Local 8 Sunday, Oct. 30, 2016

FROM THE COVER | REGION

The Press-Enterprise

BLOGS

Valley Lake. "It's totally worth the drive once you get here."

get here."

DenOuden, who writes
about healthy travel and
being active, admitted she
had low expectations for
the community, but she
was pleased to find hising
and biking trails.
The visit Oct. 19-22 was
the bloggers' second. A
third is planned around
the Ramona Pageant in
April.

the Ramona Pageant in April.

Trips are made at no cost to the city. The bloggers paid their travel expenses, and merchants and restaurants picked up the costs for lodging and food.

The bloggers had to apply for the trip and were picked based on the size of their readership. The only requirement was that they write at least two articles.

But there are no barriers on what they write. Although the tour doesn't include the more unsavory

though the tour doesn't in-clude the more unsavory parts of the community, the bloggers can be honest about their experiences. "I just want authentic experiences and reviews," said Leslie McLellan, who

organized the event.



Bloggers end their tour of Hemet's Western Science Center, one of many locales they visited.

Travel and food blogger Deb Thompson of Michi-gan said if she isn't honest, tively market their tourist locales like Old Town Te-mecula, the Temecula Valmecula, the Temecula Val-ley Wine Country and the Mission Inn.

The San Jacinto Valley has limited experience in the field. The impetus for these trips started when Lake Arrowhead-based McLellan met Thompson stage of the property of the conference

Deb Thompson of Michigan said if she isn't honest, she will lose readers, and she and the other bloggers depend on a large audience so they can sell advertisements on their sites.

Bringing in travel writers is nothing new for communities like Temecula and Riverside, which ac-

la and Riverside, which ac-

McLellan, who is paid by Hemet as a tourism consultant, invited Thompson to the area. That ended up being a five-week trip, and Thompson has been back three times since.

Thompson said she touts the valley's weather and affordability.

"The cost of visiting this

"The cost of visiting this region of Southern Califor-

nia is very reasonable," she said. "My dollars are going to go a lot farther." She spoke of Hemet be-ing a hub, as it's located about an hour from many popular attractions includ-ing the beach, the moun-tains, Palm Springs, San Diego and Los Angeles. And there's another plus, bloggers say. plus, bloggers say.

"People are always sur-prised how warm and car-ing the community is," Thompson said. "The peo-ple always draw me back."

ple always draw me back."
Hemet City Councilwoman Linda Krupa is a
member of a loose-knit
tourism committee with
McLellan, San Jacinto
Mayor Andrew Kotyuk,
former Hemet Councilwoman Lori VanArsdale and
Hemet-San Jacinto Valley
Chamber of Commerce
President Michael Carle.
Krupa said havins the

Chamber of Commerce President Michael Carle.
Krupa said having the bloggers spread the word about the area results in increased tourism.

The commerce of the word was a single spread to the word was said there is an ecdotal evidence that people have visited the community after reading travel blogs as the city has increased its efforts to market itself on social media and through the website visitsanjacinto valley.com.

"People say there's no return on investment when you do social media; that's not true," McLellan said. "There was about \$65,000 the commerce of the website visits and said."

"There was about \$65,000 worth of publicity the last time."

CONTACT THE WRITER: 951-368-9086 or cshultz@scng.com

SCHOOL

said Dayanerra Rodriguez, a 14-year-old freshman. "There's no person here who doesn't have a friend. You always feel included."

SENSE OF RESPECT

'SENSE OF RESPECT'
Principal Matthew
Luttringer, who went to
Notre Dame, said the
school's identity goes
beyond its crucifixes, statues, religious services and
theology classes.
"When you come on to
our campus and take away
everything that's Catholic,
you would still know we're

everything that's Catholic, you would still know we're a Catholic school by the way the kids treat each other and treat the teachers," Luttringer said. "There's a sense of respect, a sense of pride, giving of each other and giving to the community."

ity."

Notre Dame opened in
September 1956 as an allboys school with 15 freshboys school with 15 freshmen taught by priests who lived in the rectory that is now the administration office. Over the years, the campus doubled from two to four classroom buildings, along with the addition of a library and a gym. It became a co-ed campus in 1972.



at a conference.

Enrollment fell about 20

Errollment fell about 20 percent during the Great Recession. Since then it Recession. Since then it Recession was a since the since the

blets replaced textbooks. for struggling students to saving students money and expanding learning, he said.

The school is moving to a classroom environment

classroom environment that blends online and trathat blends online and tra-ditional lessons. A block schedule allows 85-minute class periods four days a week, providing time for lectures, individualized in-struction and group pro-jects, Luttringer said. Notre Dame has class sizes of 18 students per teacher, making it easier

for struggling students to get help.

"It's a small-school envi-ronment, so you don't have to worry about not getting enough attention from the teacher," said David Puma, a IT-year-old senior who plays basketball and runs track and cross country.

ACADEMIES INTRODUCED

This year, the school be-gan offering four acade-mies: medical sciences; arts and innovation; global

IFERNO 195215 (1:20,410,700,10:10 ACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK

PERRIS IO

TOWNGATE CINEMAS &

acts \$2.50 Before 6pm, \$3.50 After 6 3D Surcharge \$2 \$1 EISENBERG HOT DOGS* \$1.50 Sundays, All 2D Films, All Day (WITCH × 9:00, 10:00 | Minks Ast (2:35, 4:36, 7:15, 9:35, \$at 8 See (1)

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i, 7:05 (1:00, 3:25, 5:50), 8:15 12:50, 3:00, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

Ĥ AROUT THE SCHOOL

Brochro Witon &

Name: Notre Dame High Opened: 1956 Principal: Matthew Luttr-

Principal: Matthew Luttr-inger
Enrollment: 505 students
Tution: \$7,500 a year
Details: Catholic campus
offers 28 Advanced Place-ment and honors courses, is
athletic teams and at least
14 clubs; 100 percent of
students graduate and 96
percent attend a four-year
university

university Address: 7085 Brockton Ave., Riverside Phone: 951-275-5896 Website:

notredameriverside.org

citizenship; and science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Biology students recent-ly took a trip to the UC Riverside genetics lab, where they learned about DNA sequencing, Beatty said.

"The idea is to parallel our classroom content with experiences that bring that content to life,"

when the content to life, he said.

One of Luttringer's goals is to make Notre Dame, which has annual tuition of \$7,500, affordable for more families. About 1 in 5 students receives financial aid, he said.

"Every Catholic child in this city should have the opportunity to go to a Catholic high school if they want," he said. "I would like to see it so it's funded from others and not just the parents."

The school is increasing marketing efforts and hopes to get additional fa

The school is increasing marketing efforts and hopes to get additional financial support to build enrollment and expand its presence in the community, Luttringer said.

Mariella Gallegos, a 17pagradd senior appression

Mariella Gallegos, a Tryear-old senior, appreciates the sacrifice her parents make to send her to Notre Dame.

"I feel like I've grown more as a person and as a student to be ready for the future that comes after high school," said Gallegos, who plans to study immigration law in college.

CONTACT THE WRITER: 951-368-9292 or stwall@scng.com Twitter: @pe_swall



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FORMATION OF GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR WEST SAN JACINTO GROUNDWATER BASIN

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) will conduct a public hearing on December 7, 2016 at 9 a.m. at 2270 Trumble Road, Perris California, to hear comments from the public regarding EMWD's proposed application to be the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the western portion of the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin, which generally encompasses the areas of Moreno Valley, Perris, Menifee and surrounding unincorporated areas.

After the public hearing, EMWD's Board of Directors is anticipated to take a formal action to submit a notice of intent to the California Department of Water Resources to become the GSA for the aforementioned area. The notice of intent shall be posted pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723.8 and will include a description of the proposed boundaries of the portions of the San Jacinto Basin for which EMWD intends to manage as the GSA in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Managemen

Said hearing will be conducted pursuant to Water Code Section 10723(b). Written comments may be submitted to Sheila Zelaya, Board Secretary, by the close of business on December 6, 2016. Please email comments to zelayas@emwd.org and written comments by mail to the following location:

Eastern Municipal Water District Attention: Sheila Zelaya, Board Secretary P.O. Box 8300 Perris, CA 92572-8300

Should you have questions, contact Kevin Pearson via email pearsonk@emwd.org or by phone (951) 928-3777 ext. 4219.



A student at Highgrove Elementary School in the River-side area receives a bag of healthy treats.

Kids get healthy food at produce market

Students had their choice of healthy snacks Wednesday at the Kids Produce Market at Highgrove Elementary School. The farmers market-style event at the Riverside-area school – put on by Feeding America – provided healthy produce to more than 800 low-income

students and their fami-

students and unter lami-lies, according to a news re-lease from the program. Wednesday's event also promoted the group's Give A Meal program and its partnership with Bank of America.

For every dollar donated to the program, the bank will donate \$2.

Information: banks

Local 2 Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016 COMMUNITY The Press-Enterprise

Homeless ex-Marine, his family get new home

Rental is part of a program that

spacious, five-bedroom, three-bath house in a quiet Victorville neighborhood, near La Mesa and Topaz

a program that helps vets find permanent residence.

By JOEN NELSON
STAFF WHITES

For former Marine Darrin Snyder and his family, home used to be the Walsh Mart parking lot, free campsites, cheap motels or anywhere else they could park their minivan and argo trailer and stay the night.

Snyder, who traveled with his family to San Bernardino. Ounty from Virginia Beach in August in search of work as a recreational therapist with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, wanted more for his family, but he never expected what he got Thursday: a

their families.

The Snyder family's new home has a spacious back-yard, a fireplace in the upstairs master bedroom at

stairs master bedroom and
an intercom system that allows family members to
communicate with one
another from any room in
the house.

Snyder, who served in
the Marines from 1985 from 1985 to
1088 and were a wheelch by the Marines from 1985 or 1988 and uses a wheelchair because of myriad ail-ments, including a herniat-ed disk, two blown knees and diabetes, said the VA will be installing a stairlift

will be installing a stairlift in his new home so he can have access to the upstairs master bedroom. Until then, he plans to occupy the downstairs bedroom. Also, the San Bernardino

Also, the San Bernardino nonprofit Rolling Start, which provides resources and advocacy for disabled people, will have a wheelchair ramp built to access the house, Snyder said.

KEYS program manager Julie Burnette said the Snyder family is on a one-year lease, with an option to renew. KEYS picked up the tab for the security deposit and first month's rent of \$1,500, and then the of \$1,500, and then the

be assessed in a monthly basily. As in the process. Shyder a job as a re-creational therapist at Cor-coran state prison's sub-stance abuse treatment fac-cility. He plans to commute to the prison, camp out in his 6-by-10 cargo trailer during the workweck and spend the weekends at his Victorville residence. "I still get to come back to this place," Snyder said with a grin.

with a grin.
Snyder's daughters were

just as elated as he was about their new home. "Motel hopping abso-



SARAH ALVARADO, CONTRI Marine veteran Darrin Snyder shares a moment in his new Victorville with granddaughter Peyton as daughters Allie and Katie look on.

lutely sucks. I hope to never be in that situation ever again," said his oldest daughter, Carrie "Allie" Snyder, 22, holding her infant daughter Peyton outside their new home Thursday.

Side their new ...
Thursday.
She said living in transition the past four months was an eye-opening experience.
"It definitely gives you a ""hole new perspective and

rience.
"It definitely gives you a
whole new perspective and
empathy for people living
on the streets," Allie said.
Snyder's youngest
daughter, Katle, said KEYS
and its partner agencies
went above and beyond
what she and her family
anticipated.
They wat way out of
the year of the said Katle Snyder,
20, noting that Heroes
Warehouse leen in Fontana
donated a couch, refrigerator, three queen size beds, a
desk and three floor-toceiling bookshelves.
The Snyder family
moved into the home just
in time to enjoy the holidays. Although the Snyders
plan to have Thanksgiving
dinner at their church,
they intend to enjoy Christmass at home.

gets to decorate this year,"
Katle Snyder said of her
father.
Darrin Snyder said he's

father.

Darrin Snyder said he's going to use the \$500 Visa gift card he just received for participating in the De-troit Marathon last month troit Maratinon last month for Christmas presents. He said he has participated in many marathons, repre-senting the Achilles Free-dom Team for Wounded Veterans, which funded his

trip to Detroit last month.
"Peyton's going to have a
great Christmas this year,"
he said of his granddaught-

REGENCY LTHEATRES

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

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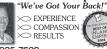








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ind Big 5/La Fogo \$100 REWARD OFFERED BY RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPT. OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES*

WELFARE FRAUD OFFENDERS CONVICTED Dockets of the Riverside County Court system show the following persons were convicted of Welfare Fraud on the dates specified:

BRIDGET BECERRA CONVICTED: 09/21/2016

RICARDO LUNA JUAREZ AKA: RICARDO LUNAJUA

CONVICTIONS/DOCKETS RECEIVED TO BE PUBLISHED SUNDAY November 20th, 2016

RAFAELA ELIAS CONVICTED: 09/07/2016 JAZMINE MARIE MORALES CONVICTED: 09/14/2016

BRITTANI DIANA QUINN

\$100 REWARD offered by the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services for information leading to the conviction aud charges. To report suspected fraud, call (86) 384-3278. Eligibility for reward is determined by a review committee. (Bes-table Social Services and Debrit Altomery—employees and family members are not eligible, Frust amount want to \$1000 or mic. To report toil free on the State fraud hotlline, call 1-800-344-8477. No reward on State hotlline



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