

San Dieguito student organizes display of kindness

District now investigating human swastika formation that occurred in May

By Karen Billing
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San Dieguito Academy students responded to a hateful, antisemitic incident on campus with their own message of unity and compassion.

San Dieguito Union High School District administration said they learned just last month that on May 30, a group of eight students created a human formation of a swastika on the school athletic field, timed to the flyover of a Jewish San Dieguito student with his flying instructor. The student saw the hateful image and captured a photo from above.

After hearing recently about what happened in the spring, SDA senior Jonah Lupien, an ASB leader and student representative on the SDUHSD board, organized a demonstration bringing together hundreds of students, teachers and staff to form the shape of the heart on the field on Sept. 25. He hoped the display would show that “the San Dieguito Academy will not stand for hate and that kindness, compassion, and belonging define who we are.”

“In the past few weeks, we have seen within our school what we often see within our nation. We have seen the breakdown of dialogue, the spreading of hate, and a division of community,” Jonah said in a news release. “I realized that as a member of this community, I have a responsibility to enact the change I want to see.”

The antisemitic incident was brought to light by the student’s parent Larry Gordon, during public comment at the Sept. 11 board meeting. He said while the hate crime was incredibly upsetting to his



San Dieguito Academy students and staff formed the shape of a heart on campus in response to a hate crime that occurred in the spring when students were photographed forming a human swastika. **EDWIN MENDOZA**

son, the greater hate crime was the “crime of silence” in the school’s delay to promptly report the incident to law enforcement and by not disciplining the students involved.

“By failing to act, this district turned a student act of hate into an institutional act of racism,” Gordon

said.

Superintendent Anne Staffieri sent a message to the entire district community on Sept. 18 denouncing the “shocking and appalling” act and reiterating the district’s support for the student who witnessed the hateful symbol and support for the

safety of the Jewish community and all students on campus.

According to Staffieri, while the student’s family reported the incident to the San Dieguito Academy administration in May, unfortunately, it was not brought to the attention of the district administra-

tors until late last month — “a clear and unacceptable breakdown in communication between the school and the district.”

“Once I became aware of the image, we took action to work

See **KINDNESS** on Page A6



The iconic Encinitas city sign in downtown Encinitas. **ALISON BILLING**

Encinitas council rescinds, then reaffirms most of August’s ICE response actions

The move comes in response to an allegation that the council’s previous ‘emergency’ actions violated state public meeting law

By Barbara Henry
FOR THE UNION-TRIBUNE

On the advice of its attorney, the Encinitas City Council voted late Wednesday night, Sept. 17, to rescind the “emergency” actions it took in August in response to federal immigration agents’ arrest of a father near an elementary school.

Shortly after making the decision to rescind, the council then reaffirmed most of its Aug. 20 decisions, including starting a “know your rights” program and sending letters to federal officials expressing concern about U.S. Immigration &

Customs Enforcement agents using “fear-inducing tactics” when arresting immigrants in the U.S. without authorization.

Council members also added a new item calling for the city to pursue a memorandum of understanding with federal officials that would give the city some advance notice of ICE activities, plus some information afterward about who was arrested, what the charges were and where the person had been taken.

The two unanimous votes on Sept. 17 came in response to “cure and correct” letters sent by J. Garvin Walsh, a Cardiff resident who serves on the Republican Party of San Diego County’s Central Committee. In his letters, Walsh wrote that he believes the council’s Aug.

See **ICE** on Page A6

No shortage of need, area social service officials tell Encinitas council

Organizations provide annual assessment of meals served, food donated, housing services provided

By Barbara Henry

Encinitas may feel like a wealthy community, but there are many needy people in town, particularly older adults, social service leaders told the City Council on Wednesday night, Sept. 24.

Officials from three organizations that received money from the city’s Community Development Block Grant program during the 2024-25 fiscal year gave assessments to the council on how that money was spent, detailing the number of meals provided, housing assistance offered and fresh produce delivered.

John Van Cleef, CEO of the Community Resource Center, told the council that his nonprofit organization initially forecast it would serve 415 Encinitas residents with its most recent round of grant funding. But, he said, the actual figure turned out to be much higher — 687 people in total.

He added that 41% of them were age 55 or older, an increase of 5% from the prior year.

A typical CRC client, Van Cleef said, was a mother with three children who was leaving an abusive relationship and needed both housing and food assistance. The vast majority of the people — 550 out of the 687 clients — had hous-



The downtown Encinitas city sign. **U-T FILE**

ing at the time they sought help from CRC, he added, noting that council members have previously asked how many homeless people are getting services from CRC programs.

CRC received \$28,118 from the city’s federally funded block grant program, plus \$1,882 in supplemental city funding, for its homeless intervention and prevention program during the most recent grant cycle period.

Christine Spencer, director of grants and impact at Coastal Roots Farm, said her Encinitas-based farm program helped 33,000 “food-insecure” people in San Diego County during the recent grant cycle period.

Thirty-five seniors who live in Encinitas received eggs, herbs

and produce delivered to their doors through the farm program, Spencer said, adding that the organic items were highly prized by seniors. The farm program received a \$5,000 grant from the city.

Meals on Wheels, which received \$10,000 in grant money, assisted 63 Encinitas seniors and distributed a total of 7,000 home-delivered meals during the past year, said Helen Lopez, associate director of the program’s North County Service Center.

“We are much more than a meal,” Lopez stressed, noting that the volunteer meal delivery people also check on seniors’ physical and mental health while they are in the

See **HOUSING** on Page A7

MULTIMEDIA CLASSES & CAMPS!

EUSD FALL BREAK CAMP: OCT 20-24, 9a-3p
RECORDING STUDIO: OCT 23, 2-4p // DEC 17, 5-7p
LOGIC PRO UNLOCKED: NOV 4-DEC 9, 10a-12p
MIXING IN LOGIC PRO: NOV 4-DEC 9, 4-7p
HARMONY 101: NOV 5-DEC 10, 2:45-4:45p
INTRO TO RECORDING: NOV 6-DEC 11, 10a-12p
ELECTRONIC MUSIC: NOV 6-DEC 11, 12:30-2:30P
PV SESSIONS: THURSDAYS, 6-7:30p
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SCAN FOR INFO



NC Rep Theatre presents ‘Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground’

North Coast Repertory Theater will present “Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground” from Wednesday, Oct. 22 through Sunday, Nov. 16. (Previews start Oct. 22, opens Oct. 25. A talkback session with the director and cast is scheduled for Oct. 31.) Experience the intimate, gripping portrayal of America’s esteemed World War II General and 34th President, Dwight Eisenhower, as he grapples with the most consequential decisions of his remarkable life. Tony Award winner John Rubinstein transports audiences

to Gettysburg’s hallowed ground, where an elderly Eisenhower reflects on his monumental military leadership and transformative presidency. The production is an uplifting evening of theatre that is both educational and humorous from beginning to end, according to a news release. North Coast Rep is located at 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach. For tickets and more information, call 858-481-1055, or visit www.northcoastrep.org.



Tony Award winner John Rubinstein Photo by Maria Baranova

Local and regional events in and around Encinitas

ST. ANDREW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH TO PRESENT FILM SERIES ABOUT SOLVING HOMELESSNESS

“Until we’re all Home”, a film series about solving homelessness is being held in October, sponsored by Faith in Action, an advocacy and education ministry of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Encinitas. The events will be held on Sunday, Oct. 19, from 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 26, from 2 p.m.-4:30 p.m. at Encinitas Community and Senior Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Dr., Encinitas.

- Featuring videos from Community Solutions, a national organization that works to create a lasting end to homelessness that leaves no one behind, and envisions a more equitable society where homelessness is never inevitable, inescapable, or a way of life.
- Presentation of “Functional Zero” homelessness in a SoCal beach community
- Followed by Q & A with a panel of local experts on the subject

12TH ANNUAL ENCINITAS DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS (DAY OF THE DEAD) CELEBRATION

The 12th Annual Encinitas Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebration will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 12 p.m.—4 p.m. at MiraCosta College, San Elijo Campus (3333 Manchester Ave.). The event will include live music, dance performances, art workshops, a community altar, delicious food, and family-friendly activities honoring this cultural tradition, and more. Admission is free — all are welcome. Visit encinitasarts.org for more information.

EXHIBIT FEATURES BASKET AND GOURD ART

The Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild hosts an art show, “Nature’s Bounty,” through Nov. 2 at the Encinitas Community Center, 140 Oakcrest Park Drive. The 32 basket and gourd artworks by 14 artists are made from nature, out of materials ranging from willow, grasses and yucca to rushes. Some art is for sale; the exhibit opened in early September. Visitors can view the exhibit during the Community Center’s operating hours, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Call 760-943-

2260. An “Art Night” reception will be held at the Community Center on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

MINI-DOCUMENTARY FEATURES SEVERAL LOCAL SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES

A screening of “Threads Between Us,” a mini documentary, is from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 5 at Coastal Roots Farm. The documentary is about how Goodwill Industries of San Diego County, Dr. Bronner’s and Jimbo’s are changing their industries through sustainable practices. The event, which is part of San Diego Climate Week, includes the film premiere, live music and networking with sustainable businesses. Free. Register at thethreadsbetweenus.com. The farm is at 441 Saxony Road.

FREE JAZZ CONCERT

The Friends of the Encinitas Library presents a free community concert with the Allison Adams Tucker Retro Quintet from 2 to 3 p.m. Oct. 5 at 540 Cornish Drive. A multi-lingual jazz vocalist, composer and recording artist, Tucker celebrates her latest album, “RETRO Trilogy,” with Danny Green on piano/keys, Justin Grinnell, bass; Duncan Moore, drums; and Peter Sprague, guitars. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Visit www.encinitaslibfriends.org.

SORELLE SAN DIEGO’S UPCOMING FALL CONCERT EXPLORES FOLK TALES ABOUT WOMEN

Women’s chamber chorus Sorelle San Diego will present Folk Tales, a fall concert on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 4 p.m. at San Dieguito United Methodist Church, 170 Calle Magdalena, Encinitas. Directed by Michelle Risling and accompanied by Anna Juliar, Sorelle will perform compelling choral works that examine the Maiden, Mother and Crone, each symbolizing a distinct stage of women’s lives across cultures, according to a news release. “Song selections uncover feminine archetypes in folklore. These include The Maiden, representative of youthful joy; The Witch, a powerful, feared and magical figure; and The Crone, often a source of knowledge and spiritual understanding,” described Michelle Risling, conductor, in the news release. “Our repertoire

explores cultural identities through generations, providing insights into the phases of women’s lives and societal beliefs across cultures.” Tickets: Suggested donation \$20/\$10 student. Visit www.SorelleSanDiego.com for more information.

NORTH COAST SYMPHONY PRESENTS ECHOES THROUGH TIME

Join the North Coast Symphony for Echoes Through Time, a concert of timeless classics and contemporary works, on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 2:30 p.m. at the San Dieguito United Methodist Church, 170 Calle Magdalena, Encinitas. The program includes Copland’s uplifting Fanfare for the Common Man, Mendelssohn’s dramatic Reformation Symphony. Gershwin’s beloved Rhapsody in Blue with pianist Phillip Dannels, and Jose Elizondo’s vibrant Estampas Mexicanas. The program also includes Ching-Shan Chang’s reflective piece In History, In Memory. Admission: \$18 general, \$15 seniors/students/military, free for children 18 and under. For more information, visit www.northcoast-symphony.com.

CITY TACOS OFFERS COMBO DEAL FOR NATIONAL TACO DAY

Encinitas’ City Tacos location will celebrate National Taco Day on Tuesday, Oct. 7 with a combo for two for \$30 that includes any four tacos and two Mexican bottled beers. For \$2 more, guests may order two beers on draft and add an order of churros. All paying guests on National Taco Day can spin a promotional wheel to earn prizes for their next visit to The Lumberyard taqueria. City Tacos offers more than 20 tacos on its menu, including options for vegetarians and vegans. City Tacos is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on National Taco Day, 1031 S Coast Highway. citytacossd.com

SAN DIEGO FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTATION AT LA PALOMA THEATRE

San Diego Italian Film Festival presents “Gospel According to Maria (Vangelo secondo Maria), 2023” on Thursday Oct. 16, 7 p.m. La Paloma Theatre. Maria is a girl from Nazareth, who has the same love for the stories in the

Bible that Don Quixote has for adventure stories. As a female she is not allowed to do anything, not even learn to read and write. But, from the audacity of the prophets, who demand explanations from God, she learns disobedience. She dreams of freedom, knowledge, adventure, and escape. And she rebels. Joseph is her teacher and accomplice, a charming and powerful man, very different from the hunched old fellow of the holy paintings. In Italian and Sardinian with English subtitles. Tickets \$16 (\$12 SDIFF members, \$7 students) available online and at the box office (cash only). www.sandiegoitalian-filmfestival.com, La Paloma Theatre, 471 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas.

TASTE OF CARLSBAD

Taste of Carlsbad Village, featuring more than 25 local restaurants and a dozen craft breweries, wineries and specialty beverage makers, is from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 9 in downtown Carlsbad. Local musicians will perform live entertainment. Early ticket purchase recommended; limited to 1,000 tickets. Visit <https://www.carlsbad-village.com/>

LAGOON KAYAKING AND CLEANUP

The Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation holds its 19th Annual Kayak Fundraiser & Cleanup Oct. 11-12. Participants can kayak in waters typically closed to boating and help preserve the lagoon habitat by removing trash. The cost is \$160 per two-person tandem kayak. This two-hour experience includes check-in, personal flotation device, water safety instructions and about 90 minutes kayaking in the ecological reserve. Check-in times for Saturday are 7:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., noon and 2:15 p.m. Check-in times for Sunday are 8 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Visit www.batiquitoslagoon.org.

LA JOLLA ART & WINE FESTIVAL

The La Jolla Art & Wine Festival is set for Oct. 11-12 on Girard Avenue and will spotlight Gregg “Viz” Visintainer as its 2025 featured artist. Admission is free but there is a ticketed Wine & Beer Garden. Visit ljawf.com.

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ANSWERS FOR 09/19/2025

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ANSWERS FOR 09/19/2025

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 "Frozen" character

5 Droop

8 Aspiring atty.'s exam

12 Former Italian money

13 — Beta Kappa

14 Off-roaders, for short

15 Grand tale

16 Trail the pack

17 Clench

18 Garden pavilion

20 "Reckon so"

22 Asian holiday

23 Busy insect

24 Dick Tracy's love

27 Russian horse-men

32 "Breaking Bad" network

33 Ad —

34 Smack

35 Seller

38 Ballyhoo

39 Put on TV

40 Ecol. watch-dog

42 Oscar contenders

45 Roast hosts

49 Salt formula

50 PC key

52 Hardy cabbage

53 Fed. workplace monitor

54 Fan's cry

55 Wicked

56 Unfavorable votes

57 Journalist

58 Coral formation

DOWN

1 Couturier

2 "Break My Heart" singer

3 Calif. neighbor

4 Diamond sides

5 Mottled

6 "Caught ya!"

7 Leslie Caron role

8 California's — Beach

9 Spandex-like

10 Rara —

11 Recipe amts.

19 Exist

21 Petrol

24 Light touch

25 Big bird of Australia

26 Sore, as a throat

28 Odometer start

29 Like some owls

30 Half a ton

31 Fr. holy woman

36 Orchestral strings

37 Goof up

38 Website invader

41 Downing Street VIP

42 Shortly

43 Juanita's home

44 Belgrade resident

46 Roof edge

47 Writer Wiesel

48 Ego

51 Pitcher Maglie