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Flip for some pizza and more
Page 16

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEWS

Kiwanis say goodbye to John Peterson



KIWANIS
In Loving Memory
JOHN G. PETERSON

Longtime Kiwanis member passes
Page 3

NEWS

Fourth of July fun returns



Lake Murray holiday event set
Page 5

MISSION TRAILS

Bring the little ones out



Kids can take advantage of nature
Page 18

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San Diego Community Newspaper Group

SDSU celebrating 125 years of educating the community


An aerial view of Montezuma Mesa campus in 1931. (Photo courtesy of San Diego State Special Collections and University Archives)

By DAVE THOMAS

There is a lot of history packed into 125 years and more to come. The founding of the school dates back to 1897. That is when the San Diego Normal School was in a building in Downtown San Diego.

Move forward nearly 25 years and San Diego Normal School would transition to San Diego State Teachers College. The school would relocate a decade later to its current location on Montezuma Mesa. In 1935, San Diego State Teachers College would take on a new name; San Diego State College. The school would become known as San Diego State University in 1974.

SEE **SDSU ANNIVERSARY**, Page 14

Welcome to your dog's happy place: The Dog Society

By ELAINE ALFARO

With approximately 30% of San Diego citizens owning a canine friend, according to National Pet Alliance, a new business in the Rolando community offers a treat dogs and their owners can enjoy together.

The Rolando community recently welcomed The Dog Society with a bow-wow bang.

Owner Sara Broetje along with chief operations and marketing officer Cameron Gomez form the dynamic female duo who dreamed up and built The Dog Society to foster a sense of community for all the dog lovers in Rolando and beyond.

"People joke all the time, 'You're a dog person or a cat person,'" said Gomez. "We're definitely dog people and we know there are so many other people out there just like us. We have a place for those people to come and be a part of this family, of this society."

Located at 6331 University Avenue in what was once a furniture store, Broetje's vision transformed the place into a two-story "dog-centric" business that offers boarding, grooming, and training on the lower floor. On the street level, you walk into the "human level" which is designed for canine owners to play and dine with family and friends alongside their pets.

Whether enjoying a drink on the patio, playing a round of put-put golf or cheering on your corn hole team from the Qualcomm stadium seats bought on auction, San Diego culture and sports infuse the space.

Within the reimagined shipping containers on-site, you can sniff out a bite to eat on their menu offering paninis, avocado toast, and nachos just to name a few. To quench your thirst, Kombucha, cold brew, and beer are on tap within specially-crafted draft systems that look like fire hydrants. You can even include your dog in the fun. They offer non-alcoholic


Open the doors to fun for you and your dog. (Photo courtesy of The Dog Society)

SEE **DOG SOCIETY**, Page 12

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Kiwanis Club gutted by loss of ‘Mr. Allied Gardens’

By JOHN R. CRAWFORD

The Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis Club is reeling from a loss that could be felt throughout the community, as John G. Peterson passed away earlier this year. He was 94.

Peterson was the most influential and well-known of all the club's members, having been a part of Kiwanis for the last 55 years. His cheerful attitude and his conscience for the community at large helped define the club's role within Allied Gardens and inspire generations of leaders to follow in his footsteps.

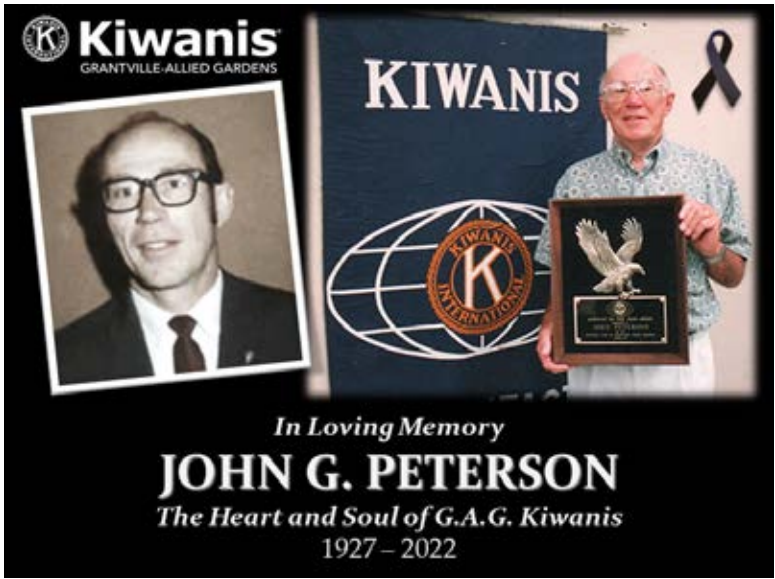
"I think the thing that made John so special is that he always had a zest for life, a bright spirit that could not be extinguished," wrote current G.A.G. Kiwanis Club President Kathy Butterstein. "He has been the heart and soul of our Kiwanis Club, and the essence of all that is wonderful about Allied Gardens. He was considered by many to be a second dad and granddad."

Born in Winslow, Arizona, on Nov. 28, 1927, John Gilbert Peterson was the son of a railroad engineer and fireman, Arthur Peterson.

As World War II raged in Europe and the Pacific, John attended Winslow High School, where he was an athlete, but his father retired from the Santa Fe Railroad in March 1944. The Petersons packed up and followed Route 66 to California before John was able to finish high school, eventually graduating Sweetwater High School in National City at age 16.

When John was 18, and with World War II drawing to a close, the U.S. Army draft board came calling. John was assigned to Fort Belvoir in Virginia, and was sent overseas to Tokyo with the 64th Engineer Battalion. John received a World War II victory medal and an Army of Occupation medal for his service in the Army.

In March 1947, Peterson received his discharge and returned to San Diego, where he



would enroll in San Diego State College on the G.I. Bill. After working briefly for Convair, in 1951 Peterson accepted a part-time position with Point Loma's Kettenburg Boat Works (later Kettenburg Marine), a company that designed and built boats. Upon his graduation from college shortly thereafter, John started working there full time, and remained with the company for the next 38 years.

Also working at Kettenburg in those early years was a switch-board operator by the name of Norma Lee Gray.

John and Norma started dating and would stay together for more than 60 years, getting married on Sept. 27, 1953. In 1954, the Petersons moved to the newly-built community of Allied Gardens, where they welcomed a daughter, Susan, and five years later, their son, Jim.

Getting more involved with his community, in spring 1966, John Peterson was invited by a neighbor to a Thursday morning meeting of the Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis Club. It didn't take long for John to say yes, and on May 21, 1966, John Peterson was inducted into the G.A.G. Kiwanis Club.

While working full-time at Kettenburg with a wife and two growing kids at home, Peterson still found the time to dedicate himself to the Kiwanis Club. He

was never shy about taking on a new project or a position on the club's board of directors, from an anti-litter campaign with Marvin Elementary School in 1968 to a Sweethearts Ball dance for Valentine's Day more than 50 years later.

In 1970, John Peterson and fellow club member Jack Scott spearheaded an effort to raise the American flag along Waring Road on all federal holidays. Keeping the collection of more than 40 flags in his own garage, John Peterson continued to oversee that project for the next five decades. In 2020, Peterson and Scott were honored for 50 years of these patriotic displays.

John served as president of the G.A.G. Kiwanis Club in 1971-72, and was named Kiwanian of the Year, the club's highest honor, three times, and in three different decades: 1973-74, 1996-97, and 2011-12. In 2017, the Kiwanis Club renamed that award after Peterson.

By the time John retired as vice president of Kettenburg Marine in 1989, he was willing to fully commit himself to Kiwanis.

His duties as a husband, however, took precedence when his wife, Norma, suffered a debilitating stroke in the late 1990s. Suddenly, John had to learn how to do basic chores around the house, many

SEE KIWANIS OBIT, Page 5

Empty Nesters: FREE Special Report Reveals 9 Costly Mistakes to Avoid When Selling Your Home

San Diego - Are you an "Empty Nester" who needs a home for the future? Is it time to downsize or to move into another home more suitable for your glorious retirement years?

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To help you understand the issues involved in making such a move, and how to avoid the 9 most common and costly mistakes most Empty Nesters make, a new report called "Empty Nester: How to Sell the Place You Call Home" has been prepared which identifies these issues, and shows you how to steer clear of the mistakes that could cost you literally thousands of dollars.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-800-270-1494 and enter 1013. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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2021 Car Theft Statistics

California ranked #4 in the Nation Theft Rate: 427.6 thefts per 100,000 residents.



According to recent reports, the national recovery rate for stolen vehicles was 56.4% in 2020, signifying a notable increase from 46% in 2012.

This higher recovery rate is perhaps due to a greater volume of connected, trackable cars on the road.

Conversely, 2021 was a record year for stolen vehicle reports, up 73,000 cars from the previous year.

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Del Cerro artist's exhibit shares local history and culture

By ELAINE ALFARO

Weston Riffle sees art as something more than an artistic interpretation of the scenery surrounding him: It's a way to understand and cope with life.

In April and May, his San Diego-inspired art will be featured at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts (15498 Espola Road). The show will run until May 27.

As a San Diego native, Riffle grew up in east county surrounded by the colors and sights of the agricultural industry and mountains found in Ramona. These scenes inspired his creativity at a young age.

"I grew up in Ramona and I suppose the colors and atmosphere in Southern California are what I use," said Riffle. "Back when I was a kid, there were a lot of rugged individuals living on their ranches. What's been instilled in a lot of people my age who come from California, it's changed since then, was a theme back then where you grow up and live on your own ranch. I guess what I'm doing is trying to express individuality and have a sense of self-respect no matter where and what you're doing."

The culture in east county has evolved since his childhood, but what remains a consistent force within his art is the place of belonging and home.

"I've always just from being a little kid was like, 'You feel like an

outsider,'" said Riffle. "A lot of people end up doodling or drawing. I've been doing that forever. But, I started painting during college at SDSU."

While at SDSU he studied public administration to establish a career separate from his art. While simultaneously taking an art class, he sold his first piece.

"I just started selling paintings right away," said Riffle.

One of his first big selling projects ended up informing his unique name Fat Sip.

"There was a painting I did early on when I lived in Oakland. It was a woman drinking tea and I thought of the name based on that. That was the first big painting I ever sold," said Riffle.

Depicting the culture of rural life and agricultural business, Riffle said he doesn't aim to tell a specific message; however, the scenes presented in his work such as laboring farmers encourage viewers to stop and think about the people he depicts.

"When I'm doing them, I'm not wanting to send somebody else a message. I don't want to tell anybody anything," said Riffle. "That is not my purpose in doing this stuff. My purpose is that I feel the need to make these paintings. I've always done it, even as a kid."

Part of his philosophy around art is his belief that it should be accessible to all which is why he has called himself an "anti-artist."



Weston Riffle at work on one of his art pieces. (Courtesy photo)

"I don't believe in art talk and the way people use it," said Riffle. "I think everybody is an artist. That's what I mean by anti-artist."

Now residing part-time in Del Cerro and the other part in Idyllwild, his art has branched into the scenery of his home in the mountains. But in his upcoming Poway exhibit, over 80 pieces

from his artistic career will be on display. The exhibit is called, "The Sweat and the Panic: People, Produce and Concrete: People, Produce and Concrete."

"I've been doing this for 30 years," said Riffle. "Some of these are as old as 20 years old. These will mostly be things oriented around San Diego County,

Riverside County, and Imperial County — a combination of different parts of San Diego."

The exhibit is free and open to the public.

—Elaine Alfaro is a journalism student at Point Loma Nazarene University and a former intern for the La Mesa Courier.



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Time to celebrate! Lake Murray MusicFest and Fireworks Show is a go



Fun awaits on 4th of July as the Lake Murray MusicFest and Fireworks Show returns. (Courtesy photo Brett Alan Photography)

Fundraising and planning are in full swing for the Lake Murray MusicFest and Fireworks Show. The annual Independence Day event at Lake Murray Community Park was postponed amid the pandemic, but is ready for its revival in 2022 as coronavirus cases trend downward. This year's music headliner will be Pop Vinyl, an energetic band performing dance classics from Motown to the latest hits. Confirmed food vendors so far include Corbin's Q, Doggos Gus, Dang Brothers Pizza, Tiki Treats, and Finest City Sweet Treats.

"We have a lot to celebrate," according to Melissa DeMarco, the non-profit Lake Murray Music Fest and Fireworks committee's 2022 president. "The event has brought this community together for July Fourth for many years now. It's a great opportunity for all of us to celebrate our nation's independence together." Music, games, and picnics at Lake Murray Playground will run from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on July 4, culminating in a dazzling fireworks display over Lake Murray that can be seen throughout the Navajo community.

The biggest challenge each year is funding expenses like fireworks, music stage, security, and permits. Entirely community-driven, the 2022 event is at 30% of its \$85,000 fundraising goal. The volunteer committee is raising funds through a combination of business sponsorships, individual neighbor donations, and restaurant nights. La Mesa's Stormberg Orthodontics has returned as the event's title sponsor for the fourth consecutive year. Other confirmed local business sponsors include

SEE LAKE MURRAY FIREWORKS, Page 6

Kiwanis obit

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

of which were handled by Norma throughout their marriage. He learned how to cook for them both, and served faithfully as her caretaker until Norma passed away in 2013. As good as he was for his community, he was even greater as a husband. He still made time for Kiwanis, though, constantly inviting new guests and prospective members to the club's weekly breakfast meetings. He believed in the importance of maintaining good relations with other organizations in the community, including the *Mission Times Courier*, who in 2013 named him the "Nicest Man in Allied Gardens." On June 28, 2016, the City Council proclaimed "John Peterson Day" throughout the City of San Diego, in recognition of John's 50th year as a Kiwanian. In 2021, Peterson was one of four living members honored by G.A.G. Kiwanis for their military service in World War II. A plaque was dedicated bearing the names of these four members in the Veterans Memorial Park atop Mount Soledad in La Jolla.

John was one of only two members of the club to serve for 55 years, joining Bob Frankhouser (1960-2015) in that distinction. If there was ever a need in the community, or a chance for Kiwanis to boost the spirits of Allied Gardens, you can be sure that John Peterson was nearby. "John was a fine man, and a person we can all emulate," recalled fellow Kiwanis member Phil Bennett. Services were held in late February. The G.A.G. Kiwanis Club once again raised the American flags that same morning in tribute to their finest member, the first time such an honor has been bestowed upon one of their own. In lieu of flowers, the Peterson family has requested that donations should be made to New Entra Casa, a shelter for women re-integrating into society after serving time in prison. John Peterson and other members of the Kiwanis Club have supported the shelter for the past two decades. —The writeup and photo were provided by John R. Crawford, lieutenant governor of the Grantville-Allied Kiwanis Club.



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Mendelssohn's "Italian"

Wednesday, April 20 at 7:30PM
California Center for the Arts, Escondido

Thursday, April 21 at 7:30PM
Joan B. Kroc Theater, La Mesa

Saturday, April 23 at 2PM
PHAME, Patrick Henry High School, Del Cerro

Ankush Kumar Bahl, conductor
Jeremy Kurtz-Harris, double bass

ROSSINI: Overture to *L'italiana in Algeri* (The Italian Girl in Algiers)
Andrés MARTÍN: Double Bass Concerto No. 1
MENDELSSOHN: Symphony No. 4 in A Major, *Italian*



ANKUSH KUMAR BAHL



JEREMY KURTZ-HARRIS

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Republican Women of California – Navajo Canyon continue informative luncheons



By WENDY HAUFFEN

The Republican Women of California - Navajo Canyon celebrated another powerful month with their March luncheon, featuring Andrea Kaye, TV and radio personality, on-camera spokesperson, print model, actor and producer. She is the host of nationally syndicated "The Andrea Kaye Show" on The Answer San Diego, and a regular contributor and guest host on TV and radio shows.

We were also joined by Esther Valdes, who updated us on some legislation being proposed for

schools in regards to the mandates and family gun disclosures upon registration. Valdes is an immigration attorney, on the Coronado school board, and often appears on KUSI.

Our next regular luncheon will be June 14 at the Legacy Resort Hotel & Spa. We're excited to welcome Scott Walsh from Judicial Watch. Sign up for our newsletter for more details at rwcnavajocanyon.org.

Did you know vote by mail ballots will drop on May 9? Keep an eye out for your ballots and do your research about which candidates will stand up for your individual, constitutional rights! You can meet your local Republican candidates at our Navajo Canyon

Candidate Forum on Thursday, May 12, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the La Mesa Adult Enrichment Center.

Guests will include San Diego Republican Party endorsed candidates Amy Reichert (San Diego County Board of Supervisors, District 4), Laura Lothian (La Mesa City Council), Jordan Marks (San Diego Clerk/Recorder/Assessor), Stan Caplan (U.S. House of Representatives, 51st District), Becca Williams (San Diego Unified School Board Trustee, Area C), and more. RSVP by May 6 to RSVPrcnc@gmail.com.

May 23 is the last day to register to vote for the June election. Check your voter registration at: sdvote.com.

It is time to make your voice heard, through your votes! The news cycles have shown us just how fragile and important our freedoms are. Our right to peacefully assemble. Our ability to protect ourselves. And above all, our right to free speech. Do not let others mindlessly instill fear in your lives in order to take away your freedom.

As our club Chaplain Ginny Wisley stated - If you are going to fight against fear, you will need to be brave and courageous, so why not have the best of the best in front and inside doing the demanding work?

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

Letters

Dear Editor:

As an English teacher, I find it so immensely frustrating that the kids that I teach are going to be bearing the brunt of this climate emergency and its long-term effects even more than I am. It's so frustrating that we have the technology, but not the will, to make the change. And I worry that by the time we decide to do anything, it'll be too late.

Personally, I believe that we need a carbon tax now. Fossil fuel companies are subsidized by the government, and we bear an external cost are nature and our livelihoods are obliterated. A lot of the time, this isn't even brought up. But I think it's an essential strategy for ensuring that the future belongs to our children and not just money.

Sincerely,
Matthew Maichen
San Marcos, CA

Lake Murray Fireworks

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

FBS Property Management, Hanken Cono Assad & Co., Inc., General Contracting, and Kern Law, APC.

Individual donations are accepted online through PayPal (paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2233619) and Venmo (@LakeMurrayFireworks-JulyFourth). In addition to social media posts on Instagram and Facebook, volunteers will get the word out through a neighborhood flyer campaign, tentatively scheduled to begin April 9, according to committee vice president Brandy Kern. Anyone interested in helping with flyer distribution can email lakemurrayfireworks@gmail.com.

For more information on the 2022 Lake Murray MusicFest and Fireworks Show and how to get involved, log on to lakemurrayfireworks.org.

An ode to Republican dishonesty



By SEAN QUINTAL

With spring in the air, and flowers in bloom, the airwaves resound with plaintive shrieks of doom. "Beware!" they say, "our country is hurting; look over there...with socialism we're flirting."

And what to our nation poses a danger so great? Well, it's you, Americans, who aren't white, Republican, Christian or straight.

Because now the GOP has come to surmise, they can't win elections without resorting to lies. Lies of all sorts, the specifics are no bother, the point is to stoke anger by demonizing the "other."

Republicans abandoned truth long ago, just like their own Jabba the Hutt down in Mar-a-Lago. Trump built his career on bald dishonesty, a fact about which he evinces no modesty.

So Republicans find themselves in his liar's box, which serves them well among those who watch Fox. They play their viewers for rubes and suckers. If you doubt this at all, just watch little Tucker.

The GOP wants Americans to believe that each and every day we're on Armageddon's eve. They are quick to point out the suspicious among us, who insidiously seek our very nation to cleave.

"Look at those immigrants," Republicans say, "Who let them all in? And furthermore, why does their skin have so much melanin." Tucker says they make our country "dirty." What he means is 'why can't we keep it nice and white, like 1930.'

Republicans worry about schools teaching American history. They'd prefer that troublesome detail of slavery remain a mystery.

They invent a problem called 'Critical race theory,' and then scream about it until throats are hoarse and eyes are bleary. It matters not that's a thing no teachers teach. Republicans repeat a sermon of lies whenever they preach.

And for the GOP, gender must be rigid. To any young person's identity struggles, their response is frigid. In America's schools, any mention of "trans," must not just be condemned, but must be banned.

To American women, Republicans insist your freedom is not dubious. But they're now passing laws to control your uterus. Hypocritical Republicans shout, "Protect the fetus!" While poor women with babies worry, "Who will feed us?"

Republican lies are sometimes inscrutable; for them, all facts are thoroughly disputable. Madison Cawthorn, for one, dissembled about orgies and cocaine. But perhaps those are just fictions of a bizarre man-child's brain.

"Are babies racist?" recently asked a Senator named Cruz. While a Representative named Greene worried about space lasers from Jews.

The GOP says, "These enemies, they are not our side on. Why look, they're all following that Joe Biden." They claim his election wasn't true, so they embrace lies about their attempted coup.

Republicans are virtuosos of hypocrisy, even about their own democracy. To excuse January 6, they say, "What about Black Lives Matter?"

While in the next breath they excuse Kyle Rittenhouse's grisly blood splatter.

Our nation endured a violent insurrection. For Republicans, this warrants no introspection. Marauders stormed the Capitol, shouting, "Hang Mike Pence!" For this, the GOP says they should incur no consequence.

Trump's presidential phone logs that day contain a 7-hour gap. Republicans say, "Meh, just give him a gentle wrist slap." After their leader sought to subvert the Constitution, the GOP has extended him complete absolution.

Republicans understand they have to prevaricate, because they've proven they care to legislate. Their only way to win is through division, so they shamelessly pummel other Americans with derision.

They blithely lie with impunity, because they value power above unity. Republicans have made their choice, and they choose to ignore your voice.

As Americans patriotic, we must prevent our country from becoming despotic. Against those who are authoritarian, we are duty-bound to remain contrarian.

Because if we don't stand vigilant, you see, the cost to us is our very democracy.

The La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club meets the first Wednesday of every month. Please join us for our in-person Club meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 7 p.m., at the La Mesa Community Center, 4975 Memorial Drive in La Mesa.

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

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Friends of Del Cerro committee continues work on Adobe Falls

By JAY WILSON

Bob Hickman, a Friends of Del Cerro (FODC) board member, is heading up the installation of the new neighborhood signs. Bob is now working with a Del Cerro Boy Scout Troop and members of the troop will be helping to install the remainder of the signs. This is a very good community service project for the troop. If you have an active Neighborhood Watch in your neighborhood, and would like one of the new signs, contact Bob Hickman at bobhickman66@hma.com. If you would like to establish a Neighborhood Watch in your neighborhood, go to friendsofdelcerro.org, click on Neighborhood, then Neighborhood Watch. Read the information and complete the online form.

The Friends of FODC committee working with SDSU professors and staff regarding Adobe Falls, recently met on campus to review environmental and agricultural opportunities for research by students and professors. The SDSU students participating in the Capstone project are continuing to evaluate how the property can best be used by SDSU for educational purposes.

On Friday, April 1, members of the FODS board of directors met, via

Zoom, with Emily Piatanesi, the new District 7 representative from Mayor Todd Gloria's office. Jackie O'Connor, the president of FODC briefed Emily on the FODC, our history and the projects presently underway. Emily asked what the primary concern is and repaving of College Avenue is at the top of the list.

For more information on the FODC go to friendsofdelcerro.org.

—Jay Wilson is a board member with Friends of Del Cerro.

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Computer Virus Protection. Computer viruses and malware can slow down your internet. Use the free Cox Security Suite Plus powered by McAfee to protect your home computer. Cox Panoramic Wifi customers can turn on Advanced Security in the Cox Panoramic Wifi app.

Secure your wifi. Password protect your home wifi to keep out unauthorized users.

Location, location, location. Your internet experience may be slowed down if your wifi router or modem is in a bad location. Remember to:

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Patrick Henry High athletic director keeping full slate of activities

By DAVE THOMAS

To say Cody Clark has a busy schedule at Patrick Henry High School may be an understatement.

Clark works as a history teacher and athletic director. If that is not enough to keep him busy, he also serves as head coach for boys' varsity soccer.

"Cody is incredibly thoughtful and passionate about promoting student leadership," PHHS Principal Michelle Irwin stated. "Cody is responsive to student-athletes, parents and coaches and advocates for them."

When it came to working at the school as both an educator and athletic director/boys' soccer coach, Clark jumped at the chance.

"While I was working at San Carlos UMC I had the opportunity to come to PHHS as the girls' jayvee soccer coach," Clark noted. "After two seasons I had the opportunity to become the head coach for the boys soccer program. I just completed my ninth season as the head coach of the boys program. I have been incredibly honored to have the opportunity to work with the soccer program. The greatest joy for me comes from watching these young men accept the challenge without focusing solely on a result or outcome. We all want to win, and we have been successful in that respect, but my honest focus is more than winning. The greatest moments are found when I get to be a witness to young men growing as individuals as well as a team."

The Patriots advanced to the second round of the CIF Division I playoffs this season.

When it comes to teaching, Clark joined Patrick Henry as an education specialist.

"I filled that role for two years and then moved over to the history department where I am currently teaching world history," Clark added.

Prior to coming to Patrick Henry, Clark obtained his social science teaching credential from San Diego State University in 2004.

"The last week of my student teaching assignment was my first week of seminary at Claremont School of Theology," Clark said. "In the spring of 2003, I spent time in Vladivostok, Russia through the United Methodist Church where I stayed with a host family and worked at an orphanage. My experience in Russia



Cody Clark (Photo courtesy of Patrick Henry High School)

changed my life and the direction of my vocation."

While he was in seminary and pursuing ordination in the UMC, Clark became the youth pastor at San Carlos UMC in 2006. As Clark sees it, he was fortunate enough to spend eight years working with a variety of people in the community. "I really love this wonderful corner of San Diego," Clark added. Following a decade career in the UMC, Clark returned to classroom education in 2014.

Part of his return to education has been making sure the Patrick Henry High athletic program keeps churning along. Clark is in his sixth year as the school's athletic director.

"I really cherish my role as the athletic director here at PHHS," Clark continued. "It does demand a lot of time as we host 28 athletic programs, each with a varsity and junior varsity level. I get to work with incredible coaches that really understand their role as educators. We have around 70 coaches involved in our athletics programs that support over 1,000 student-athletes."

As Clark sees it, one of the greatest demands is also one of the greatest blessings of the job.

"I have a passion to be involved in young people's lives and to empower risk taking, growth and development to encourage our student-athletes to graduate as leaders. This is a big goal of mine that goes far beyond the scoreboard, wins and losses," Clark commented.

Even as important as his athletic duties are, Clark relishes being able to teach students about world history.

"I teach world history with our sophomores," Clark stated. "I routinely tell my students how biased I am...that the hour they are with me in history class learning about our shared past is the most



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Allied Gardens/Grantville Community Council: Focus turned on Adobe Falls

By SHAIN HAUG

Professor Eric Frost of San Diego State University, a long-time resident of Del Cerro, spoke at our March 22 town hall meeting.

Frost is a student of the Alvarado Creek watershed and for many years has been involved with the issues of this important part of our neighborhoods. His presentation included a close look at the many uses, and many abuses, made of Adobe Falls and the desecration of this important natural community asset.

He then turned the focus of his presentation to the flow of water through the watershed.

The flooding in Grantville at Mission Gorge Road occurs not because of too much water in heavy rains, but because the water flows too fast. This excess speed results from the removal of so many trees and natural obstacles to the stream, and because development in the area forces the water into bottlenecks such as drainage tunnels. Much of the water is wasted when it flows to the sea rather than being saved to benefit the area through infiltration into the soil.

The rehabilitation of any watershed is a complex legal and environmental undertaking, here all the more complex because of the

diversity of ownership and control of the watershed by CalTrans, SDSU, the city, SDG&E, and private parties.

But the residents of the area can, and should, join to become involved in solving the problems and saving the resources. Frost would be happy to make presentations for your organizations. Contact us through our website with your requests to get in touch with him and to join this essential endeavor.

The Allied Community Gardens has a big event coming up Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Garden at 5106 Zion Avenue behind the Ascension Lutheran Church.

Their annual Mother's Day plant sale will include vegetable starts, succulents, Mother's Day cactus, a silent auction, an opportunity drawing, garden art, unique hand-painted rocks, work by a professional artist, and more. Benjamin Library will hold children's story readings and will assist the kids in crafts. Garden docents will conduct tours of the organic garden and will be available to answer your questions about their work. And to top it all off, grab a lunch at a Kansas City BBQ truck and a Kona Ice cooler. Bring bags, park along 51st Street, and have a great time.

The San Diego Gas & Electric sustainable tree program is the most accessible means for us to participate in the city's climate initiative. All at no cost other than water and occasional fertilizer. With minimal physical effort we can be part of this work. Choose a tree, get on the list, and eventually they will deliver and plant it. Use the link that will take you to the SDG&E website page to explain the program, help you choose the tree best suited to your home, and

to get on the list for installation. Visit: tinyurl.com/2p8vjdtg.

Our Tuesday, May 24 town hall meeting will offer a presentation by Diane Mosely and Amy Tobia of Represent San Diego.

Represent San Diego is a non-partisan group working to protect democracy by protecting voting access and representation. The organization is shining light on money in politics and is demanding accountability from politicians. The national

organization, called Represent Us, works on voter registration, mail-in voting, anti-gerrymandering, ranked choice voting, campaign finance and transparency, and ethics accountability.

Join our board and bring your neighbors the benefit of your ideas and energy. Join our mailing list by using the "contact us" page at aggccouncil.org to give us your email address, bring us your ideas for community council tasks, and to nominate yourself to join the board to work on those matters. There is so very much we can do together.

—Shain Haug is president of AGGCC.

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SDSU: So close to home

By KAREN AUSTIN

The residents of Alvarado Estates would like to congratulate San Diego State University on its 125th anniversary.

It's a great achievement for those affiliated with the university and a meaningful milestone for this adjacent neighborhood as well. Alvarado Estates (AE) shares some wonderful historic as well as present day connections with the university. Many of our residents

have been SDSU employees or students.

It was actually the vision and efforts of university professors who helped to first plan and develop the neighborhood in the late 1940s and 1950s. In fact, about one third of the 85 original lots were purchased by then San Diego State College professors who shared a dream of "country living within the city."

One of those professors was Ilse Hamann Ruocco, the wife

of Master Architect Lloyd Ruocco.

She taught painting, ceramic arts and industrial arts at SDSU between 1934 and 1967. Together, they constructed one of the first homes in AE as their own residence. Considered by many to be the father of modernism in San Diego, Ruocco used his knowledge of architecture and urban planning to design their house and to influence the design of the neighborhood. Considered

an expert in textile and interior design, she masterfully planned the interior spaces of their home while teaching future artisans and bringing modern decorative arts to San Diego.

Lloyd and Ilse Ruocco were very important contributors to the history and development of Alvarado Estates and the whole region. In a future article, we'll look to local historians and curators to help share more about their legacies of modern design, the arts and community planning.

Alvarado Estates has always been the home of current and

retired SDSU professors and SDSU graduates.

Dr. Judy Price, a psychology professor from 1972-2008, knew about AE even before she moved there. She was fortunate that her brother and sister-in-law already lived in the neighborhood and were able to help care for her infant daughter while she was working on campus.

Dr. Price said, "Without the Alvarado Estates connection, I never could have managed." She moved into Alvarado Estates

SEE **ALVARADO ESTATES SDSU**, Page 11

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ALVARADO ESTATES SDSU

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

with her family in 1978. Her new neighbors across the street happened to be Ethelyn and Dr. Sorenson, her former San Diego

High School history teacher and a SDSU art professor, respectively.

Other residents became familiar with the neighborhood while they were SDSU students. Wayne Breise studied business management at SDSU. He played basketball for one year and spent four years in the Phi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He graduated with

the Class of 1963, following the famous commencement speech given by President John F. Kennedy just months before he was assassinated. Wayne used what he learned to start an aviation business.

Among his college memories is the story of how he came to live in Alvarado Estates. "I became familiar with Alvarado Estates when I brought female companions up here to park on Palo Verde to count stars! My dream was having a home here in the Estates. It took me until 1972 to realize that dream."

For some 70 years the residents of Alvarado Estates have been sharing the dream.

They take pride in their historic connection to SDSU and recognize the ongoing benefits of living in the College Area near the SDSU campus.

—Karen Austin
writes on behalf of
Alvarado Estates.



Living area of Lloyd and Ilse Ruocco's personal residence at 5481 Toyon Road in Alvarado Estates (c. 1955). Ilse Hamann Ruocco designed the interior, photographed in 1967. (Photo by John Oldenkamp)

Symphony concerts to be performed in nine venues throughout San Diego County

The San Diego Symphony winter-spring 2022 concert season offers 31 performances of classical and contemporary masterworks and chamber music through May 28.

Presented as "Hear Us Here," the season will give the San Diego Symphony the opportunity to bring its music to a wider audience, with concerts performed at nine venues in the city and across the County, including the Symphony's newest venue, The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park.

Led by music director Rafael Payare, principal guest conductor Edo de Waart, conductor Laureate Jahja Ling and distinguished guest conductors Christopher Dragon, Jonathon Heyward, Ankush Kumar Bahl, and Tianyi Lu and featuring renowned soloists including Yefim Bronfman, Veronika Eberle, Pacho Flores, Simone Lamsma, George Li, Gabriela Martinez, Elena Urioste, and Alisa Weilerstein,



Jeremy Kurtz-Harris (Courtesy photo)

the season's concerts will span the symphonic repertoire, from Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique, and Debussy's La mer to Still's Darker America, Paquito D'Rivera's Concerto venezolano

SEE SD SYMPHONY, Page 12

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Dog Society

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

beer in a variety of flavors. With their no-glass policy, all food and drinks are served in plastic to mitigate any danger to canine friends.

From the beginning, celebrating humanity's best friend was on the minds of Broetje and Gomez.

"It's really cool to look back on our sketches and see it's identical to what we wanted from the beginning," said Broetje. "[Dog-centric means] always putting dogs first – their happiness and their safety. Those are two things we are constantly thinking of."

In addition to their indoor facilities, there is also a beer garden,

outdoor patio, and plenty of space for the dogs to run around.

Despite facing initial setbacks trying to open a business amid COVID-19, Gomez said they've felt the community rally behind them, especially on opening day.

"There's been so much support from people asking how they can help or even just saying that they've been watching us and are excited," said Gomez. "Seeing groups of neighbors walking down is really cool to watch."

Community is evident in the art painted on the walls by a local art teacher and the welded doggy fences within the building made by a fellow business owner located on University Ave.

As a San Diego native herself, Gomez said seeing this business

open and join the San Diego community was a heartfelt experience.

"Growing up in San Diego, there are parts that you see change over time," said Gomez. "It would be cool if we're one of the first in this area and it continues to grow. Some people have children and dogs. Some people don't have children and their dogs are their children. We completely understand that. The safety and happiness of the dogs are our number one priority."

To learn more about the Dog Society and its services, visit dog-society.com.

—Elaine Alfaro is a journalism student at Point Loma Nazarene University and a former intern for the La Mesa Courier.

SD Symphony

CONTINUED FROM Page 11

(a co-commission and U.S. premiere; co-commissioners include Orquesta de Minería, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, and Orquesta de Valencia), Osvaldo Golijov's Last Round, and a Double Bass Concerto by Tijuana-based composer Andrés Martín.

Notably the spring programs will feature 10 female guest artists, three guest conductors from the BIPOC community, and seven works by composers of color, in keeping with San Diego Symphony's dedication to present a diverse range of artists and composers and

connecting with different San Diego communities at large.

The San Diego Symphony is conducting its "Hear Us Here" tour of San Diego on the heels of opening The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park, a public park and event venue that was inaugurated last August. The Venue hosted 28 performances in its first two months, drawing more than 88,000 people for events, in addition to those visiting the park for free programs, rehearsals, exercise, and leisure.

"Hear Us Here" will offer winter-spring 2022 performances of multiple programs at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido, Civic Theatre in Downtown San Diego, the Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center: Baker-Baum Concert Hall in La Jolla, The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park on San Diego Bay, and at The Village Church in Rancho Santa Fe. Individual performances will also be presented at the Joan B. Kroc Theatre at Salvation Army Kroc Center in La Mesa, the PHAME Performing Arts Center at Patrick Henry High School in Del Cerro, the Poway Center for the Performing Arts in Poway, and the Southwestern College Performing Arts Center in Chula Vista. Additionally, the San Diego Symphony will be presented by Palm Springs Friends of Philharmonic at the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert, sponsored by The Barbara Fremont Foundation. The San Diego Symphony will also be exploring opportunities to perform in Tijuana after it is anticipated that the border will open for non-essential travelers in November.

In addition to the winter-spring season performances, the San Diego Symphony will bring back its Music Connects programs. Available for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic began, this program features free one-hour concerts for all ages presented throughout the county and geared towards individuals who would like to experience classical music for the first time. Planned venues include Foothills United Methodist Church (La Mesa), St. Brigid Parish (Pacific Beach), St. Mark's United Methodist Church (Clairemont), and Southwestern College (Chula Vista). Programming and further details to be announced.

The season includes four intimate chamber concerts, featuring members of the San Diego Symphony and special guest artists at The Conrad's Baker-Baum Concert Hall in La Jolla. On May 1, pianist Benjamin Hochman will perform the Brahms' Piano Quintet.

The Jacobs Masterworks winter-spring season features 12 programs of nearly 40 works spanning more than 300 years of musical composition. This will include Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1 (May 21 & 22), and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 (May 27 & 28), among others.

Guest conductors include



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San Carlos area council news — Meet your neighbors on May 18

By PATRICIA MOONEY

There is a lovely Hawaiian prayer called “ho’oponopono that goes like this: “I’m sorry, please forgive me, thank you, I love you.”

My mother learned it in her final days and kept on repeating it on her “death chair.” She was unable to sleep in the bed because her lungs would fill with fluids and she’d choke. So she had to live in that chair. This prayer brought her a spiritual relief as she prepared to “depart the planet.” After the events of the last weeks, Russian armies invading their neighbors, and the slap heard around the world (Will Smith accosting Chris Rock), we all need to re-center ourselves. This simple mantra helps.

Some good news to share is that our next meeting, on Wednesday, May 18, will take place at the San Carlos Library (7265 Jackson Dr, San Diego, CA 92119) and will be our first in-person gathering since our December holiday gathering that featured Mayor Todd Gloria as well as District 7 Councilman

Raul Campillo. Join us at 6:30 p.m. and meet your neighbors. Additionally, we will be conducting our annual election and electing a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Any San Carlosian who has attended at least two SCAC meetings can run for office.

At our March Zoom meeting, we met our new community officer liaison, Robert Raynor, who shared crime statistics from our neighborhood, and unfortunately, these are climbing. As usual, the cars parked at the Cowles Mountain trailhead are sitting ducks when opportunistic thieves look into the windows and see your spare change or items that spark them to break a window, reach in and grab.

There was also an unfortunate officer-involved shooting on Bonnie Drive near Wandemere when a 60-year-old man threatened to shoot his elderly parents and pointed the gun – turns out it was a BB gun – at the police.

Plans for the new San Carlos Library are progressing. The well

destruction has been completed and the City can start the land purchase soon. The new library design is slated to proceed beginning in August of this year.

I’ll close this article with the mantra, “I’m sorry, please forgive me, thank you, I love you.”

—Patricia “Patty” Mooney is an award-winning San Diego video producer and partner at San Diego’s longest-serving video production company, Crystal Pyramid Productions.

Cody Clark

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

important hour of their day. Haha. I am constantly challenging students to answer the ‘So What?’ The power of learning history is about learning ‘Our Story’. We all have a story and a part to play in this great human story.”

For anyone looking at getting into teaching on the high school level and/or being a coach/athletic director, Clark has some advice for them.

“Teaching, coaching and being an administrator are not for the faint of heart,” Clark stated. “It does demand a lot of time, patience, and commitment. I am blessed to have an incredible

support system with my wife and family. Honestly, without them I would not be able to be as good an educator and provide what I believe all our student-athletes should have. A high school campus is the place to be. I cherish the connections I have with our administrative team. The faculty and staff at PHHS are inspiring to me. The recent completion of new construction, our diverse and vibrant community, and energy on campus make PHHS the only place I want to be.”

For one Cody Clark, he and Patrick Henry High School have proven the perfect match.

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

Mission Hills Garden Walk set for May 7

Each year a number of Mission Hills homeowners open their yards to the community. This year, the group will be featuring nine beautiful edible gardens that align with the 2022 Mission Hills Garden Walk theme of home-grown on Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets (only \$30 each, kids under 10 free) are sold in half-hour increments to assure social distancing. The money raised is used to continue the club’s community college scholarship program and help fund neighborhood beautification projects.

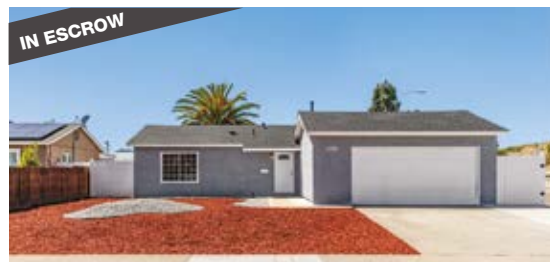
Other details:

- Garden addresses and a map will be provided the day of the event at Mission Hills Nursery;
- This is a self-guided tour at your own pace;
- No pets, strollers, or walkers are allowed in the gardens;
- Wear good shoes. Gardens may have steps/several levels, and are not disabled accessible;
- All ticket sales are final; Walk is held rain or shine.

This year, the group will again partner with local artists and musicians for live music and artwork for participants to enjoy within featured gardens, as well as a bonus; local gardening experts and master gardeners will present on garden-related topics in a casual seminar format during the day at Mission Hills Nursery.

Visit: missionhillsgardenclub.org/event-4732013.

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SDSU anniversary

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

While the names and faces have changed over time, SDSU's commitment to a first-rate education remains the same.

SDSU history curator and anthropology professor, Seth Mallios, noted the school is honoring the anniversary in a number of ways over its 600-day celebration.

The number is significant because there are exactly 600 days from when the institution was founded (March 13, 1897) to the first day of instruction (Nov. 1, 1898). There are four signature events and smaller key activities. Those four events are spaced out one each semester.

They include: 2022 birthday celebration which (was in March); fall 2022 homecoming (slated for early November); commencement ceremonies on (March of 2023); and a re-enactment of the first day of school on (Nov. 1, 2023).

"In between these signature events, we have many other celebratory events, including significant milestones for the SDSU Africana studies department (50th anniversary), 90th anniversary of associated students, 10th anniversary of the Dalai Lama's visit to campus, etc.," Mallios commented. "They are gradually being uploaded to our anniversary website: (125.sdsu.edu)."

According to Mallios (has been at the school 21 years), SDSU will graduate its 500,000th student this year during commencement.

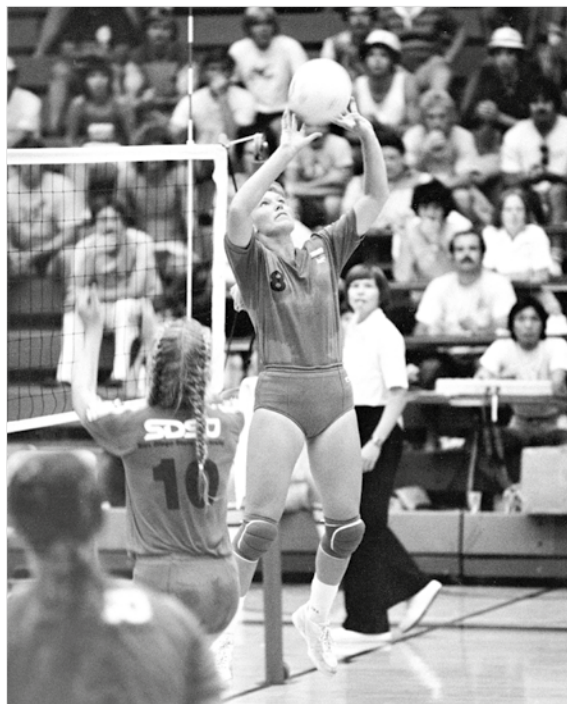
The anniversary is also important to many SDSU alumni.

Jim Herrick, SDSU's alumni association executive director, noted all alumni are not actual graduates, as the school also counts those who attended. "But, yes, at commencement this May we will officially surpass the half-a-million mark. This puts us in elite company with only a handful of U.S. universities having more than 500,000 alumni," Herrick stated.

"I can tell you as the university history curator, every week I am contacted by someone who has a story, an artifact, or memory to share," Mallios commented. "For example, I was emailed by a relative of a former SDSU employee asking for a 125th anniversary pin so that he could place it in the dirt above his father-in-law's Fort Rosecrans grave. He knew that SDSU meant that much to his father-in-law."

"As part of the 125th celebration, I wrote a script for a short movie that KPBS produced," Mallios said. "The video will be online at our website shortly."

Mallios' script opening read, "San Diego State University is the oldest and most diverse institution of higher education in the region. With nearly half a million alumni, campuses across the globe, and a dedication to meeting challenges and changing the world, SDSU's



Among the memories on Montezuma Mesa would be Laurel Brassey becoming the first female to play on a Division I men's college sports team in 1974; she would also play for the SDSU women's volleyball team. A cheerleader showing support for the school, circa 1936-40. (Photos courtesy of San Diego State Special Collections and University Archives)



future promises to be as legendary as its 125-year past. San Diego State's vibrant heritage consists of a dynamic blend of histories, traditions, and values that have been passed down with care for years."

Among some famous students to attend SDSU are Tony Gwynn, Gregory Peck, Raquel Welch, Carl Weathers, Marshall Faulk, Kawhi Leonard, Art Linkletter, and Marion Ross.

SDSU has played a huge role in the community since its founding.

Mallios noted, "There are many ways to measure impact and I could go on at length about it. Even back in the 1940s, it was clear to many civic leaders the importance

of San Diego State. Economically, the current impact can be measured in dollars. San Diego State University has a \$5.67 billion annual impact on our region. The university supports some 42,000 jobs that generate \$2.01 billion in salaries and wages. In addition to the \$5.67 billion in industry activity, SDSU produces \$457 million annually in state and local taxes."

"More than 2,000 folks attended our March 14th events, celebrating our signing of the charter/birthday on campus," Herrick commented. "Our SDSU alumni board members were out in force all day talking up SDSU." Alumni and friends have been awestruck

by SDSU history and its portrayal in Mallios' exhibits and vignettes.

When it comes to staying in touch with alumni, there are programs including a monthly electronic alumni magazine that goes out to 196,000 alumni. "We have an active mentorship program called AMP (Aztec Mentor Program) where thousands of alumni have helped students," Herrick said. "We have a robust 'Aztec for Life' membership program with 11,000 members."

One individual who has been both a student and professor is Ramona Perez.

SEE SDSU ANNIVERSARY, Page 15

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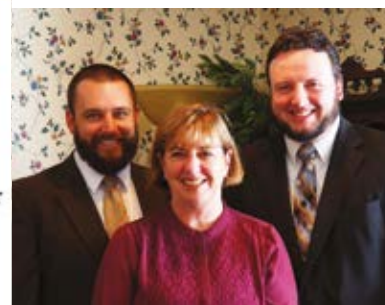
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SDSU anniversary

CONTINUED FROM Page 14

Perez, a professor of anthropology, is also the director of Latin American studies.

According to Perez, who was a student at SDSU in the 1990s, teaching at her alma mater has been both an amazing gift and a burden.

“I say burden because I feel very responsible for assuring that the legacy of student-focused teaching continues while also emphasizing research as major component of what I bring to the classroom,” Perez commented. “I was a non-traditional student when I came to SDSU in 1989. I was a mother with two little girls and was leaving a very established career in banking to put on a backpack and achieve my true dream of going to college. Giving all of that up so I could finally go to college was a huge step - (and a financial leap of faith). SDSU and the anthropology faculty made my dreams come to life. Every class allowed me to grow and the faculty cared about student success, which then pushed me to succeed even further. I try to emulate that exact level of care and commitment to my students, remembering that their compassion and mentoring was what kept me believing in myself.”

Perez has noticed many changes at SDSU. Over the past three decades, Perez said, “There are



Among the memories on Montezuma Mesa would be the first football game at the Aztec Bowl in 1936. (Photo courtesy of San Diego State Special Collections and University Archives)

so many changes! I graduated in 1992 when the CSU system was struggling and SDSU was closing departments and laying off tenured faculty. Since that time, I have been educated under a wide variety of presidents and under high and low moments of funding for higher education, and I have worked under an even larger number of presidents and economic scenarios. I think the realities of economic fragility have become an element of teaching and learning that were not as evident prior to Reaganomics. That may sound like an odd scenario to list as a change since the 1990's, but trust me, it is significant.”

Perez also noted that online teaching was seen as an economic

strategy. It was not at any point intended to be an innovative teaching method to benefit learning. In fact, it was seen as a strategy to engage more individuals in higher education and grow enrollments while limiting the cost of physical space.

When the pandemic hit, the limitations of online learning were more notable and reinforced the need for classroom learning.

“Despite these limitations, both supporters and detractors of online programming found themselves immersed in creating classroom environments that were online but that replicated a ‘live’ classroom – a hybrid experience,”

SEE SDSU ANNIVERSARY, Page 16

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SDSU anniversary

CONTINUED FROM Page 15

Perez stated. “This was a change for both folks that had gone to asynchronous online teaching formats and those of us that had no desire to do online teaching. A new form of teaching and learning became normalized in an extremely short period of time. Add to this the advances in technology, and you realize that 30 years has brought enormous changes. All of that said, what has not changed and in fact has become an even more important method of teaching is experiential learning. Students learning alongside faculty while they conduct research can’t be replicated through technology – labs, field schools, research assistantships, community internships,

and other such opportunities to learn while doing so under the mentorship of a faculty stands as a foundation for higher education across time.” As Perez sees it, SDSU is in a great position to offer this to students via outstanding research-focused faculty, the school’s urban location that is public-facing, SDSU’s binational engagement, and the school’s international stature means students can accomplish whatever their minds might imagine.

Perez said the most enjoyable thing about being a student and professor is “Watching SDSU reach its full potential. I came to SDSU to achieve my dream and coming back as faculty and working toward SDSU achieving its dream of being an exemplary public urban research university with a global impact brings me great joy. I have been part of our global growth, witnessing the opening of our campus in

Georgia and being part of the opening of our new site in Mexico. I hope to be here when we hit R1 status, when our Imperial Valley campus is linked fully to the Mesa and Mission Valley campuses, and to be in the stands on the opening day of the new stadium on (Sept. 3).”

Whether a SDSU student or professor now or a former student or professor, countless individuals appreciate all the school has given them over its 125 years.

**Editor’s note: See related SDSU anniversary story on page 10.*



Among the memories on Montezuma Mesa would be a visit from JFK in the spring of 1963. He would sadly be killed later that year. (Photo courtesy of San Diego State Special Collections and University Archives)

Roger’s Pizzeria serving pizzas and New York-style Italian cuisine

By ROBIN DOHRN-SIMPSON

I always thought “one day I’m going to have my own business,” said Rogelio, owner of Roger’s Pizzeria on Mission Gorge Road next door to the now-defunct Souplantation. His dream came true and was, the realization of the American Dream of success through hard work. Roger’s Pizzeria opened for business this past December.

Originally from San Salvador, Rogelio worked for many years in local restaurants, starting as a dishwasher. After hard work and a bit of luck, he received a promotion to chef. He started his first pizza business in a gas station in Lemon Grove and worked solely takeout. After five years, it was time to find a brick-and-mortar location.

The menu at Rogers’ is simple with pizza, pasta, salads, sandwiches and wraps plus, a couple of desserts.

For pizzas, Rogelio likes a thinner crust. “People don’t want to eat too much flour or yeast to stay healthier,” he said. Good news for the gluten-free population - he has gluten-free pizzas.

He offers an entire category of white pizzas such as chicken BBQ pizza, Buffalo chicken, chicken and ranch with roasted garlic, and ranch dressing topped with fresh basil. Other pizza specialties are chicken pesto and spinach ricotta and a unique BCR pizza, which has cheese, caramelized

onions, bacon bits, and chicken over white sauce and ranch dressing.

Try a specialty pizza such as Hawaiian pizza, Mexican pizza with refried beans, chorizo, bacon, ham, jalapenos, and red onions, or San Diego veggie pizza with spinach, artichoke hearts, bell pepper, black olives and onions.

Pastas include a variety of spaghetti, rigatoni and fettuccine Alfredo. Also offered are vegetarian or meat lovers Stromboli or meat lovers calzone.

Save room for a special dessert of Tiramisu, New York cheesecake or house-made cannoli.

Don’t be confused when you see Cholula hot sauce on tables. Rogelio always listens to his customers. “When many people asked for hot sauce, I took a poll to find out which ones were their favorites and I purchased some. It’s very popular. I like to keep my customers happy,” he said.

For someone who never cooked at home before starting to work in a restaurant, it is amazing to see him throwing a pizza crust in the air at his own restaurant, with joy and pride.

Roger’s Pizzeria is located at 6171 Mission Gorge Rd. Call (619)



You will flip for the pizza and more at Roger’s Pizzeria. (Photo by Robin Dohrn-Simpson)

230-5455 for delivery or pickup. You can find the menu at roger-spizzeroloitaliangrill.com/

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

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The fix is in

As we debuted in last month's *Mission Times Courier*, this column is meant to help readers bring positive change to their neighborhoods.

We want to know about issues in your neighborhood you'd like to see change for the better. Such issues can be improving streets, business properties and more.

If you have an issue in your neighborhood you'd like to see change, email your pictures to: dave@sdnews.com.

Provide a little background information to include what the problem is, what neighborhood in the *Mission Times* or *College Times Courier* circulation areas and so on. Please also include a phone number (not for print or the web) so we can contact you with any questions.

This month we look at a San Carlos neighborhood and issues with storm drainage.

According to one resident on Decature Street, there is a storm drain system problem that has existed on the person's street since 2013.

The resident notes they have been trying to get the City of San Diego to fix this problem in front of their home since June of 2015. According to the resident, the problem is an "environmental hazard." The resident added their last correspondence with officials was on April 21, 2021. That was with Councilman Raul Campillo to outline the history of the problem. According to the resident, nothing has been done.

In July of 2013, city workers reportedly dug up the street in front of the resident's driveway and replaced a portion of the storm drain pipe clogged with sediment. The resident added workers installed a "bypass" pipe to carry all the storm drain water from the street. It reportedly goes out through a hole in the curbing and into the street in front of their house. The work done was reportedly a temporary fix. Eight years later, nothing has reportedly been done to correct it.

As the resident points out, the system is clogged with sediment and likely puts stress on the whole system throughout the neighborhood when water does not flow properly. They added the bypass installed in front of the house has led to an environmental mess on the street.

That said when will officials responsible for this issue take action?

We reached out to Campillo's office. According to Senior District Representative and Policy Advisor Vic Vettiyl, this is the first he's heard of the matter. He said he would look into it and provide an update directly to the residents as soon as he hears from city staff. In a follow up message, Vettiyl indicated there would be action through folks at the storm water division.

Such action would involve the stormwater engineering team reviewing the resident's concerns. The code enforcement team would visit the site to assess the source of runoff and provide any needed enforcement. Finally, the sweeping team would clean the street to take away debris and algae as best as possible.

Let us hope this is true and the area will get the fix it needs.



(Photo credit: Julius Kukta)

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MTRP Foundation creates new family program

By JENNIFER MORRISSEY

The Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Foundation is excited to launch a new program: Trail Tykes!

Created for children ages two to five years, parents or guardians can join their little ones at the free weekday morning series to hear nature-related stories, sing songs and take short walks at the visitor center to investigate the “small wonders” around us.

Every day, families with small children come to Mission Trails, often to the visitor center to have an educational experience that also offers stunning views and physical activity via the meandering paths around the facility. The visitor center is also an ideal venue for little ones because it's expansive yet welcoming, with interactive exhibits and many areas to explore.

The program was conceived by MTRP Foundation board member, retired archeologist and San Carlos resident Ruth Gautreaux.

Gautreaux said, “It is important to introduce children to the park at an early age, so they're not intimidated by natural spaces.”

In addition to serving families who already frequent the visitor center, she hopes that Trail



Young ones enjoy all Mission Trails Regional Park has to offer. (Courtesy Photo Angie Ollman)

Tykes will bring new visitors to the park: “Mission Trails is a place for all of us and I hope that those unfamiliar with the park will come to see it as a community resource.”

For years, Gautreaux has volunteered as a reader at City of San Diego libraries and through Words Alive. She loves introducing children to the written word. Gautreaux herself is a children's book author: her book “The Painted Rocks” highlights the Piedras Pintadas archaeological site, located in north San Diego County.

To find the perfect selection of books for the series, the MTRP Foundation consulted with Erin Moore, youth services librarian at San Carlos Branch Library. The collaboration has resulted in a diverse reading list for future Trail

Tykes events and includes counting books, alphabet books, and stories about animals and insects that can be found at MTRP.

Trail Tykes will take place every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the MTRP visitor center, beginning Wednesday, April 13 from 10-11 a.m., meeting in the visitor center lobby.

The program is free, and no registration is required. Many thanks to the MTRP Foundation volunteers who will read and engage with participating families and to donors of the MTRP Foundation who help make our public programs possible. Questions? Email: events@mtrp.org.

—Jennifer Morrissey
is executive director of the
Mission Trails Regional
Park Foundation.

SD Symphony

CONTINUED FROM Page 12

Tianyi Lu leading Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade (May 6 & 7), and conductor laureate Jahja Ling with Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite (May 14 & 15).

The distinguished guest artists featured across the season include violinists Simone Lamsma, Elena Urioste, concertmaster Jeff Thayer (Deborah Pate and John Forrest Chair), Aubree Oliverson,

and Veronika Eberle; pianists George Li, Yeol Eum Son, Gabriela Martinez, and Yefim Bronfman; Pacho Flores, trumpet; Jeremy Kurtz-Harris, principal double bass (Sophie and Arthur Brody Foundation Chair); soprano Tasha Koontz; and cellist Alisa Weilerstein.

One local show will be Saturday, April 23 at 2 p.m. - PHAME Performing Arts Center at Patrick Henry High School, Del Cerro

For more information, visit www.sandiegosymphony.org.

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Many moving parts to forecasting home prices

By SARAH WARD, REALTOR

The big question I am getting lately from both buyers and sellers is if real estate prices are going to continue rising, stay the same, or decrease. I read many economic journals, blogs, and articles. I can tell you there are many moving parts to forecasting home prices.

First off, interest rates increased quite a bit recently. I want to explain the effect of this on the housing market. Suppose a buyer meets with a loan officer who analyzes income, debt, assets, and credit score. The first step is to determine the maximum monthly housing payment based roughly on 40% of gross income less debt payments. Suppose a well-qualified buyer is approved for a \$4000 mortgage payment. A \$4,000 payment at a 3% mortgage rate will allow for a maximum mortgage of approximately \$948,757. But that same buyer with their \$4,000 approved payment but with a 5% interest rate can suddenly only qualify for a \$745,125 mortgage. So when interest rates increase, the amount buyers can afford significantly decreases. This clearly puts a drag on home prices as less buyers are available for higher priced properties. At the same time, home prices have crept higher in the last few months contributing to the buyer affordability problem.

Another issue to consider is inflation. As the price of seemingly everything is dramatically increasing, buyers are becoming slightly more hesitant to take on a big mortgage payment. Additionally there is now the possibility of a recession blowing in the wind, as some economic metrics are slowing, causing buyers to wait and see if prices may drop later this year or next year. And the tragic ongoing war in Ukraine is causing some anxiety and hesitancy as well. So what is the forecast for home prices this year? Based on what I am reading and my own opinion, I believe home prices will increase again this year.

There is still very little inventory available and plenty of qualified buyers still waiting to purchase a property, even with a higher mortgage rate. Also, investor demand remains strong for rental properties as real estate investments act as protection against rising inflation.

I also want to mention that the housing crash of 2008 had much different fundamentals. The government agencies were pushing little to no down-payment mortgages during the run up to the housing crash. When prices dropped 10%, suddenly millions of new homeowners were under water with no equity and simply walked away from their properties. This led to prices dropping even further. That is not the case today. Home Equity is at an all-time high. If someone is under financial duress, they will sell the property instead of “turning in the keys” to the bank. One more interesting factor to consider is that millions of homeowners are currently enjoying mortgage rates between 3% and 4% and do not want to move to a new property that would have a 5% to 6% mortgage rate. This causes buyers to hold on to their current properties and prevents new properties from coming on the market, once again keeping home prices somewhat on the high side. Call me for a no obligation discussion of your real estate goals or concerns for the upcoming year.

MARKET REPORT: Single Family Residences: 92115 COLLEGE AREA: median sales price \$924,850, up 25% from one year ago. Only a two-week supply of inventory on the market (18 properties). 92119 SAN CARLOS median sales price \$1,111,032, up 34% from last year and with only 11 homes currently on the market. 92120 ALLIED GARDENS, DEL CERRO: median sales price \$1,100,500, up 26% from last year and with only eight homes for sale in the entire zip-code.

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

Crusaders Soccer Club spring program passes halfway mark

By JAY WILSON

The Crusaders Soccer 2022 Spring Grassroots/Recreational program passed the halfway mark of the season on Sunday, April 3 with more than 600 players participating. The last games will be played on Sunday, May 15. Stop by Gage Elementary or Pershing Middle School anytime between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Sundays and join the parents, grandparents and families watching children having fun playing soccer.

Rene Miramontes, Crusaders director of coaching, stated “We are

still forming competitive teams for boys and girls born between 2006 and 2014. Any player interested, contact Rene at renewilson@crusaders-soccer.org.”

May 20 will start registrations for our 2022 Grassroots/Recreational fall season for all boys and girls born between 2008 and 2019. Practice will begin the third week of August with games scheduled to begin Saturday, Sept. 10 for the fall season. Teams are scheduled to play 11 consecutive Saturdays.

Summer will soon be here, and Crusaders Soccer

has several camps scheduled throughout that time period for competitive players, grassroots/recreational players, and a camp open to any child interested in improving their soccer skills.

The first camp is scheduled for July 19-21, the second camp is set for July 26-28 and the third camp is scheduled for Aug. 2-4. For more information regarding the dates, times, player ages, eligibility and registration, go to: crusaderssoccer.org.

—Submitted by Jay Wilson, COO Crusaders Soccer Club.



Lilly Gooding, a member of one of the Crusaders Soccer Club's Grassroots/Recreational girls 2010/11 teams, is ready to take a shot on goal. (Courtesy photo)

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The bi-annual food drive organized by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Our Father's Grace Ministries, and the Boy Scouts of America San Diego-Imperial Council will return August 20. Details will be announced this Summer.

The San Diego Food Bank continues to feed record numbers of people. Currently, the Food Bank is feeding an average of 550,000 people 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.

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