and vegetables.

Cavin is the chef with an established

reputation earned from his pork-centric eateries in North Park and the Embarcadero.

Here, his star staples are dry-rubbed ribs, cheddar sausage, pulled pork shoulder, brisket and split chickens, all slow-cooked in a Southern Pride smoker. Paired with rich sidekicks like short rib croquettes and pork belly corn, you best forget about your swimsuit

The Pioneer

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619-825-7787, thepioneerbbq.com

Prices: Appetizers and salads, \$6.95 to \$9; burgers and sandwiches, \$9.95 to \$13.95; meat plates, \$11.95 to \$19.95; a la carte side dishes, \$2.95 to \$4.75

figure until later because the food is a notch richer than what you'll find in most other barbecue houses.

Take the BLT, for instance. The "T" represents fried green tomatoes. They bring savory fried batter into the scheme while adding extra girth to the sandwich. Even if you're not a fan of these Southern-style green tomatoes, they strike a natural fit to the peppercorn bacon and garlic-bacon aioli.

Visiting with a friend who remembers eating at this location in the '80s when it was Square Pan Pizza, we settled into a booth and marveled at the artistic farmhouse-meets-warehouse design. Yes, there are multiple flat-screens hovering over the dining areas and central bar, but they blend rather



The bacon, lettuce and fried green tomato sandwich



Chef and co-owner Hanis Cavin (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

seamlessly into the rustic-industrial décor.

We kicked off the lunch with a plate of rib croquettes, served three to an order. The fluffy, finely shredded rib meat are shaped into orbs the size of golf balls, coated in panko bread crumbs, and crowned with chicharons. They're set in little pools of Alabama white barbecue sauce, which basically equates to tangy aioli that performs admirably with red meat.

Other starters include smoked chicken wings, pulled pork flautas, and "dirty fries," which feature a dramatic piling of smoky pulled pork, cheddar cheese, beans and mac n' cheese over unusual house-made french fries, which our waitress said people either love or hate.

The spuds, which came unadorned with our BLT, drew instant praise from us. Picture

See THE PIONEER page 15 —————>

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► **The Pioneer**, from page 14

steak fries that have been put through metal rollers and then fried again. They're flat, crispy and verging toward potato chips, with just a wisp of pulp inside.

Our two-meat combo featured a quarter rack of



A two-meat combo plate with ribs and smoked sausage

dry-rubbed baby back ribs, and pork-beef cheddar sausage cut into substantial coins. Our two sides were super-fresh coleslaw coated lightly in a mayo-based dressing, and mac n' cheese in a creamy, robust sauce of American, Parmesan and cheddar cheeses.

The ribs were slightly dry, but with a mild smoky essence and subtly spiced crust I prefer. My friend described their flavor as "way too neutral" while dabbling in the three styles of house-made barbecue sauces on the table: Carolina mustard, sweet St. Louis, and semi-spicy Kansas City. Texture wise,

the ribs were neither the tenderest or toughest I've had. They fell somewhere in the middle.

Conversely, the sausage was incredibly juicy and soft to the bite. And much to our liking, it was spicy hot, probably from a good measure of cayenne pepper in the recipe. The embedded bits of cheddar helped smooth the burn, but just enough to keep our forks returning for more.

We pampered our palates afterwards with strawberry cobbler served in a cast-iron skillet. It was both sweet and tart, a perfect wrap to a hearty, smoky meal that jives to summer, but would certainly warm your bones on a mid-winter day.

By visiting for lunch, which was recently introduced, we dodged the dinner lines that have been commonplace since The Pioneer opened in late June. With a full beer and cocktail program in place, and a



A new barbecue landmark with eye-catching curb appeal (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

meat smoker that works around the clock, I'm betting the hoopla will continue for a while.

—Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of "Secret San Diego"

(ECW Press), and began his local writing career more than two decades ago as a staffer for the former San Diego Tribune. Reach him at fsabatini@san.rr.com. ■





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**PATRICK
HENRY**
High School

Patrick Henry High School News

Elizabeth Gillingham

Campus construction update

Everyone wants to know what is happening at Patrick Henry High School (PHHS) in regards to the upgrades and construction projects. We are in year two of two major projects and coming close to the completion of both.

Phase 1 was PHAME and the modernization of all classrooms, which was completed by January 2017. Phase 2 is the two-story building and the renovation of the main office. The

main office was pushed out and the boardroom was extended to include a table that seats 16 for large meetings. The front sign is supposed to be added soon and will complete the main office portion of the project.

The two-story, 26-classroom building is still in progress and is nestled in the southeast corner of the school. It will house our child development program, which will include a new playground for the four-year-old

Patriot Pup Preschool and a new classroom on the first level of the new building. The rest of the classrooms will be used for world languages classes on the first floor, and mathematics on the second floor. Hopefully, the project will be completed by the end of August, ready to greet our new students for the fall semester of 2018!

The third phase is the stadium, softball, and baseball fields. This project has had a few bumps along the way with the discovery of an underground stream and some old pipes that were broken as well, which caused a delay in the work. We are moving full steam ahead with hopes of completing the project by our homecoming game scheduled for Oct. 12. The new stadium will include a staircase down to the field, snack bar, ticket booths, elevator, new scoreboard, new lights, and a new



An artist rendering of the new two-story building that will house Patrick Henry's main office and mathematics and world languages classes. (Courtesy PHHS)

sound booth as well. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) seating will be included in this project so that guests can be seated in more than one area and have access to the concessions as well.

Construction on the baseball and softball fields is also underway by enhancing their fields with new dugouts, snack bar, bathrooms, drinking fountains, and video score boards

as well. ADA parking will also be included to help families who have limited mobility participate as fans and players. We are also getting two new sand volleyball courts with the hope of eventually adding that as another sport offering at PHHS in the spring.

The fourth phase will be the removal of the bungalows and the renovation of our parking lot that will include more spaces and solar covers to capture energy while offering shade cover to some of our visitors. That process will begin as soon as we can guarantee that the new building will be ready for occupancy.

And finally, PHHS is in the process of looking for major donors to help name the newly-upgraded fields. If you know someone who is interested in this unique, one-time opportunity, please contact PHHS principal Listy Gillingham at lgillingham@sandi.net.

Junior University Book Awards

Every year, different universities recognize outstanding juniors in local secondary schools by presenting books to the top 2 percent of the class. They do this to help attract the best students to their schools and to provide name recognition for counselors and schools when talking about options for their seniors.

They also encourage students to look at schools outside the area by providing incentives — like promises of scholarships — for students who might select them the following year. The counseling team starts with a ranked list and tries to award each book based on the student's interest and talents. This year, the book

awards were given to the following students:

Wellesley College Book Award: Ivy Vuong

Wellesley College is a four-year liberal arts college for women in Boston, Massachusetts. They value outstanding academic and personal achievement and Ivy was selected based on her impressive academic record, her exceptional

character and impressive amount of time given to community service. She was ranked No. 1 and has a GPA of 4.67.

Yale Book Award: Lilly Mai

The Yale Book award goes to a student who exhibits leadership skills, demonstrates outstanding personal character and has intellectual promise. Lilly was ranked No. 2 in the Class of 2019 and had a GPA is 4.61.

George Eastman Young Leaders Award: Anne Nguyen

This award was formerly called the Kodak Young Leaders Award. It is given to deserving students for their high grades in challenging courses; involvement in extracurricular activities; and/or strong leadership experience at school and in our community.

See PHHS page 17 →

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BIRTHSTONE OF THE MONTH - PERIDOT

Peridot is the official birthstone for the month of August. It is also the stone for the Zodiac sign of Libra. A Peridot may also be given as a gem on the 16th wedding anniversary. The name Peridot is pronounced (Pear- a- doe).

Legend says that peridot was one of the favorite gemstones of Cleopatra and that some of the "emeralds" worn by her were actually peridot. Peridot is thought to bring the wearer good luck, peace, and success.

Peridot is the gem variety of olivine and ranges between 6.5 and 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness. Gem quality peridot comes from Arizona, Burma, Norway, islands in the Red Sea, Hawaii and is sometimes found in meteorites.



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► PHHS, from page 16

The award is from the University of Rochester and may lead to a \$40,000 scholarship toward tuition if the student applies and is admitted. Anne was selected and ranked No. 2 and also has a GPA of 4.61.

The Rensselaer Medalist: Maya Rozenshteyn

The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute gives a medal and a scholarship of \$25,000 per year guaranteed for four years to those that apply and are accepted. They are looking for students who distinguishes themselves in advanced mathematics and science. Maya ranked No. 4 and has a 4.6 GPA.

Brandeis University Book Award: Jonathan Marshall

The Brandeis Book Award recognizes outstanding high

school juniors committed to academic engagement. Jonathan ranked No. 5 in the junior Class of 2019 and had a GPA of 4.56.

Xerox Award for Innovation and Information: Andrew Hua

The Xerox Award for innovation and technology is given to students who demonstrate achievement in the pursuit of innovative approaches and an appreciation for the possibilities of technology. Andrew was selected and was also ranked No. 5 and has a GPA of 4.56.

Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award: Danae Cave

The University of Rochester selects students who have demonstrated strong personal character and a commitment to understanding and

addressing difficult social issues. Danae was selected and was ranked No. 5 and has a 4.56 GPA.

Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award: Garrett Davis

The Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science award was given by the University of Rochester for rigor and high achievement in science classes and high PSAT scores in math. Garrett was ranked No. 5 and has a GPA of 4.56.

St. Michael's College Book Award: Trevor Chubb

St. Michael's College honors their recipient with a book award for academic achievement with a social conscience embodying the values and interests of other St. Michael's



Junior class top 2 percent University Book Award honorees (Courtesy PHHS)

the community as well as academic success by giving them a book award and a \$1,000 merit scholarship per year if they apply and are accepted. Alan was selected because he has been identified as someone who displays a significant commitment to his school and community and is ranked No. 10 and has a GPA of 4.55.

St. Michael's College Book Award: Michelle Rivera-Lomeli

St. Michael's College honors their recipient with a book award for academic achievement with a social conscience embodying the values and interests of other St. Michael's College students. Michelle was ranked No. 11 of the class of 2019 and has a GPA of 4.5.

College students. He was also ranked No. 5 of the class of 2019 and has a GPA of 4.56.

St. Lawrence University Book Award: Alan Inthavong

St. Lawrence University honors their recipient for their commitment to active service in

Senior Awards Night

In June, the class of 2018 was formally recognized by many community organizations through scholarships and other school awards to approximately 70 students.

The following students were recognized by the community with scholarships:

- PHHS Alumni Association Scholarship, \$1,500: Jason Pham, Elise Rappel, and Erica Tolley
- Semper Fidelis Distinguished Athlete Award: Braina Pham
- Semper Fidelis Musical Excellence Award: Noah Krasner
- Semper Fidelis Academic Excellence Award: Josh Koo
- Semper Fidelis JROTC Leadership Award: Calvin Meyers
- Semper Fidelis JROTC Espiritu De Corps Award: Isaiah Massey
- Bill Kalt Memorial Award: Nicole Donahue-Maruchau
- Grossmont Healthcare: Salma Chanel and Abril Sosa-Pineda
- St. Dunstan's Community Outreach: Grace McSweeney, Ariana Cibrian, Makenna Billingsley, and Sandy Villa
- Lake Murray Kiwanis Scholarship: Max Mittleman, Bailey Hinesley, Sandy Villa, And Martha Marilyn Montoya Celedonio

- San Diego State University Merit Scholarships: Alan Nguyen and Kaelia Okamura
- San Diego State University Research Endowed Scholarship: Alexander Cagle
- RCD Conservation Scholarship: Joaquin Rosell
- Crescent Moon Scholarship: Malcolm Wilson
- The Retired Employees of SD County Merit Scholarship: Austin Tarke
- Michigan State University Alumni Scholarship: Cody Lefler
- SD Edinburgh Sister City Society Scottish Ancestry: Erica Tolley
- Deputy Sheriff Association Scholarship: Alyssa Arnold
- Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis Scholarship: William Huynh, Khang Le, and Brandon Huynh
- Jones Family Foundation: Kalos Chu, Abirl Sosa-Pineda, and Sophia Pruden
- Helen Beardsley Scholarship: Makenna Billingsley

The following students were recipients of the PHHS Department Awards:

- AVID Award: Lan Nguyen
- Drama: Madeline Nowatnick
- Music – Vocalist: Stephanie Zapelli

- Engineering Academy: Avi Martin
- English: Stephanie Smith
- Mathematics: Kalos Chu
- California Math Council: Kalos Chu
- Music – Instrumental: Kalos Chu
- NJROTC: Andy Pham
- Photography: Emma Ferris
- Social Studies: Megan Hayes
- Science: Arbi Leka
- Student Government: Vina Deprat
- Visual Arts – Flat Art: Christine Vyzinkar
- Ceramics: Luna Miller
- Video Productions/Broadcast: Jordan Doole
- French: Megan Hayes

The last set of students were recipients of the PHHS Special School Awards:

- Environmental Club: Joaquin Rosell and Grace Tarantino
- Yearbook: Henry Ly
- Key Club: Brandon Huynh, William Huynh, and Khang Le
- National Merit Finalist, \$2,500: Kalos Chu
- Peer Mediation: Zachary Friedli
- Perseverance & Achievement Award: Matthew Aquinde
- President's Academic Excellence (top 2 percent students): Ben Kelly, Jonathan Schindler, Luc Galaif, Phoebe Nguyen, Ryan Nguyen, Meggie

Do, Kalos Chu, Liam Olive, Madonna Linares, Maivi Luu, and Grace Tarantino

- The Patriots of the Year for the Class of 2018: Clinton Allen, Kalos Chu, Vina Duprat, Lillian Do, Taylor Fakadej, Alexis Handler, Ben Kelly, Maya Klareich, Sam Lenett, Max Mittleman, and Phoebe Nguyen
- Senior of the Year 2018: Kalos Chu
- Scholar Athletes of the Year: Clinton Allen and Nicole Bych
- PHHS Counselor/Foundation Scholarships: Berenise Chavez, Shanell

Logan, Audrey Filbrandt, Natale Rahmon, Alex Cagle, and Cassandra Southward

- Maria Theodore Memorial Scholarship: Max Mittleman
- Donald Giddings Leadership Award: Maya Klareich
- Presentation to the Salutatorian: Jonathan Schindler
- Presentation to the Valedictorians: Ben Kelly
- Weissenberg Family Watch Presentation: Ben Kelly

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



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San Diego Community News Network

► Letters, from page 6

A few miles from the Dachau Concentration Camp, we detected smoke and an odor that was not too foreign to our recent memory. Investigation revealed that this was a Dachau satellite. About 75 prisoners (not American) had been machine-gunned, stacked one on top of the other about three deep, saturated with fuel and set on fire.

Outside of the barbed wire enclosure were a few bodies and body parts, including a man's severed head. It is a sight that lingers in the corridors of my mind. For no reason, the image of that man's head will appear. I see that unshaven, distorted face. Some of his teeth were missing and there was what looked like a bayonet gash on the side of his face. This is indelibly inscribed in my mind.

Every day, I am reminded how fortunate we are to live in a land of freedom. In our country, you can be whatever you want to be before American and still call it home and feel safe knowing that there is someone stepping up to the plate. That's what freedom is all about and I would fight for those rights, yours and mine, again if called to the plate. Our ancestors had the same feeling after our Declaration of Independence. Again, remember history repeats itself.

On or about the next Fourth of July, if granted the life extension and opportunity to do so, I will continue to share.

—Ed Henry, Allied Gardens

MAD history

Years ago, when I was in college, two of my professors, Dr. Shannon, and Dr. Vertanin, would open their lectures at the beginning of the year with: "Those who do not study history are doomed to repeat its failures."

With that said, I would like to direct your attention

to some recent history about Maintenance Assessment Districts (MAD) in the city of San Diego. At this writing, two Superior Court judges have now ruled that MADs within the city be dissolved in the communities of Golden Hill and South Park. In a third case, the La Jolla MAD, Superior Court judge Rhonda Trapp initially ruled in favor of the plaintiffs suing the city that their MAD be dissolved and what a specific benefit to those property owners in La Jolla would be receiving. The plaintiffs' attorney argued that the city has a fiduciary duty and responsibility for providing basic services to maintain the infrastructure of the city. Additionally, in the ruling, "city failed to show that MAD could provide enhanced benefits."

Upon request, the city was granted oral arguments when the final ruling was published. It merely stated that the plaintiffs had no standing.

Unfortunately, the only way homeowners can get out of a MAD is to have a Superior Court judge's ruling that the MAD be dissolved. But once you're forced to go into court, it is a roll of the dice as to whether you will prevail or not. In the meantime, the property owners in the La Jolla MAD will keep paying fees, and the question is: will they ever see the benefits they were promised when they voted in favor of the MAD? I have been informed that motions have been filed by the plaintiffs' attorney.

Now we have a group here, The Friends of Del Cerro, who are and have been actively engaged in establishing a MAD, here in our community of Del Cerro.

I feel fairly sure in hypothesizing that the promoters of the MAD in Del Cerro will pontificate that the MAD, once established in Del Cerro, will be a success and thereby will

create a better quality of life in our community.

First, there is an old cliché: History repeats itself! Second, those advocating for the MAD in Del Cerro claim that once a MAD is established that the entire community will have a better quality of life is just not acceptable and, in my opinion, not in any way true.

I would point out that "quality of life" is in the home with family — not having the community's property owners incur an additional tax burden to improve neighborhoods that city government officials have willfully chosen to neglect.

—Joe Ney, Del Cerro

Above the fold failure

Your recent above the fold, headline, in-your face cannabis advertisement is incongruous to the frequent articles you publish concerning youth/family activities in the neighborhood and at Patrick Henry High School.

It is shortsighted to think promoting the local pot shop for advertisement revenue is not without negative consequences to the community — and your other advertisers. Even the mostly cannabis-funded San Diego Reader has a more thoughtful approach by placing marijuana ads in the back pages of its publication.

While I am not overly opposed to the legalization of marijuana, I am opposed to its promotion and efforts to mainstream its use while mostly ignoring its negative health effects. Cannabis use should be treated and discouraged the same as tobacco — and not made into gummy bears, brownies, cookies, ice cream and alleged to cure every disease known to mankind.

Your cannabis advertiser may already be in violation of the law by placing advertisements along Interstate 15, which crosses the California border.

—Carl Schonfeld.■

► News briefs, from page 8

about the policies can be found at sandiego.gov/cdbg.

For forum dates and locations, visit bit.ly/SDforums. A community-needs survey is also available at bit.ly/SDCPSurvey.

County looks to refund owed money

On July 12, the office San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector (TTC) Dan McAllister announced that the county has \$441,000 in refunds to return to residents who overpaid taxes or have other unclaimed money.

"In the past, sadly, most of these refunds were never claimed. We are asking the public's help to spread the word so we can get this money back to San Diegans," McAllister said in a press release. "If you've done business with any county department, you may have money in your name."

Refunds are broken into two lists: countywide unclaimed money and unclaimed property tax refunds. To see

if your name is on the list of people owed money, visit sdttc.com. Residents who are owed money need to file a refund claim by Sept. 7, before the money is rolled into the county general fund. Email claims to refunds@sdcounty.ca.gov; for help, call toll free at 877-829-4732.

"Even if you're not on the list this year, sign up for our 'new unclaimed money' e-notifications so you will get an email when we publish new refund lists," McAllister said.

In the past five years, the TTC has refunded \$480,000.

Current state law says countywide monies that are unclaimed for three years and property tax refunds that are unclaimed for four years must be turned over to the county's general fund.

This year, the TTC has unclaimed refunds totaling \$441,000. Unclaimed property tax refunds make up \$161,000 of that amount, and \$280,000 is from other county departments.

The smallest refund amount available is \$10, and the largest refund amount is \$22,720, owed to IME Holdings by

the county's Planning and Development Services.

2.5 millionth pound of trash cleaned from river

In late June, volunteers from the San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF) reached a milestone it has "mixed feelings" about when it removed the 2.5 millionth pound of trash from the San Diego riverbed since the group's river clean-up program was founded in 2001.

"We are blown away and humbled by the dedication of the thousands of volunteers, donors and sponsors who contributed to this achievement," said SDRPF associate director Sarah Hutmacher in a press release. "But the flip side of this incredible milestone is that there was that this staggering amount of trash needed to be removed."

This year, hundreds of thousands of pounds of trash entered the river ecosystems, from sources including stormwater debris, litter, dumping and homeless encampments. According to surveys

See NEWS BRIEFS page 22

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.

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PUZZLES ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

SUDOKU

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

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CROSSWORD Wild About Harry

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- CREATORS NEWS SERVICE
- By Charies Preston
- ACROSS
- 1 NH state flower
- 6 Mennonite
- 11 Govt. board created in 1933
- 14 Sanctuaries
- 15 Lariat
- 16 Tenn. athlete
- 17 Musical theme
- 19 Gnosis precursor
- 20 ____ a Man
- 21 Solves
- 23 Incite
- 26 ____ Laughing
- 28 Manhattan extensions
- 29 Former USSR
- 30 Masterson
- 31 Succinct
- 33 Horrify
- 35 So-so
- 38 Haggard or Oberon
- 39 "____ the season..."
- 40 Collective association
- 41 Fourth estate hangout
- 43 Kind of grid kick
- 44 Suppressed
- 45 Outer, in combinations
- 46 Ms. Vance, to friends
- 47 Smart
- 49 Washer cycle
- 51 Persian of old
- 52 Western competitions
- 54 Camp
- 56 Fictional planet dweller
- 57 Harry Guardino
- 62 Knockout number
- 63 What 22 Down provide
- 64 Tally
- 65 NY time zone, in April
- 66 Former TV series
- 67 Domesticated
- DOWN
- 1 Opposite of long.
- 2 Kabibble, of Big Band fame
- 3 Lxivium
- 4 Change
- 5 Sammy, of song
- 6 Unmitigated
- 7 Among
- 8 "____ the very model...": G & S
- 9 Featured
- 10 First name in tennis
- 11 Orwell
- 12 Dress fabric
- 13 "I love ____": O'Keefe
- 18 Paragon
- 22 Cap parts
- 23 Imp
- 24 Pay the ____
- 25 Truman
- 27 Hot times in Montmartre
- 30 Fortunate
- 32 Smiling
- 34 ____-Lorraine
- 35 See 59 Down
- 36 Made over
- 37 Etudiant
- 39 Author Morrison
- 42 Beet soup
- 43 Bounding main
- 45 Regard
- 47 Tub
- 48 Trusted
- 50 "Nothing can ____ lie": Herbert
- 51 A nice place to visit?
- 53 Bones
- 55 History
- 58 Charlotte or Norma
- 59 With 35 Down, early oater star
- 60 Mine yield
- 61 Buttons



Sue Hotz

Their salary is zero. Their rewards are personal. We love our volunteers!

On Sept. 8, Friends of the San Diego Public Library (FSDPL) will take time out to thank all the volunteers from the various San Diego Chapters of FSDPL. Festivities will be held in the Neil Morgan Auditorium at the Central Library starting with refreshments at 9 a.m., and the program begins at 9:30 a.m. The agenda includes updates on the state of the library system, followed by the recognition of each Friends chapter's 2018 honorees. The keynote speaker is FSDPL life-member, Wanjiru Warama, author of "Unexpected America" and "Entangled America."

Honored volunteers from the San Carlos Friends of the Library (SCFOL) receiving recognition for their continued and outstanding contributions to SCFOL are: Evie McGhee, long-time SCFOL secretary; Su Bonnet, who assists our art chair Barbara Stewart with the monthly art shows; and Jo Matthews and Sue Dennis, whose help with SCFOL's monthly used books sales is

Friends of Library volunteers recognized

invaluable. Congratulations and a heartfelt thank you to all of our Friends volunteers.

This past fiscal year, SCFOL volunteers donated a total of 4,713 hours, which is equivalent to almost 2.4 full-time employees. Monthly book sale volunteers worked 2,877 hours; SCFOL board members donated 1,786 hours to keep us organized; and 50 hours were spent on miscellaneous activities. We invite you to join this uniquely committed group of volunteers, and attend a third Wednesday at 4 p.m. board meeting.

Summer Reading Program

The San Diego Public Library's Summer Reading Program (SRP) ends in August. Reading prizes must be picked up before Aug. 31, and are available only as long as supplies last. This year's participation may reach record numbers. Congratulations to all who joined in the fun.

Our last SRP special event, Aug. 15, 2:30–3 p.m., is Hullabaloo. Expect to be entertained with quality music the whole family can enjoy! You'll hear traces of twang, funk, rock, folk and blues in Hullabaloo's songs. Be inspired to laugh, think, sing, dance, clap and stomp your feet. Afterward, please pick up a Fall Events Calendar and continue to join us for fun Wednesday "After School Special" programs starting Sept. 5.

Library employee update

Please introduce yourselves and welcome our new library clerks Jorge "George" Rosas and Ashley Urquhart to the San Carlos Branch Library staff.

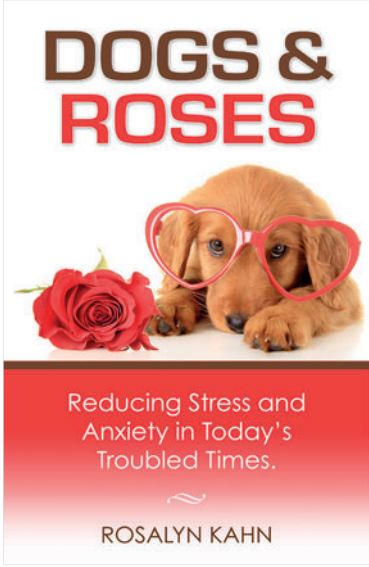
If you have been looking for our long-time clerk Tim Mountain, he has joined the staff at the Oak Park Branch. Mountain's photography will be on exhibit during October in our art gallery.

Art shows

Aug. 7–30, we are pleased to spotlight the art of our own San Carlos Branch Manager David Ege in the Winer Family Community Room & Art Gallery. Ege has titled his show "Grand Designs: Oodles of Doodles." As soon as Ege could hold a pencil, he covered endless pages with doodles. His favorite high school art teacher was amazed by the complexity and intricacy of his drawings and encouraged him to turn his doodles into works of art. Twenty-five years later, on the night that Ege learned that his beloved teacher had passed away, these "oodles of doodles" appeared in a dream. Ege considers himself a "minimal expressionist, post-modern, neo-symbolist," the term that he applies to his art style. Come meet Ege,



"Dogs & Roses" author Rosalyn Kahn will speak at the San Carlos Library on Aug. 24. (Courtesy SCFOL)



and see "Oodles of Doodles" at his artist reception, Aug. 18, noon–2 p.m.

Coming Sept. 5, our art gallery will be filled with the amazing, unique works of two Spanish Village artists, Kathi Vargo and Beth McClellan. Vargo is a self-taught mixed-media artist who works mainly with collage and assemblage, while McClellan is self-taught in the art of paper-cutting. Their artist reception is planned for Saturday, Sept. 15, noon–2p.m.

Authors and books

Our visiting author this month is professor Rosalyn Kahn who will speak Friday, Aug. 24, 2–3 p.m. Today's life is filled with noise and chaos.

If you are looking for a way to break up your stress it can be as simple as reading Kahn's book, "Dogs and Roses: How to Reduce Stress and Anxiety in Today's Troubled Times." Kahn's answer to combating her own depression was her passion for dogs and roses — both offer huge benefits in healing. Proceeds from her inspirational book are being donated to help create a dog foster care program where veterans can place their dogs when they return to duty. Kahn is also the author of "Random Acts of Kindness are Changing the World."

Sept. 13, 12:30–2 p.m., the Library Book Club is

See **LIBRARY FRIENDS** page 22 →

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Happening at the Allied Gardens Library

Kathryn Johnson

Friends of Library need help

The Friends of the Library are a 100 percent nonprofit, volunteer organization which supports children and adult programs in the library. They provide funding for acquisition of books, materials, and equipment for the library.

Currently, Friends of the Library is actively recruiting volunteers and organizational membership. They need volunteers to assist on Thursday mornings 9–11 a.m. with sorting book donations that have been collected throughout the week.

These donations are sold throughout the year and help to generate funds that support the library and its patrons. They are also looking for new members to grow and enhance their Friends of the Library organization. Please contact or visit the library if you are interested in volunteering and or becoming a Friends member.

One Book One San Diego

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Aug. 25, when the next title in our annual One Book, One San Diego program will be announced. All library locations will be holding events, programs and displays to celebrate this amazing work throughout the fall. Be sure to check back here for a listing of related programs at the Allied Gardens/Benjamin Library.

Vegan Adventures returns

After taking the summer off, Vegan Adventures will return on Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. This month, professional chef Liz Gary will instruct attendees on mastering the veggie burger. She will demonstrate how to create a tasty veggie burger (and, no, that last phrase is not an oxymoron) from scratch. Everyone is welcome to attend this free program. Aprons are recommended.

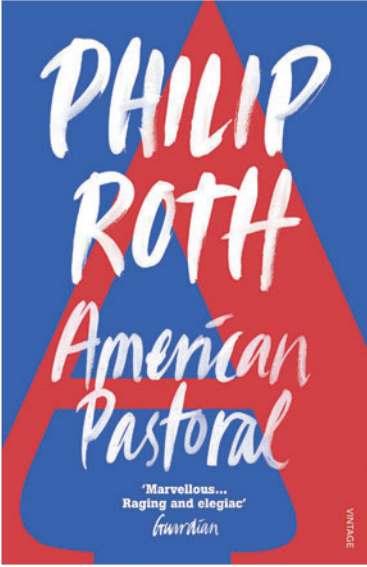
September Book Club

On Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 1 p.m., our book group will be discussing “American Pastoral” by Phillip Roth. In this novel, a former athletic star, devoted family man, and owner of a thriving glove factory, Seymour “Swede” Levov finds his life coming apart during the social disorder of the 1960s, when his beloved daughter turns revolutionary terrorist out to destroy her father's world.

Artist reception

After an exciting summer showing her work at Comic Fest, Wondercon and Comic-Con, local artist, Barbara Marker will be having a reception on Aug. 25, 2–5 p.m., in our Community Room. Now is your chance to meet her and see her gorgeous drawings.

Marker's extensive body of work can be found in the pages of comic publishers such as Pacific, Blackthorne, DC, Dark Horse, Eclipse and Workhorse Comics. As an avid reader of



The book club's September title

classic mythology, sci-fi and fantasy genres, it is no surprise she excels in drawing fantastic beasts, such as mermaids, fairies, unicorns and dragons. Marker's 12 years of experience as a comic book colorist is evident in her fine detail and color harmonies achieved by using Prismacolor pencils enhanced with watercolors. She let us in on a secret she learned from the “Old Masters” to create depth and realism — but we're not telling. You will have to stop by her reception and ask her yourself!

Although she specializes in fantasy drawings, Marker is also well-known for drawing real animals and gets frequent commissions to do pet portraits. She explains that this is more challenging than



‘Marmoset’ by Barbara Marker (Photos courtesy Allied Gardens Library)

the fantasy drawings, but she enjoys the process of trying to capture each animal's individual personality through their expressions. Her sincere love and appreciation of each animal's unique beauty is evident in the careful observations and details of pen and brush. There is something especially compelling in the eyes of Marker's animals. It is difficult to look away. Marker's goal is to “give the viewer something beautiful to see.” She has definitely achieved this goal with her recent exhibit at the Allied Gardens/Benjamin Branch Library Gallery.

Highlights from her fantasy work and animal portraiture will be in our main gallery through November. Additionally, several of her

comic book covers will be featured in our display case as part of our Comic-Con-themed group show through September.

Kids’ corner

STEAM Storytime: Start your weekend off right with our 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 are welcome.

We continue to offer story times for babies, toddlers and preschoolers throughout the week. Please visit the branch or check out our Facebook page for our monthly schedule.

Attention teachers

School is back in session at the end of this month. We would love to introduce the library to your students. 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.

Thanks for reading and we look forward to seeing you at the library!

—Kathryn Johnson is managing librarian of the Allied Gardens-Benjamin Branch Library. Reach her at johnson-ka@san-diego.gov.■



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SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWS NETWORK

► Library Friends, from page 20

discussing, “Lincoln in the Bardo,” by George Saunders. This prize-winning, New York Times’ No. 1 best-selling author begins with the historical fact of the death of Abraham Lincoln’s son, Willie, in 1862, the first year of our Civil War, and the effect of Willie’s death upon the president. The novel moves on to describe Willie’s confusion as he enters into a transitional-purgatory called Bardo, a supernatural state occupied by ghosts who struggle to win Willie’s soul. Thought-provoking moments are interspersed with hilarious ones. Copies are found directly inside the library to your right.

Remember to check the SCFOL website each month to see what new adult and children books have been added to the San Carlos Branch collection.

Free OASIS program

Aug. 17, 2–3 p.m.: OASIS presents “How to Write a Book and Get Published.” Carlsbad author Antonio F. Vianna, writer of 23 published books and nine screenplays, will explain the five basic steps of writing: Planning, organizing, writing the draft, revising and editing — and then describe the process of submitting your work for publication. This workshop will emphasize the importance of branding, promoting, and showcasing your work.

Dates to remember

- Aug. 14: CANCELED Youth Chess
- Aug. 15, 4–5:30 p.m.: SCFOL monthly meeting. Please join us.
- Aug. 31, 1:30–3:30 p.m.: Friends of the Library only, Used-Book Pre-sale. Join SCFOL during the sale
- Sept. 1, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.: SCFOL Monthly Used Book Sale
- Sept. 3: CLOSED Labor Day
- Sept. 9: Grandparents Day and Rosh Hashanah begins

—Sue Hotz is board member and publicity chair of the San Carlos Friends of the Library. Reach her at publicity@sancarlosfriendsofthelibrary.org. ■

► News briefs, from page 19

coordinated by the River Park Foundation in spring 2018, 82 percent of the trash in the riverbed is related to homeless encampments. In just the first six months of 2018, volunteers have already removed over 160,000 pounds of trash. “This organization has been working for over 17 years to achieve a truly trash-free San Diego River,” said SDRPF president and CEO Rob Hutsel. “We still have a long ways to go to achieve this lofty goal, but with the increased partnerships and engagement of our community this year, we are more confident than ever that we will see this goal realized.”

This river cleanup program is supported by donations from the community, as well as sponsors and grantors including: The city of San Diego, The Dorrance Family Foundation, The Hervey Family Fund at The San Diego Foundation, REI, Patagonia, and Think Blue San Diego. To learn more or to volunteer, visit sandiegoriver.org.

including K-12 campuses, vocational schools, community colleges and universities. The goal of this new project is to reduce local EV owners’ sense of “range anxiety” — the concern that your car battery will run out of power before reaching your destination or an available charging station — and to make it easier for drivers to switch to electric transportation.

“Our goal is to remove barriers for our customers when choosing an electric vehicle and incorporate charging into everyday life,” SDG&E Chief Operating Officer Caroline Winn said.

“Imagine the convenience of having your car recharged while you enjoy a hike in a park, take a walk on the beach, or watch your children’s athletic event at their school,” she continued.

The programs would prioritize placing chargers in communities that statistically suffer from high levels of air pollution. The American Lung Association rated San Diego’s air quality as sixth worst in the nation and gave the region an F for number of high ozone days annually.

SDG&E’s proposal builds on the growing momentum to accelerate electric vehicle adoption in California. Currently, SDG&E is implementing a half-dozen pilot programs to expand the regional charging network for a variety of vehicles, ranging from passenger vehicles to trucks and forklifts. For more information, visit SDGNews.com. ■

SDG&E proposes more EV charging stations

San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) proposed two new programs to the California Public Utilities Commission, which aim to build new electric vehicle chargers in public spaces around the city. One pilot aims to bring additional chargers to local parks and beaches; the other focuses on schools and educational institutions,

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COMMUNITY AND ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

FRIDAY
Aug. 10



'Idomeneo'
Through Aug. 11
OperaNEO presents a classic Mozart masterpiece in a modern twist that covers everything from gun violence and xenophobia to love and sacrifice. Aug. 10 and 11, 8 p.m. at Palisades Presbyterian Church, 6301 Birchwood St. Cost is free to \$45. Visit operaneo.com.



Intergenerational Program Magic Show
Bring your grandkids to the center for a special luncheon and magic show, presented by Dana Law, magician and mind reader. Noon at the College Avenue Center, 6299 Capri Drive. Suggested donation of \$4 for anyone 60-plus, and for those under 60 there will be a price of \$7 for the lunch. The magic show is free at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call 858-637-3273.



Movies & More by the Lake: 'Coco'
Crafts, inflatables, food trucks and more pair with a showing of Disney's "Coco" at Santee Lakes. Activities begin at 6 p.m. and movie starts at dusk. Cost is \$10 for parking. Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve, 9310 Fanita Parkway, Santee. Visit santeelakes.com.

SUNDAY
Aug. 12

The Richter Ensemble
Opera NEO's world-renowned resident string quartet — featuring Rodolfo Richter on violin, Rebecca Huber

on violin, David Wish on viola, and Jennifer Morsches on cello — will be performing at the Palisades Presbyterian Church. \$25 suggested donation. 4–6 p.m. at 6301 Birchwood St.



'The Merry Widow'
A Viennese-Hungarian operetta about a rich widow finding real love. Performance begins at 8 p.m., preceded by a food truck tailgate party starting at 6:30 p.m. and a pre-show talk with the director starting at 7:15 p.m. at Palisades Presbyterian Church, 6301 Birchwood St. Cost is free to \$45. Visit operaneo.com for tickets and information.

TUESDAY
Aug. 14



Hullabaloo
Enjoy a day of free family fun at the Grossmont Center's Kids Concert Series featuring kid favorite, Hullabaloo. Bring the whole family out for fun live music in the courtyard. 10 a.m. at 5500 Grossmont Center Drive.

WEDNESDAY
Aug. 15



Dive-In Movie Nights: 'Wreck-It Ralph'
Enjoy a family-friendly film about video game characters that come to life. 7 p.m. at The Salvation Army Kroc Center pool, 6845 University Ave. Free. Visit sd.kroccenter.org for more information.

THURSDAY
Aug. 16

Santee Summer Concerts: James Kruk & The Big Boss Men
City of Santee presents a summer concert with Elvis tribute act James Kruk & The Big Boss Men. 6:30 p.m. at Town Center Community Park, 550 Park Center Drive, Santee. Free.

FRIDAY
Aug. 17

Date Night
Date Night is the perfect opportunity to spend a night out while the kids go have fun. Date nights are set from 6-9 p.m., which gives parents just enough time to go see a movie or grab dinner! During date nights, kids will engage in the following: Obstacle courses, games, performances, gymnastics and more. Pizza, snacks and drinks provided. \$40. 5500 Grossmont Center Drive. Call 619-567-0656 for more information.

SATURDAY
Aug. 18



Dispatch
Socially conscious folk-rock artists Dispatch perform at 7 p.m. at Cal Coast Credit Union Open Air Theatre at SDSU. Tickets range \$25–\$65, available at TicketMaster.com.

SUNDAY
Aug. 19



Artist reception
The Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation is hosting an artist reception for award-winning photographer Blake Shaw, who combines a background in fine art photography with years

of classroom study and field observation, to create unique, artistic portraits of birds in their environment. Birds in this exhibit are from California, Baja California and beyond. Shaw's exhibit "The Art of Bird Photography" will be on display Aug. 18–Sept. 14. The public is cordially invited to a reception in honor of the artist on Sunday, Aug. 19, 2–4 p.m. in the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center Art Gallery, 1 Father Junipero Serra Trail. The gallery is open daily from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission is free.

TUESDAY
Aug. 21



Film on the Fringe: 'American Folk'
"American Folk" is a musical road trip that rediscovers the healing nature of music and the kindness of strangers set in the shadow of 9/11. After their flight from Los Angeles to New York is grounded, two musicians make their way cross-country in a rusty Chevy van filled with musical instruments. Directed by David Heinz. Discussion after the film with instructor Ralph DeLauro. 1 p.m. at Oasis Lifelong Learning Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Drive, Suite 325, La Mesa. \$8. For more information, call 619-881-6262.

THURSDAY
Aug. 23

Santee Summer Concerts: The Mighty Untouchables
The city of Santee presents a summer concert with variety dance band The Mighty Untouchables. 6:30 p.m. at Town Center Community Park, 550 Park Center Drive, Santee. Free.

THURSDAY
Aug. 30

'Words on the Job'
College Avenue Center presents a Labor Day lecture to celebrate the work we do. Union-Tribune language columnist Richard Lederer will show how many of us have occupational last names. He'll

also share some word play about people on the job. Lederer is currently a columnist and is a former host of KPBS' "A Way with Words." He is also an author of many books on language. His presentations are filled with both information and fun. 12:45 p.m. at the College Avenue Center, 6299 Capri Drive. Free.



Women Arise Through Sept. 1
"Women Arise," hosted by Elisha Revolution and Women on the Frontlines, will feature guest speakers Patricia King (Patricia King Ministries and XP Media), Stacey Campbell (Wesley and Stacey Campbell), Miranda Nelson (Elisha Revolution), Brittany Stokes (Project Orphans) and Lana Shapavolov (Transformation Center). 7 p.m. at Crosspointe Life Church, 8809 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa. \$30–\$40, registration required. Visit elisharevolution.com for more information.

FRIDAY
Sept. 7



AG First Fridays: The PettyBreakers
Tom Petty tribute act The PettyBreakers will perform at Allied Gardens First Friday. 6 p.m. in Allied Gardens Community Park, 5155 Greenbriar Ave. Free.

Rosh Hashanah Celebration Luncheon
The Rosh Hashanah Celebration Luncheon will feature entertainment by Yale Strom, one of the foremost authorities on Klezmer music in the nation. He will be joined by his wife, singer Elizabeth Schwartz and perform a mix of Yiddish and Hebrew songs to celebrate the Jewish New Year. Noon at the College Avenue Center, 6299 Capri Drive. Free.

SATURDAY
Sept. 8



Doll show and sale
Delightful Dolls of Southern California is hosting a doll show and sale with everything from teddy bears to vintage doll clothing to beautiful antique dolls to unique artists' dolls. Over 60 dealers are participating in one of the most eclectic shows in Southern California. 10 a.m. at the La Mesa Woman's Club, 5220 Wilson St., La Mesa. Adults \$6, children under 12 years old free. Admission proceeds go to children's charities.

TUESDAY
Sept. 11



'Game of Thrones' Live Concert Experience
Composer Ramin Djawadi conducts an 80-piece orchestra and choir, performing highlights from the popular HBO series' musical score on a 360-degree stage equipped with LED telescoping and wall screens, and special 3D designs. 8 p.m. at Viejas Arena, 5500 Canyon Crest Drive. Tickets range \$39–\$99-plus, available at TicketMaster.com. ■

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Friday, September 7th
6-8pm

The PettyBreakers

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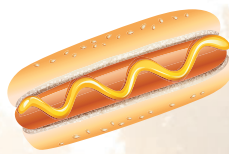


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