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San Diego Community Newspaper Group

Patrick Henry High girls' soccer team showing the importance of teamwork

Some scholastic teams have great individual talent but do not go too far in the standings. Some teams manage to win many games without a star-studded lineup. At PHHS, the girls' soccer team has both won a ton of games this season and has some stars to boot. Showing that they are a true team, the Lady Patriots (Western Conference champions) head into post-season play with an overall record of 18-1-2 and 6-1-1 in league play. (Photo credit: Mateo Malm)

SDSU student political leaders encourage voting ahead of March 5 California Primary

By NATALI GONZALEZ

Millions of Californians will head to the polls on Tuesday, March 5 to vote in the California Primary.

At San Diego State University, student political leaders are looking forward to participating in the election.

"Millennials and Gen Z will be the majority of the electorate in 2028," said Mariam Alnajjar, an SDSU student and president of the university's Turning Point USA chapter. "Gen Z is the future of this country, and they have the power to effect change with their vote. Now more than ever, Gen Z must be involved in voting."

Others echoed this belief, emphasizing that voting is a responsibility that is important to enacting change.

"We need to start shifting our mindset from hopeless to excited," said Jordan Meyers, the president of SDSU's Political Science Student Organization. "We live in a country where we have the privilege of speaking our minds and deciding who we want to represent us. So many others aren't afforded this opportunity and we take it for granted."

While students stated a variety of issues that were important to them in the upcoming election,

Some SDSU students head to and from classes during this week's rain. A number of students will be voting in the coming weeks in the California Primary. (Photo by Natali Gonzalez)

SEE SDSU STUDENT VOTING, Page 11

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A short-lived strike at SDSU was ended with a tentative agreement. (Photo by Natali Gonzalez)

CSU faculty strike lasts one day, tentative agreement reached with management

By NATALI GONZALEZ

Members of the California Faculty Association on all California State University campuses went on strike late last month after months of unsuccessful negotiation meetings with CSU management.

While the strike was planned to go throughout the week, it was called off early on when the CFA announced that they had reached a tentative agreement with CSU management.

"In case anyone forgot, STRIKES WORK!" The CFA posted on Instagram. "Our members have won a Tentative Agreement (TA) with the CSU management that includes raising the floor for our most vulnerable faculty, safer workplaces, and expanded parental leave."

The announcement came after many faculty, staff, coaches, counselors and librarians spent the day on the picket lines, despite the heavy rainfall.

Many there said they were drawn out to show their support in the fight for a fair contract.

"I'm not really out here for myself, I'm mostly out here for the lecturers who make the least amount of money," said Kenneth Nollett, a physics professor at San Diego State University. "What we're fighting for is to have salaries that match inflation – make

it so that if you're a lecturer you can actually afford to feed yourself and your kids."

Lecturers are not given full-time contracts, which limits their job security and ability to receive benefits. It also results in many of them teaching at multiple universities, according to SDSU lecturer Savanna Schuermann.

"A lot of us teach at 2, 3, 4 or more campuses just to make ends meet," said Schuermann. "We're not trying to get ahead or make more money. We're just trying to not fall further into poverty so that we don't have to abandon the profession we love altogether and go find a more sustainable livelihood."

Many students expressed their support for faculty fighting for higher pay and increased benefits.

"Many of the faculty have earned PhDs and have devoted their lives to education, so it hardly seems logical that they should have to worry about things like food and housing," said student Sam Hockaday.

Others agreed, citing the work faculty puts into supporting students.

"I would say they should be able to get more pay...because they are shaping us into our future careers and shouldn't be left in the dust," said Abigail Segoviano, an SDSU student.

The union was originally seeking a 12% general salary increase while the CSU offered a 5% raise. The tentative agreement that was ultimately reached included a 5% general salary increase retroactive to July 2023. Then, there will be another 5% raise for faculty in July 2024, contingent on California state not reducing the base funding to the CSU system.

Other terms in the tentative agreement included a \$3,000 increase in minimum pay for the lowest-paid faculty and increased parental leave from six to ten weeks.

The two organizations have been negotiating on these issues and others since May of 2023.

"As a student, I just felt like a bystander," added Andrew Penalosa. "(I was) someone who was just playing the waiting game until the CFA and CSU could get their act together."

Members of the CFA were to vote to ratify the tentative agreement in the coming weeks.

"I'm absolutely voting yes (to ratify)," said Schuermann. "This was a huge win. That's not to say there isn't still more work to be done. We're not going to change (everything) with one contract. So I will absolutely be voting yes and I'll be encouraging others to think hard about it as well."

Why Homeowners Leave Thousands Behind When Selling Their Homes

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

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

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar". To order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-270-1494 and enter 1000. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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5607 Del Cerro Ave. 92120	3BR/2BA	1,554 sqft	SOLD	\$1,076,000
7353 Melotte Street 92119	5BR/2BA	1,750 sqft	SOLD	\$1,132,000
8414 San Carlos Dr. 92119	3BR/2BA	1,001 sqft	SOLD	\$850,000
6538 Claremore Ave. 92120	3BR/2BA	1,773 sqft	SOLD	\$1,250,000
6347 Park Ridge Blvd 92120	4BR/2BA	2,156 sqft	SOLD	\$1,725,000
5954 Wenrich Pl 92120	4BR/2BA	2,042 sqft	SOLD	\$1,325,000

All data taken from SDMLS dated January - February 2024

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College Area abuzz with events as New Year unfolds

By KAREN AUSTIN

Several wonderful neighborhood activities took place in the College Area during January and more are planned for February.

COLLEGE AREA CLEANUP DAY

In support of our wonderful neighborhoods, the College Area Community Council has begun sponsoring monthly cleanups. Locals are encouraged to spruce up areas around their residence or business or even take a walk to pick up trash along the way. Neighborhood beautification efforts will typically take place on the last Sunday of each month.



Father-daughter duo, Gary and Krista D, took part in the CACC's first Cleanup Day of the year, collecting car parts and discarded trash along Montezuma Road and other streets around their College View Estates neighborhood. (Courtesy photo)

People who participate can be entered into a drawing for a gift

card donated by a local College Area business, thanks to the involvement of the College Area Business District. Thank you to Vons for donating the January prize. The drawing was scheduled to take place at the monthly CACC meeting on Feb. 6. To enter future drawings, take a selfie or photo showing your participation on College Area Cleanup Day. Email your photo(s) on the day of the event with the subject heading "Sunday Cleanup" to collegeareacc@gmail.com

HARDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAMPUS MODERNIZATION

Two important planning workshops were recently held at Hardy Elementary School, on Jan. 17 and 31.

They provided school staff and parents, as well as community members, with the opportunity to learn about and give input to plans for modernization of the campus. Participants heard a presentation by San Diego Unified School District staff and project consultants. They learned about contemporary, as well as anticipated future needs of students and school employees, and about ideas to support learning and instruction through architectural design, facilities enhancements, sustainability and more. The first drawings from the architect and other steps will be reviewed and discussed as the planning process continues.

Located at 5420 Montezuma Road, Hardy has been educating neighborhood children since 1957 and currently serves nearly 400 students in Universal Transitional Kindergarten through fifth grade. Capital improvements are funded by the School District's Propositions S and Z, and Measures YY and U, approved by voters in 2008, 2018 and 2022. For more information go to <https://fpcprojects.sandi.net> or SDUSD Facilities Planning and Construction Division at (858) 637-3604.

PUBLIC ART MURAL INSTALLATION IN ROLANDO-COLLEGE AREA

SDG&E and ArtReach are collaborating to install a community-inspired public art mural in the Rolando and College Area just off El Cajon Blvd. They will be hosting a public ribbon-cutting celebration at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15 in front of the SDG&E 62nd Street Substation, located at 4641 62nd Street.

The artwork for this project was designed by ArtReach muralist, Katy Yeaw, with inspiration from neighborhood residents who shared their ideas during a public input session in the College-Rolando Library last December. The artwork will reflect the input of those who gave suggestions at that meeting and through ArtReach's online questionnaire.

ArtReach provides visual arts education throughout San Diego and has partnered with the CACC, College Area Business District and others to create local murals at College Area schools and at 5547 El Cajon Blvd. at The Little Flower. Please plan to attend this very special ribbon-cutting ceremony. Everyone is invited. There will be light refreshments supplied by local eateries and speakers from SDG&E and ArtReach, as well as City Council President Sean Elo-Rivera. Mark your calendars now to help celebrate the collaborative efforts of @artreachsd, @sdge, and College Area and Rolando neighbors!

COLLEGE VIEW ESTATES

By JEAN HOEGER
Gary and Krista D. participated in the College Area Community Council's monthly trash pickup.

The most recent CACC-sponsored Cleanup Day took place on Jan. 28, the last Sunday of the month. They worked together cleaning a section of Montezuma Road at Collwood Blvd, as well as along Yerba Santa Drive and Yerba Anita Drive.

In addition to trash, including two hubcaps and other car parts, they also stopped to clear all the rocks that had tumbled down the hill onto the road during the recent rains around their College

SEE COLLEGE AREA HAPPENINGS, Page 11

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County Board Supervisor Joel Anderson speaks during the January meeting of the San Carlos Council. (Photo credit: Crystal Pyramid Productions)

Anderson updates constituents in progress on several fronts

San Carlos Area Council
By MICKEY ZEICHICK

The speaker at our January meeting was County Board Supervisor Joel Anderson. He has been busy over the past few years with helping make San Diego County and our area better. Not only does he represent our concerns at the Supervisor's board meetings, but his job and priority is to serve as a resource to us. Anderson spoke for nearly 40 minutes which included questions and answers from the audience. Below are some of the projects he has worked on:

Bringing more mental health and human services resources to help get mentally ill and home-less individuals the care they need to get off the streets. Anderson believes that it is not fair to those who are suffering on the streets, law enforcement, or the communities where they reside, to continue to ignore the physically and mentally ill people who need shelter and treatment. Anderson's priority is to work towards a more aggressive change in strategies that is compassionate without enabling unacceptable behavior on our public right of ways.

Anderson believes that keeping the public safe is the government's first job. No other public services matter if County residents are not

safe. This includes being safe from crime and safe from fire. As a long-time resident of the backcountry and having witnessed first-hand the devastation in his own community caused by the 2003 Cedar Fire, Anderson is painfully aware of the need for major investments in fire prevention and suppression.

Anderson supports policies that promote local career opportunities and support local businesses. San Diego is well-known for its warm weather, but stormy skies didn't stop the local agricultural community from coming together for the San Diego County Farm Bureau's GRAZE event.

Held at the beautiful Carlsbad Flower Fields, this robust affair brought together community leaders and industry professionals to celebrate the vital role that local farms play in the San Diego community.

To keep up to date, you can call the Supervisor's office at (619) 531-5522 or go to his email "joel.anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov".

The speaker for our March 20 meeting will be Tyler Sickmeyer the marketing thought leader and founder of Fidelitas, a full-service marketing and advertising agency serving clients worldwide.

He knows that brand loyalty is a company's most important asset and he and his team implement unique and innovative strategies to accomplish the goals of their clients. All that being said, Mr. Sickmeyer is not speaking about

that but another of his passions, basketball (The Sharks). As an avid basketball player, Tyler played in many leagues and on various professional teams throughout his career. His love for the game is what spurred him to bring "The Basketball League (TBL) to San Diego in 2022 that strives to provide family entertainment, free kids clinics, and exposure to such a fun game! ("This also helps keep kids off the street!") The games are played at one of the high school gyms in our San Diego area and so far, are "free" and very exciting.

Originally from Illinois, Tyler now calls San Diego home along with his wife, two sons, and a yellow lab. An incredible enthusiastically fun family.

This year is an election year, and I am encouraging everyone who is at least 18 years old and qualifies to vote, to please vote. It is not my business who you vote for but our democracy depends on our voting, and making our concerns known. We live in the best country in the world and our democracy works.

I know we are all busy, but I am asking you, the busy person, to do one more thing.

If you would like to be on the Board of the SCAC please let me know, my contact information is sancarlosareacouncilpres@gmail.com.

Our meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the odd months.

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Will you be voting in the March 5 California Primary or sitting this one out?

Editor's Desk
By DAVE THOMAS



It is getting to be that time of year again when politics are catching the eyes and ears of many voters.

With the March 5 California Primary only weeks away, are you planning on voting? If yes, any thoughts on who might get your vote and which issue or issues most have your attention?

Along with the names of the candidates to be the next President of the United States on the ballot, there will be choices next month for California Senator, U.S. Representatives, State Senate, District Council and so on.

Depending on the individual voting, some or only one particular race will get their attention.

It is safe to say that the Presidential race will garner a lot of interest between now and Nov. 5 (General election) not only in California, but countless other parts of the country.

I must admit that I'm less than thrilled with the likely choices at the top of the ticket.

No matter what many people will tell you, we're likely going to have a November repeat of the 2020 Presidential election. Yes, the one that gave us Donald Trump versus Joe Biden. Unless Nikki Haley pulls off a miracle (not someone I can get behind by the way), Trump vs. Biden Part 2 is coming to a polling place near you later this fall.

While I liked a number of Trump policies during his four

years in office, I'm not a fan of the individual.

Honestly, I think Trump wasted four years of what could have been a solid presidency. His ego would not allow him to be successful.

Having someone from outside the Beltway in the 2016 election was fantastic in my mind. Little did we know (perhaps some of us tried to look the other way early on) we'd have a man in office for the next four years always looking out for number one and never admitting he made some mistakes. One of my pet peeves is politicians not willing to admit they screwed up.

When it comes to Biden, I've got nothing personal against the man.

I can appreciate all his years serving in different capacities in D.C. It is many of his policies that I've taken issue with the last 3 1/2 years.

I go back to Bill Clinton as the last Democrat at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue I would say did an overall good job.

Going back to this election, I actually agree with Independent candidate RFK Jr. on some of his policy takes. As of this writing, he's not even on the ballot in California as we move closer to the March 5 election. The odds of him becoming the nation's 47th President are slim to none.

Being a registered Republican for several decades, I thought I could get behind someone other than Trump over the last number of months.

I was toying with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis for a while, but his attacks on Disney turned me off.

Not that I am a big Disney supporter, but I'm much more concerned with affordable rent and food prices, solid health insurance coverage, tackling homelessness nationwide, cleaning up the mess at the Southern border, not getting us into any protracted wars in Ukraine or the Middle East and so on.

Elsewhere, the race for the California Senate seat is one that I will definitely skip.

While I liked Steve Garvey as a MLB player (I still to this day do not understand why the Padres and not the Dodgers retired his number), he's not politician material in my eyes. As for the Democrats running for that office, I would not vote for any of the notable ones even if they offered me a job in D.C.

At the end of the day, I am probably like many other voters in hoping we get better choices for a variety of offices down the road. In a nutshell, we can do so much better in this country on both the Democrat and Republican sides of the aisle.

With that in mind, will you be voting in the March 5 California Primary or sitting this one out?

For a list of all the state races, visit: <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/statewide-elections/2024-primary/cert-list-candidates.pdf>. If voting in person, you can find out where your nearest polling place is at by visiting: <https://www.sdvote.com/content/rov/en/elections/vote-center-locations.html/>. Dropping off ballot information can be found at: <https://www.sdvote.com/content/rov/en/elections/ballot-drop-box-locations.html/>.

Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,

It appears District 7 has turned a blind eye to a portion of a Allied Gardens neighborhood over the past 11 years and counting.

Their avoidance tactics for needed further mitigation action has been postponed for 8 years under a previous administration and yes now 3 more years under the current administration. These 11 years of lost time is mentioned for noted descriptive purposes because the residents can't take much more of city excuses without further positive true needed relief action now. The unanswered question needs to be asked again: What is causing these delays and why? Keeps telegraphing big city politics—don't keep promises they made.

Our city has literally snubbed this area, by leaving further relief projects behind that were started and finished during Councilmember Marti Emerald's term in office ending in 2012. At that time, it was well-known further added phased actions would still be required to fully assist the area with more relief efforts along streets most affected by the ongoing troubled conditions still occurring in a portion of the Allied Gardens Zion Avenue Complex 92120 area.

All of these 'really big' matters are still unresolved and still lies at the feet of our city for continuous mitigation relief correction on their behalf. This truly is a very sad situation when our city and D/7 doesn't care enough to bring matters of this nature to a close by working together for the proper and necessary FIX, especially when the city and D/7 continue to keep doing what they have been doing nothing for the past 11 years, which is a very long time to wait, wonder, pray and hope for further needed pending action.

The city's greatest weakness lies in just giving up.....

Our entire city and all districts still have constituents still holding hope for America's Finest City, coupled with one of the most powerful tools given us.... a vote!

OK, so let's talk progress dates..... How could you go home at night and not talk about this around your dinner table?

If I had a key to City Hall, I would open more doors and let in more justice!

Ralph Richardson
San Diego

Beware of scams and price gouging after a disaster

DA Notes
By SUMMER STEPHAN



San Diego rarely has to deal with weather so severe and disastrous that a state of emergency is declared.

But when it does happen, as it did in late January and early February when a monster storm caused flooding and other devastating effects, be warned that scammers will inevitably prey on homeowners and tenants trying to rebuild what they lost.

The recovery process for people suffering from disasters, including their homes and businesses getting flooded, is difficult. The District Attorney's Office will not tolerate any unlawful activity by greedy businesses, contractors or scammers who would seek to financially exploit victims of a disaster.

For example, price gouging and unlicensed contracting during a state of emergency is not only a crime, it also can further victimize someone who may have already suffered a heavy loss.

A state of emergency was declared in San Diego after the storm on Jan. 22, in anticipation that resources and assistance from the state and federal government may be needed. Natural disasters are already devastating. So, when scammers show up at our doors pretending to care about damage to our home or property – ready to spike prices in a time of need, it's truly the definition of adding insult to injury.

During a declared state of emergency, it is illegal for a business to increase its prices for essential goods or services by more than 10 percent, unless they can show their own costs have been increased.

Here is what the statute applies to:

- Food (including for animals)
- Goods or services used for emergency cleanup
- Medical supplies including isopropyl alcohol and antibacterial products
- Home heating oil
- Building materials
- Housing
- Transportation
- Gasoline

In addition, it is a misdemeanor for a hotel or motel to increase regular rates by more than 10 percent during a declared emergency and for 30 days following the state of emergency.

Consumers should be extremely cautious if approached by aggressive agents, adjusters or contractors after a disaster. Most businesses are honest and have

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New off-leash dog park, elections headline the next month

Allied Gardens/Grantville
By SHAIN HAUG

Here are some important community events taking place over the next few weeks:

On Saturday, Feb. 10 at noon, Council District 7 will open the off-leash dog park in the area between the Benjamin Library and the swimming pool. Your attendance at the event will tell our councilmember how much we appreciate his work in obtaining this valuable community asset.

On Feb. 14, the Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (NCPI) will hold its regular monthly meeting. The agenda for this meeting will be sent by email to the folks on the Community Council contact list.

Feb.17 is the last day to register to be placed on the ballot for election to the Navajo Community Planners, Inc. This organization is the way our Navajo Communities speak to the city on matters of land use and land use planning. For more information go to www.navajoplanners.org where you will find the Call for Candidates

and the form by which you can apply to be placed on the ballot.

On Monday, March 4 at 6 p.m. at Benjamin Library the library and the Allied Gardens/Grantville Community Council will conduct a town hall meeting. The presentation will be by the League of Women Voters and will address the topic "Voting Reform: Democracy Dollars and Ranked Choice Voting."The meeting will be conducted in hybrid format with in-person attendance at the library and remotely by Zoom attendance. The folks on the Community Council contact list will receive the Zoom link during the week before the meeting.

Benjamin Library offers free income tax preparation assistance by AARP on Mondays from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. No appointment is necessary. The library regularly conducts adult book discussions and wellness programs. For information go to <https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library> or call (619) 533-3970.

The Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays at Ascension Lutheran Church and on the first Friday of each month

at the Church of Latter-Day Saints between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Our community is deeply grateful for the support the pantry offers to our neighbors who experience food insecurity.

Coming up in the not-too-distant future:

On March 13, NCPI will hold its monthly meeting. The vote for new directors will be held between 6 and 7 p.m. Persons elected will be seated beginning April 1, 2024.

On Thursday, April 11, between 3 and 5 p.m. I Love a Clean San Diego will lead work parties in picking up trash in Navajo Canyon. The canyon received a lot of abuse during the Allied Gardens/San Carlos/Del Cerro developments and this clean-up is part of the long term project of restoration to its natural state. We will support that work by joining I Love a Clean San Diego in the canyon with our trash bags. A week or so before the event we will post information about signing up and signing waivers in advance.

On Saturday, May 18, Benjamin Library will hold a Community Festival for its patrons and neighbors. If your organization would like to have a table at this event



A new off-leash dog park is opening this Saturday in the area between the Benjamin Library and the swimming pool. (Courtesy photo)

you may contact Kevin Tran, community organizer for the Allied Gardens area, at the library. This will be a great opportunity for our families, neighbors and friends to meet and greet.

As mentioned in a prior article, the Allied Gardens/Grantville Community Council has entered a painful period of change in participation. Once again, we reach out to the community and to our neighbors with a request for participation. We promise we won't overwork you. We only ask that you give us a try. Come to our meetings (in-person or remotely by Zoom) and see what you can offer.

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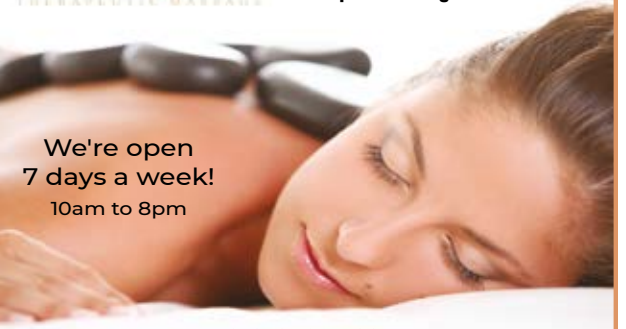
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NEWS BRIEFS

Expansion of program at Mission Trails provides more learning for little explorers

With funding from the Dr. Seuss Foundation, the Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Foundation is expanding its free story time reading program, Trail Tykes, beginning this month.

Launched in 2022, Trail Tykes is a free program for toddlers and pre-K children to learn about nature and Mission Trails through read aloud stories, songs, nature-inspired crafts, and outdoor exploration right outside the MTRP Visitor Center's doors. To date, Trail Tykes has welcomed more than 1,500 little learners to the free program.

Trail Tykes sessions have taken place every second and fourth Sunday and Monday of the month at 10 a.m., and will also be offered every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. beginning on Feb. 7.

The new Wednesday sessions expansion provide a free after school activity for families with pre-k children to encourage learning, comfort and familiarity with the outdoors, and to help cultivate the next generation of environmental stewards.

Trail Tykes is a free program but advance registration is required to ensure the best possible experience for participants and their families.

To register, visit www.mtrp.org or find Trail Tykes on the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation Eventbrite page.

Founded in 1988, the nonprofit Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Foundation works to preserve, protect, improve, and expand Mission Trails, one of the largest urban parks in the country.

Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (NCPI) gearing up for annual elections

The Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (NCPI) is recognized under San Diego City Council Policy 60024 to make recommendations to the city regarding the Navajo Community Plan and land use in the Navajo area. This is a community-based organization comprised of 16 members, four from each Allied Gardens, Grantville, San Carlos, and Del Cerro, serving alternating two-year elective terms between April 1, and March 31.

The seats that will be on the ballot this year are:

San Carlos - Two seats for the term ending March 31, 2026 and one seat for the term ending March 31, 2025.

Grantville - Two seats for the term ending March 31, 2026 and one seat for the term ending March 31, 2025.

Allied Gardens - Two seats for the term ending March 31, 2026.

Del Cerro - Two seats for the term ending March 31, 2026.

Eligibility to serve is determined by status as that of a property owner, who is an individual identified as the sole or partial owner of record, or their designee, of a real property (either developed or undeveloped), within the community planning area; that of a resident, who is an individual whose primary address of residence is an address in the community planning area; or that of a local business person, who is a local business owner, operator, or designee at a non-residential real property address in the community planning area as evidenced by a business tax certificate.

Those elected will begin their terms on April 1, 2024.

The application to be placed on the ballot is found at www.navajoplanners.org with a click on "Elections" in the header and then on "NCPI Board Application".

Applications to be placed on the ballot must be received by Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. with the required resident verification. Send the documents to www.navajoplanners@gmail.com.

The election will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 between 6-7 p.m. at the Tiffereth Israel Synagogue, 6660 Cowles Mountain Boulevard. The eligibility to cast a vote is the same as eligibility to be seated on the NCPI. The vote will be conducted by attendance at the site, there will be no provision for remote access voting.

Questions on any matter related to this election or more generally on this Community Planning Group can be directed to www.navajoplanners@gmail.com or to www.aggccshain@yahoo.com.

First case of measles confirmed this year in San Diego County

The first case of measles this year in San Diego County has been confirmed in a 1-year-old resident who had recently traveled overseas, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency announced late last week.

The last confirmed measles case in the County was in 2019, when two cases were reported, one an unvaccinated infant and the other a vaccinated person who had contact with the child.

The unimmunized infant is currently hospitalized, but may have exposed others at the following locations:

• **Super China Buffett**, 7984 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa, CA 91942, on the following dates and times: 01/28/24 from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Hilton Head County Park**, 1605 Hilton Head Road, El Cajon, CA 92019, on the following dates and times: 01/28/24 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Grossmont Pediatrics**, 6942 University Ave A, La Mesa, CA 91942, on the following dates and times: 01/31/24 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Rady Children's Emergency Department**, 3020 Children's Way, 1st Floor San Diego, CA 92123, on the following dates and times: 02/01/24 from 9:20 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

County Epidemiology Program staff members are working with Grossmont Pediatrics and Rady Children's Hospital to identify and follow up with patients and staff. In addition, management at Super China Buffet has been contacted to identify and follow up with staff who may have been exposed. County staff will determine if individuals at the above

locations have been vaccinated and their potential for developing measles.

People with symptoms are asked to call their doctor's office in advance, rather than visit an office directly, so that infection control measures may be activated to prevent exposure to others.

Measles develops seven to 21 days after exposure. Early symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes. The distinctive red rash usually appears one to four days after early symptoms appear. A person is considered contagious four days before and four days after the rash appears. The rash typically begins on the face and head, then proceeds downward and outward to the hands and feet. It fades in the same order it began, from head to feet.

Complications from measles are more common in children younger than 5 years old and adults 20 years and older. Complications can include diarrhea, ear infection, and pneumonia. Death can occur from severe complications and the risk is higher among younger children and adults. There is no treatment for measles. Bed rest, fluids, and fever control are recommended. People with complications may need treatment for their specific problems.

For more information about measles, other vaccine-preventable diseases and the shots that protect against them, please call the HHSA Immunization Branch at (866) 358-2966 or visit the website at: www.sdiz.org.

Editor's note: This information was provided by Cassie N. Saunders, County of San Diego Communications Office.



Will your little children be spending some time at Mission Trails Regional Park this year? (Courtesy photo)



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DA Notes

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

good intentions, but there are always bad actors waiting to take advantage of disaster victims.

Working as an unlicensed contractor during a state of emergency is a felony. Keep these tips in mind when selecting a contractor:

- Ask for proof of licensing such as a pocket license and a second photo ID.
- Always verify that the license number matches the contractor you are dealing with.
- Beware of scare tactics, odd calls or unsolicited contacts.
- Make sure the contractor carries workers' compensation and liability insurance.

In the aftermath of natural disasters, debris-clearing scams often surface. Do not provide payment upfront and be sure to ask where the debris is being taken. Scammers often ask for money up front and then disappear. Sometimes they dump debris on a neighbor's property or park, which may cause you to be responsible for the costs and penalties.

The public is also warned to be cautious when dealing with persons soliciting for purported "victim relief" charities. Many legitimate organizations seek contributions during or after an emergency, but scammers often use phony charitable pleas in times like these. Potential contributors should insist on seeing proper credentials before offering to help. Also, make sure you thoroughly vet anyone posing

as an insurance agent to verify that the person is a legitimate professional. Violations of the price gouging statute are subject to criminal prosecution that can result in a year in jail and or a fine of up to \$10,000. Violations are also subject to civil enforcement actions including civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per violation, injunctive relief and victim restitution.

If you would like to file a price gouging complaint, call the District Attorney's Consumer Protection Unit at (619) 531-3507.

—District Attorney Summer Stephan has dedicated more than 29 years to serving justice and victims of crime as a prosecutor. Visit: sdca.org/office/contact to contact her.

Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels providing cool vibes and more

What's on the menu?

By ROBIN DOHRN-SIMPSON



Cool vibes, good music, food and drink. That is the motto of the newly opened Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels.

Located on the north side of The Townsend Apartments, or as some call it, the back entrance to Fashion Valley Shopping Center, they join other supporting businesses for this new housing area. Grab a cup of coffee for the road, on your way to the office or school, meet friends, or sip and study for your current class.

"We opened our third San Diego location in late December. We are looking forward to creating a great community at this location. We have already started getting a following and getting regulars. At the Seaport Village and the Gaslamp locations most of our customers were tour-ists," said Kaylee Otto, manager.

There is plenty of convenient parking, a large outdoor patio that will feature future events and indoor seating. "We love puns. Our decor is playful focusing on puns and plays on words. One of the main themes is a "Pot Head Coffee" with a smiling coffee pot wearing Vans, sunglasses and carrying a to-go cup of steaming hot coffee," said Otto. "Our coffee is our private blend. We have a person who oversees and creates our coffee profiles of flavors."

On the menu, you will find an array of caffeinated drinks, both hot and cold, teas, and specialty-crafted drinks. You can "Make it Extra Dope" and add vanilla, caramel or hazelnut.



In the mood for some coffee and bagels? If yes, head on over to Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels. (Photo courtesy of Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels)

"Our bagels are made fresh daily. You can 'Roll Your Own' mix and match bagels with spreads. We offer a flavor of the month for both bagels and cream cheese," added Otto. There is a large assortment of both. If you are looking for gluten-free goods, currently only their toasts qualify.

If you're visiting after breakfast hours they also offer "All Day Sandos", which are gourmet ba-gel sandwiches such as Lox, Stock and Bagel or a BBL(t) which is peppered bacon, tomato, lettuce and garlic aioli.

"Our owners are great people who have also owned bars and have recreated that life in the coffee scene. They have a great management style - let people be who they are, which reflects in the employees. They're very helpful and happy employees. We like fun people. Both customers and employees," added Otto.

Located at 525 Camino De La Reina, call (619) 233-3836 or order in person or online at www.spillthebeans-sd.com.

They are open Monday -Thursday from 6 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Friday through Sunday 6 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Neighborhood cleanup ends up being quite a success



With nice weather to work in, area residents came out recently for a cleanup project. Nineteen people participated from the El Cerrito Community Council, the Colina Neighborhood Group, Terry Hoskins' campaign, Teen Challenge, and the D-9 City Council Office. Those in attendance cleaned up both sides of 54th Street between Trojan and University Avenues as well as the Colina Recreation Center along Orange Avenue. With community support, organizers will reportedly make it a monthly event. To suggest areas that need cleanup or for further info, email Lorna Zukas at: elcerritocommunitycouncil@gmail.com. (Courtesy photo)



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College Area Happenings

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

View Estates neighborhood. It's a great thrill to see a clean section of road after the CACC Cleanup Day. Thanks for all those car horn toots of appreciation. Hope to see everyone out in the neighborhood on a future Cleanup Day.

Take it from Gary and Krista who said, "It's more fun than you would think, especially with trash grabbers!"

MESA COLONY

By SUSAN GRANT

Interns from San Diego Fire Rescue and other City and County departments and agencies have been spending countless hours at the College-Rolando Library to help with the flood relief effort. They are working non-stop to process donations which have been arriving daily at this major collection site.

The items collected are being dispatched to areas in the city that desperately need aid. While this operation will be close during actual periods of



Plenty of items have been donated to help those dealing with the recent flooding. (Courtesy photo)

inclement weather, everyone is determined to get the donated items to where they are most needed as quickly and safely as possible.

The College-Rolando Library has the distinction of being the most productive donation site so far. There are three others that have been set up by the City. Kohta Zaiser, the Deputy Director of Community Engagement & Intern Manager, said logistics like access to parking, traffic flow and storage are important for an Emergency Response Site.

The College Area community has been amazing! We are so proud of our Library staff and of all the community members who have made donations to other San Diegans in need. Many thanks, as well, to the interns and volunteers who have moved and organized every donation, and City staff who quickly set up and managed this and the other sites throughout the city.



It is always nice to see people helping their neighbors in time of need, noticeable lately with the San Diego area flooding. (Courtesy photo)

CLERB strongly recommends body-scans of all sheriff's staff when entering County jails

San Diego County's Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board announced it will publicly discuss at its Feb. 13 meeting the County Sheriff's latest rejection to body-scan all sheriff's staff entering County jails.

The review board known as CLERB has strongly recommended body-scans to help prevent drug deaths and overdoses in County jails. The Sheriff's department has twice rejected those recommendations, most

recently in December 2023. Sheriff's officials said they have reduced drugs getting into jails to "almost zero" through increased actions. Those include searches, investigations, intelligence and drug-detecting dogs.

CLERB officials say they were grateful for those actions and a 35% reduction in the number of in-custody deaths from 2022 to 2023. However, they said there were still 146 suspected overdoses in County detention

facilities in 2023 and "our goal must be zero overdoses."

CLERB meets publicly once a month in room 302 of the San Diego County Administration Center, located at 1600 Pacific Highway.

People can attend CLERB meetings virtually via Zoom. The Feb. 13 meeting is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. People can submit questions ahead of meetings at "Request to Speak."

SDSU student voting

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

the most prominent included inflation, gun violence, human and women's rights, and foreign conflicts, especially the Israel-Hamas war.

However, some students are not sure if either of the leading candidates will be able to address their concerns.

"I think it's time that we break from the two parties offered and try to build an alternative that represents our interests," said Joseph Kendrick, the president of SDSU's International Youth and Students for Social Equality. "I think many young people, myself included, might spend too much time looking at social issues and campaign promises, but when we really dive into the class dynamics of both the Democratic and Republican parties, it's clear that both serve the interest of the financial elite that funds them."

Other students expressed wanting younger and more diverse candidates than are currently

on the ballot as many viewed the upcoming election as a rematch between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump.

Regardless of discontentment with the candidates, student political leaders encouraged others to participate in the election.

"A lot of voters, especially younger people, are apathetic to the choices presented," said Terah Gruber, president of SDSU's Students Demand Action organization. "We must remember that our say collectively makes a large impact beyond our own individual voices. Voting is not just for yourself- it is for your family, your community, those who are unable to vote, and the well-being of those who are vulnerable to political changes."

To help students feel more comfortable participating, organizations will be hosting a variety of events leading up to the primary election.

The Political Science Student Organization, a nonpartisan organization, will be holding meetings about the election as well as hosting events with pollsters. Similarly, the International Youth and Students for Social

Equality, which aims to unite students on the basis of socialist politics, plans to hold an event that will be an in-depth analysis of the election.

"The primary election is a perfect time for students to learn about legislation and get involved in the organizations they care about," said Gruber. "It is a personal responsibility to seek out education about politics, and how you and your life will be affected by the changing legislation."

To participate in the primary election, citizens must be registered to vote by Feb. 20. All registered voters will receive a mail-in ballot, which will be mailed out this month prior to the election.

For a list of all the state races, visit: <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/statewide-elections/2024-primary/cert-list-candidates.pdf>. If voting in person, you can find out where your nearest polling place is at by visiting: <https://www.sdvote.com/content/rov/en/elections/vote-center-locations.html>. Dropping off ballot information can be found at: <https://www.sdvote.com/content/rov/en/elections/ballot-drop-box-locations.html>.

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New Neighborhood Watch signs popping up in Del Cerro area

Friends of Del Cerro
By JAY WILSON

Have you driven on Navajo Road lately, particularly between Margerum Avenue and Park Ridge Boulevard? A much smoother ride for some of it, and more road improvements on Nava-jo are on the way.

On Saturday, Feb. 10, the Dog Park in Allied Gardens opened thanks to the efforts of dog owners in the community and Councilmember Raul Campillo.

Bob Hickman, chair of the FODC Neighborhood Watch Committee announced several new Neighborhood Watch signs have been posted including one at Helena and Arno as well as at Romany and Rockhurst. The new signs look great as you can see in the attached photo. On Feb. 15, Bob will be meeting with Officer Robert Raynor, the police Community Relations Office for our area to discuss establishing new Neighborhood Watches in Del Cerro. A photo of the bright new sign is attached.

It has been seven years since a survey was sent to the property

owners in Del Cerro by the City of San Diego to determine what the main concerns were on public property. Because it has been such a long time, we will soon be sending a letter to every property owner requesting the recipient respond to an online survey to determine what the current and primary concerns are in Del Cerro for maintaining and improving public property such as medians, parks, open space, community identity signs and rights of way in Del Cerro.

As of the writing of this article, there is not an update regarding the status of the All Peoples

Church project following the no vote by the San Diego City Council on Jan. 9.

The Allied Gardens and the San Carlos Recreation Centers are each having a Spring Egg Hunt. The Allied Gardens event will be on Saturday, March 23 and the San Carlos event is March 30. For more information go to sandiego.gov. Then go to the search box and enter the name of the recreation center.

For more information about the FODC check out our webpage at friendsofdelcerro.com or send an email to info@friendsofdelcerro.org.



New Neighborhood Watch signs continue to be installed by Bob Hickman in Del Cerro. The signs have been purchased by the Friends Del Cerro. (Photo by Bob Hickman)

Could your neighborhood surroundings be cleaner?



How are things looking in your neighborhood these days? No matter your neighborhood in the Mission Times Courier circulation area, we want to hear about the efforts of you and your neighbors to make things cleaner. If you've done a notable cleanup project in your neighborhood, send some photos and a few details to: dave@sdnews.com.

Celebrations, music and more this month take center stage

College-Rolando Branch Library
By CORA LEE

Whether you're looking for something good to read or something fun to do, the College-Rolando Library has you covered.

Here is what's in store this month:

- **Lunar New Year Lion Dancers** – Friday, Feb. 9, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Celebrate the Lunar New Year with a live performance. The Lion dance is an important ritual in Chinese tradition believed to bring good luck and drive away evil spirits.

- **Hullabaloo: Live in Concert** – Friday, Feb. 23, 3 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

San Diego's beloved children's music act 'Hullabaloo' is celebrating 20 years of making music for kids and families. Join us for a live concert.

Weekly events include our Wednesday Storytime at 10

a.m. and Do Your Homework @ the Library—available Monday - Thursday 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Come visit us or give us a call to learn more about what your local library has to offer.

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Patrick Henry student unveils new Eagle Scout project at the SCCG

In the garden

By **JESSICA MILLS**

Patrick Henry High School (PHHS) sophomore and Life Scout Josh Brookens recently unveiled his Eagle Scout project — a playable chime set located in the San Carlos Community Garden’s (SCCG) native plant area.

The musical instrument includes seven chimes set on a pentatonic scale which, according to music lesson site Simplifying Theory, is a collection of notes from either the major or minor scales’ 7 note arrangement.

The making of his chime set, which uses notes from the C major scale, was made possible with the help of his family, scout members and leaders, garden board members and volunteers, musician leaders and countless others.

“It all started with doing some online 3-D modeling of what the chime set will look like,” Brookens said. “After I prepared for my presentation to the council of adults, I started building the project.”

The chime’s construction, which began in November, was completed with the help of his grandfather. “My grandfather builds a lot of stuff — he builds houses, cars, boats and other things. Gradually, whenever we had spare time, we worked an hour here, an hour there.”

The inspiration for the instrument originated from his love for music.

“I’m very musically oriented,” Brookens explained. “I’ve played piano since I was in first grade. I’ve played the trumpet since fourth grade. I’m in lots of musical bands. I play the piano in a rock group that I created with my friends and we call ourselves ‘Black Garnet.’ I’m also in the Young Lions Jazz Conservatory. I’m in one of Gilbert Castellanos groups — I play the trumpet there. I’m in various band groups with my school, I’m in a trumpet quartet, a small jazz combo, and a large jazz band. I’m in pit orchestra, marching band and I’m in my church band — I play the trumpet for all of those.”

Former SCCG Board Chair Carol Lockwood also helped Brookens brainstorm ideas for his Scout project.

“[Lockwood] wants there to be a more musical atmosphere at the [SCCG] and now with the musical chime set, I think it will add to the musical dimensions in the garden,” Brookens said.

With the help of the Scouts Jedidiah Tabbert, Westley Tabbert, Cooper Provins, Daniel Webb-King, Enrique de Castro as well as his Dad Scott Broken, Mom Susanne Brookens, Doug Provins and Doug Brookens, he was able to begin installing the chime on Jan. 15.

“We’ve just been digging holes with the digging bar and shovels,” Webb-King said. “It got a bit rocky at the end, we’re basically mining at this point but it’s still been going really well and we’re having a good time.”

Westley Tabbert shared that he “dug holes and ate donuts.” De Castro, who also assisted with hole digging, helped Brookens with the chimes’ digital design.

While breaking ground, Brookens commented that he was

grateful for the team effort and that “[his] workers [were] doing a really great job.”

Although there was a group collaboration during the installation process, an equal amount of work took place prior, said

Susanne Brookens. She detailed her involvement in helping her son keep track of the Eagle Scout project rules, writing the proposal and practicing his presentation.

SEE **EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**, Page 15



The finished product, a playable chime set, is something to be proud of. Patrick Henry High School (PHHS) sophomore and Life Scout Josh Brookens (arms folded) and others helping him put in a lot of time and effort for a good cause. (Photo by Jessica Mills)



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Express Blinds, and Drapery Tradition Welcomes New Design Consultant, Jessica Acklin

San Diego - January, 2024

Express Blinds, Draperies and Shutters and Drapery Tradition, two distinguished entities with a combined legacy of over 40 years of service in San Diego's window treatment industry, are proud to continue their unwavering commitment to the local community. Express Blinds, owned by Bob Sole, and Drapery Tradition, owned by Lizie Delgado, share a showroom located at 7424 Jackson Dr. in the picturesque San Carlos neighborhood, offering an extensive range of Blind, Shade, and Drapery solutions to clients throughout San Diego.

Both Express Blinds and Drapery Tradition have carved their own niches in the industry, each renowned for their expertise and dedication to excellence. Express Blinds, under the guidance of Bob Sole, has become synonymous with top-notch window treatments, catering to the unique needs and preferences of homeowners and businesses alike. Drapery Tradition, led by Lizie Delgado, is celebrated for its mastery of drapery design and craftsmanship, providing an array of elegant drapery solutions.

One of the newest additions to the team, Jessica Acklin, joins the ranks as the "star" designer/consultant. With her keen eye for design and an innate ability to transform spaces, Jessica will be instrumental in delivering personalized design solutions that exceed expectations. For design consultations and inquiries, Jessica can be reached at 619-461-2101.

Bob Sole, owner of Express Blinds, is enthusiastic about the continued growth of both companies and the synergy between them. "We are excited to share our showroom with Drapery Tradition and continue our shared mission of enhancing the beauty and functionality of spaces through high-quality window treatments," said Bob Sole. "With Jessica on board, we are well-equipped to provide an even more exceptional customer experience."

Lizie Delgado, of Drapery Tradition, shares Bob's excitement about the partnership and the future of their businesses. "Our collaboration allows us to offer a comprehensive range of window treatment options to our clients," said Lizie. "From blinds and shades to exquisite draperies, we have it all covered."

Express Blinds, Draperies and Shutters and Drapery Tradition remain steadfast in their commitment to providing top-tier products, expert design advice, and personalized service to the San Diego community. Whether clients are seeking elegant draperies, practical blinds, stylish shades, or a combination of all, the combined expertise of Bob Sole, Lizie Delgado, and Jessica Acklin ensures a tailored and exceptional experience. The showroom, which is shared by both Express Blinds and Drapery Tradition, welcomes clients to explore their extensive offerings and find the perfect window treatment solutions to suit their needs. To schedule an appointment or for product information, please visit the showroom at 7424 Jackson Dr., San Carlos, or call 619-461-2101. Jessica Acklin, the new star designer/consultant is waiting to assist you.

Express Blinds, Draperies and Shutters and Drapery Tradition are proud to continue their longstanding tradition of excellence in San Diego's window treatment industry, transforming spaces into stunning and functional works of art.

About Drapery Tradition: Drapery Tradition, with a legacy of over 40 years, is owned by Lizie Delgado, a renowned expert in drapery design and craftsmanship. Known for their elegant drapery solutions, Drapery Tradition provides clients with timeless and sophisticated window treatments that transform living spaces. Together with Express Blinds, they offer a comprehensive range of window treatment options to clients in San Diego.



Traditions of the Chinese Lunar New Year and Author Jill G. Hall at the San Carlos Branch Library

San Carlos Library

By DAVID EGE



On Friday, Feb. 16, from 2-3 p.m., the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum will present Traditions of the Chinese Lunar New Year.

The Chinese Lunar New Year is a 15-day celebration marked by

many traditions and this year we celebrate the Year of the Dragon. Please join us as professional storytellers present an hour of engaging tales about the Lunar New Year traditions.

Jill G. Hall, bestselling author of The Black Velvet Coat and The Silver Shoes, will discuss the third title in her Anne MacFarland series, The Green Lace Corset, on Friday, Feb. 23, from 2 to 3 p.m.



The Green Lace Corset will be discussed on Friday, Feb. 23 from 2-3 p.m. (Courtesy image)

The story presents readers with another dual tale of two vibrant women from different eras as they try discovering their true identities. We follow MacFarland, a modern-day San Francisco artist, and Sally Sue Sullivan, a young woman from the Midwest living in 1885. Both Anne and Sally Sue are challenged along their own journey, facing their fears, and discovering the true meaning of love and family.

Artist, Donna Hogarth, will be displaying her quilting projects from Feb. 7 to March 3 in the Winer Family Community Room & Art Gallery. Her gorgeous array of work ranges from king-size quilts to beautiful table runners. Join her for her artist's reception on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The San Carlos Friends of the Library Used Book Sales are 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.

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Is Valentine's Day real estate investing a good match for couples?

Real Estate Update

By SARAH WARD



With the price of properties in San Diego so high, it many times takes two incomes to qualify and afford a monthly mortgage. But the trend is that couples are waiting longer than ever to get married these days and so what are the options?

I wanted to share my story in this month's article as Valentine's Day is upon us and others might gain insight and ideas in purchasing properties with an unmarried soulmate.

At the age of 19, I met my long-term partner in an SDSU statistics course many years ago. We hit it off pretty well and after graduation, we stayed together but were not in a particular hurry to get married.

We wanted to purchase a duplex however, with the idea of living in one unit and renting out the other unit. As a note, the rental income from a second unit can help qualify for a mortgage! We accomplished our goal of purchasing a duplex in San Diego in our early twenties and in fact we were able to purchase another just a few years later.

Not being married, we needed to set out some what-ifs prior to the purchase of the property.

While we certainly intended to stay together for the long term, we did understand that plans do not always work out as expected. So we crafted an agreement that spelled out the disposition of the property in the unlikely event that we went our separate ways. Also, how you take title is an important consideration, especially regarding who title transfers to in the untimely passing of one party. As a note, I am happy to report we will be getting married later this year!

As I have spelled out in past articles, I expect home prices to continue to climb over the coming years because of the enormous debt and deficits our government is running.

Just this year, another \$2 trillion in treasury bills must be sold to investors to cover the 2024 budget deficit. This generally causes the dollar to weaken and inflation to strengthen, resulting in home prices (and most prices) to continue higher. As a note, real estate investment is excellent protection against continued inflation!

So young, single people in their 20's and 30's that may still be renting, need to give considerable thought to purchasing a property. It may be an excellent idea to purchase a property along with your long-term partner but as I mentioned, an agreement should be signed that spells out the later disposition of property, if required.

Another option is where siblings purchase a property together, to either live-in or to rent out. Also, sometimes parents will go in as co-owners on a property with their child; this is an increasing trend.

So if you are currently dating, one conversation to have over a candle lit dinner on Feb. 14 is how one feels about purchasing real estate!

My fiancé and I actually both enjoy real estate investing and that activity has contributed towards our relationship success and overall happiness together.

Call me with any questions or just to chat about your 2024 real estate goals. (858) 431-6043.

MARKET REPORT (Single Family):

• **College Area (92115):** median price in January was \$1,030,000 and with only 11 homes sold.

• **San Carlos (92119):** median price was \$1,062,000 in January with just 9 homes sold.

• **Del Cerro/Allied Gardens (92120):** median price up to \$1,161,000 and with only 12 homes sold in January. Most homes enter escrow quickly when properly priced.

—Sarah Ward is a REALTOR with Fine & Coastal. Reach her at: sarah@fineandcoastal.com.

Films, photos and fly-through visitors at Mission Trails



By JENNIFER MORRISSEY



This year promises to be an eventful one at Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP), with new and expanded programming and progress on major initiatives, including land acquisition north of SR-52 and the construction of a pedestrian bridge across the San Diego River at the Jackson Drive River Crossing. The park will debut some new programs in February, including a film series and short-notice bird walks to catch a glimpse of feathered visitors at MTRP.

Moviegoing was greatly impacted by the pandemic, but there's been a return to theaters, including at the 94-seat theater at the MTRP Visitor Center.

We recently screened a film about the dark sky movement, and the great response has resulted in our highlighting a documentary film a month for the next few months. Offering two evening screenings and a matinee, we will first share *Pushed up the Mountain*, a 75-minute film about plants and the people who care for them.

Through the tale of the migrating rhododendron, now endangered in its native China, the film reveals how high the stakes are for all living organisms in this



Taking in some of the beauty that nature has to offer. (Courtesy image)

time of unprecedented destruction of the natural world.

Tickets are \$8 and the screenings of this stunning documentary will take place at 2 pm on Feb. 18, and at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 22 and 29. For more information and to reserve your tickets, visit the MTRP website at www.mtrp.org. You can also purchase tickets at the Visitor Center Gift Shop and at the screenings.

The March film will focus on legendary Dutch landscape designer Piet Oudolf and how his work celebrates nature.

Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf highlights several of his projects, including New York City's High Line, and the film will be shown at 2 p.m. on March 7, and at 6:30 p.m. on March 10 and 12. Both films are inspirational and capture the beauty and mystery of nature.

An exciting new program offered by the park's Trail Guide volunteers is the Wingin' It Walks.

These more impromptu bird walks will be offered on short notice as migrating birds make unexpected San Diego appearances.

If you're interested in receiving notices about these free walks, you can opt into an email list to learn when the walks are happening at the park. Sign up through the MTRP homepage: www.mtrp.org.

Finally, the MTRP Foundation is excited to announce the park's photo contest will soon return. Submissions will be open from February 15 until April 1. All entries must be submitted online and there is no entry fee. As a reminder, this is for amateur photographers of all ages, so please encourage the children and teens in your life to join in on the fun. Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners in each category. More information about the contest can be found on our website.

Eagle Scout project

CONTINUED FROM Page 13

"I'm definitely the behind-the-scenes person," she said.

"I've just felt so fortunate that he could have his project [at the SCCG]," Susanne continued. "It's nice that he found a project that he felt was within his skillset and that my husband felt comfortable supervising. Carol knew that [Josh] liked music so that was great that she worked with him to find a project that he could not only do but was really excited about."

His chimes are one in a series of Eagle Scout projects now housed in the SCCG. Information support site ScoutSmarts explained that Eagle Scout projects include the culmination of each lesson learned throughout the years in scouting.

"Scouts offer a safe space for people to learn from their mistakes," said Scott Brookens. "The Eagle Scout is really run by the scout. My role is letting [Josh] take the lead on things, offer suggestions and let him try new things."

As a current Life Scout, Brookens' completed project is one of the many requirements involved in becoming an Eagle Scout. Additionally, he said that completing merit badges, six

months of leadership, a community service project and going through board review all while displaying Scout spirit are all part of this process.

For prospective Scouts and project builders Brookens shared the following advice, "It is important not to rush any project you do. Also, you should be open-minded. Consider multiple ways to build it."

Although designing, constructing and overseeing the chime's production will help in achieving his current and future Scout goals, for Brookens, the instrument is really about wanting others to play, listen, enjoy and experiment with music.

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