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Patrick Henry High students, staff eyeing return for new school year



With graduation in the rearview mirror, a new school year is set to begin this month for students and staff at Patrick Henry High School. (Courtesy photo)

By **MICHELLE IRWIN**

Welcome to a new school year at Patrick Henry High School. The administration, teachers and staff are looking forward to

working with you as we continue to develop students to be thoughtful productive citizens with a sense of purpose, integrity and a curiosity about the world in which they live.

At Henry, we challenge each of our students to reach their full potential with our quality instructional program. We will continue to develop positive relationships with our students, parents and

the community. You are always welcome at Patrick Henry High School. If you have questions, visit: patrickhenryhs.net/ and our

SEE **PHHS**, Page 9

El Cerrito housing development construction pushing ahead

By **ELAINE ALFARO**

Project Homekey funds await approval while some residents are still concerned with a planned homeless housing project in El Cerrito.

After the Board of Supervisors approved a hybrid development of homeless housing and affordable housing for the El Cerrito neighborhood back in April, construction broke ground at 5476 El Cajon Blvd to kick off phase one of plans.

This comes after a funding partnership was struck between PATH Ventures, Family Health Centers of San Diego (FHCS),

BOLD Communities, the City of San Diego, the San Diego Housing Commission, and the County of San Diego. It is a group effort aimed at helping alleviate the homelessness impacting this neighborhood.

The land and the health center are owned by Family Health Centers of San Diego (FHCS) while the residential portion of this development will be owned and operated collectively by PATH Ventures, FHCS, and BOLD Communities.

According to Tyler Renner, director of media at PATH Ventures,

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Construction is currently focused on building the first-floor podium which includes a health center and a parking structure. (Photo Courtesy of PATH)

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San Carlos Community Garden continues to bring people and community together

Despite the summer heat, the San Carlos Community Garden (SCCG) continues to bloom and bring the community together.

Now celebrating its 10th year anniversary, the San Carlos Community Garden (SCCG) offers a variety of activities beyond gardening that allow the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization to promote its primary purpose to “grow community”.

Partnerships with organizations like CorePower Yoga, the San Carlos Branch Public Library,



A whirlwind of activities takes place regularly at the San Carlos Community Garden. (Courtesy photo)

Master Gardeners Association of San Diego, and the dedicated support of volunteers have helped the SCCG carry out its mission to encourage gardening for nutrition and beauty, knowledge for healthy living and stewardship of the earth, collaboration of neighbors and schools plus spirit through inspiration and healing. The garden leadership team also wants to enhance opportunities to connect with neighbors about growing organic food, connecting with nature and each other, learning more about gardening, nutrition and stewardship of the Earth.

Overlooking the majestic view of Cowles Mountain, the SCCG is thriving with 72 community garden plots; an orchard with more than two dozen fruit trees; a fire safe landscape educational garden; an active Food2Soil community composting hub; California native plants and succulents gardens; herb garden with labyrinth and an amphitheater.

Though SCCG plot gardeners have access to the garden anytime, the garden is open to the community on Saturday and Thursday mornings from 9 to 11. In addition to garden tours held every Thursday and Saturday morning, families are invited to bring their children to explore the variety of nature and fun games

sporadically placed throughout the garden such as the Pumpkin Patch HopScotch, Orchard Bucket Toss, or Lady Bug Checkers.

Other scheduled events include Alphabet Soup, a storytelling event for young families held on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m., Produce Swap, a “no-cash, share-only” event held on the last Saturday of each month, or Yoga in The Garden held every Sunday at 5 p.m. Additionally, the SCCG hosts garden and nutrition workshops led by certified master gardeners and other experts for just \$10 per person.

“The process of pulling together community ideas and resources to make the Garden a vital entity has been exciting,” said Carol Lockwood, chair of the Garden’s leadership team. “The garden brings people together for various reasons. Some come to our garden to grow food for their families and neighbors, while others come to enjoy a safe and beautiful space for meditation, exercise, play, and to learn how to care for living plants in our Southern California climate. An all-volunteer endeavor, we also provide a great outlet for those who seek the rewarding experience of volunteerism and community service.”

SEE SCCG, Page 3

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San Carlos Area Council - Candidates look to November elections

By MICKEY ZEICHICK

San Carlos Branch Librarian David Ege last month organized a community meeting for service clubs, town councils, planning councils, who can meet and make a brief presentation promoting interest in their organization.

I was present on behalf of the San Carlos Area Council and Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis Club (GAG K); other board members were present (Alan Young, Kathy and George Butterstein, and Vic Nephelometer) to answer questions about GAG K, while I answered questions regarding SCAC. We anticipate there will be future meetings of this kind. Kudos to Ege and his incredible library staff.

Meet the candidates running for the San Diego Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk on the November 2022 ballot. Here is a summary of what the office entails:

Assessor: The role of the assessor is to locate, identify and appraise all vacant land, improved real estate, business property, and certain mobile homes, boats, and aircraft for property tax purposes.

Recorder: The role of the recorder is to provide public notice by accepting and recording legal documents required by law upon payment of proper fees and taxes as well as maintaining birth, marriage and death records and indexes for San Diego County.

County Clerk: The role of the county clerk is issuing marriage licenses and performing civil marriage ceremonies; registering fictitious business name statements, notaries public, process servers and professional photocopyers.

At our July meeting the guest speaker was Barbara Bry, who is running for San Diego County Assessor in 2022.

"I am running for county assessor/recorder/county clerk because there is an opportunity to improve and modernize this critical office that so often flies under the radar. Updating technology and outdated processes will ensure that everyone, including big

corporations, will pay their fair share of property taxes under the law. The stakes are high, since this revenue source funds education, mental health initiatives, projects to fight homelessness, and other important programs that bolster our region and serve our most vulnerable residents.” The Registrar of Voters has qualified Bry for the ballot. For information you can go to her website: barbarabry.com.

At our Wednesday, Sept. 21 meeting Jordon Marks Esq., will be guest speaker.

Marks is running for San Diego County assessor.

“Protecting San Diego’s homeowners and renters is my number one priority,” Marks said. “As your assessor/recorder/county clerk, I will continue to protect Prop 13 and be you advocate for a more affordable San Diego.” The Registrar of Votes has qualified Marks for the ballot. For information you can go to his website: Vote4marks.com.

If you have questions for Marks, send them to me prior to Sept. 15 so I can prepare a "list" and forward it to Marks prior to the meeting to help ensure he addresses your concerns.

Several attempts have been made to contact Ernest (Ernie) Dronenberg who is running for re-election for the position of assessor/recorder/county clerk, but so far to no avail. I will continue to reach out and if we are successful, we will publicize when and where he will be making a presentation in our 92119 or 92120 area. Maybe even at our September meeting. For information you can go to his Facebook page: Re-Elect Dronenburg for Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk 2022.

SCAC does not endorse any candidate. Our purpose is to present the candidates so you hear from them why they are running for that office and present their vision for that office.

Last month I erroneously mentioned that Dan McAllister, the current County treasurer-tax collector, was seeking re-election for

the assessor/recorder/county clerk office, when in fact it should have stated it to be Dronenberg is running for re-election. McAllister is running for re-election as County treasurer-tax collector. I regret the error.

A drive to collect back-to-school supplies to be donated to public schools in our 92119 and 92120 area has begun.

Supplies are needed throughout the year by teachers and students and we want to help ensure that every child has what is needed to be successful. The first day of school has always been special as it is a chance to see friends and make new friends – everyone needs an equal spot on the “starting line” to get them off-and-running all at the same pace. Some items we are asking for are pencils, paper, backpacks, preferably new with the tags on them, notebooks.

I will be collecting items on behalf of SCAC and the GAG K throughout August and September. Contact me at the email address below to make arrangements to have your items picked up. I have been doing this for the past few years in conjunction with Mattress Firm. These pajamas will be offered to our local school children and to Foster kids. Kids are kids, all have the same basic needs; if we can play a part in this "village" to help ensure that children can live in a loving and secure situation, then let's do it.

The first day of the 2022-23 school year is Monday, Aug. 29. Classes start at 7:45 a.m.

It is best to contact your school's website for all matters of general interest. Unfortunately, for the time being, the district's COVID-19 safety protocol does not permit parents on campus for either drop off or pick up.

If you would like to get involved in your area council, contact me at: SanCarlosAreaCouncilPres@gmail.com. Our next SCAC meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 21 at the San Carlos Branch Library starting at 6:30 p.m.

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SCCG

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The San Carlos Community Garden was established in March 2012 as a joint-use community garden in partnership with the Sierra School of San Diego, a San Diego Unified School District public-private charter school for K-12 students who require educational and behavioral support to overcome special needs challenges.

Founding partner San Carlos United Methodist Church is no longer an active partner since the

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Major clean-up of Navajo Canyon slated for Aug. 18



Past clean-ups have resulted in lots of trash being picked up. (Courtesy photo)

The Navajo Community puts a lot into the restoration of Navajo Canyon to its natural state. This is and will be a generational effort that includes periodic removal of trash. *I Love A Clean San Diego* is supporting a major clean-up of the Navajo Canyon on Thursday, Aug. 18, beginning at 3 p.m.

Join *I Love A Clean San Diego*, *Friends of Navajo Canyon*, and *Think Blue San Diego* for a litter cleanup in Navajo Canyon. They will divert litter from the San Diego River Watershed and keep it from traveling to the Pacific Ocean.

The staff will be set-up with a check-in table at The Navajo Canyon Trailhead. Join them Aug. 18 to learn about the canyon and recycling right, then grab supplies and help them clean up.

Participants will sort and dispose of litter and after the cleanup you can request community service verification in your community hub dashboard. The hosts encourage social distancing and masks.

This event requires a signed release-of-liability waiver for all volunteers, and anyone under 18 needs a waiver signed by a guardian. Download and print the waiver, sign, and bring with you to this cleanup. No printer? No problem. The hosts will have waivers at the check-in table for volunteers. If you are under 18 have your guardian check-in with those in charge at the cleanup to sign-off on your participation.

For more information, visit: cleansd.samaritan.com/custom/501/opp_details/2309?slot-id=14426220818

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SCCG

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Garden's change to a non-profit organization. The joint-use community garden was made possible through a \$15,000 Healthy Works grant, an initiative to fund school and community gardens funded by the County of San Diego's Health & Human Services Agency and the Center of Disease Control and Prevention. The purpose of the grant's funding was to establish a garden that would

More college honors for those with area connections

By DAVE THOMAS

Even as summer begins to wind down and many local college students head back to campus, there are still some honors to hand out for the previous school year.

A number of San Diego area people with ties to *Mission Times Courier*, *College Times Courier* and *La Mesa Courier* circulation areas received their college degrees and/or received honors last semester.

Among them:

• **Martina Villanueva** was named to first honors on the Clark University (Mass.) dean's list. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the spring 2022 semester.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for seconds honors.

• **Monet Sinclair** graduated with a A.S. in paralegal studies in

May as part of the Roger Williams University (R.I.) 2022 class.

RWU offers 50 majors and robust offerings of graduate and professional programs across eight schools of study.

• **Brittany Naidu** graduated from the University of Utah.

She was among the more than 8,000 graduates honored during the 153rd general commencement in early May.

Naidu earned a B.S. degree in family, community and human development in the spring.

• **Will Carlock** was named to the spring 2022 president's list at Simpson College (Iowa).

Carlock qualified for the academic honor by earning a 4.00 grade point average during the semester.

• **Jeremy Effinger** was named to the dean's list for the spring semester at University of Maryland Global Campus.

To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a GPA of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at the school.

• **Jessica Dewitt**, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's metropolitan campus in Teaneck, N.J., has been named to the honors list for the spring 2022 semester.

To qualify for the honors list, a student must carry a 3.5 or better GPA out of a possible 4.0 and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 letter-graded hours (four courses).

SCCG

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benefit both school children and community residents.

Over the last 10 years, SCCG has fulfilled its promise and hopes that its non-profit status will enable donations and other means

of funding to provide greater access to garden education to more schools and school-aged children, and produce more opportunities to connect community citizens with the garden for growing organic food, connecting with nature and other neighbors, and

SEE SCCG, Page 10

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Take the at-home political test



By SEAN QUINTAL

Since Californians have spent the last month or two with the specter of Omicron stalking us wherever we go, most of us have become proficient at taking at-home COVID tests. Of course it's important to know the status of our body's health. But what about our body politic?

How can we tell if one political party or another is good for our country's health? How can we tell if one party knows how to effectively legislate for the nation's benefit? Or, how can we know if a political party is populated by officeholders and candidates who lie incessantly, and who brazenly take positions contrary to Americans' desires?

As a service to public, political health, please feel free to take the following, at-home political test. No swabs are required.

Question 1: What political party just passed the single most important piece of climate legislation in American history, that will also lower healthcare costs?

Answer: Democrats. The single most important piece of climate legislation in American history, the bill makes massive investments in climate, tax and health care policy. It will reduce the nation's budget deficit by \$102 billion over 10 years, and puts in place mechanisms to help the Federal Reserve fight inflation for years ahead.

On climate, the law will create clean energy tax credits, environmental justice grants and drought resilience funding. Importantly, jump-starting and supporting clean energy industries could create millions of jobs, many in communities that

have relied on fossil fuels. So the skills that oil, coal and gas workers possess will be in consistent demand, as the nation transitions to a clean energy footing.

On healthcare, the law extends Affordable Care Act subsidies for three more years, and it allows Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices.

Question 2: Which political party blocked efforts to cap insulin prescription prices, and also voted to deprive veterans of their guaranteed healthcare for medical issues attributable to their combat service?

Answer: Republicans. Democrats have tried for years to cap insulin prices, which have skyrocketed in recent years. 37 million Americans, more than 1 in 10, have diabetes. Democrats had a provision in the bill to cap the prescription's cost at \$35. Republicans apparently were more interested in pleasing their BigPharma campaign donors, so they blocked the provision in the Senate.

Republican senators also voted "No" on the PACT Act. The Act expands VA benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. In June, Republican senators voted for the bill. But when it came time for final passage this month, 25 Republicans changed their vote. Why? In a fit of utter childishness, Senate Republicans were mad that the Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act, without a single GOP vote. So angered were they by the Democrats' success that they took out their hurt feelings on wounded combat vets. Only after they were publicly humiliated and shamed by veterans' groups, Jon Stewart and others, did the Republicans sheepishly vote to reverse their temper tantrum opposition.

Question 3: What party passed the CHIPS Act that strengthens our national security against China by investing in US semiconductor manufacturing?

Answer: Democrats. The legislation, in the works for two years, will decrease U.S. reliance on computer chips manufactured in China and other countries, and will also fund science and technology research to keep American industries competitive with foreign firms. Unsurprisingly, many Republicans ended up opposing passage of this critical national security legislation. Why? See the above re: temper tantrum.

Question 4: Which party welcomed Hungary's authoritarian leader, Viktor Orban, to the US this week, the same party that saw many successful primary campaigns by candidates who openly endorse efforts to dismantle American democratic institutions?

Answer: Republicans. The GOP continues to embrace the crypto-fascist Orban, as they did this week in Dallas when, at Republicans' invitation, he addressed the CPAC convention in Dallas. This is just two weeks after he gave a speech in which he endorsed the white supremacist "replacement theory," and denounced a "mixed race world." The Hungarian autocrat regularly denounces gay and lesbian people, and openly vilifies immigrants. Orban has corrupted the judicial and electoral systems in Hungary to the point where it is no longer considered a functioning democracy. The gathered Republicans in Texas gave him a standing ovation. It's worth noting that, at one point, the CPAC stage was adorned with a banner that read, "We are all domestic terrorists."

This summer, Republican primaries across the country

were won by candidates who advocate overturning elections or imprisoning their opponents. The GOP candidate for governor in Pennsylvania, and its candidate for secretary of state in Arizona, were both outside the US Capitol during the January 6 coup attempt. A GOP candidate for US Senate wants to lock up Anthony Fauci for his efforts to slow the spread of Covid. And another Republican gubernatorial candidate has called for her opponent to be jailed for certifying Biden's electoral victory.

Question 5: What party's President got much of the above accomplished while he was working from home because of COVID?

Answer: The Democrats'. Let's go Brandon, indeed.

Question 6: Which party's most recent president wished U.S. generals were more like Nazi generals?

Answer: Republicans'. John Kelly, Trump's former Chief of Staff and a retired U.S. Marine Corps general, said Trump once said to him, "You f-ing generals, why can't you be like the German generals?" When Trump confirmed he was referring to Nazi generals, Kelly pointed out to his boss that Hitler's generals had tried to assassinate him three times. Trump, obviously a brilliant student of history, disagreed, and continued to praise the Nazis saying, "No, No, no, they were totally loyal to him." If you answered "Democrat" to all odd numbered questions, and "Republican" to all even numbered questions, congratulations, you are in good political health. If you didn't, you may have been isolating at home too long with an unhealthy diet of Fox News. Ask your doctor if truth and factual information are right for you.

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

Sheriff Ray updates RWCNC attendees on work his team does in area



By WENDY HAUFFEN

This month, the Republican Women of California - Navajo Canyon was joined by Sheriff Anthony Ray as our guest speaker for a sold-out meeting.

He shared with us some updates on the sheriff's department and its vast responsibilities throughout the county; and what is going on within the department at the moment and where it is headed in the future. Ray was engaging, entertaining, and generous with his time and information.

We also heard from Mary Davis, who is a legislative watchdog at the local level.

A resident of Alpine, she focuses most of her attention and oversight on the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, as well as SANDAG. She is leading the charge to shine a spotlight and improve transparency in teleconferencing for the Board of Supervisors.

Next month, RWCNC returns to the Legacy Hotel in Mission Valley with Thomas Del Beccaro - a radio, TV commentator, and keynote speaker. He is also the author of The Divided Era, the historical perspective that explains the more the government decides, the more it divides. He is also the former chairman of the California Republican Party.

Del Beccaro makes more than 450 radio and TV appearances a year throughout the country.

He has appeared on Fox, Fox Business, Newsmax, OANN, KUSI, The Big Business show, KTVU and KRON4 in San Francisco/Oakland. His articles have appeared in places like Foxnews.com, FoxBusiness.com, Forbes.com, Epoch Times, the Washington Examiner, Rasmussen Reports, National Review, Politico, The Washington Times, Human Events, Investors Business Daily, RealClearPolitics.com, RealClearMarkets.com, The Sacramento Bee, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Orange County Register and Breitbart/BigGovernment.com.

Del Beccaro is publisher of PoliticalVanguard.com and the author of The New Conservative Paradigm.

Our second guest speaker for the meeting will be Paula Whitsell, chairwoman for the San Diego County Republican Party.

Whitsell has been a small business owner in South Bay since 2004. She lived and worked in Brazil for 17 years before returning to the San Diego area in 1989 with her family. She has been active with the Chula Vista Bonita Republican Women as well as the San Diego County Republican Women since 2009. She has been the communications chair for the Republican Party of San Diego editing and writing for the monthly newsletter since November, 2014. Having seen socialism in action while in Brazil, she is an activist voice for Republican values.

To find out more about our club, or to become a member, visit: rwcnavajocanyon.org.

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

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San Carlos Branch Library presents a brief history of baseball

By DAVID EGE

Baseball season is in full swing, so we have a special program planned for August.

On Friday, Aug. 19, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. we will be hosting a Brief History of Baseball. Did you know that San Diego's Central Library @ Joan ^ Irwin Jacobs Common houses the largest baseball research collection outside of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.? Join us as Librarian, Jeremy Davies, from San Diego Public Library's Sullivan Baseball Research Center and Tom Larwin from the Ted Williams Branch of the Society for American Baseball Research present highlights from the Center and its extensive collections.

On Saturday, Aug. 13, from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Youth Services Librarian, Ms. Erin, brings the fun of the library to the Family Storytime at the San Carlos Community Garden. Storytime will feature books, songs, and interactive activities with a new gardening theme each month. Come ready to learn, laugh, and move together.

Meditation is a great tool for learning relaxation techniques to reduce stress and cultivate calm. Join us for a free meditation class on the second, third and fourth Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The San Carlos Friends of the Library used book sales are back



Come celebrate America's pastime on Aug. 19 at San Carlos Branch Library from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Courtesy photo)

on the first Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come buy books and support the Friends of the Library. Ask for a membership envelope from the book sale cashiers to join or donate to the San Carlos Friends of the Library. We are in need of your gently used book donations so think of us if you are doing any summer cleaning.

This month we will be displaying the paintings of Tina Fries-Miller and Stephanie Van de Wetering up to Sept. 2 in the Winer Family Community Room & Art Gallery. Join them for their artists reception on Saturday, Aug. 20 from noon to 2 p.m.

—David Ege is branch manager at San Carlos Branch Library.

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Del Cerro block parties are great for neighbors meeting one another

Friends of Del Cerro
By JAY WILSON

The Friends of Del Cerro (FODC) were invited to participate in the second block party for the 5800 block of Arboles which is just around the corner from the Princess Del Cerro Park to promote Neighborhood Watch.

Myself, a resident of Arboles and a FODC board member, along with Jackie O'Connor, the president of FODC provided information about establishing a Neighborhood Watch and how to become involved with FODC. O'Connor stated, "It was such a pleasure to be part of this block party. It was a

great opportunity to meet many of our Del Cerro residents."

Kara Fusco and Robin Kozak were the primary organizers of this event.

Residents who have lived on Arboles for more than a decade frequently commented on how many children now lived on the block. The count has gone from nearly zero to 30. I commented that second base is in the middle of my front yard and the area has been happily deeded to the neighborhood whiffle ball players.

Fusco commented, "The block party was a blast – something we all needed. We wanted to give our neighbors an opportunity to meet one another, to connect and catch up more than just the waves from

passing on the street. As parents, we loved watching the kids make memories with their community."

In addition, there were activities such as face painting, a very large inflatable slide, a bicycle decorating contest and even a food truck. Engine Company 31 from our local fire station joined in with a full crew including Fire Captain Andrew Richardson who had transferred in just 48 hours earlier.

District 7 Councilmember Raul Campillo also attended and met many of the residents as he and his fiancé walked up and down the block. He even participated in the water balloon event.

Recently, O'Connor met with Anthony Hackett the senior

community representative for Campillo to discuss community concerns and opportunities and to ensure there is a positive line of communication between FODC, Campillo and his staff.

FODC board members continue to meet with SDSU staff to discuss the long-range solutions and plans for Adobe Falls.

O'Connor attended the community leader meeting held at the San Carlos Library. "On July 19th I attended community leaders meeting organized by David Ege, the branch manager of the San Carlos Library. David invited the presidents of several community groups to meet one another, give a five-minute outline of their organization and for a community

update from Councilmember Raul Campillo. It was a great opportunity for the presidents to meet one another and discuss how they can work together. The participating organizations included Friends of Del Cerro, Friends of the San Carlos Library, Navajo Community Planners, San Carlos Community Garden, San Carlos Area Council, Henry Cluster STEMM Foundation, and the Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis Club. We all agreed to meet regularly."

For more information about Friends of Del Cerro visit: friendsofdelcerro.com.

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

UCP's annual luncheon slated for Sept. 24

For the past 38 years, the City of San Diego firefighters have donated thousands of dollars and volunteer hours to United Cerebral Palsy of San Diego.

The firefighters have served as the major sponsor and underwriter of the annual Fire Fighters and

Friends Celebrity Waiters Event for UCP and this year's event will take place on Friday, Sept. 24 at the Coronado Island Marriott Resort and Spa – Bayside at 11:30 a.m. – no-host with lunch being served at noon with live and silent auction during the event. Tickets

start at \$80 per person and reservations can be made by calling the UCP office at 858-571-5365 (ex: 112) or at: ucpsd.org.

Other sponsors for the event include San Diego Community Newspaper Group, Berkshire Hathaway HomeState Cos., Misty

Thompson, Melody Morgan, David Mirisch Enterprises, Mobilityworks, and DPC Productions.

Last year, the event raised close to \$35,000 for United Cerebral Palsy and committee members are hoping to match or exceed

that amount this year. Funds raised from this event will go to support the services that UCP provides to people with cerebral palsy and other disabilities including parent/sibling support groups,

SEE UCP'S LUNCHEON, Page 9

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PHHS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

school calendar is listed on the front page or contact us at (858) 988-2700.

For our students' and staff safety, always check in at the main office anytime you visit. The school is closed through Aug. 12. We will reopen on Aug. 15 when the administrators and support staff report back to duty.

We will have a kickoff event for each grade level. Our kickoff event will provide time for our students to receive their textbooks, take school pictures, purchase their ASB card, tour our campus and check in with their counselor, if needed.

Our kickoff event dates are as follows:

- Aug. 17 – Senior Kickoff A-L 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. / M-Z 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.;
- Aug. 18 – Junior Kickoff A-L 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. / M-Z 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.;
- Aug. 19 – Sophomore Kickoff A-L 9 a.m. -11:30 a.m. / M-Z 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.;
- Aug. 23 – Freshmen Kickoff/ Patriot Orientation* 9 a.m. -1 p.m.

Back to School Night is planned for Sept. 15 from 6 - 8 p.m. Back to School Night is an excellent opportunity for parents to meet your student's teachers and learn about the course expectations and objectives of each class.

PATRICK HENRY FOUNDATION

We encourage all parents and alumni to join the Patrick Henry Foundation which is our own school's non-profit support organization, like the PTA, PTO, or other school support organizations. The Foundation provides needed items to teachers and staff with the grant program from our donations and memberships.

In addition, the Foundation hosts a biannual staff and 4.0 student appreciation events and acts as the fiscal sponsor for approximately 45 of our clubs. Parents can donate, become a member, and get involved with the Foundation. If you have any questions, email: phhspatriot-foundation@gmail.com or go online at: patrickhenryhighfoundation.org. Hope to see you at our monthly 6:30 p.m. third Thursday meetings.

PATRIOT ATHLETE INFORMATION

We are quickly approaching the beginning of the fall season where we offer cross country (men's & women's), cheer (coed), field hockey, football, women's golf, women's tennis, women's volleyball, and men's water polo.

All student-athletes must complete an online registration for the 2022-2023 school year. Make sure you have completed all sections of online registration: Student information, Parent/Guardian information, and signatures. Also, make sure you have uploaded all required documents: Complete valid athletic physical packet, incoming 9th grade report card, valid insurance information is input for student information. For more information on athletic information, tryout information or clearance go to: phpatriots.net/2022/07/18/fall-22-season-coming-soon/.

If you have any general athletics questions, feel free to email Cody Clark at jclark@sandi.net. We are looking forward to the new school year and all the opportunities it holds for our students.

Welcome the following new staff members to PHHS:

- John Bosselman is our new third associate principal

(Associate principal is the new title for vice principal)

- Ryan Brock will teach mathematics.
- Danielle Castagnola will teach English.
- Perla Konig will be one of our education specialists.
- Allison Mayville will teach English.
- Michael McVeigh will teach Spanish.
- Jeff Russell will be our theater/tech theater teacher.
- CJ Santimaw is our new NJROTC instructor.
- Brandi McCrystal is our new campus supervision aide.

I would also like to welcome two new principals to the Henry community and who will lead the following schools:

- Barbara Waller – Hearst Elementary
- Melanie Kray – Pershing Middle School

On behalf of the Henry Cluster principals, we are excited to work alongside our new colleagues.

We hope you are enjoying your summer with your family and friends.

Editor's note: Michelle Irwin is principal at Patrick Henry High School.

UCP's luncheon

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

and training and counseling programs.

The firefighters also contribute countless volunteer hours to the agency as well. Since 1980, the firefighters' efforts have resulted in more than \$2.5 million for UCP. The Firefighter Community Responsibility Fund, established in 1973 by Local 145, has enabled city firefighters to generate substantial monetary contributions for charitable organizations. Countless hours of volunteer time are spent annually with other charities, schools, and civic organizations as well.

The United Cerebral Palsy Association of San Diego County was founded in 1958 and provides programs and services to children and adults with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. And 86% of every dollar raised goes right back into the local community.

MC's for this year's event are Hunter Sowards from KUSI 9/51 and comedian Russ T Nailz.

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SCCG

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

learn more about gardening, nutrition and stewardship of the Earth.

"The process of pulling together community ideas and resources to make the Garden a vital entity these last 10 years has been exciting," she says. "As we look to the future, we hope more business and community leaders will help the SCCG continue carrying out its mission for the next decade," said Lockwood. "We've planted our seeds and established our roots. Now it's time to Grow!"

To learn more about how you can get involved contact the San Carlos Community Garden at info@sancarloscommunitygarden.com or visit the Garden's website at: sancarloscommunitygarden.com.

The San Carlos Community Garden schedule of events for August/September:

- Saturday, Aug. 13, 10–10:45 a.m.: Alphabet Soup Storytime

Come join Ms. Erin from the San Carlos Public Library in the garden amphitheater for an interactive presentation of The Crunching Munching Caterpillar, by Sheridan Cain.

- Saturday, Aug. 20, 9–11 a.m.: Healthy Recipes from Garden to Table

Learn creative ways to prepare your garden crop from abundance or slim pickings. What can you do with the extras? \$10 per person. Pre-registration required at: sancarloscommunitygarden.com/garden-workshops.

- Saturday, Sept. 17, 9–11 a.m.: Planning a Fall and Winter Garden

Join Master Gardener, Judith Hays-Zavala, for this hands-on workshop, and learn about using transplants and seeds to grow your cool weather garden. \$10 per person. Pre-registration required at: sancarloscommunitygarden.com/garden-workshops.

Troy's Greek Restaurant: 38 years of serving Mission Valley

By ROBIN DOHRN-SIMPSON

Walk in the door at Troy's Greek Restaurant and instantly be transported to the Greek Isles with frescoes on the walls throughout the restaurant. Lovely blue Aegean water, ancient Greek temples, white buildings, and houses cascading down hillsides, porticos- all prevalent in a Greek landscape.

Troy's Restaurant (sorry- there is no Troy- it is a holdover from previous owners) boasts 38 years in business in the exact same location in Mission Valley.

Victor Rojas, manager, chef, waiter, and Jack-of-all-trades has worked at Troy's Greek Restaurant for 16 years. "All of our recipes are the same original recipes from the original

owner's grandmother," Rojas said.

If you are keen to try a Greek breakfast, they offer Greek-style omelettes with sliced tomatoes, feta cheese, tzatziki sauce, and pita bread, as well as other Greek breakfast specialties of chicken or beef souvlaki and eggs, or Greek gyro and eggs.

Two popular Greek specials include pastitsio special, a baked casserole with macaroni, sautéed ground beef, and bechamel sauce, and the moussaka special, a baked casserole with eggplant, potatoes, sautéed ground beef, and bechamel sauce.

"Other signature dishes that people love are our lemon chicken and our gyros. A favorite soup for many people is

avgolemono soup and ours is delicious. For an appetizer, our flaming saganaki (flaming cheese) is a showstopper," Rojas said.

If you are a seafood lover, try their calamari appetizer or for an entree, they offer grilled calamari steak or salmon. Try the oven lemon roasted potatoes and Greek style green beans.

They serve three popular Greek desserts: House made baklava, galaktoboureko - a semolina custard baked in filo

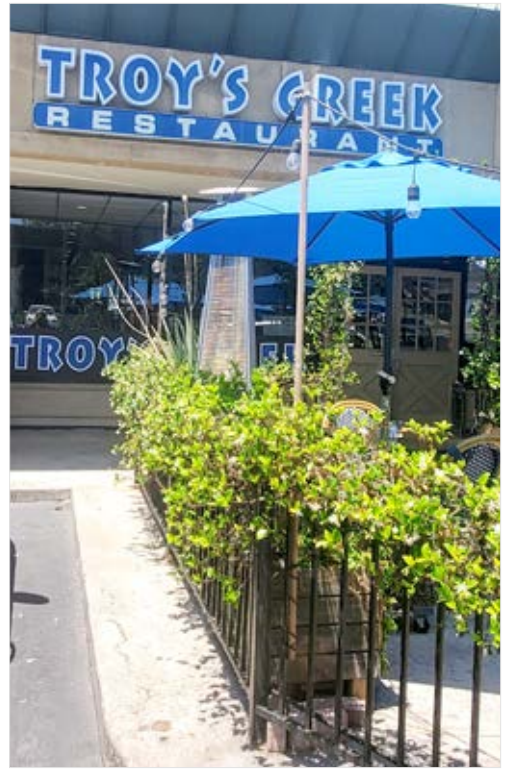
dough, and the rizogalo - a rice pudding.

If you would like to try Greek wines and beers, they offer an entire line of Greek white and red wines as well as retsina, a Greek wine flavored with pine resin. For Greek beers try a Mythos Hellenic Lager or Hillas Lager.

You can dine in or order take-out. They have a lovely outdoor patio to dine al fresco. Troy's is open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Located at 10450 Friars Road. Phone (619) 281-7741.

For the current menu go to: troysgreeksandiego.com/.

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



Troy's Greek Restaurant is at 10450 Friars Road.
(Photos by Robin Dohrn-Simpson)



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Allied Gardens/Grantville Community Council: What is the future for Grantville?

By SHAIN HAUG

We moved to San Diego in 1961. I don't have much recollection of Grantville as it was then but I remember Mission Valley dairy pastures, buying milk and eggs at Golden Arrow, and a truck farm in front of the Mission (along Friars Road before realignment).

Zoned for light industrial in 1949, Grantville became a fascinating mix of thriving small businesses offering a wide variety of goods and services. To list those businesses would take up the whole of my allotted space. Rather, I invite you to go to Google Maps, center on Twain and Mission Gorge, and focus in. As you do the names of so many, many businesses will pop up.

The question is, "What is happening in Grantville?"

The answer to that question begins with the 2015 Grantville Focused Plan Amendment (FPA) that addressed the existing mix of mostly older, underutilized commercial activities, and the variety of auto-dependent commercial service uses that are maintained in older industrial type structures. The plan envisions a transition to transit-supported residential, workforce housing, and local neighborhood retail with new commercial and employment opportunities.



Building continues in the Grantville area. (Courtesy photo)

Grantville begins at the north near Old Cliffs and Mission Gorge Road and runs south between the river and Mission Gorge to I-8. The 2015 FPA zoning provides for apartment buildings with residential dwelling spaces above first floor commercial and retail businesses. At the north the density is one unit per 1,500 square feet of lot area with an automobile orientation. As you move south the emphasis shifts to pedestrian access to the trolley station and the density gradually increases from 1,000, to 600, to 400 square feet of lot area for each unit.

That is kind of technical. We get a better idea of what this 2015 plan means by taking a look at several new developments.

Zephyr at Mission Gorge and Greenbriar is exclusively market rate apartments with no retail. Vora on Twain to the west of Mission Gorge consists of 725 market rate apartments built in four stories over the first floor commercial/retail spaces. Gravity on Mission Gorge Place is a variation on the theme with "live/work" units on the first floor, units constructed with the back

SEE GRANTVILLE, Page 13

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see moments. Or turn the camera on only when you're speaking.

Doorbell cameras and pet cams. When you're home, lower the resolution on doorbell cams and pet cams. You can still effectively monitor the areas. And turn off pet cams if you're at home.

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Grantville

CONTINUED FROM Page 11

of the unit as residential and the front for the resident’s business, and four stories of market rate apartments in the four stories above. The development at the Grantville Trolley Station is the densest allowed under the FPA. Other than the commercial areas occupied by Home Depot, Toyota, Soapy Joe’s, and Honda the whole of Grantville will become a community of apartment buildings such as these.

Generally, that is what the 2015 FPA expected for Grantville. But then “Affordable Housing” and “Transit Priority Areas” entered the building codes.

Affordable Housing and Transit Priority Areas provide incentives in excess of what is allowed under the 2016 FPA. Affordable housing allows a developer to increase density on condition that a share of the units are reserved for lower income residents at a lower rent. Transit Priority Area allow increased housing density and reduced provisions for parking along public transit lines. The net effect of Affordable Housing and Transit Priority Areas is to encourage density well in excess of what is already allowed by the 2015 FPA zoning density and to reduce the number parking spaces for residents.

Developers are required to pay Developer Impact Fees (DIF) to offset the costs for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) that are needed for infrastructure in the areas covered by the local community planning groups. The Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (NCPI) has recommendation

authority for the use of those funds in Grantville, Allied Gardens, San Carlos, and Del Cerro. By example, at the request of the NCPI a significant portion of the \$7,000,000.00 on hand has been designated for the San Carlos Library construction. The Navajo communities could see another \$10,000,000.00 from Grantville development.

So long as the developments meet the 2015 FPA and construction standards they are not discretionary. They are ‘by right’ and the developers are not required to follow the process that requires a recommendation by the Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (NCPI).

Nevertheless, most developers seek and follow recommendations from NCPI. But there is a movement pending that calls for a significant reduction of the involvement of Community Planning Groups in local development. There is a similar movement to reduce the Community Planning Groups’ control over the DIF that comes from local development.

We must preserve the benefits of the 2015 Grantville FPA. We must preserve our right to control our neighborhoods and to mitigate the impact of local development. We must preserve our control over funds for capital improvements.

To do so we must speak out and insist that all developments, including those that can be permitted “by right,” are channeled through our community planning groups.

We must let our elected officials know that the public, speaking through their community planning groups, is the final voice to be heard on development.

—Shain Haug is president AGGCC.



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Summer camp recap, new staff, and new art at MTRP

By MTRP FOUNDATION

This summer has been full of exciting happenings at the park.

The Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Foundation hosted its first camp since 2019, an afternoon program funded by San Diego Foundation in partnership with the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). In preparation for the camp, the MTRP Foundation's newly hired education team developed a robust curriculum for its campers.

From learning how to make bird calls to guided trail walks, craft making, and live animal demonstrations, the campers had an amazing time, and it was many campers' first Mission Trails experience. We will offer Thanksgiving week and winter break camps to students from any school district so be on the lookout for details in the coming months.

Our newest art exhibition, NATURE! Embraced and Reimagined, will be on view at the MTRP Visitor Center through Friday, Sept. 9.

This exhibition highlights local artists Jessica Ballenger and Vivian Fung, who have different approaches to photography.

Fung's stunning landscape photography contrasts nicely against Ballenger's mixed media works. Fung's superb images skillfully capture the landscapes' lighting to dramatic effect. Ballenger utilizes images taken at local sites, including Mission Trails, to create art-works reminiscent of the arts and crafts wallpaper prints of William Morris, 1960's psychedelic posters, and quilting. All of the works on view are available for purchase with a percentage of the sale benefiting the park through the MTRP Foundation.

MTRP Foundation activities in August include our regular Trail Tykes programs, which take place the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Visitor Center. At Trail



Youngsters and staff enjoy their time at MTRP's first summer camp since 2019. (Photo by Alissa Lustgarten)

Tykes, volunteers read nature-related stories, sing songs, and can go on an optional short walk, led by our volunteers or our new Lead Educator, Alissa Lustgarten.

Originally from Indiana and a graduate of Purdue University, Lustgarten brings years of outdoor education to the MTRP Foundation and happens to be a graduate of the MTRP Trail Guide Class of 2022. We are delighted to have Lustgarten on staff, and welcome three seasoned outdoor educators who will work with her on MTRP Foundation educational programming: Robin Kendall, Brian Moehl, and Amanda Peterson.

Though it's warm out, it's cool in the MTRP Visitor Center so come by to take in the views and exhibits and enjoy the library and a film.

While visiting, stop by the gift shop to browse MTRP merchandise, including patches, pins, and our newest children's tee shirt. You can also shop to support the park online at: mtrpstore.org.

El Cerrito housing

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

construction is currently focused on building the first-floor podium which includes a health center and a parking structure. PATH Ventures is continuing to put together the capital funding for the 40 residential units which would complete phase one.

Back in April, the Board of Supervisors allocated some \$11 million to the development. However, more funding is hoped for. The City of San Diego, the San Diego Housing Commission and the County of San Diego also applied to obtain state funding under Project Homekey.

"This is precisely what was envisioned by Governor Gavin Newsom and the state Legislature when they created Project Homekey, and I'm grateful for all the ways the state is supporting local efforts to get unhoused residents into homes of their own," said Mayor Todd Gloria in April.

This development is located in District 9, which Council President Sean Elo-Rivera represents. Chris Chan, director of council communications for Elo-Rivera's Office, offered a statement on the status of the funds.

"At the moment we have not heard any updates on the status of the application," said Chan. "We will release a statement or answer questions about

SEE EL CERRITO HOUSING, Page 15

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The state of the market

By SARAH WARD REALTOR®

The last couple weekends I hosted several open houses for new listings and quite a few people came through each day so I had the chance to chat with neighbors and buyers.

The top concern by far for the majority of people coming through was the state of the market. Both buyers and sellers are wondering if the market is going to fall. In some areas around the nation, the market has declined slightly, such as in Boise, Idaho. That market exploded over the last three years and prices have since declined slightly. Additionally when you read the internet media, click-bait headlines are popping up asking if the market is ready to plunge.

The truth is that currently, the San Diego market is fairly stable and steady. The College Area experienced a month over month, June to July, 11% increase in the median single-family home price. San Carlos had a month over month median sale price decrease of 7.5% and the Del Cerro/Allied Gardens median price was unchanged. Inventory across all three areas has remained very low over the entire summer.

There are some factors at play keeping the market lofty and in my opinion it appears unlikely we are going to have any type of significant drop in prices like we did in 2008 and 2009. During the early Obama presidency, many homeowners had little to no down payment loans and people were walking away from properties in droves

and “turning in the keys” to the bank. Today, most homeowners are loaded up with equity and are not going to quickly walk away from a property. Also, the loan underwriting over the last ten years has been stringent. Loans were issued to mostly well-qualified buyers unlike in the years leading up to the 2008 crash, where loans were handed out like candy.

There are still a ton of buyers in the marketplace motivated to purchase a property as a hedge against ever rising rents. Since 2010, young people were less inclined to purchase a property and so there was a lag in homeownership in that demographic. But that trend has quickly reversed in the last few years as young people are suddenly desperate to purchase a property and many of these buyers

are well qualified with good jobs from tech and science companies. In the last few weeks, all our listings have received multiple full-price offers and demand has been strong. A couple more factors keeping the market resilient include the lack of new development in San Diego County contributing to the very low supply of homes available to buy. Also, we are still receiving lots of offers from investors, who are frantically trying to find a decent priced property to park their cash as a hedge against the continuing inflation. The new \$600 billion spending bill and 2022 trillion dollar budget deficit could add more inflation pressure to the economy. Also, prices in San Diego are still discounted compared to Orange and LA counties as well as the Bay Area, yet San Diego is (in my opinion) a superior location and city. Also, there are still quite a few out of state and out of country

buyers coming into San Diego to buy property. Our population keeps increasing but very little new properties are being constructed, keeping prices pushing higher. Call me to discuss your local real estate plans are if you have any real estate related questions!

MARKET REPORT:

- 92115 College Area: Median home price up 11% from June to \$950,000 and with only 23 properties sold.
- 92119 San Carlos: median home price down 7.5% from June to \$1,017,500 and with only 16 properties sold.
- 92120 Allied Gardens/Del Cerro: median home price flat at \$1,100,000 and with only 18 properties sold in the entire zip-code. Inventory is low.

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

El Cerrito housing

CONTINUED FROM Page 14

the Homekey Project when that happens.”

The City of San Diego also plans to contribute more than \$2 million that comes from its portion of funding from California’s permanent local housing allocation program.

While it looks like funding is starting to be solidified for this nearly \$24-million development, with construction moving forward, some residents still aren’t sold.

El Cerrito Community Council (ECCC) president Laura Riebau has had concerns from the beginning due to a lack of communication.

She claims that the building was originally supposed to be

used for various levels of affordable housing, including low-income and workforce. The shift to homeless housing came as a surprise to the community, according to Riebau.

“PATH and the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC), nor the City nor FHC, ever contacted the El Cerrito Community (ECCC) or the College Area Planning Board (CAPB) about the change in the use and development of the building,” said Riebau. “We only learned about the change in use by reading the County’s public notice of April 21st for its April 26, 2022 meeting to approve Homekey Funding with information on the new use.”

Since then, Riebau says the ECCC sent Mayor Todd Gloria, Nathan Fletcher, PATH and FHCS an invitation to their May 19 community meeting to discuss

the plans. However, Riebau says, some residents still didn’t feel heard at that meeting.

“Though many questions were listened to, most questions were collected for a response,” said Riebau.

On June 28, PATH Ventures answered questions brought up at the meeting via emailed pdfs sent to the community. Some of the answers addressed concerns about the expansion of homeless housing and how this new building could impact current residents’ quality of life.

Riebau says she still has more questions since these came out. The main concerns Riebau and other residents have is that they’ve felt left out of the loop in the planning, and they feel the location is unsuitable given the purpose of this building.

“This location is inappropriate,” stated a resident who asked to stay

anonymous. “There is an elementary school directly across the street in addition to middle school and high school... There is no infrastructure to accommodate the massive influx. Just a poor choice as a site.”

While this resident, who has lived in El Cerrito for more than 20 years and has worked as a psychiatric nurse (LVN), agrees more support for homeless people should be created, they argue it should be focused on rehabilitation, not just housing.

“The county needs to build more institutions for mental disease for long-term rehabilitation as well as expanding the county medical hospital, where we triage these folks,” said the resident.

But, according to Mayor Gloria, the complex problem of homelessness in El Cerrito should have a simple solution.

“What ends homelessness is a home,” said Gloria. “If the State of California selects this project for Project Homekey funding, we will not only provide safe and stable homes; we’ll also be able to provide the supportive services these residents need to remain housed and address the issues that led to their homelessness in the first place.”

Mayor Gloria’s office didn’t indicate when they would hear from the state about Homekey funding but says they are ready to answer further questions when they do receive a verdict.

* Editor’s note: A previous story on this subject can be found at: sdnews.com/project-homekey-residences-in-the-works-for-el-cerrito/

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

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