

# LOCAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2006 • (LC)

NORTH COUNTY TIMES **B**

## NOTES & QUOTES County, nonprofit to provide ballfield

San Diego County is teaming with the Miracle League of San Diego to provide the first ballfield in Southern California designed to provide recreational opportunities for children with special needs.



**TOM MORROW**

This week, the Board of Supervisors accepted a \$300,000 donation from the Miracle League of San Diego to complete funding for the construction of the Miracle Field project at San Dieguito County Park in Encinitas. Last year, board Chairman Bill Horn allocated \$100,000 from his 5th District discretionary Community Projects Fund to add to the \$805,000 allocated by the county for the \$1.2 million project. The Miracle League's donation completes the needed funding. "One of the best ways we serve the public is to provide recreational opportunities for all children throughout the county to live healthier lives and develop positive behaviors," Horn said. "In doing so, we continue the county's commitment to building safe and livable communities and providing healthy opportunities for children. The Miracle League gets everyone in the game."

The San Dieguito Miracle Field will be the result of a successful public-nonprofit partnership between the county and the Miracle League.

"Making this donation to the county is a major milestone for the Miracle League of San Diego," said Suzie Engel, president and founder of the league. "We've been working together for more than a year to raise the necessary funds to begin construction. We're excited to now focus on getting children with disabilities playing baseball on their own safe field."

Children with special needs aren't the only ones who will benefit from the new field and programs. The Miracle League also will offer a "buddy" program that partners youth volunteers with players, providing assistance and encouragement.

For more about the project, go online to [sdsparks.org](http://sdsparks.org). For more on the Miracle League, go online to [miracleleagueofsandiego.org](http://miracleleagueofsandiego.org).

**O'SIDE GIFTS** — When looking for unique Christmas ideas for friends and family back East, don't overlook the possibilities of giving a memento gift of Oceanside or SoCal from the array of memorabilia at the California Welcome Center in Oceanside.

"Whether you're staying local this holiday season or heading east to visit friends and family, celebrate our endearing spirit by giving them a piece of California culture," says Leslee Gaul, director of tourism at the Oceanside Center. "Historically, California has always been the trendsetter for the rest of the country. ... The center is an ideal source for California gifts and quality apparel."

The Welcome Center is operated by the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce.

Notes for **Tom Morrow** can be sent to [tmorrow@nctimes.com](mailto:tmorrow@nctimes.com).

## Volunteering is a given at Carlsbad school

### Parent-run programs abound at Pacific Rim Elementary

**Editor's note:** This article is part of a weekly series that looks at the distinctive qualities of each school in the Carlsbad Unified School District.

**PHILIP K. IRELAND**  
STAFF WRITER

CARLSBAD — A (hyper)active volunteer program at Pacific Rim Elementary School is one way the school contributes

to student growth and community involvement.

"As long as it's not illegal and it doesn't cost me, I'm all for it," said Principal Steve Ahle of his school's wide-ranging parent-run programs. "Volunteers are a huge aspect of what we do here."

Reading aides, equipment

assemblers, tutors, playground supervisors, promotion assemblies — all are primarily financed with donations and operated by volunteers, Ahle said. The Spring Carnival, the Jogathon, Surfing Safari Readers and The Dads' Club are

► **SCHOOL, B-8**

**Parent volunteer Karen Gee works with first-graders Josiah Cruz and Macy Eaton earlier this month at Pacific Rim Elementary School in Carlsbad, where her daughter goes to school. (BILL WECHTER / NCT)**



## GOING TO THE WALL



**HAYNB PALMOUR IV / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

### A new habitat for Montessori school in Carlsbad

Montessori Arts and Sciences student Finn Chow, 9, right, and his younger brother, Reece, 5, stand near the new glass tile mosaic titled 'California Habitat' as fellow student Ava Walker, 7, runs by. The school hosted a dedication Friday at its Carlsbad campus for the mosaic, which depicts California indigenous animal and plant species.

## Escondido high schools create a road map for improvements

### Greater focus on literacy, use of technology are top goals for 2006-07

**PAUL EAKINS**  
STAFF WRITER

ESCONDIDO — The city's high schools want a greater focus on literacy and plan to use more technology in the classroom, among other goals they have outlined in their annual school site plans.

The plans for San Pasqual, Escondido and Center City high schools were approved this week by the board of the Escondido Union High School District. They will guide the

schools' administrators and district officials for the 2006-07 school year and beyond, officials said.

The documents, which range from approximately 40 pages to almost 70, show what the schools hope to achieve and how state money, called categorical funds — targeted for specific programs and uses — will be used at each campus. Through the collaboration of a council of teachers, nonteaching employees, students, parents and school administrators, each school creates its plan in-

tended to raise the academic achievement of students.

The school site councils use student achievement data and results from the schools' accreditation process with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges to formulate the plans.

"They look at their data, and based on what their achievement results show, they use their funds to target the areas that need the most support," Assistant Superintendent Karen Rizzi said this week.

► **MAP, B-8**

## Students mobilize at food drive for Pendleton families

### At Carrillo Elementary School, more than 5,000 items are donated

**BRENDA DURAN**  
STAFF WRITER

CARLSBAD — Students at Carrillo Elementary showed their appreciation to the men and women serving in the armed forces Friday by giving more than 5,000 food items to families stationed at Camp Pendleton.

A cheerful crowd of more than 700 children and dozens of parents welcomed eight Marines as they drove onto the elementary school campus, which is part of the San Marcos Unified School District. The Marines, one dressed as Santa Claus, arrived during the flag salute in a 7-ton armored truck followed by a Humvee.



**J. KAT WORONOWICZ / FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES**  
Cpl. Kenneth Sanger collects boxes of cookies from third-grader Delaney McBride, 8, on Friday at Carrillo Elementary School. The Carrillo Kids Care Club baked and decorated 200 cookies for Camp Pendleton families.

The food drive has been part of the school's holiday traditions for the last eight years and has become its highlight before winter break, said Dar Teague, who works in food services at the school and helped coordinate the event.

"They (the Marines) are out there protecting

► **FOOD, B-8**

## Judge's ruling lets VUSD use bond funds

### Suit tried to prevent Prop. O money from being used on magnet schools

**STACY BRANDT**  
STAFF WRITER

VISTA — A judge Friday denied a motion that could have tied up some of the money that the Vista Unified School District plans to spend on its controversial magnet high school campus in eastern Oceanside.

Judge Michael Orfield's ruling rejected a request from two Oceanside homeowners that would have forbidden the district from spending more money from Proposition O — the \$140 million bond measure passed by voters in 2002 — until a final decision is reached in the suit.

"What this means is that the school district can continue to spend the money necessary to build the high schools that the students need," said Kenneth Klein, a lawyer representing the district.

The lawsuit, filed by Jerry and Ann McLeod, accuses the district of misusing bond money by not building all of the schools that were promised in the measure, including two kindergarten through eighth-grade campuses.

District officials and lawyers have denied wrongdoing and said the lawsuit is simply an attempt to stop construction of the two magnet high schools at Highway 76 and Melrose Drive, near the McLeods' home.

The trial is scheduled to begin Feb. 9.

In Friday's motion, the McLeods asked to freeze the spending of any bond money that should have been spent on the canceled campuses.

"I don't think you necessarily have to return the money to the taxpayers," said Everett DeLano, the lawyer representing the McLeods. "Just don't encumber it."

► **RULING, B-8**

## Residents support merchant's display of storefront Santa

### Vista store owner receives \$200 fine from city with threats of a stiffer one

**SHAYNA CHABNER**  
STAFF WRITER

VISTA — Dozens of North County residents have offered their help to a merchant who is in a standoff with the city over a 7-foot-tall inflatable Santa outside his store that city officials have said violates city codes.

On Friday, the shop owner, Gary Wayman, said he received a second citation from the city, this time for \$200, along with a notice that the fine would increase to \$500 if the decorations did not come down by Monday.

The holiday display, which includes a balloon Santa riding a motorcycle and a stereo playing traditional Christmas songs, has been on the balcony above the entrance of the Postal Centre of Vista, 993 S. Santa Fe Ave., for weeks.

After receiving a complaint about the display

► **DISPLAY, B-8**

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TODAY'S LOCAL EDITION

**Turnover on airport board**  
Five are sworn in, one resigns from county's regional airport authority. See Page B-3.

**Gang members convicted**  
Two gang members are convicted of first-degree murder for killing a teen in Oceanside. See Page B-3.



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