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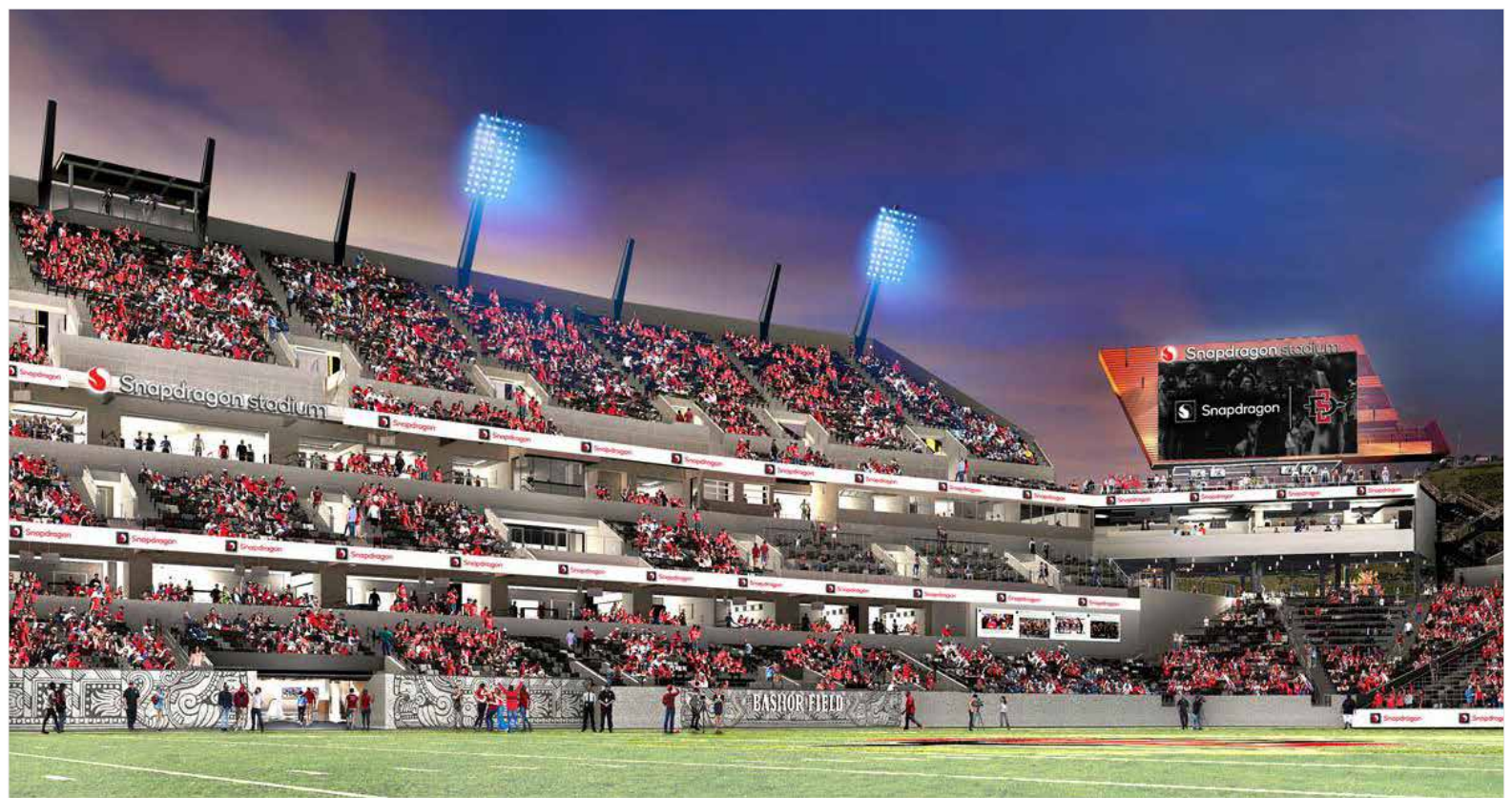
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The new Snapdragon Stadium is taking shape in Mission Valley. (Courtesy photo SDSU Athletics)

Aztecs ready for stadium changes

By DAVE THOMAS

If you have spent time recently in Mission Valley or driven either side of the I-8 freeway, you likely have noticed change taking place.

What was once a large parcel of land that played home to the Chargers, Aztecs, Padres and more has been taking on a drastically new look.

After a few seasons of playing "home" games at Dignity Health

Sports Park in Carson, the San Diego State University Aztecs will finally have a real place to call home later this year. That is one literally only yards from where they played football for decades and created many memories.

Snapdragon Stadium, which initially went by the name Aztec Stadium, is set to take centerstage later this year at an estimated cost of \$310 million.

SEE **SDSU NEW STADIUM**, Page 12

Keeping Navajo Canyon healthy is a priority for many volunteers

Navajo Canyon is bounded on the east by Del Cerro and on the west by Allied Gardens.

The canyon encompasses nearly 141 acres with an out-and-back 1.25 hiking trail miles from Mound Avenue to Adobe Falls Road. It was once designated for continuation of Navajo Road to then Highway 80, but luckily it was decided that Waring Road was a more attractive route. The terrain was not then suitable for profitable development so the area was zoned to City Open Space and the canyon was saved to be



Keeping the Navajo Canyon area healthy is a passion for these volunteers. The group met last month on a Saturday to spruce up the area. (Courtesy photos)

SEE **NAVAJO CANYON**, Page 7

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Waiting for development of All People’s Church on College Avenue continues

By DAVE THOMAS

If you thought everything was finalized with All People’s Church building its new facility on College Avenue soon, the answer is no.

The subject matter came up again at the January meeting of the Navajo Community Planners Inc. (NCPI). Nothing of note was decided on the pending project.

The planning group said last month it was waiting on an environmental impact report (EIR). In a NCPI meeting in November of 2021, there was a move to form an ad-hoc committee for review of the church’s program environmental impact report (PEIR).

With information being requested regarding the draft EIR and a draft traffic report, the potential building of the church is not going to happen soon. Once those two drafts are offered, all the details regarding construction will be available. At that point, the public has 45 days to respond to the city. That would be on why they back or oppose the planned project.

According to information from the All People’s Church website, the proposed project would take shape on a 5.6-acre vacant parcel of land on College Avenue. APC acquired the land situated on I-8 and College Avenue a little more than four years ago. For those not familiar with the area, this would be in the Del Cerro community.

The proposed project would include a 900-seat sanctuary, a dozen classrooms set aside for both Sunday school and church programs, nearly 365 parking spaces, a basketball gym for youth and the community, a room for prayer, and space set aside outside towards fellowship and coffee.

According to the church, the vast number of its activities take place on weekends. That will reportedly avoid any major traffic issues during the week.

On its website, the church noted it was focused on engaging the community in the approval process from start to finish.



What the All People’s Church on College Avenue will look like once built. (Rendering courtesy All People’s Church)

“We understand that change can be difficult,” All People’s Church Pastor Robert Herber stated in comments to *Mission Times Courier* and *College Times Courier*. “Through this process we have attended almost two-dozen meetings to present our updates and answer questions. We have also hosted our own open-house for the adjacent residents, as well as offered to meet with community leaders. We are very thankful for the residents who have come to us in a gracious

manner and asked clarifying questions or who have shared suggestions of how we can best enhance or serve the community. We have really tried to listen and have made numerous adjustments to honor legitimate needs. Ultimately, we are honored to own land in the beautiful Navajo Community, and look forward to joining the diverse faith communities of this area to serve the residents.”

SEE ALL PEOPLE’S CHURCH, Page 6

Home Sellers:

How to Get the Price You Want and Need

San Diego - When you decide to sell your home, setting your asking price is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Depending on how a buyer is made aware of your home, price is often the first thing he or she sees, and many homes are discarded by prospective buyers as not being in the appropriate price range before they're even given a chance of showing.

Your asking price is often your home's "first impression", and if you want to realize the most money you can for your home, it's imperative that you make a good first impression.

This is not as easy as it sounds, and pricing strategy should not be taken lightly. Pricing too high can be as costly to a homeseller as pricing too low. Taking a look at what homes in your neighborhood have sold for is only a small part of the process, and on it's own is not nearly enough to help you make the best decision. A recently study, which compiles 10 years of industry research, has resulted in a new special report entitled "Homesellers: How to Get the Price You Want (and Need)". This report will help you understand pricing strategy from three different angles. When taken together, this information will help you price your home to not only sell, but sell for the price you want.

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Davies to lead football program at Patrick Henry High

By DAVE THOMAS

There is a new head football coach ready to guide Patrick Henry High School this coming season.

Colby Davies was recently named head coach of the program and will be walking the sidelines when the Patriots take to the field in 2022.

A three-sport athlete at Steilacoom High School in Washington State, Davies played his college football at both Western Washington University and Pacific Lutheran University.

Davies has a Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology and a Master's in teaching.

"After a year of coaching college football at the Division I level, I knew I wanted to go back to a head high school position and teaching position," Davies commented. "San Diego has always been a place I've wanted to live and have really enjoyed while visiting."

For Davies, having played the sport in high school and college should help him better relate to the young men he will be coaching.

"It allows me to have a pretty good understanding of what our student-athletes goals are and how to help them achieve those goals," Davies continued. "In our football program it will always be a point of emphasis to build strong leaders and role models in

our school and community. That's a non-negotiable for me. It's expected that our football players at Patrick Henry are leaders and quality people on and off the field."

Davies noted the team, and the leaders on it will set the goals for the season.

"It's their team not mine, so it's important that their voices are heard and we develop a plan to help guide them," Davies stated. "I want to know their short and long term goals, as well as their individual and team goals. It's our job as a coaching staff to help guide them and coach them in a way that helps them achieve their goals."

For any kids thinking of coming out for the program, Davies encourages them to give it a go.

"We are going to play a very exciting brand of football and have a lot of fun doing it," Davies remarked. "I look forward to helping build this team and becoming a part of the Patrick Henry community and creating a high level of excitement with our program. We will place very high expectations on ourselves but we will have a blast going through the process and working to meet those expectations."

Patrick Henry went 10-3 last season, running off eight wins straight after opening the early portion of the season at 2-2.

The Patriots captured the CIF San Diego Section Division IV championship.



Colby Davies (Courtesy photo)

Patrick Henry lost to Birmingham 42-35 in the CIF Division III-A regional championship bowl game.

"We are very excited to welcome our new Football Head Coach, Colby Davies, to Patrick Henry High," Principal Michelle Irwin commented. "Colby comes to us with a wealth of knowledge about football but most importantly, the heart and soul to guide and mentor our student athletes."

"Colby will be a great addition to our athletic program," Irwin continued. "Colby has experience leading a high school football program and coaching for a D-1 college, Portland State. I firmly believe he can coach and mentor our student-athletes to play in high school and college as he has experience coaching in both arenas."

—Reach editor Dave Thomas at Dave@sdnews.com.

TIPS TO STAY CONNECTED DURING NATURAL DISASTERS, WILDFIRE SEASON



It's always important to prepare your loved ones, home and business in the event of a natural disaster, which can strike without warning. For San Diego residents, that also means preparing and protecting your home or business in the event of a wildfire.

A top priority for Cox during a wildfire or other natural disaster is to keep customers connected so they can stay informed, check in with family and friends, and even access their shows and movies if they're evacuated.

Cox also works hard to keep business customers, including hospitals and offices of Emergency Services, connected so they can continue to serve their customers and the public.

Wildfire season typically occurs from May through October. However, wildfires can occur at any time. Some of the most destructive and deadliest wildfires in California have occurred in November

(Camp Fire in Northern California in 2018) and December (Thomas Fire in Santa Barbara in 2017).

Cox prepares all year long for natural disasters, including wildfires, by reviewing its business continuity plan and running through simulated events such as a wildfire or earthquake so that employees in all facets of its operations will be prepared and know their role and responsibilities during a natural disaster.

When weather conditions increase the risk for wildfires, the local power company may notify you and Cox that they're implementing a PSPS. If you're in a neighborhood where power is shut off, your Cox services may be interrupted. You need power to run your devices and we need commercial power for our network.

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Cox Homelife Security will continue to work with limited function. Go to cox.com/residential/support/cellular-backup-capabilities for more information.

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For more helpful information and tips, visit cox.com/CaliforniaAssist.





Students posing with their robots (Photos by Peter Laohoo and Karen Miller)

Pair of Henry Cluster teams compete in robotics event

By KAREN MILLER

Recently, Patrick Henry High School was host to the San Diego FIRST Tech Challenge “Freight Frenzy” tournament for Turing League (Meet #3). Two Henry Cluster neighborhood FTC teams competed: the Wizalos (FTC 14129) and the Dapper RoboNoodles (FTC 18365). Each of the Turing League attending teams played five matches and will take their cumulative season scores with them to the Turing League finals held at Sage Creek High School later this month—and possibly advance from there.



A student directs his robot to gather blocks.



The goal of the competition is to gather the most blocks.

Nearly 60 FTC teams compete within the SDFTC region; hopefully we will see the Wizalos and the Dapper RoboNoodles at the regional championships in March! Video of Turing Meet #3, which was livestreamed on the San Diego FTC Twitch channel, is available at twitch.tv/videos/1288019663. The Patribots (FRC 4738), the FIRST Robotics Challenge team at Patrick Henry High School, made arrangements to bring the Turing Meet #3 event to the school, made space in their workshop to store event materials, and provided services to participants. All this despite being in the middle of their

SEE **STEMM**, Page 11



Student-made robots gathering the blocks and balls for the competition.

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MOVE

In the US vs. Covid, Republicans have sided with the virus



By SEAN QUINTAL

August 2021: The rock singer who called himself Meat Loaf described to an interviewer his unyielding opposition to public health mandate: "If I die, I die, but I'm not going to be controlled."

January 20, 2022: Meat Loaf dies. From Covid.

October 2021: Washington State Trooper Robert LaMay retires from the force rather than agree to the Covid vaccine mandated for all public safety workers by the state's Governor, Jay Inslee. In dramatic, self-promoting fashion, LaMay recorded himself on video as he signed off on his police radio for the last time. His parting words: "Jay Inslee can kiss my a**."

January 28, 2022: Robert LaMay dies at age 51. From Covid.

The above instances are tragic, not just because of the grief and loss for those men's families, but because those deaths were likely preventable. Both the singer and the state trooper are but two public examples of the current state of political tribalism in this country. Most tribes have symbols or totems to mark allegiance or membership. Often members will swear an oath or allegiance, and perhaps wear some sort of uniform. Sometimes these are physical expressions, like tattoos or adornments on the body. In extreme cases, tribes can become ghoulish and demand sacrifice from their members. Now, in 2022, one of

the nation's two major political tribes has chosen to brand itself as a nihilistic death cult.

Originally, Republican opposition to public health mandates was frequently framed in economic terms; understandably, because lockdowns and restrictions on business took an unmistakable toll on the economy. But thereafter, mask-wearing became a sort of symbol for one's political identity. Despite the incontrovertible fact that masks protect individuals and reduce the spread of airborne disease, the GOP tribe began to assert that masks were an infringement on freedom. Setting aside the fact that masks protect others, and that decent people are happy to take reasonable steps to protect others in their community, these same "freedom lovers," do not seem to mind being required to wear shirt and shoes into a restaurant, even though bare feet, unlike infected breath, cannot jeopardize the lives of others.

Then, with the advent of vaccines, opponents of public health measures could no longer offer an economic argument, because it is the vaccines that allow us to return to work and that make it possible for our businesses to function fully. The available data demonstrate that nearly half of this winter's hospitalizations could have been prevented if the U.S. had vaccination rates similar to the leading European countries. So who's ruining the economy now?

Once the free vaccines became widely available, the cynical "freedom" arguments took on grave, existential import. There

is now no question that Covid vaccines are stunningly effective, and that they save lives. In December 2021, unvaccinated Americans were 97 times more likely to die of Covid than those who are vaccinated and boosted. Further, through November 2021, the Commonwealth Fund estimated Covid vaccines have saved as many as 1.1 million American lives, and have prevented 10.3 million hospitalizations. Yet tens of millions of Americans refuse to take this simple action.

Consequently, because Republican politicians have now embraced opposition to life-saving medicine as a marker of belonging to their tribe, they must now face the reality that their craven political calculations are literally killing their supporters. In January, US News conducted an analysis of Covid data alongside voting results from the 2020 presidential race. These data reveal that the counties where Trump received the most votes by a large margin have a 52% higher death rate than in the counties where President Biden won by a large margin. And the numbers correlate: the larger Trump's margin of victory in a county, the greater the disparity in the death rate.

To remain popular in their death-cult tribe, Republican politicians now must resort to performative resistance to sensible public health measures. Arizona Governor Doug Ducey, whose state is second only to Mississippi in Covid deaths per 100K residents, refuses to give federal public health money to schools

that enact disease prevention efforts, instead providing it only to districts that prohibit public health measures. Florida's Governor Ron DeSantis who has threatened to fire school teachers if they take steps to protect their students from Covid, is so cowardly he now refuses to even declare if he has received a vaccine booster or not. DeSantis calculates that he is politically safer in his tribe to distance himself from, and to profess skepticism of, free life-saving medicine. In doing so, he contributes to the death of those very people whose votes he so cynically covets.

Both Meat Loaf and Robert LaMay were celebrated on Fox News, and other right wing media, for their anti-mask, anti-vax public proclamations. Each lent his voice to a movement that literally asks its adherents to put their lives at risk to prove their allegiance. Now both of those voices are forever silent, prematurely and tragically. And those are but two of the hundreds of thousands American voices we will never hear again, many because of a misplaced devotion to some vague, group identity.

All decent people offer sympathy and comfort to those who have lost loved ones. The current version of the Republican Party, however, ceased being decent long ago. Rather than act to protect Americans, they grotesquely exploit their supporters for money and votes, even as body after body of those same supporters are laid to rest. The Republican Party can call itself by many names, but please let us never allow it to shamelessly refer to itself again as "pro life."

—Sean Quintal writes on behalf of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club.

Krvaric, DeMaio slated to to speak at March 8 GOP event



By WENDY HAUFFEN

As expected, we hosted a full house at the February luncheon for the Republican Women of California - Navajo Canyon.

We were joined by Christian Hartsock, a chief investigative reporter for Project Veritas, with well over 100 attendees. A riveting and fascinating presentation! Be sure to keep up to date on the great work Project Veritas is doing to expose hypocrisy and lies in the media and in political campaigns.

At our luncheon, we also heard from Perry Yee, founder of Active Valor. As a former Navy SEAL, Perry created the organization to connect veterans with families that lost a loved one in a service-related death (Gold Star Families).

Our next luncheon will feature guest speaker Tony Krvaric. He will be sharing his thoughts on the upcoming elections.

Krvaric is chairman emeritus of the Republican Party of San Diego County, where he served for 14 years as volunteer chairman. He is Croatian by blood, Swedish by birth, American by Choice, and embodies and understands conservative Republican values.

We will also be joined by Carl

DeMaio, chairman of Reform California and host of the DeMaio Report on NewsRadio 600 KOGO where he uses his media platform to inform, engage and inspire common-sense Californians to get involved in the fight to take back their state from socialism. We will be hearing from DeMaio on the latest news from Reform California and what we can do to help. Join us on March 8 at the Legacy Resort Hotel & Spa. Register at www.rwcnajavocanyon.org.

As we gear up for 2022, we are getting ready for a busy election season. Republican Women of California - Navajo Canyon is looking forward to holding a

candidate forum in May, so keep an eye out for further details. We will be hearing from candidates running for a variety of positions so that YOU can make an informed decision about your vote.

Make your voice heard this election season! We are tired of hearing about hypocritical elected officials who want to take guns away from you but continue to have paid bodyguards, and who impose mask mandates on us and our children but attend large sporting events without a care in the world.

—Wendy Hauffen writes on behalf of the Republican Women of California - Navajo Canyon.

All People's Church

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

Herber added the project has been through several review cycles to date with the City of San Diego and all project issues have

been resolved. A screen check draft EIR is being reviewed by City staff.

"After the entitlements are received and once all building permits are approved, construction is anticipated to take about 12 months," Herber commented.

According to the church, the proposed project is awaiting an environmental review prior to a vote from the Navajo Community Planners Inc. (advisory vote), the San Diego Planning Commission and ultimately San Diego City Council.

Editor's note: Mission Times Courier reached out to Navajo Community Planners Inc. (NCPI) for comment on story but did not hear back.

—Reach editor Dave Thomas at dave@sdnews.com.

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PENINSULA BEACON



Navajo Canyon

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

part of the 200+ canyons that are a reminder of San Diego as it was 250 years ago.

Saved, but abused.

Abused by adjacent development as a convenient dumping ground. Saved, but without consideration of the potential of an ecological treasure. Due to the close proximity to large communities and urban development, invasive species have moved in, plants that have been brought by humans from other regions of the world and outcompete the native flora.

In that last regard the major invasive species in Navajo Canyon are Mexican fan palms, Canary Island date palms, mustard, ice plant, fennel, and castor bean. All of these plants outcompete the native plants for critical resources such as space and water. These invasive plants have no natural enemies. They grow and proliferate unchecked, unchecked except by human hands.

The native flora and fauna are in the coastal sage scrub plant and chaparral plant families. Many of these plants are rare and threatened as their habitat continues to decline. Restoration efforts are needed to maintain the coastal prickly pear cactus populations to provide nesting habitat for the cactus wren to name one of many. The canyons are the final refuge for the native plants and wildlife of San Diego.

Many people love palm trees and the signature look they bring to our city, but those in the canyon, the Mexican Fan Palms and Canary Island Date Palms, are serious competitors for water. They do not fit into this fragile ecology.

In recognition of the value of the canyon in a natural state the San Diego Canyonlands, a local nonprofit dedicated to restoring the canyons, obtained a grant of \$600,000 from the San Diego River Conservancy to remove the invasive palm trees. The grant will also support habitat rehabilitation and trail maintenance. The palm trees will be removed via helicopter, thereby avoiding damage to the delicate landscape and not requiring to build a road to haul out the trees, which would be greatly degrading to the canyon ecology. As gratifying as this public investment is, it is only a minor part of what must be done.

San Diego Canyonlands and Friends of Navajo Canyon work in the canyon every third Saturday between 9 a.m. and Noon from either the trail head near Easton Court or from Adobe Falls Road. The most recent event last month will give you an idea of the day's activities.

Teams from Patrick Henry High School Environmental Club and Key Club, by far the largest component of the person-power at work that day, and folks from our local communities, over two

SEE NAVAJO CANYON, Page 9

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2021 iNaturalist observations from MTRP – year in review

By PATRICIA SIMPSON

In 2021, nearly 900 iNaturalist users visited Mission Trails Regional Park and posted more than 13,000 observations. Special thanks to the roughly 1,200 people who helped confirm identifications to catalog a total of 1,556 different species! Let's take a look back and see what lessons can be learned and maybe this will help us with a few New Year's resolutions.

In 2022, let's:

NURTURE EACH OTHER

We all need a massage once in a while, or in this case a good preen session. iNaturalist user Millie Basden (milliebasden) captured a tender moment between two Common Ravens (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/101494336>). While birds preen themselves all the time to stay clean and keep up with feather maintenance, the top of their own head is an impossible place to reach. Having a friend, sibling, or mate preen that spot

is a very special and enjoyable event.

CHOOSE MEALS CAREFULLY

MTRP photographer David Cooksy found a gorgeous California Scrub-Jay (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/103389024>) collecting acorns near Kumeyaay Lake. Scrub-jays are oak tree propagators. They collect acorns and often place them under wet litter

SEE INATURALIST, Page 9



A Woodland Skipper could be the next prey of this Praying Mantis. (Photo courtesy of Craig Chaddock)

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iNaturalist

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

or into damp soil for later retrieval. Forgotten snacks often sprout into tree saplings.

Other critters prefer large meals consumed less often. A tiny Buttonhook Leaf-beetle Jumping Spider (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/90811366>) can enjoy a meal 1.5 times its body size. It will be able to skip meals for 2 to 3 days or up to a week after such a feast. Some snacks are just better avoided. This was a hard lesson to learn for a Striped Racer (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/101169120>) who engaged with a San Diego Alligator Lizard. The snake grabbed the lizard by the neck, but then the prey did something unexpected. You may have heard of lizards dropping their tails as a defense mechanism, but did you know that Alligator Lizards will bite their own tail to avoid being swallowed by snakes? This Striped Racer eventually had to give up his meal and the lizard went free.

BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

It's always a good idea to be aware of your surroundings, for

your safety and the safety of others. I'm not sure how informed of danger this Woodland Skipper (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/96927309>) was, but the Praying Mantis behind it was very much aware of a potential meal. Praying Mantises usually station themselves near a bloom and stand very still or sometimes move slightly as if they were a branch swayed by the wind. This allows them to be undetected until they can ambush an unsuspecting prey. This butterfly was lucky and got away... this time.

VALUE A GOOD NIGHT'S (OR DAY'S) SLEEP

If you are a Ruddy Duck (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/68944329>), Lake Murray's waters are the perfect place to enjoy a nice morning nap. Diving for your own food (seeds, roots, insects) can be a tiring exercise and it's important to get some rest between meals. Of course, if you are a nocturnal mammal and pull an all-night shift, it is important to find a comfortable and safe place to sleep during the day. At Kumeyaay Lake, a family of Common Raccoons (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/68745932>) was spotted getting a good day

snooze on the curvy trunk of a willow tree.

VISIT NEW PLACES

A Lewis's Woodpecker (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/103386102>) decided to visit Mission Trails Regional Park for Halloween and is still being seen by many visitors, birders and non-birders alike. The park is not a usual hangout for this San Diego County winter visitor. The large woodpecker normally prefers the east-county mountain woodlands. It seems this bird found MTRP and the beautiful San Diego River corridor a fine spot for the holidays.

STAND TALL AND ENJOY THE VIEW

Whether you're a tall plant like this Chaparral Yucca (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/72987031>) or a small fungus known as a Milky Conecap (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/86440460>), you can stand tall and enjoy the view from wherever you stand. MTRP offers walking and hiking opportunities at all elevations and with all the rain we got in December, there's bound to be plenty of views to admire.

Navajo Canyon

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

dozen in all, assembled at the Easton Court trailhead.

Kindra Hixon, outreach manager for San Diego Canyonlands, led them on a hike from Easton Court to the Mound Avenue trailhead where the trash receptacle is located. She showed us the plants and the traces of the animals that make up the flora and fauna. She laid out the day's work, the physically demanding removal of invasive ice plant that was working its way down from adjacent residences, of castor bean plants, of horehound bushes, and of other invasive species that, if left unchecked, will continue replacing the native plants.

The results are best understood from the before and after pictures of one of the areas they cleared. The crew removed more than 300 pounds of invasive material that cleared the way for native plantings. You can see how much more must be taken out. The Friends of Navajo Canyon under the guidance

of Kim Morris will also host family-friendly events such as bird watching and interpretive hikes to learn about native species in the canyon and will continue its trash removal efforts at Adobe Falls Road and Alvarado Canyon Road.

That was the long, slow curve. Now for the fast break. The canyon is huge. It will take decades of hard work to realize the goal of a natural environment. And even then it will take constant attention to preserve what has been gained. Navajo Canyon must be thought of as a generational endeavor. The hard work can only be done on our hands and knees with garden tools and trash bags.

Begin now by registering with San Diego Canyonlands at <https://www.sdcanyonlands.org/> and with Friends of Navajo Canyon at <http://www.aggccouncil.org/friendsofnavajocanyon.html>. Join the team every third Saturday. Navajo Canyon needs you.

Editor's note: Article and photos courtesy of Shain Haug, Kindra Hixon and Kim Morris.

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Superintendent Search

San Diego Unified will host a community forum for the public to meet the superintendent finalists and provide feedback. The Board will introduce the permanent superintendent in mid-March 2022.

In-Person Community Forum

The event will also be live streamed. Zoom Webinar Link:

<https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/89749595768> | Webinar ID: 897 4959 5768

Saturday
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Proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test within 48 hours or a negative antigen test within 24 hours is required to attend the in-person event. Home test results will not be accepted. Onsite COVID-19 testing will be available. Masking and social distancing will be enforced.

RSVP by emailing superintendentsearch@sandi.net. Please visit the superintendent search webpage to submit your questions for the candidates, no later than February 24 so they can be addressed at the forum, and any feedback/comments regarding the forum no later than March 1



Make your voice heard and attend one of the community forums! The San Diego community has a unique opportunity to help select the next Superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District.

We urge members of the community to participate and share their thoughts about the importance of an inclusive and equitable education for all students. —Chris Wilson

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For more Information please visit the Superintendent Recruitment and Selection webpage.

Friends of Del Cerro makes it more fun to play basketball

By JAY WILSON

Mark Allan, vice president of the Friends of Del Cerro (FODC), announced the new basketball backboards for the recently re-surfaced basketball court at the Princess Del Cerro Park have been installed. The new backboards were purchased by the FODC at a cost of \$2,000 and include a new basket and net. Through the effort of Kelly Wood, the city's park and recreation area manager for this area, the City of San Diego re-surfaced the basketball court and installed the backboards.



The new backboards for the basketball court at Princess Del Cerro have been installed. (Photo by Mark Allan)

After several postponements due to weather and scheduling conflicts, the long-awaited tour of Adobe Falls was held on Monday, Feb. 7. The tour, conducted by Adobe Falls authority, included SDSU professor Dr. Eric Frost, Dr. John Love, Professor of Biochemistry, SDSU Vice President of Business and Financial Affairs and Chief Financial Officer Agnes Wong Nickerson, SDSU Associate Vice President, Real Estate, Planning & Development Bob Schulz, SDSU Associate Vice President Business Operations Eric Hansen and members of the FODC board of directors and Del Cerro residents.

Jackie O'Connor, the president of the FODC commented, "We were very pleased to have the four graduate students from SDSU's Public Administration and Criminal Justice Department join us on the tour. The FODC was again selected to participate in a Capstone Project through SDSU. The graduate students are collecting data as part of the second phase of an assignment to evaluate solutions for the safety of Del Cerro residents specifically targeting the impact of all the trespassing through city of San Diego and private property as individuals continually trek to Adobe Falls."

A Capstone Project, like its namesake, represents the pinnacle achievement of a student's academic career. It is a two-semester senior/Masters design project that all SDSU students are required to

complete in their final year. Senior students work in teams that are structured like an industrial design team, with specific tasks for each member based on their major and experience. They work under the joint guidance of a faculty advisor and a mentor from the industry on real projects and problems that come directly from SDSU's partners.

At the end of the tour, everyone agreed we should schedule a meeting within the next month to further discuss the potential to further develop the area including agricultural and environmental uses.

The FODC's Neighborhood Watch Committee recently met and finished the plans to install 20 Neighborhood Watch signs in neighborhoods surrounding Hearst Elementary School. The signs were also purchased by the FODC.

For more information about the FODC visit our website at friendsofdelcerro.org

Our Park and Recreation Centers in Allied Gardens and San Carlos are hosting spring events on Saturday, April 2. The Allied Gardens event is from 10 a.m. to noon and is located at 5155 Greenbrier Ave. The recreation staff says "Please join us for a morning filled with lots of fun activities for kids of all ages! We will have basket decorating, bunny face craft, and each child may take home their very own bag of fun filled eggs! Join us for the fun. For more information, call (619) 235-1129."

The San Carlos Recreation Center's event "Spring Celebration" will be from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and is located at 644 Lake Badin. "As we continue to try and remain safe during the ongoing pandemic in place of our traditional egg hunt, we will have pre-filled candy bags to hand out (while supplies last). Join us for some fun spring carnival games, crafts, and a picture with the Spring Bunny. We hope to see you here!"

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Major Street Repairs Coming to District 7

District 7 Dispatch

By RAUL A. CAMPILLO



In August 2021, I joined my colleagues in approving \$293 million in appropriations, including roughly \$40 million for the Mayor's Sexy Streets initiative. The \$40 million allocation will allow us to pave roughly 54 miles of road for San Diegans over the next two years, in addition to the \$146 million in road resurfacing projects currently in progress.

While we have patched and repaired dozens of damaged streets in District 7 during my first year in office, I have advocated directly to Mayor Gloria and his Administration for major, long-term solutions to the structural deficiencies that continue to linger.

I also submitted a memorandum to the Department of Transportation listing priority streets in District 7 that are in need of serious repair. I am pleased to report that the Mayor has promised that the following roads in District 7 will be prioritized for repair in the coming year under this initiative:

- College Avenue from Interstate 8 to Del Cerro Boulevard
- Navajo Road from Camino Estrellado to Park Ridge Boulevard
- Waring Road from Interstate 8 to Adobe Falls Road
- Margerum Avenue from Navajo Road to Quiet Slope Drive
- Wandermere Drive from Park Ridge Boulevard to Casselberry Way and Golfcrest Drive to Sunny Brae Drive

I will continue to advocate for slurry seal and asphalt overlay everywhere it is necessary in the District.

SIGNAGE TO INCREASE STUDENT SAFETY

I know keeping our residents up-to-date on what is happening in the community is vital and I'm proud to share that we continue to push safety for our residents, from students to those who ride bikes.

When it comes to our children, I believe that safety to and from school is vital. In September of 2021, a traffic calming study was requested for the intersection of Eldridge Street and Forbes Avenue to add a controlled crosswalk, school signage and all way stop sign. I am happy to share that traffic engineers with the Transportation Engineering Division (TED) have recommended the installation of "School Warning" signs along Eldridge Street for both directions of traffic. This will help remind motorists of the school zone along this roadway segment.

Additionally, my staff has submitted to have a traffic sign installed with a "School Warning" sign facing northbound and southbound traffic on Street Division. We will continue to update the community as we hear from TED.

As always, do not hesitate to reach out if there is anything my office can assist you with. You can always reach us by phone at 619-236-6677 or by email at RaulCampillo@SanDiego.gov.

—Raul Campillo represents District 7 on the San Diego City Council.

STEMM

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

own very hectic build season for the "Rapid React" challenge.

They will be competing in the San Diego Regional tournament from March 18–20, 2022 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. This is expected to be a live, in-person event. The region is monitoring the COVID-19 environment to determine whether spectators will be allowed. Additional information and updates are

available at <https://cafirst.org/frc/sandiego>.

Local FIRST LEGO League teams, Garage Engineers (FLL 50739) and Crazy LEGO Bots (FLL 34264) will be competing at the Spring Showdown on April 30, as will the Pershing Middle School teams, Robotic Panthers (FLL 55271, 55272, 55273, 55275). The theme is "Planes, Trains, and Robot-Mobiles," and fingers are crossed that this event will be a return to live matches! The Garage Engineers will also be participating in the 2022 Western

Edge Invitational, a remote event scheduled for May 13–15.

Finally...the San Carlos Branch Library Robotics Extravaganza is also hoping to return later this spring!

This Extravaganza is an excellent opportunity to see our community's robots in action, and to meet our local FLL, FTC, and FRC teams. Past Extravaganza attendees have included SDSU teams, underwater teams, and a SWAT team robot! It's always a fun morning; contact info@hcstemm.org for more details.

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SDSU New Stadium

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Coming off an outstanding 12-2 season, including a 38-24 victory in the Frisco Bowl over UTSA last December, SDSU's win total was a school record.

With football set to return to Mission Valley this season (SDSU opens at home versus Arizona on Sept. 3), Aztec students, staff, alumni and others will be able to enjoy seeing the Red and Black up close again. That is without having to hop in a vehicle, board a bus or more options and battle traffic to Carson.

Playing home football games since the fall of 1967 at what was then known as San Diego Stadium (later became Jack Murphy Stadium), the Aztecs became homeless starting with the 2020 season. SDSU played both the 2020 and 2021 campaigns in Carson.

This became a necessity once it was determined that SDCCU Stadium (formerly San Diego Stadium, Jack Murphy Stadium and then Qualcomm Stadium) was no longer suitable for play. The stadium became expendable once the Los Angeles Chargers (formerly San Diego Chargers for decades) moved north to play beginning with the 2017 NFL season. The Chargers temporarily played in Carson before settling in the last several seasons with the Los Angeles Rams in Inglewood at SoFi Stadium. That is the same stadium set to host the Super Bowl on Sunday, Feb. 13.

In early summer 2020, the city of San Diego signed off on selling SDCCU Stadium to San Diego

State for more than \$85 million. Before that summer was over, the school officially would end up owning the land.

According to Derek Grice, SDSU executive associate athletic director for Mission Valley development, everything is on schedule for the new stadium to open on time.

"We've had to deal like many others with the pandemic and supply chain issues," Grice commented. "We have an incredible team and everyone has been pulling the right levers to stay on track."

Grice went on to say that the response from coaches, athletes and others who will get to use the new stadium has been overwhelmingly positive.

"We have a state-of-the-art stadium built for San Diego that will embody our community," Grice remarked. "This will give us a true home field advantage and also help us on the road with recruiting."

Grice noted that SDSU officials involved in the project did look at a lot of collegiate and pro stadiums nationwide when seeing what to integrate into Snapdragon Stadium. "We've gotten good feedback from other teams on what we're doing here," Grice added.

Along with SDSU football and several other Aztec teams playing outdoors benefitting from the new venue, the stadium will see myriad of uses in 2022 and in the years to come.

Some CIF high school athletics and top concerts are among the plans for the stadium, according to Grice.

SEE SDSU NEW STADIUM, Page 15

Microenterprise home kitchen operation initially passed for a two-year test period

By ROBIN DOHRN-SIMPSON

San Diego County supervisors voted unanimously recently to approve an ordinance that will allow people to operate mini-restaurants out of their house or condominium. Initially this ordinance is for two years before reassessment.

This operation will allow residents to cook, serve, deliver and serve food to customers. They will also be able to store food in their homes. Participants must cook the food the same day served. This does not include caterers and cottage food operations. Home cooks will need to submit an application, earn a Food Safety Manager certificate, pass an initial inspection and undergo annual inspections. Kitchens that use well-water also have to conduct private tests to ensure the safety of the water. All home kitchen operators can serve as many as 30 in-person meals and 60 meals per week. This can be eat-in, take-out or delivered meals.

Supervisor Joel Anderson said, "I am grateful to my Board colleagues for supporting this ordinance because MEHKO's are a win for chefs and for our communities. I am eager to see how this new ordinance will enrich San Diego County's food diversity and offer our neighborhoods greater options for nutritious and affordable freshly prepared meals."



A wide variety of freshly-prepared meals make for great eating options. (Photo by Pixabay.com)

"This is a huge wine for non-traditional entrepreneurs, particularly immigrants, women, and people of color, who may have faced barriers when looking to start their own businesses," Anderson continued. "Restaurateurs can put their food to the test before making the exorbitant investment into a brick-and-mortar storefront."

"I think this could be cool if utilized properly. I could host an exclusive dinner in my backyard once or twice a month, or do a fun cooking class and it would be legit," Chef Jeff Rossman, past President of the California Restaurant Association and Restaurateur of the Year.

Charles Heineke, of Charlie's Classic Cooking, feels "In many ways, it's going to be good. Food from your homeland, comfort food for many immigrants who want their own familiar foods. My biggest concern is sanitation. In an industrial kitchen, our food storage and cleanliness are highly regulated."

According to Anderson, "The San Diego County Department of Environmental Health and Quality will conduct regular inspections to confirm sanitation and refrigeration standards are being met and ensure the health and safety of customers. Under the MEHKO's ordinance, food may be stored in garages if properly stored in a fridge or freezer. In addition, meals must be prepared and sold on the same day. They cannot be left in the fridge overnight."

—Robin Dohrn-Simpson is a local food and travel writer. Reach her at robindohrnsimpson.com.





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Do you poke when hungry?

By ROBIN DOHRN-SIMPSON

Pronounced POH-kay, this food trend came to the mainland from Hawaii, where it is everywhere, from grocery stores to restaurants to gas stations. It is similar to the build your own burrito or sandwich restaurants. A build your own seafood bowl. A visit to the San Diego Poke Company helped to understand.

You take a foundation of either white or brown rice, mixed green salad or chips. Then you choose your protein of either shrimp, salmon, tuna, spicy tuna, albacore, octopus, bay scallops or tofu for vegetarians.

Next, choose your sauce. Each Poke restaurant will have its own umami-packed sauces; the San Diego Poke Company features a variety of sauces such as Koko Loko, which is a sweet chili sauce with coconut milk and citrus. Their Oh No Sauce is a mildly spicy blend of Sriracha, mayonnaise, and citrus with chili flakes. Or Seoul Hottt which is a Korean Spicy Bean Paste sauce. Their proprietary sauce called Biggie Sauce (named after the inventor and chef Biggie) is a blend of these three sauces.

Lastly, choose your toppings. Some offerings are white or green onion, avocado, ginger, edamame, seaweed salad, pineapple, fried onion, and fried garlic. For zesty food lovers try the Serrano peppers, wasabi, or hot Cheetos.



Are you ready for a taste of Hawaii here in San Diego? (Photo by Robin Dohrn-Simpson)

If you prefer to order a bowl already created for you there are eight specialty bowls. Some of the most popular are: Reel Bliss made from salmon, pineapple, edamame, Serrano peppers, and sesame seeds. This is topped with the SNS (Sweet & Spicy) sauce. Another popular choice is the OG SD, tuna, avocado, white and green onions, sesame seeds, and the Original Sauce.

For desserts, try their mochi balls called Ice Cream “Bubbies” from Hawaii. These mochi balls are made from Japanese mochi with an ice cream filling.

Speaking of sweet teeth, manager Andrea Aquino makes Ube Cheesecake cookies. Ube comes from the Tagalog language of the Philippines and means tuber.

It is in the same family as taro root but a different color. “These cookies are made from Ube because it’s been too hard to get taro root right now,” Aquino said. “I brought these from Hawaii myself.” Sounds very interesting. We should give them a try.

San Diego Poke Company currently has only one location, having sold their Hillcrest location this past year. They currently have three tables for outdoor dining but the bulk of their business is takeout.

Located at 10387 Friars Road, you can see all of their menu offerings at www.sdpokeco.com.

—Robin Dohrn-Simpson is a local food and travel writer. Reach her at: robindohrnsimpson.com.

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SB9 now in effect, density to increase

By SARAH WARD

It's been a little over a month since SB9 passed and was signed in to law by Governor Newsom.

Senate Bill SB9 allows property owners to build up to four units on a traditional R1 lot with approximately 80% of R1 lots in California qualifying. In order to qualify, lots need to have a minimum amount of room to allow for additional structures, not be a historic property and a few other requirements, but the vast majority of R1 lots in this state qualify by design.

The law allows lot-splitting as well where a lot can be split into two lots and each half lot can then hold two units. There are some minimal requirements for adequate space and set-backs for the new structures but most R1 lots in San Diego are able to make this conversion. One study by the American Enterprise Institute estimates that approximately 2.5 million single family homes could be eventually converted to duplexes (or fourplexes) with maybe half a million units estimated to be constructed over the next 10 years. Just in the last three years over 15,000 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU/granny flats) have been constructed in California.

I know of a small firm in La Mesa that draws up designs and blueprints for ADU's and their business is booming right now. I attended a workshop recently with a company that builds a cement pad, installs plumbing and electrical and then drops a prebuilt unit on the pad by crane and secures it. They also said that their business was busy and to expect fairly long wait times for their services.

One thing is for sure, the make-up of our local neighborhoods will drastically change over the next 20 years.

Density will increase and street parking will grow. Critics of SB9 claim that the law does not allow for enough driveway parking for these new units and the set-back requirements are too small. Some structures could be built too close to the sidewalk or other structures and street parking will become too dense.

The neighborhoods directly south of San Diego State University are already experiencing a significant increase in construction and density with quite a few two-story towers being built in the backyards of single-family lots. The next time you attend a basketball game at Viejas Arena, drive down Mary Lane and Dorothy Ave. and have a look for yourself at all the backyard structures. That is what is coming soon to your neighborhood and there is no stopping it.

Market report. The median price increases are for SFR, with changes from one year ago.

92115 College Area: year over year median home prices increased 24% to \$823,500, inventory is still ultra-low with just 22 properties for sale in the entire zip-code.

92119 San Carlos: The SFR median home price increased 27% to \$1,000,000 and inventory available for sale is at only 12 properties for sale in San Carlos.

92120 Allied Gardens, San Carlos had a 32% median home price increase over the past 12 months and only 9 homes are currently for sale!

If you are interested in a no obligation opinion on buying or selling real estate in San Diego, give me a call to schedule a meeting. I offer professional advice with absolutely no pressure. Call me. (858) 431-6043.

—Sarah Ward is a realtor with Fine & Coastal Real Estate.

SDSU New Stadium

CONTINUED FROM Page 12

Meantime, Major League Rugby (MLR) will also find a home at Snapdragon Stadium. The San Diego Legion will begin play there in 2023. Also, the San Diego Wave FC women's soccer club is slated to play in the stadium this year once it is open. Finally, World Lacrosse recently awarded its 2023 men's world championship to San Diego, with Snapdragon Stadium slated to play host to premier games.

STADIUM IS BUT ONE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

The new stadium is but one piece of the puzzle set to unfold over time to serve both locals and visitors to the area.

San Diego State's Mission Valley Campus Master Plan is focused on providing the school with the ability to increase enrollment and expand programs in the years to come. Housing for SDSU students, staff, faculty and the San Diego community is also part of the plan along with commercial and hotel space.

The plan also calls for a regional community River Park to be completed in the next year or so. The park area would provide a large swath of outdoor space for locals and visitors to enjoy myriad of activities along

the river, including members of the Navajo community.

According to Gina Jacobs, associate vice president of Mission Valley Development, things are moving along on schedule with this end of the project.

"Approximately 80 acres of park and open space are being developed on site, including a 34-acre River Park along the southern portion of the property," Jacobs stated. "CSU (California State University) is the permitting agency for the park and as part of the purchase and sale agreement, the 34-acre river park was dedicated as park space in perpetuity. The park will be under construction this year and is expected to be completed in late 2023."

When the 10 acres set aside for the Navajo Community is completed, it should be a welcomed addition for members of the community and visitors to enjoy using in a variety of ways.

"All of the park space is being developed as a large cohesive park for which the public will have access," Jacobs remarked. "The River Park includes three active recreation fields, a children's play area, a public restroom, basketball courts, picnic areas and miles of bike and pedestrian paths, and native plants, among many other improvements."

As Jacobs pointed out, SDSU's landscape architect

(Schmidt Design Group) has designed some of the most iconic parks throughout the San Diego area. "The park design is inspired by the riparian environment of the San Diego River and the cultural history of the site," Jacobs added.

With the new football stadium slated to be ready for the season opener and the River Park at the end of next year, all appears to be falling into place on this valuable piece of land.

The full development is slated to be built over the next decade, according to Jacobs.

"The rough graded development parcels are planned to be available for construction at the end of the year," Jacobs noted. "As it relates to housing, we don't anticipate doing traditional student housing (i.e. residence halls) onsite but instead multi-family housing including 10 percent affordable housing onsite."

With so much change slated for the area, there is much to be excited about for locals and those visiting this region of San Diego.

"We look forward to delivering on our vision of SDSU Mission Valley which will expand the university's educational and economic impact in our region, increase access to higher education and further our research enterprise," Jacobs added.

—Reach editor Dave Thomas – dave@sdnews.com.

New backboards

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

Sadly, I report the passing of John Peterson at age 94. He was an original resident of Allied Gardens (1954) and an individual totally dedicated

to helping his community. John was a member of the Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis Club 50 years. He was a founding member of the Allied Gardens Spring Fest, and year after year he could be seen helping residents select a Christmas tree at the Kiwanis

lot on Zion Avenue. These are just a few of the never-ending number of events and projects John participated in. He was a very good friend to me and to everyone who new John!

—Jay Wilson writes on behalf of Friends of Del Cerro.

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“Neighbors Helping Neighbors” Community Food Drive

DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT IDEAL, 5161 WARING ROAD, MON-FRI 8AM-5PM

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints congregations throughout San Diego County are teaming up with the Boy Scouts of America San Diego-Imperial Council's Scouting for Food campaign and local business partners to collect nonperishable food donations for the San Diego Food Bank and the North County Food Bank chapter. The community is invited to participate!

The Drive-Thru Food Drive is Saturday, March 19, 9am to 11am at 6767 51st St San Diego, CA 92120. Ideal is a collection site, accepting donations February 21 through March 18, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm at 5161 Waring Rd.

The San Diego Food Bank continues to feed record numbers of people. Currently, the Food Bank is feeding an average of 550,000 per month through its network of 500 nonprofit partners, 200 direct food distributions, and 35 Super Pantries which are high-volume distribution hubs open throughout the week.

Please join us in supporting the San Diego Food Bank!

MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

- Canned meat and fish
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Peanut butter
- Oatmeal and cereal
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