

# Bait, set and trap to all those rats

small talk

jean gillette



But these critters broke my cardinal rule of wildlife survival. Stay outside and I'll share. Step across my threshold and you have a target on your back.

So my husband brought me some fresh, new traps and I learned how to repeatedly get my fingers slammed in them. I finally mastered the art of baiting and setting and it wasn't long before I got results. It made me feel like a medieval hangman. As I lay abed one night, I heard the distinct wham of a trap going off and then got to listen to the 30 seconds of struggle and death throes. Gag. As much as I hate ratttraps, I hate them more when there is a dead rat in them.

I reset two more traps today, although I have had no further clumsy *R. rattus* victims. I swear they can nibble the bait without setting them off, but based on the number of times I have bruised my fingers trying to set the traps, I marvel at how they manage it.

My only joy is the absence of skittering feet sounds in the attic. But I am not confident that they are gone. I think they may have made silent, fluffy boots from the insulation.

*Jean Gillette is a freelance writer with back-up traps, lots of peanut butter and a grudge in her heart. Contact her at jgillette@coastnewsgroup.com.*

OK, I know we are all God's creatures and that "everybody's got to eat something," but it just isn't a level playing field. It turns out that rats can pop out a litter in about 24 days. Moreover, I can't find any good reason for them in the big scheme of things.

Our rats are the lucky ones that proliferate in Southern California where something edible is bursting forth all year round. We may host both types (Norway rat and roof rat) at the Gillette 24-hour rat buffet — aka our backyard — where we serve macadamia nuts, avocados, grapes, plums, apples and more.

I had previously only heard thumpings and bumpings across the roof from the back bedroom, and that could have been raccoons or cats. Well, it could have.

But I recently began sleeping in the bedroom underneath the attic and could no longer deny the very clear scampering of little rat feet above my head. While they stay outside, they remain my gardener husband's problem.

## Delaney updates board

By Christina Macone-Greene

RANCHO SANTA FE — Inside the Performing Arts Center at the R. Roger Rowe School, Superintendent Lindy Delaney shared various updates to the board of trustees. One of which was how she and Marti Ritto, clerk for the board of trustees, attended a meeting hosted by the Legislative Action Network.

Delaney said the event was an opportunity for superintendents and school board members to talk to those in government about what is important to them.

"I was instructed to talk about teacher tenure," Delaney said.

Ritto described the

meeting as very interesting adding how valuable it was to have the opportunity to garner the attention of legislators on significant issues.

"It was remarkable, actually," she said. "I was real surprised that was no dissension on almost all of the topics."

Delaney also updated the board on how the school is taking a focus on the upcoming 2016-17 school year. Programs are being discussed as are previews. Delaney said that discussions with the education foundation are also on the list as well as other items as things progress and move forward.

In regards to the heavy rains earlier in the month, Delaney said that their facilities weathered the storms with exception for a few leaks.

"We were very lucky," she said.



## FINE WINE

Auction co-chairwomen Kathy Lobo and Alex Johnson and a group of eager volunteers stuff envelopes announcing the wine reception to kick off the Bishop's School fundraising auction season. The reception will be 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 30, an evening of appetizers, wine and friendship in anticipation of the main event, "A Knight in White," to be held April 16. The evening is coordinated by a wine committee featuring co-chairs Dan Bradbury, Chris Cramer, Wain Fishburn and Jennifer Greenfield along with committee members Dawn Birchmeier, Nora Kaiser, Susanne Marx and Susan Richman. The event will be at the home of Nora and Alex Kaiser of Rancho Santa Fe. Guests are asked to donate \$100 per couple or a bottle of 95+ point wine, which will be included in the silent auction in April. *Courtesy photo*

## FACE Foundation readies for fundraiser

By Christina Macone-Greene

RANCHO SANTA FE — While the FACE Foundation is hosting its 6th annual Bags & Baubles silent auction May 1, there are plenty of preparations on their task list.

This silent auction is a much anticipated fundraiser which helps local pets who require critical veterinary care.

FACE is turning to its special community members for its annual donations to help animals in need.

"FACE is now accepting donations of new and 'gently loved' high-end designer handbags, jewelry, accessories, and sunglasses for this year's much anticipated Bags & Baubles event," said Brooke Haggerty, executive director of FACE. "Donating an item to Bags & Baubles is the perfect way to do a little spring cleaning while simultaneously giving animals in our community a second chance at life.

"Donated items are fully tax-deductible and will be auctioned to provide grants to local families who are unable to

afford the high costs of treatment for their critically injured or sick pets. FACE is happy to arrange pick-ups of any donations."

Haggerty said that to date, hundreds of handbags have been donated. Top designers already collected are Kate Spade, Fendi, Tory Burch, Michael Kors, Rebecca Minkoff, Stella McCartney, Salvatore Ferragamo, Prada, Coach and so much more.

"An array of marvelous jewelry pieces, collection of accessories and designer sunglasses have also been donated from brands like Tom Ford, Ray Ban, and Dolce & Gabbana," she said. "We are requesting the public's support to pull this off, and individuals interested in donating to this event are urged to contact FACE. We are also seeking volunteers to lend a helping paw."

Haggerty went on to say how this special 6th annual afternoon soiree is being held at a special venue: a private estate in Rancho Santa Fe.

According to Haggerty, FACE was founded in 2006 by a group of veterinarians and concerned community members. Headquartered in San Diego, FACE Foundation is considered a pioneer and the first of its kind in the nation. Over the years, Haggerty said it has partnered with 117 veterinary hospitals saving more than

# RSF Library Guild to host chili cook-off

By Christina Macone-Greene

RANCHO SANTA FE — A light-hearted competition is ready to sizzle at the Rancho Santa Fe Library. The first annual "Great Chili Cook-Off" Jan. 28 is being presented by the Rancho Santa Fe Library Guild and it's everyone's hope that this will become an annual event.

What inspired this event was the Guild's monthly Kitchen Hack series, which has grown more popular with each passing month. The Kitchen Hack has offered a platform for chefs to walk participants through the preparations of savory meals and desserts. RSF library and guild staff has also taken on this role by sharing their favorite recipes.

Being that January is National Soup Month, the Guild thought a Kitchen Hack cooking twist by way of an informal chili cook-off would be fun.

Susan Appleby, Guild membership and development manager, mentioned so far a few submissions have already been received by staff and they are welcoming community submissions, as well.

Participants are invited to prepare a small crock-pot of their chili and bring it the day of the event, which will take place in the community room at the library. However, if more guests participate, the event will be

moved to a larger room for the accommodation, she said.

"We ask that everyone make a copy of their recipe and we'll make extra copies for them to share," Appleby said. "And then we have several board members, and possibly a few community leaders, who'll be judging."

Appleby said the community is invited to either make a submission or taste the chili for this special debut. According to Appleby, they have room for 10 cooking participants.

Since there are a limited number of spaces, staff encourages those interested to call the Guild office or stop by the library for information.

Appleby admitted she is personally taking part in the chili cook-off by preparing chicken chili. Submissions can be a variation of all type of recipes including traditional, poultry and even vegetarian.

"The chili can be prepared any way you want it to be," she said.

Appleby pointed out that there is no cost to participate or drop by for the tasting.

"If this takes off, it would be fun to do this annually," Appleby said.

For more information about the First Annual RSF Library Great Chili Cook-Off Jan. 28 at 12:30 pm, call the Guild office at (858) 756-4780.

## RSF School Board ponders solar power

By Christina Macone-Greene

RANCHO SANTA FE — The topic of solar is still in the discussion stages for the Rancho Santa Fe School District.

Superintendent Lindy Delaney has been providing updates over the months to the board and did so once again during a Jan. 7 board meeting.

Delaney described the solar research project as now being at a fork in the road in terms of where they are because of their different options.

And if the board decided to move forward, Delaney recommended having it constructed over the summer months.

"The first thing I would like the board to consider is leasing, not purchasing," she said.

Delaney noted that some of the cons for a direct purchase were the upfront large out-of-pocket expense and responsibilities for repairs and maintenance.

On the other hand, the pros for a lease, also known as a power purchase agreement, would provide less cost upfront, keep monies in the bank, and help mitigate maintenance risks for the entire lease term of more than 20 years.

Delaney is in favor of a lease and told the board that she thought it was the way to go.

The District could sidestep a large investment in purchasing solar and instead house a system which is owned by the provider through a lease.

"We've also identified four phases," she said, referring to solar panel sites.

Also at the meeting was Debra Vaughn-Cleff, representing Webb Cleff Architecture and Engineering.

The four phases Delaney and Vaughn-Cleff underscored were phase one of a structure mounted array located at the lunch and play areas; phase two array on building 400; phase three of a structure mounted arrays on Dacus lot where there is staff parking; and, phase four structure mounted on a potential new gym roof during its construction.

During Delaney's presentation, the Dacus lot site would require an Environmental Impact Report with a price tag of \$100,000 to \$150,000.

The timeframe procedure may last up to a year.

If the District decided

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TURN TO FOUNDATION ON 14

TURN TO SOLAR POWER ON 14



## North County scholarships available

REGION — Scholarship applications are now available for North County graduating seniors.

These scholarship awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 and are from Coastal Community Foundation.

Three scholarships are open only to seniors from San Dieguito High School District. The Bill Berrier scholarship is

for those who are planning to be in the field of education. The Jackie Harrigan Haase memorial scholarship is for those wishing to pursue a career in nursing, the medical field, counseling, psychology or special education.

Students planning to attend MiraCosta College can apply for the Autumn Strang memorial scholarship.

Seniors from San Dieguito Academy and Canyon Crest Academy who will be studying the arts, music or dance can apply to the Eric Scott Langdon and Diana Monzeglio memorial scholarship.

More information can be obtained at [info@coastalfoundation.org](mailto:info@coastalfoundation.org) or by calling the foundation at (760) 942-9245.

## COVENANT CLUB

CONTINUED FROM 1

Club.

During the Power-Point presentation, Yahr discussed a redesign of the current parking lot in order to provide more slots.

"We are analyzing two different parking schemes right now," he said, noting how two tennis courts may be relocated.

However, Yahr said that even with the potential relocation, the RSF Tennis Club would have 12 tennis courts throughout this whole process.

As guests enter the club, they will be greeted at the reception area. Also located on the first floor would be a kids club, and locker room areas equipped

with steam rooms for both female and male members.

Also in this building, plans of a fitness shop and administration offices have also been discussed.

Pathways from the main building lead guests to a café, two movement studios, and fitness studio.

During the presentation, Yahr also showed members the four-lane resort style pool, the situation of cabanas, and an area to order meals and drinks from the café when outdoors.

A water area for children deemed as a splash pad and a five-stall family bathroom was showed in the design. Both are in close proximity for convenience.

The architectural rendering provided great in-

sight, however, the site plan, pool layout and buildings may undergo future modifications.

Following the presentation, a wave of applause was given to Yahr. He was quick to point out the dedication that his fellow subcommittee members have put into this project and that it was a true team effort.

Yahr told the board and Covenant members that the timeline for a finalized design was scheduled in a couple months.

Members can also expect to receive a 3D model rendering and in-depth overview packet by spring in preparation for an upcoming vote.

At minimum, Yahr also estimates one more town hall meeting.

## STAFFING

CONTINUED FROM 1

ing analysis revealed that the part-time receptionist position was not needed and was eliminated.

"That was an experiment on my part for workload. The workload has improved and we don't have that position anymore," he said. "So we're down to one head that I have added on my own that wasn't budgeted."

In regards to the budget, Overton told the crowd that he was coming under budget for the current op-

erating year. Overton described his actions as an association manager as hiring more efficiently and noted how he didn't fill vacant positions immediately.

"The most important number to me in this chart is that if everything stayed the same exactly as it is today, we would end the year \$40,000 under budget for payroll. Now, part of that is because we haven't filled the planner position yet," Overton said.

He went on to say how he was in the process of interviewing potential planners and weighing options.

Overton said regardless of what he does with that position he will bring the Association under budget June 30.

While faces have changed in the Association's office, Overton said it has been done with a very keen eye on the budget. He also welcomed more discussion and looked forward to reporting back to the audience and board regarding the staffing analysis.

"I appreciate the input and the scrutiny during the last month or so making sure that we're paying attention to budget," he said.

## AUTHOR

CONTINUED FROM 12

bring awareness to this topic while giving his brave character, Alexandra, the only first-person voice in his novel.

The others characters are done in third-person. For Bohjalian, he wanted to give those who are trapped

in human trafficking and sex slavery a voice.

Bohjalian went onto say that USA Today gave praise to his character, Alexandra, also known as Anahit, calling her the throbbing heart of the story.

Bohjalian described "The Guest Room" as a literary thriller about a marriage in crisis and two

remarkable women. And of course, that one moment of dread where one would do anything to take back a decision that triggers something to spiral out of control.

The Rancho Santa Fe Library Guild thanked Donald E. Johnson of Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC for sponsoring the event.

## SOLAR POWER

CONTINUED FROM 6

on the Dacus lot as a solar site, it would require pavement over the current dirt lot.

Vice President Todd Frank voiced some concerns as to how a mounted

array at the lunch and play areas blacktop would appear.

He expressed apprehension regarding how it would ultimately look.

Vaughn-Cleff described the design as more of a carport.

After more thought,

Frank suggested placing a mounted array over the bleachers to offer more shade.

Listening to the feedback, Delaney conveyed she would bring back the solar project with additional information at the next meeting.

## FOUNDATION

CONTINUED FROM 6

1,350 lives and counting.

Haggerty wants people to know that more than 450 guests attended last year's event.

And they raised over \$117,000 for pets facing economic euthanasia, she said.

"Bags & Baubles is a one-of-a-kind event that allows animal and fashion lovers to shop for a cause," she

said. Haggerty added, "Bags & Baubles offers guests the opportunity to contribute to a worthy cause while also indulging in a delightful afternoon. FACE takes pride in this unique fundraiser, which differs vastly from the traditional gala."

In addition to the silent auction, Haggerty shared how the afternoon soiree will include wine complimented by savory appetizers and desserts.

Opportunity drawings will also be available for must-have items.

"We thank all of our supporters and those considering contributing to this event which will help FACE save pets and help families."

Bags & Baubles registration for 2016 is now open. To learn more visit [face4pets.org](http://face4pets.org), email [events@face4pets.org](mailto:events@face4pets.org), or call (858) 450-3223.

## COVERAGE

CONTINUED FROM 1

have a vote to take the next contract steps.

Wilkinson said that a vendor contract would be needed to start the process which would include pursuing permits, construction and operations for three sites, or possibly four.

Likely site options may consist of two potential areas owned by the Association, one privately owned and the other in a right-of-way locale.

Target areas will be potentially located on the north side, southeast side, and on the west side of town.

Wilkinson then asked Don May, the Association's finance and operations director to give the board an updated summary on the

negotiations. He agreed that Verizon and ATC were two concrete proposals, describing them as boilerplates, which needed some minor refining to end the negotiation process in preparation for the February board meeting.

"We're confident we'll be able to get through that process relatively smoothly. We only have a few minor changes," May said. He continued, "We need cell towers and cell reception locations within this community to provide not only safety for emergency response, but we also want to bring out as many multiple carriers as possible so that you're not controlled by whether you only have one cell service."

Following the choosing of a vendor, the next step will be a nine-month long

major use permit process with the county in order to be able to start the construction progress, he said. May also noted that whichever vendor is selected, they will take on a leadership role.

May shared that Covenant members should expect many public and town hall meetings in order to introduce this project to the community.

May then reiterated this particular board meeting did not have any action items. They topic of conversation was purely informative.

Following May, Wilkinson added how the faux tree antennas are done incredibly well and admitted that he even had a hard time determining if they were real or not. They blend into the landscape, he said.

## TASTE OF WINE

CONTINUED FROM 8

'Sleeping Tiger' mural painted on our outside wall and we want to create a new label of wines named after it."

Witchcreek has had a long history of making quality, small production wines, many of them old-world varietals not that well known.

A good starting point for your introduction to this urban winery would be their Zinfandel with grapes from the up-and-coming El Dorado wine country near Sacramento. The 2013 had only 115 cases made. It is a lush full-bodied Zin balanced to perfection (\$40).

TASTE OF WINE will be reporting more on this vital new urban winery, now

raising another star in the Village of Carlsbad. Call for more at (760) 720-7499 or visit [WitchCreekWinery.com](http://WitchCreekWinery.com).

## WINE BYTES

The first great event of the year in the Temecula Valley happens Jan. 30 and Jan. 31 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's the Annual Barrel Tasting, a self-guided tour where guests will enjoy barrel tastings, new wine releases and food sampling, offered at each of the wineries over a two-day period; 16 different wineries per day. Tickets are \$78; two-day tickets are \$128. Click on to [temeculawines.org](http://temeculawines.org) for details and to purchase tickets. Ticket pickup is by will-call between 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. Information

also by calling (800) 801-WINE.

**Stheleon and Vespar Vineyards** urban winery in Escondido are presenting a cellar tasting with the winemaker, Jan 23 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Taste wines at various stages of aging; \$25. Call (760) 741-1246.

**Vittorio's Trattoria** in Carmel Valley has a wine dinner featuring Seghesio wines of Sonoma, Jan. 28 at 6 p.m. Cost is \$49.50. RSVP at (858) 538-5884.

*Frank Mangio is a renowned wine connoisseur certified by Wine Spectator. He is one of the leading wine commentators on the web. View his columns at [tasteofwinetv.com](http://tasteofwinetv.com) and reach him at [mangiompc@aol.com](mailto:mangiompc@aol.com). Follow him on Facebook.*

## LICK THE PLATE

CONTINUED FROM 8

bar experience in Cardiff, I've done that before and it is always very comfortable. I should also mention they are dog friendly.

Board member Marsha Lindsey is an adamant supporter of Leucadia's own Pandora Pizza and had this to say about one of her favorite local spots. "Approximately four years ago, our neighborhood was gifted this treasure where I regularly indulge in any of several imaginative and satisfying salads or pizzas. This asset to our community features menu items named after our local Caminos, and offers them accompanied by predominantly California-sourced beers and wines.

"While the food at Pandora has never disappointed, I have to add that the experience of dining here just might be outshone by the exceptional service!

"The mindful acquisition of genuinely kind and considerate staff at Pandora's has nurtured a welcoming environment that makes one instantly comfortable and at home.

"My favorite dishes here include the Penthos salad, ripe with berries and fresh greens, the Jupiter pizza (Lemon zest is a game-changer, if you didn't already know this!), and — for when I'm feeling especially gluttonous

— their macaroni and cheese-inspired Hymettus pizza with bacon."

I could not agree more Marsha!

Linda Bergen is a co-treasurer and board member and reminded me with her pick of the fabulous family owned and operated Trattoria Positano in Cardiff that has been packing them in since 1997.

"I am a huge fan of the homemade Northern Italian food, and the quaint atmosphere with some of Amalia's paintings surrounding the room, along with the siren that adorns the southern wall," she said. "I love the wonderful homemade pasta dishes (Capellini Positano), risottos (Risotto Tuttomare), meat/fish entrées (Bistecchine di Vitello con Funghi/Salmone Alla Checca), basket of warm rolls with their EVOO dip, and the delicious desserts (Taramisu). The owners are there on-site and along their children on occasion. On top of that I am warmly recognized upon each visit which just adds to the charm."

OK, I am so there. Would love to feature them in Lick the Plate!

Board member Kay Colvin is an old friend and ardent supporter of the art scene in Encinitas and San Diego.

Her local selection is the Brazilian owned and operated Sabor de Vida on

El Camino Real in Encinitas.

"I'm such a regular that the host, Francisco, greets me with big smile and knows exactly what I'm about to order," said Colvin. "And that go-to dish is the Picanha plate that consists of a thick top sirloin steak grilled to perfection with grilled veggies, black beans and rice. It's one of our best kept secrets but worth sharing with readers."

Well it's now on my radar Kay, maybe you can make an introduction?

Some upcoming Artists Colony events worth noting are the 2016 Arts Alive Banner unveiling Feb. 21 at the Leichtag Foundation.

They will be hung on the light poles from March through May and then the final auction at the Cardiff Town Center in June.

Also, the winter Full Moon Poetry Slam at the La Paloma happens March 10 at 5 p.m.

Support and follow this very worthy organization at [101artistscolony.com](http://101artistscolony.com) or on Facebook.

*David Boylan is the founder of Artichoke Creative an Encinitas based integrated marketing firm. He also hosts Lick the Plate Radio that airs Monday through Friday at 7 p.m. on FM94/9, Easy 98.1, and KSON. Reach him at [david@artichoke-creative.com](mailto:david@artichoke-creative.com) or (858) 395-6905.*