



Dedicated to the improvement of our community through awareness and involvement in local issues

(FREE) Local News for the Highgrove Area

December, 2009



Sheriff car involved in traffic collission Highgrove Library ground breaking!





Highgrove will be getting a new library and the official groundbreaking ceremony was held on Nov. 16, 2009.

The ceremony started off with a presentation of colors by the Riverside County Sheriff Honor Guard. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Highgrove MAC member Denis Kidd followed by remarks from Supervisor Marion Ashley, Nancy Johnson, County Librarian, Dan Bernstein from the Press Enterprise and R. A. "Barney" Barnett of the Highgrove MAC.

The present library is located on the

The Press-Enterprise released a story on Nov. 13, 2009 about a corruption scandal that mentioned some familiar names from the San Jacinto and Hemet area.

Some of these names have been associated with the Highgrove community in one way or another but it is important to know that none of the accused live in, or are from Highgrove.

Jim Ayres: was a former mayor of San Jacinto and San Jacinto City Councilman. He has been indicted on 51 felonies and 97 misdemeanors and is scheduled to be arraigned on Dec. 8, 2009. Four out of the five San Jacinto City Councilmen have been indicted on various corruption charges.

Mr. Ayres attended many meetings

S. E. corner of Center St. and Garfield and is only about 1,000 sq. ft. and has an outside portapotty. Louise Gutierrez is the librarian at the Highgrove library.

The new 7,000 sq. ft. library will be located on the south side of Center St. just west of Michigan Avenue. It will have a community room and separate areas for children and teenagers.

We are proud to announce this new addition to Highgrove especially since the city of Colton has closed their main library and one satellite library due to financial constraints.

Familiar names mentioned in corruption scandal!

in Highgrove at our community center when he was the Riverside County Economic Development Agency's 5th District Regional Manager.

We had no major problems working with him during his time with the EDA in this position.

James Potts: was also indicted and is a San Jacinto City Councilman. Mr. Potts is charged with 25 felonies and 64 misdemeanors. Mr. Potts is a retired Real Estate Broker and is also a Commissioner on the Riverside County Transportation Commission. Commissioner Potts was present at the RCTC staff meeting on April 27, 2009 when Ardie and I were told that RCTC did not want to build a Metrolink station in

continued on P. 8



2 cars collide with 9 people aboard but no injuries!



On Nov. 21, 2009 there was a collision involving a Riverside County Sheriff car driven by a deputy working the beat 15 car out of the Jurupa Valley Station and another car was occupied with 3 adults and five children. Luckily there were no injuries. The deputy driving the sheriff car was not our regular Highgrove Deputy, Dean Colbert.

I received a call from Marlene Ritz about the incident while I was in the process of painting the trim on the outside of our house.

When I arrived there was a large portion of the front end of the sheriff car lying in the middle of the intersection of Main St. and Mt Vernon Avenue. I talked to the driver who said she was

from Rialto. She and 2 adult men and 5 children were southbound on Mt. Vernon Ave. when the sheriff car, that was eastbound on Main St. alledigly made a left turn in front of their southbound Ford with 8 occupants.

There were other sheriff cars present when I arrived and a CHP officer was investigating the accident.

Later, I was able to talk to the driver who said she just acquired her car a short time ago. Her car was not as damaged as the sheriff car.

Unfortunately, I lost my notes that I took at the accident scene so you won't see any names listed. (Maybe that is a good thing for the sheriff in this case!)

more photos on P. 4

Highgrove Community Center Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-2:00 pm
Highgrove Community Park Hours: Dawn to Dusk

Contact: Sherry at (951) 341-6634 (951) 786-6912
THE NORTON YOUNGLOVE COMMUNITY CENTER





Calendar of events: Mark the dates!



COMMUNITY CENTER

December 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		Brown Bag			Rolling Cart	CLOSED
		* Guest Speaker			* Child Care Consortium	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
CLOSED			Senior Potluck		Annual Xmas Party "Hay Ride" at 7:00 (see flyer)	CLOSED
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
CLOSED		Community			FIREFIGHTERS	CLOSED
		Potluck * Guest Speaker			TOY DRIVE	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
CLOSED				Commodity	M	CLOSED
				Close at 1pm	CHRISTMAS	
27	28	29	30	31		
CLOSED						

^{*} Note: Guest Speaker Dec. 1st Liliana and Eli from Blindness Support Serv. & Consumer Affairs; Dec. 4th Fair Housing; Dec. 4th Kathy from Riverside County Child Care Consortium; Dec. 9th Julie from Secure Horizons; Dec. 15th Ana from Office on Aging Re: Van/Nutritional info and Dept. of Consumer Affairs. Dec. 18 Spark of Love Toy Drive 9am-11am, taking names until the Dec. 15th. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE COMMUNITY CENTER 951-341-6634

Norton Younglove Community Center 459 Center Street, Riverside, Ca 92507

Phone: (951) 341-6634

The Spirit of Christmas Hay Ride Night!

Dec 11, 2009 from 6pm to 8pm



Hay Ride beginning at 7pm. A gift from the Stouffer Family in memory of Danny Stouffer "aka Santa." Caroling by Highgrove Cub Scouts.

Special guest appearance by Mr. & Mrs. Claus and Jack Skeleton nightmare before Christmas

Game & Candy provided by Supervisor Marion Ashley's

Youth Advisory Council



Beginner Cake Decorating Class winners L-R: 2nd place Evelia Hernandez; 1st place Rosa Sandoval. 3rd place Vera Gonzales.



Advanced Class winners L-R: 1st place Rosa, 2nd place Gigi, Instructor Mary Martinez, Diane, 3rd place Maria.

HIGHGROVE SHERIFF

Deputy Dean Colbert Stats:

The following contacts and/or arrests are a direct result of traffic stops, information obtained by local residents, pedestrian checks, business checks, and ongoing investigations.



Felony Arrests	6	Vehicles Towed	3
Misdemeanor Arrests	12	Calls for Service	180
Traffic Citations	0	Business Checks	28

Call 911 for Emergencies only

Phone Number for the Sheriff Dept.: (951) 776-1099 (Non emergency) Hot line tips for Highgrove Deputy Dean Colbert: (951) 955-2611

Highlights:

On 11/17/09 a deputy observed a vehicle parked in an empty field at the end of Spring St. X Mt. Vernon Ave. As the deputy approached the vehicle he saw a male subject stacking wood debris previously dumped illegally. While talking with the subject the deputy determined the subject was under the influence of methamphetamine. A search of the subject's vehicle was conducted and a glass pipe and several grams of methamphetamine were located. The subject was arrested and his vehicle was towed.

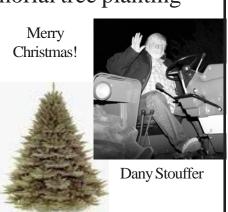
On 11/18/09 a deputy responded to the 200 block of Pacific Ave. reference a male threatening to commit suicide. The subject was contacted by deputies and determined to mentally unstable. The male subject was then transported to ETS and held for a 72-hour mental evaluation.

On 11/24/09 a deputy conducting a business check at the corner of Iowa Ave. X Center St. was approached by an intoxicated male subject. The subject challenged the deputy to fight several times before being taken into custody without incident. The subject was then transported to RPDC and booked for public intoxication.

On 11/24/09 a deputy contacted several male adults loitering in the back parking lot area of an apartment complex located in the 1100 block of Villa St. The deputy observed a pickup truck with the doors open and loud music coming from inside. The deputy asked the male subjects if they knew who the trucked belonged to. The male subjects advised it was a friend and he had walked to a local store to purchase more alcoholic beverages. The owner soon arrived at which time the deputy explained to all parties involved the laws regarding drinking in public and loud music. The deputy asked them to turn the music off and to continue their gathering inside. The subjects who lived in the apartment complex were very apologetic and cooperated with the deputy. No arrests were made. The subjects were advised and warned.

Danny Stouffer memorial tree planting

A tree will be planted at the community center in honor of Danny Stouffer who passed away on Sept.18, 2009. For many years Danny, his family, and friends have given free Hay Rides at the community center for residents to see the Christmas lights in Highgrove. Dedication of the tree will be on December 11th. at 7:00 pm at the community center just before the hay rides begin. Please wear warm clothes!





adrianr@anrsys.com paypal.



SANTA AND SMOKEY
ARE COMING
TO HIGHGROVE



The Highgrove Volunteer Fire Company will be visiting different neighborhoods of Highgrove December 13-17, 2009 between 6:00 and 9:00 PM. Santa Claus and Smokey Bear will be riding on the rescue squad giving out free candy canes to all the children. Check which street you live on for the date listed below, and listen for the sirens and music.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Main St., east of Mt. Vernon, Oriole Ave., Carlin Lane, Elena Ave, Carlota Way, Teresa St., Mt. Vernon, Browning St., Kendra Way, Brian Way, Seeley Ct., Radford Ct., Mandarin Way, Chickadee Circle, Bob White Lane, Heron Lane, Cardinal Lane, Starling Lane, Whipporwill Dr., Goldfinch Ln., Pelican Dr., Owetzal Ln., Murphy Ave., Osborne Ct.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

Michigan Ave., Tanner Cir., Trabert Cir., Conners Ln., Cindy Cir., Swayzee Ct., Sweetser Dr., Keone Ct., Plews Ct., Ishbell Ct., Flynn St., Walker Ave., Tulare St., Harvey Ave., Waring Ave., Arliss St., Sanrive Ave., Main St. between Michigan and the RR Tracks, Prospect Ave., Transit Ave., (Fountain Ave., Villa St., and Spring St.) all east of the RR Tracks.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

Center St. between RR Tracks and I-215, Commercial Ave., Highland Ave., Mound St., West Church St., Pacific Ave., Highland Ave., (Fountain Ave., Villa St., and Spring St.) all west of the RR Tracks,

Glen St., Iowa St., Ruby St., Palmer St., Devener St., Electric Ave., East LaCadena Dr.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Center St. west of I-215, Stephens Ave., Cliffhill Pl., Toluca Pl., Mont Martre Ave., Versailes Pl., Clare St., Viola Dr., Debbie Ln., W. La Cadena Dr., Tolouse Ave., Cannes Ave., La Ciotat Way, Avignon Ct.,

Toulon Ct., San Remo Way

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

Make up night, if one of the above mights was missed due to rain or emergency activity.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM HIGHGROVE STATION 19

Christmas lights light up many places

Naturally, this time of year is when many people decorate their homes to celebrate Christmas. Several other places such as the Teen Challenge, the old Benedict Castle on Chicago Ave., is a good place to see a decorated castle. Even if you are new to the area or if you have lived here all of your life, do not miss the Festival of lights at the Mission Inn in Riverside. Take one evening and just walk around and look at 3 1/2 million lights and the decorations.



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Columbia overpass progressing very well!

This view was taken from the east side of Columbia Ave. looking westward.



Here is another view from the west side of Columbia Ave. looking eastward.



This is the front end of the sheriff car in the middle of Mt. Vernon and Main St..



There where 3 adults and 5 children in this car. Luckily no one was hurt!



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LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION DESIGN COMMERCIAL



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Wounded Soldier With Purple Heart Returns Home Just In Time For Thanksgiving With His Family



Sgt. Neil Avant (pictured with his mother Lesley Sarver) returned home Friday of November 20th just in time for Thanksgiving, after six months of recovering at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington DC. Sgt. Neil Avant was seriously injured in Baghdad in May of this year by the blast of a suicide bomber. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He still undergoing more therapy but is recovering well.

It is wonderful to have him home. It has been a roller coaster of experiences and a long hard journey. We count our blessings everyday that Sgt. Neil Avant survived his injuries, and we have him home.

The proceeds from the fundraiser at the Eagles Aerie #997 in Highgrove on Nov 22, 2009 was used to benefit the "Soldiers Angels" and was a hugh success. The show of support for the troops and the turn out of people was amazing. The Highgrove Fire Department were wonderful and they were the judges for the chili cook-off event. They were a lot of fun. Thank you so very much for your help, and support.

Sgt. Neil Avant attended as did Lieutenant Jesse Elmore who both served in

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Presented by

The Grand Terrace Community Players Dates: December 6th, 12th and 19th

Times: 2pm and 7 pm

Playing at: Lions Club Community Center Location: 22164 Barton Road, Grand Terrace Phone: (909) 783-0437 Price: \$ 5.00 Presented by The Grand Terrace Community Players In this heart-warming, classic story, George Bailey, grows up in the small town of Bedford Falls, dreaming dreams of adventure and travel, but circumstances conspire to keep him from leaving his home town. Frustrated by his life, and haunted by an impending scandal, George prepares to commit suicide on Christmas Eve. Rescued by his Guardian Angel, George is shown what life in Bedford Falls would have been like had he never been born. Finally realizing the richness of his life, he returns back to his reality, where he discovers that the residents of Bedford Falls, all of whom he has affected for the better, have banded together to save him from bankruptcy.

Iraq together. The 416 platoon from San Diego walked in the walk-a-thon and cooked chili. Thank you for your service and for keeping America safe!

We raised \$10,535.00. Our intent was to raise a couple of thousand, to say the least this went way beyound our dreams.

The "Soldiers Angels" is a volunteer-led 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization providing aid and comfort to the men and women of the United States Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and their families. It was founded by the mother of two American soldiers. They are an international, volunteer-led organization supporting America's men and women in uniform. www.soldiersangels.org.

Hopefully this will give the "Soldiers Angels" the help they needed in getting the wounded warriors some comforts from home during their recovery in the hospitals untill their family can reach them.

Thank you everyone that help, walked, cooked, and donated. We could not have done it without you. Thank you Eagles #997 for allowing us to hold this wonderful event at your Aerie. Leslie Sarver

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DEVILS DEN

by Dennis Wilds

(Cont. from last month)

PREFACE

This is a story about life in the raw stripped of non essentials and distractions of traditional parenting and nuclear family traditions. This is a happy story of a family that refused to be shattered by the loss of its patriarch and the inconvenience of relocating across the country into a surrealistically strange environment.

Our tribal odyssey continues into the twenty first century with second and third generations. It is for these recent additions to the family that this tale is written. Having a kid tell this collection of stories allowed me to skip over the stark sadness of the adult world view and reveal the essence of our particular circumstance in those years. Setting the beginning in the most remote area of California framed the events in the context of a minimalism necessary to reveal its true characters. I repeat, this is a happy tale devoid of self serving angst so don't feel sorry for its characters because they had a real life and abundant opportunities.

Dennis was me those many years ago. Named after my father who died when I was less than a year old, I knew only brothers, sisters, and mother as a child. Starting the story when I was seven allows me to build on reliable memories and that happened to involve the move into the Southlake Farm labor camp known as Devil's Den. There were camps before like Squire's camp, Gus's camp, Harrigan's camp. There was Westlake farms camp after Devil's Den. But Devil's Den was the best and biggest with the most memorable residents. I remember all of them but I bet they don't remember me at all. I was more of an observer to their lives and their daily travails. There were very few bad characters there in my child's world.

We were not trapped there either. We had opportunities and freedom to come and go. In this life without trees and lawns we got busy living and loving each other and starting anew. We were strong and healthy and incredibly hard workers. We continued to grow up and self improve in Devil's Den and begin our preparation for the better times and opportunities that lay ahead over the hills and mountains in Santa Barbara. I will let these real events and characters tell our family story as it happened. If, at times, you feel sympathy for our plight I ask that you instead laugh along with me. We were just ignorant and with good cause and this led to more comedy than pain. We were living each day with the hope and expectations that our tomorrows would be better than our yesterdays. We were right.

They predated Blue Chip Stamps. Retail stores gave you these stamp coupons with every purchase and you could redeem them for items in the stamp catalogue. Well, Green Stamps paid for my first electric haircut done while sitting in water. To know how this came to be let me first describe more about the daily routine in our barracks cookhouse. Devils Den was ungodly hot in the summer and the grasshoppers would sometimes congregate under the eaves of the barracks and drop dead from the heat. We didn't have coolers or fans and I had never heard of air conditioning in those days. You just stayed in the shade as much as you could. During non school hours and for the summer my job was to work in the kitchen of the cook house and do the dishes and other cook's helper chores a seven year old could manage. One hundred men and three meals a day meant lots of kitchen time. My mom used pressure cookers to cook the rice and beans and beef tongues and my job was to keep the pots and pans clean and ready for the next shift of cooking. Knives and forks and solid ceramic plates and coffee mugs were all washed by hand and to reach over and down into the sinks I stood on an overturned Coca Cola crate and fixed my arm pits on the sink lip. My summer friends were Ajax powder and Chore Girl steel pads. We bought pinto beans and potatoes by the hundred pound toe sacks at Smart and Final in Avenal.

Except for the shade of indoors, the cook house was not much cooler than outside in the camp. For distraction we did have the juke box in the dining area and plenty of red quarters to keep it going. The juke box company would give you quarters painted with red nail polish to prime the box, in other words, keep it going to encourage the diners to restart it when the four songs per quarter were done. The song list ran from Tex Ritter to rancheros but the big crossover hit was the beer barrel polka which everybody seemed to like. I remember using oiled sawdust to sprinkle on the wood floors in the dining area and then sweeping it up. This gave some semblance of cleanliness to the floors while keeping the dust down. The workers would come in wearing their rubber boots from the irrigated fields bringing in an unending supply of caked mud which dried and turned to dust later. This was my day every day and play time came at night when it cooled down some.

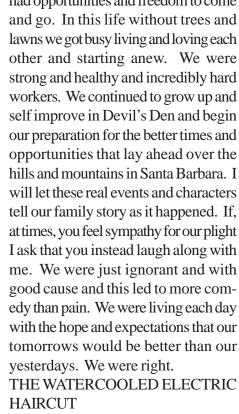
Outside at night the camp came alive with ball games and foot races and other heat generating activities. There was a tractor seat welded to an axel which was in turn welded to a truck wheel in a bar stool design that was the communal barber chair. If you wanted a hair cut you could sit in it or hang out around it and a camp barber would answer the call and cut your hair. No money was transacted and you got

what you paid for. I learned to reach under my hair and hold my ears down with my fingers to avoid nicks to the top of the ears by the scissors. I had a mole behind my left ear so I kept my left thumb over it at the same time. If you had straight hair you could opt for a real bowl haircut which was just that. A bowl was placed on top of your head and everything that stuck out was cut off. I actually envied these cuts but my curly hair was not suited to this style. Sitting still for any length of time was torture so my hair stayed pretty long and unless ordered to, I avoided the tractor seat.

My new brother in law Thomas had collected enough Green Stamps from family and friends to send for a pair of electric clippers from the S and H catalogue. Of my entire family, Thomas was the most enterprising member. He had worked as a guest worker in the California fields since crossing the border at the age of 10. From time to time his younger siblings would do the same, but he was the main source of support for his family in Mexico while he lived in California. He met my sister Chris in Devils Den in the cotton fields and they eloped soon thereafter, to return a year later with their first child, Connie. My mom and I rode into Huron where we found them living in a labor camp there. Thomas was a little afraid of our family but he should not have been.

One particularly warm day Thomas was booking hair cuts at the camp. He had dragged the heavy barber stool over to the barrack under the eave to take advantage of the meager noon day shade. At a glance it was obvious I needed a hair cut bad. I had hair over my ears and down the back of my neck. Thomas yelled "Hey Dennis, how bout a hair cut?" The thought of sitting still with a sheet draped over my shoulders sweating over a long session of cutting was not appealing at all to me. Using

Continued on page 12



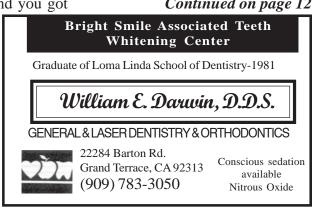
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Highgrove Pride by Cynthia Williams, DC

I recently accepted a job with a large company that likes to put one's hometown on the nametag. So when I was asked what town I wanted on my nametag, of course I said "HIGH-GROVE"! Actually I was cornier than that: I said "I would be proud to have HIGHGROVE on my nametag". The following week when I started work my new nametag was given to me and I was devastated. My nametag had the wrong town on it and the default generic town name had been substituted. I could not show up for work on my first day without HIGHGROVE on my nametag. Well as luck would have it, I lost that nametag and needed a replacement so I was given another one and I made sure that HIGH-GROVE was on it. So much drama; all because I have a love for my little

Those of us who have spent most or all of our lives in Highgrove have a passion for our little community that others don't really understand. I've been thinking about why it is we have this passion and want to share that passion with others.

For me there are many appealing aspects. Highgrove is a quiet community, with the exception of the many trains! With no major thoroughfares, shopping centers, colleges or universities, museums or attractions, there is little that draws one to Highgrove. Businesses are small and some have been in town for many years. If I count correctly, we have one public elementary school, one private church school, one library, one fire department, and our community center is a bright spot in the area. There is a wide variety of housing available with duplexes, apartments, small homes, and large multi-room houses on half-acre properties. With easy freeway access and a few large main street arteries to access, we can get to the larger cities in less than an hour. We are nicely centrally situated to many attractions, museums, and cit-

All these town facts are very appealing and one can understand why a family would choose to live in Highgrove. For me, large parts of the passion are my memories of growing up here. The orange groves were so fragrant and plentiful. The orange blossoms were intoxicating. I also remember the rows of palm and eucalyptus trees that lined Center Street all the way up to Blue Mountain. I would ride my bicycle all the way to the edge of Blue Mountain and sail down the street with the wind ripping through my hair, my bicycle cutting through the dappled shadows on the street. On really cold mornings, the smudge pots in the orange groves would be lighted. Our cats would come in with dirty feet from walking through the dewy grass that was dusted from the smudge pots burning.

I have very fond memories of the Fall Carnival at Highgrove Elementary School. The whole community came together to put on this super fun event. The PTA would organize the carnival and lots of people would come and play games, eat food and there would be entertainment. The highlight would always be the cakewalk. Moms made cakes that were donated, then there was the contest with each winner getting to choose their favorite cake. I remember dancing for the PTA Founders Day program. I was the Goddess of Autumn or some such person and danced across the little stage at the school auditorium wearing a soft,

flowing butter-yellow gown that my mother made for the occasion.

I loved going to Highgrove Elementary School. I have never forgotten the teachers I had there. For seven years I was "one of the Williamses" (I am the eldest of eight kids) and we all had our favorite teachers. Mrs. Wright stayed after class to teach me my piano keys and notes. Mrs. Smith chose me to be the model to hold one of our class-made marionettes for the picture for the teacher newsletter. Mrs. Cress paid for another student and myself season tickets to the theater productions for students in Riverside. Mrs. Fober had a nick-name for me: "Willie".

I have so many more memories; memories that I might not of had if I had lived in a larger city or a less established and historical town. You will have your own memories. Those of you who are newer to this little town will have the opportunity to build your own. Highgrove is a darling community and its historical value and quiet atmosphere needs to be enjoyed by residents and protected as an asset. Make your own memories soon!



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We hope you had a happy Thanksgiving.

To me this is one of the most important days of the year because it brings families closer together. We had 30 family and friends in our back yard on a perfect day for being outside. We need the rain but boy am I glad the rain didn't come until Saturday! "Barney"





5% discount and a free FGS cup to whoever brings in this add Sunkist fruit gems are here for the Holiday Season

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continued from front page

Highgrove. RCTC had previously hired a consultant, STV Incorporated, who made a map of the new curved track to connect the 2 railroads at Highgrove. We were given a copy of that map at the April 27th RCTC staff meeting that listed 13 reasons why a station would not be considered in Highgrove. Mr. Potts wanted us to more or less give up pursuing the Highgrove location due to their consultant's findings. And at that meeting, he and other staff members tried to convince us that a station would not be built in Highgrove. Many of these same problems and solutions were explained in our power point presentation that we were not permitted to play for the RCTC staff at that meeting. We printed an article in the May 2009 issue of the Highgrove Happenings Newspaper about this incident. (P. 8)

Robin Lowe: was also mentioned in the Press-Enterprise article on Nov. 13, 2009 and was a name from Hemet that rang a bell. Hemet city council person Robin Lowe is also an RCTC Commissioner and has had an influence on the Highgrove Metrolink station location. She helped stop an independent study of the Highgrove Metrolink location proposed by the Southern California Associated Governments (SCAG).

Here is a portion of a letter dated March 8, 2007 to SANBAG's Executive Director at that time, Tony Grasso. The letter reads:

"SCAG is initiating a feasibility

study analysis of a Metrolink Station in Highgrove as it relates to **SCAG's Regional Transportation** Plan and Growth Forecast. The purpose of this study will be to analyze potential and ascertain the probably of the project's success. We anticipate it will take six months to a year to complete the study with the intent to include any positive results in the non-constrained portion of the upcoming 2007/2008 Regional Transportation Plan. We request that SANBAG take no formal action on the proposed Metrolink Station in Highgrove until the feasibility study is completed".

Then on April 5, 2007, (the day after SANBAG voted to take no immediate action), RCTC Commissioner, **Robin Lowe** and former RCTC Executive Director, Eric Haley went to a (SCAG) meeting in Los Angeles to stop the independent study of the Highgrove Metrolink station location.

When I found out that they went to L.A. to stop a study that could help solve some of our transportation problems, I could not believe someone in their positions as transportation leaders would actually try to stop a study that may benefit public transportation. Isn't a "transportation" agency supposed to look at all of the options before making a decision? Commuter trains help get people out of their cars and reduce our congested freeways on both sides of the county line.

According to the Riverside County

Economic Development Agency there are 1,555 Sq. acres of vacant land in Highgrove. And there are 30,777 residents within a 2 mile radius of the proposed Highgrove Metrolink station even before the addition of the 2,500 new homes that are ready to build on, in Spring Mountain Ranch. These new home sites are only one mile east of the Highgrove station we are requesting.

So why were these 2 influential transportation leaders from Riverside County afraid to let this study continue? I feel that they were afraid that this study may have shown that Highgrove is ideally situated due to its location where 2 different railroads connect and one of them already has commuter service. And Highgrove is where there has been local support for the last 8 years and where there is vast amount of vacant land available for future growth. And it may have shown that there was a better transportation plan for commuter rail service for the entire area instead of just for 2 destinations in Riverside County like RCTC wants.

But I guess we will not know what the study indicated because: On April 5, 2007 Eric Haley and Robin Lowe convinced SCAG to stop their feasibility study analysis of a Metrolink Station in Highgrove!

When I heard what the 2 RCTC leaders had done, I requested and paid for a copy of the tape recording made during the SCAG meeting in Los Angeles on April 5, 2007.

I still have my tape recording of that

meeting.

Both Hemet and San Jacinto are on the Perris Valley Line railroad owned by RCTC but the railroad track deadends in San Jacinto. Even though there are several years between the recent James Potts incident from San Jacinto, and another incident of serious concern that happened over 2½ years ago with Robin Lowe from Hemet, why has the RCTC and their staff been so against the Highgrove location for the last 8 years?

Which location makes the most common sense to spend \$220 million of our tax dollars, A or B?

(A) One Metrolink station platform in Highgrove could serve Metrolink commuters between Riverside and San Bernardino right now, by using the existing commuter trains 7 days a week with no additional cost for new engines or coaches. These existing trains currently go to and from established train stations at both Riverside and San Bernardino where other Metrolink commuter trains are located. And the same exact platform could be used for future commuter trains between Riverside and Perris when the Perris Valley Line is upgraded for passenger train service. RCTC has to have the 19 acres for the curved track to connect the 2 railroads. This is the same 19 acre property where we want a station on the west side. The Highgrove location could be used for both the curved track and the station.

Continued on page 9



Continued from page 8

One platform in Highgrove would serve 3 cities; Riverside, San Bernardino and eventually Perris.

(B) One Metrolink station platform at either Palmyrita Ave., Columbia Ave. or Marlborough Ave. would be located where there are no current commuter trains. And there will not be any other rail connections because the Perris Valley Line is a dead-end track. RCTC's plan will only transport rail commuters between Riverside and Perris when completed and it will take several years to make the Perris Valley Line ready for passenger service. New engines and coaches would have to be purchased, the track upgraded, and a new train signal system installed. Just like mentioned before: RCTC has to have the 19 acres for the curved track to connect the 2 railroads. But RCTC wants to buy an additional 10 (or more) acres for a station ½ mile south of the Highgrove location for a

future Metrolink stop. Using our tax money to buy 2 locations instead of just 1 makes no sense at all!

We <u>still</u> feel Highgrove is the best location for a station since Federal Tax Money is being sought for this project. The station should benefit tax payers on both sides of the county line. The station location should not be a political decision but should be based on destination, efficiency, common sense, logic, and cost, to put the commuter rail stations in the right location.

RCTC and their civil engineer say the Highgrove location is not feasible. Over 40 years ago we sent a man to the moon and returned him safely? The Highgrove station is not in this same category, but 8 years of RCTC ignoring this logical location is about as difficult as going to the moon unless someone starts to listen!

Please read related letter of support for Highgrove Metrolink at right.

Highgrove Day set for May 8, 2010
Volunteers needed
Come to the
Community Center on
Jan. 5, 2010
at 7:00 PM.
We need your help!

NOTICE

No Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council Meeting in the month of December. Next meeting Jan 27, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the Norton Younglove Community Center in Highgrove. Happy holidays!



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University Neighborhood Association continues to support Highgrove Metrolink station!

University Neighborhood Assn.

www.UniversityNeighborhood..net
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November 17, 2009

John Standiford

Riverside County Transportation Commission

4080 Lemon St. 3rd Floor

Riverside CA 92502-2208

RE: Perris Valley Line (PVL)

Dear Mr. Standiford;

Over 4 years ago on October 13, 2005, the University Neighborhood Association submitted a letter to RCTC supporting the concept of routing the PVL through Highgrove and of establishing a Metrolink station in Highgrove.

Our community continues to support this concept because that location seems to offer greater overall flexibility. In addition to servicing Metrolink traffic from the PVL, the Highgrove station establishes services to existing Riverside and San Bernardino traffic, and opens opportunities to increase the number of potential riders through the expanded capacity and the flexibility to serve them

Further, Highgrove has adequate land for a station and parking. Plus, the people of Highgrove *want* the station and support the PVL.

Most importantly: Expanded passenger rail options maximize taxpayer dollars. The development of rail corridors must be looked at in a context that is bigger than a single project. The PVL provides an opportunity to do that with the Highgrove option.

<u>Please take under advisement</u> that while the UNA supports the Highgrove station concept, our own concerns remain. The PVL impact on our neighborhood continues to attract the attention of a growing number of our neighbors. As you know we have several sensitive receptor uses immediately adjacent to the PVL right of way.

Within 500 feet of this project, we have

- 1. two elementary schools,
- 2. two city parks, a county park, and
- 3. several day care facilities.

We have a number of public safety concerns

- 1. the impact of noise, vibration, and air pollution on health.
- 2. the safety of our school children due to the increased rail traffic.
- 3. public safety due to hazardous materials now being carried by BNSF.
- 4. public safety in crossing the rail right of way to access the county park.

In point 4, we refer to the PVL project bisecting our community, including the City and County trails network. Access to the park and trails requires a safe, environmentally sound solution to connect with and enjoy the historic trails into the Box Springs Mountain Park.

Lastly, we are concerned with the PVL impact upon our quality of life.

To be clear, we wish to reiterate our support for the Highgrove solution. However, do not construe that support as an endorsement for the PVL, especially in light of the fact that the EIR is has not yet been completed.

We remain committed to the healthiest result with the least impact for the biggest taxpayer payoff.

As our last work on the matter of the Highgrove station, if the PVL is really about regional transportation, then it makes sense to locate stations in locations that offer the greatest utility. The Highgrove solution is uniquely located to accomplish just that.

Sincerely,

Gurumantra Khalsa, Co Chair University Neighborhood Assn.

Public Notice

If you pay taxes you are eligible to sign this petition!



Please go on-line and sign the petition to support a Metrolink Stop in Highgrove.
Our voices <u>must</u> be heard!
http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/highgrovemetrolink

Riverside Public Utility worker saves Chihuahua from canal

As part of his daily routine, Fred Ehemann, senior water system operator with Riverside Public Utilities (RPU), cleans the Riverside Canal grating near Riverside Community College. The grating keeps large debris from moving downstream to booster stations.

What he found yesterday in the grating rack shocked him.

Two Chihuahuas, mouths taped shut with electrical tape, were caught on both the right and left sides of the metal grating, and half submerged in water.

"I started to pull some weeds, and I saw the dead one on the right first," he said. "Then I saw the other poor little dog on the left who was still alive, so I grabbed her and lifted her out of there."

He quickly removed the tape from the dog's mouth. "She gasped for air and then fell asleep in my arms," he said.

He quickly called County Animal Services for assistance. While waiting, he pulled the dead dog from the grating and gave water to the survivor

"She was thirsty and she liked that," Ehemann said. "She kept looking up at me and sighing. I put some rags down on the front seat of my truck and she fell asleep again until Animal Services came."

John Welsh, the public information officer with Animal Services, said to-day that Ehemann was the true hero of this sad tale of animal abuse.

"From our prospective, this dog wouldn't be alive today if it wasn't for this man," he said. "We would not have found it in time; we're not checking the canals every day. He's a hero in our eyes and a good soul."

Animal Services has already christened the dog "Nemo," and she will

be up for adoption at city hall from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Dec. 1, Welsh said. The event is called "Home for the Holidays Animal Adoption." Since yesterday, hundreds of calls from as far away as Iowa are pouring into the shelter to ask to take care of the gentle Chihuahua. To sift through the volume of those interested in taking Nemo home, Animal Services is organizing an essay contest.

Ehemann said it's hard to fathom this sort of cruelty.

"If you're moving or can't afford a pet, you take it to a shelter," he said. "Who would sink to do this? I can't get it out of my mind. If I had been there earlier, I keep thinking, I might have been able to save the other one. I wish I had been."

Meanwhile, the Department of Animal Services is accepting adoption applications and essays about why Nemo the Chihuahua should become their new family member. Essays should be 250 words or less and should include an official Department of Animal Services adoption application form (available at www.rcdas.org). The essays can be dropped off, mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the department. The mailing address is 5950 Wilderness Ave., Riverside, Calif. 92504 – but the mailed entries must be received by Saturday, Nov. 28. Entries can be dropped off, faxed or e-mailed by as late as 8 p.m, Sunday. The fax number is 951-358-7300 and the best e-mail is shelterinfo@co.riverside.ca.us This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it (e-mailers must put "CHI-HUAHUA OF THE CANAL ESSAY CONTEST" in the subject line).

For more news on Nemo, go to www.rcdas.org

How to Prevent a Toxic Holiday

By: Jessielee Coley

With the holidays creeping up on us, we must anticipate possible pet disasters! This winter season will be filled with shiny decorations, gifts, new recipes and family reunions all which require major planning. Though dealing with relative arrangements will keep you busy, it is crucial to consider particular accommodations for your furry friends. During these hectic times special precautions towards festive plants, holiday sweet treats and the visiting in-laws need to be taken to ensure the safety of your pets.

As the holidays emerge, so does the celebratory décor. Christmas trees, ornaments and poinsettias can be harmful if ingested by your pet. Christmas tree needles can be irritating to a pet's stomach and can lead to other health issues. Curious cats are attracted to shiny, bright ornaments hanging from trees and those pretty poinsettias are poisonous! If either of these objects were to be swallowed it can be detrimental to your pet's health. In order to assure your pets safety, strategically place decorations around the house so potential dangerous items will be out of reach. This year try setting up the Christmas tree and other plants on a high stand or table. While decorating the tree be sure to keep the ornaments and the glittery gifts out of jumping reach.

Many people wonder if giving dogs chocolate is harmful, unfortunately our beloved pets cannot give into the same cravings that we owners do. Even a small amount of chocolate can cause toxicity in dogs that can be fatal if left untreated. Theobromine is a chemical component found in chocolate which has a powerful poisonous effect on dogs because it cannot prop-



erly be broken down during digestion. Ingesting this toxin has effects on the central nervous system and can cause an increase in blood pressure as well as nausea and vomiting. These effects vary depending on the type of chocolate eaten and the size of the dog. If you suspect that your pet has consumed any source of chocolate, it is important to call your local veterinarian and induce vomiting immediately.

Family gatherings will cause your home to look and smell like a holiday wonderland, most likely overwhelming the senses of your pet. Unfamiliar relatives might frighten your pet, so it is important to make your furry friend feel calm amongst the chaos. Try setting up a bed for them in a secluded, quiet room and remember to give them the attention they need and deserve!

Proper preparations are essential to a successful holiday with family and friends (and pets too!) But don't forget that your pet would enjoy opening a present also! A good chewy toy or warm sweater will bring joy to your pet. Filling a stocking with their favorite, but healthy treats can be a fun way to make them feel involved during the festivities. Remember these simple preventative measures to guarantee a non toxic holiday season.



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VIRGINIA'S VIEWPOINT

by Virginia Harford

NOVEMBER CJUSD MEETING On November 5, 2009 a regular and public meeting of the Colton Joint Unified School District was held at the CJUSD student Services Center in the Board Room located at 851 S. Mt. Vernon Ave. in Colton, CA.

Three of the board members were absent but a quorum was present. Several areas of recognition were acted upon: students of excellence, teachers who fulfilled their duties with honor and aplomb. About 150 people attended. A closed session was held to deal with several subjects: student and personnel problems of discipline, a conference with legal counsel regarding anticipated litigation and a conference with a labor negotiator.

My interest rested in a small brochure that held several admonitions to the audience but only one stood out for me: We reprint it in its entirety.

Interruption of Board Meetings

In the event that any meeting is willfully interrupted by a group or groups of people so as to render the orderly conduct of such meeting unfeasible, and if order cannot be restored by removal of individuals who are willfully interrupting the meeting, the president of the Board, or whoever is conducting the meeting, may order the meeting room cleared and continue in session.

Those individuals not responsible for willfully disturbing the orderly conduct of the meeting may be immediately readmitted by the Superintendent or his representative. Only matters on the agenda will be considered in session.

Duly accredited representatives of the press or other news media, except those participating in the disturbance, shall be readmitted.

This statement smacks (to me) of the memory of the meeting held when many of us Grand Terrace residents were appalled that the board would not even listen when we wanted to object to the naming of Grand Terrace High School. **COUNTRY FAIR**

The annual celebration called the Country Fair was in early November and was a tremendous success. There was the usual cooking contests, book sale and numerous tables set up in front of the Lion's center on Barton Road at Vivienda with lots of fares for sale. It was colorful and several of the city's dignitaries were there including the mayor, Marietta Ferré and her husband Frank, Walt Stanckiewitz, council member. The Women's Club hamburger cookout was terrific. I even got the chef to cook me a hamburger rare! **NEW MANAGER AT CVS**

John Hendzel has been hired as the new manager for the Grand Terrace

CVS store. John has 20 years experience as a manager and worked at Circuit City. He is handsome, very wellgroomed and articulate. He answered several questions with courtesy and knowledge of the store and its merchandise.

GAGE SCHOOL

JoAnn Johnson, president of the Grand Terrace Seniors group invited about 20 of her colleagues with whom she worked as a teacher at Gage School to the senior center in Grand Terrace for lunch. A good time was had by all.

CORRECTION: Last month I mentioned one of the delightful and very attractive young women who works with Judy Wilson at the Blue Mt. Senior Villas but I misspelled her name. Her name is Monica Baribay.

I apologize Monica.

MERRY XMAS TO ALL AND TO ALLA GOOD NIGHT. FINIS

Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this article are the viewpoints of its author and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the "Highgrove Happenings"

OBITUARY

STEPHANIE MARIE BURTON Age 45, resident of Riverside, CA for 45 years, passed away due to complications of pneumonia, on November 9, 2009 at Riverside Community. Stephanie was born July 12, 1964 in Loma Linda, CA. She attended A.R.C. and special programs at Madison & Pachappa Elementary Schools. Stephanie is survived by her mother,

Priscilla Burton; brothers, Jack N. Burton II and Joseph M. Burton,

both of Riverside; sister, Valerie A. Martinez of Riverside; nephews, Justin J., Joseph M. Jr. and Andrew I. Burton; nieces, Korina B., Alexandria N. and Journi J. Burton: and

many aunts, uncles and cousins.

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Grand Terrace Not . . . for Seniors Only

by JoAnn Johnson

Elvis was in the house for our November program! This was a great fun program with an Elvis impersonator that goes by the name Silver G. If your organization would like a lively program, give me a call for contact infor-

Our December affair will be our traditional Pot Luck Breakfast at the special time of 9 o'clock and Sing Along with Betty O'Rourke at 10 o'clock. We will also be installing officers and board members for 2010. We are going to have a "Good Stuf Day" again on the day of our pro*gram.* The sale will be from 8:30 until 3:00 except that it will close during our program.

In January we are welcoming back Randall Buffam, with a motivational talk that will not bore you! This talk is entitled "The 7 Secrets of Friendship." Dana Carson had asked to bring refreshments for that day, so come and enjoy the morning with some old and new friends.

New and very important addition to our programs is HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program) on the 1st and 3rd Monday at 9 o'clock. HICAP does not endorse or recommend any specific Insurance product, but does show you all options, offers legal help and sees that you have all the facts before choosing medical insurance. Covers anyone on Medicare or Disability. You will need an appointment. Call 1-800-434-0222 and indicate you are looking for an appointment in Grand Terrace, or if you do not live in Grand Terrace, they may find a place closer to your home.

Lunch is served at 11:30 each day. The requested donation for those 60 and over is \$3.00 and the charge is \$5.00 for those under 60. We always celebrate birthdays on the third Wednesday with Birthday Cakes courtesy Emeritus Assisted Living. The Grand Terrace Senior Center is located at 22627 Grand Terrace Road, just off Mt. Vernon at the north end of the city.

Some of our regular activities are: Wii GAMES AND POOL EVERY DAY **EXERCISES MON. WED. FRI 8:30AM** 1st/3rd MONDAY at 9:00 AM HICAP **CRAFTS TUESDAYS 9:00 AM** ALL CARDS **TUESDAYS 12:45 PM** ART WEDNESDAYS 9:00 AM **GUITAR** WEDNESDAYS 12:30 PM **GAMES** WEDNESDAYS 6:00 PM PENNYBINGO THURSDAYS 1:00 PM **BUNCO** THURSDAYS 6:45 PM GARDEN CLUB 3rd FRIDAY 10:00 AM NEEDLEWORK 1st /3rd FRIDAY 9:00 AM BOOK CLUB 1st FRIDAY 12:30 PM GENERALMEETING

2ND FRIDAY 9:30 AM GAME NIGHT 2ND SATURDAY 6:30 PM Come and participate in these fine programs for our local seniors.

Continued from page 6

the excessive heat as an excuse I politely declined. I wasn't comfortable with the thought of a power razor close to my jugular even on a good day. Thomas argued that with the electric clippers it would be a fast cut. Not convinced I refused again on account of the oppressive heat. Un fazed by my arguments he offered to cool me down with water first. By the way, he was keeping cool by sipping a can of beer. Before I could come up with another argument he convinced me to sit in the service tub in our living area of our barrack. I had never thought about cooling down this way so I soon found myself sitting in the square deep sink, stripped to my shorts while he filled the tub with cool water and all in all it was pleasant just sitting there while he proceeded to comb and clip with the electric clippers. I remember the hair falling into water around me in this old precast concrete tub next to the front door of the barracks room which served as our living and bedroom. I also remember the fabric insulated cord running from the wall outlet across my wet shoulders.

All in all it was as relaxing experience compared to the usual fidgety and sweaty hair cuts to be had at Devils Den. I believe it would have caught on for the adults there too if Thomas could have found an extension cord that reached all the way out to the water hole next to the ground water pump at the

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edge of Devils Den.

That big pagan god had to be looking over us there at least some of the time in those years. By the way, I became a minor celebrity in the camp for having one of the first electric haircuts. I remember Thomas pointing out to the other prospective customers my un nicked ears and the overall symmetrical shape of the hair line, even if my curly hair was not really suited to hair cuts in general. Once dry, the nice shape and lines disappeared into a wavy mop on top of my skinned lower skull. You know, even to this day I am not a big fan of barbers unless they know some good jokes and I am just as comfortable with hair over my ears unless we are going out somewhere nice and my wife insists I get a cut. The whole topic of hair cuts would bore me were it not for my childhood water cooled electric hair cut.

Grand Terrace selects new city manager

Betsy M. Adams has been selected as the new city manager for the city of Grand Terrace.

Betsy was formerly the assistant city manager and acting city manager in Moreno Valley and has worked for the city of Moreno Valley for 19 years.

She will start her new job on Dec.1, 2009. Congratulations to Betsy. We look foreward to working with her as we have with her predacessors.





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Semi trucks and trailers parking on Center St.



The Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council is concerned that semi trucks are parking near the Highgrove Elementary School and Library on Center Street. The safety for our elementary school children is our number one priority and this practice must be stopped! Some of these tractors and trailers are coming from Moreno Valley and are often parked overnight on both sides.



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Call 888-382-1222 and register your cell phone and home phone for no solicitor calls. Cell phone numbers will be public information.

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start to receive sales calls..... YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS To prevent this, call the following num ber from your cell phone: 888-382-1222. It is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will only take a minute of your time. It blocks your number for five (5) years. You must call from the cell phone number you want to have blocked. You cannot call from a different phone number. HELP OTHERS BY PASSING THIS ON. It takes about 20 seconds. If after 30 days you are still receiving non solicitated call you can file a complaint by going to https:// www.donotcall.gov/ But you must have the name of the company that calls you.

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Real Estate statistics for NOVEMBER 2009

New Properties Sold in HIGHGROVE AND SURROUNDING AREAS in NOVEMBER:

ADDRESS	BR	BA	<u>YR</u>	SQ.FT	PRICE	DATE
610 Flynn Street	3	2	n/a	1,430	\$145,000	11/09
635 Flynn Street	3	2	1959	1,291	\$153,000	11/20

MONTHLY TRENDS:

Properties SOLD in HIGHGROVE in OCTOBER: 5 Properties SOLD in HIGHGROVE in SEPTEMBER: 4

Properties SOLD in HIGHGROVE in AUGUST: 4

Properties SOLD in HIGHGROVE in JULY: 1

Properties SOLD in HIGHGROVE in JUNE: 5

Properties SOLD in HIGHGROVE in MAY: 2

Properties SOLD in HIGHGROVE in APRIL: 6 Properties SOLD in HIGHGROVE in MARCH: 4

Properties SOLD in HIGHGROVE in FEBRUARY: 2

Properties SOLD in HIGHGROVE in JANUARY: 3

As of 11/2009 # of Homes Total properties available for sale: Total properties pending a sale in escrow: 10 Total Properties sold YTD:

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The first child 12 or under to turn in the correct answer to the above puzzle will win a prize and get their picture in next months paper. (You can only win once) Take your completed puzzle to the Norton Younglove Community Center 459 Center Street during their regular business hours. Good Luck!

MASSACHUSETTS

NAME:
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GRADE:
TEACHER:

This months winner of the word search puzzel was Craig Hernandez, age 8. Craig is the son of Manny & Vivian Hernandez and the younger brother of the winner last month. He is home-schooled by his mother. Thank you Craig for the words for this month's puzzle.





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Keep in touch: Send us your e-mail addresses to help us keep you informed of activities and projects that effect our community. Send your address to:

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Highgrove T-Shirt prices reduced! (See P.3)

Notice: We have some Highgrove T-Shirts in various sizes that have just been printed. They have the Highgrove logo on the front and a picture of a 1916 "Highgrove Brand" orange crate label showing Sugarloaf with an orange grove at it's base. It states: Grown and Packed in Highgrove by Sugarloaf Orange Growers Ass'n Highgrove. Call (951) 683 4994

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Sunday Worship:

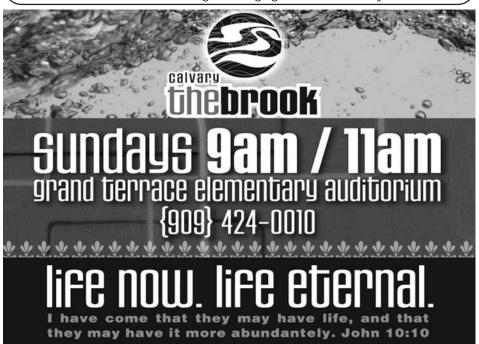
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul Kim

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> Sister Deanna O'Neill, OSB, Pastoral Coordinator Parish Office 909-783-3811 fax 909-783-4689

Heritage Bible Church

(Meets at the United Methodist Church)



Pastor Kris Stephens Sunday School meets at 10:15 am in the house behind the church building. Morning Worship Service is at 11:20 am. Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting is at 7 pm Phone (951) 870-0771

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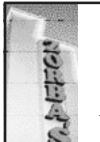
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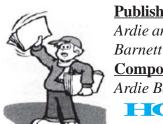


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Virginia Harford

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