JANUARY 2022 Vol. 6 No. 1



Here's to the Holidays!

By E.M. Trivoli / Resident

The Hidden Meadows Women's Social Group celebrated the Holiday Season December 7th with a packedhouse gathering at the beautiful home of Karla Fernandez. Karla has often hosted the December Social; taking a break last year during peak COVID-

Although it was already dark - and too late to enjoy the views from Rimrock - the home's inside was a feast for the eyes. A winter wonderland of Christmas décor... a lot of which was collected by Karla on her international travels.

On arrival, we were greeted by a talented harpist named Darius (Lynn Wheeler said he lives and works at the horse rescue). Many thanks to Lynn for lining him up, Connie for promoting him, and Danielle-- for scooting around collecting Venmo tips! (I believe that Darius is available for hire... get in touch!)

Also greeting us at the door, a table full of nametags. I'm a big fan of nametags. Sure, many people know each

other ... but nametags help us A: remember people's names, and 2: meet new people as well!

Karla's home seems to stretch for miles... a long hallway led to the wellappointed bar area where we poured some Holiday Bubbly (Rose Prosecco), Martinelli's, and other libations. I loved that the champagne-style glasses were just that: glass! Very elegant.

******* ECRWSS EDDM **

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When I got there (a tad late because of work), mini-groups had already formed in the Christmasy living room, family room, large kitchen and dining area. One thing what I love about this group is that there are no "cliques"... anyone is welcome to say hello and join in the conversation.

I noticed a few familiar faces from the "newbie mixer"-- just last month! For them, and others, this was the FIRST social event they had been to; and I applaud them for getting involved. (keep it up!)

Of course a festive celebration includes food and we were sure well fed! Our host provided sliced Turkey and Tri-Tip; guests brought appetizers, sides and a seemingly never ending selection of desserts. I loved the potatocheese creation (... gone when I went back for seconds...). There were beets, sweet potatoes, green beans and more.

Around the corner in the dining room I spotted cheesecake, pumpkin pie bites (yum), large Italian style cookie trays.. and so many other

(I chatted with the guest who'd brought the cookie tray.. she was going to make MORE for an upcoming wedding! That's what I call ambition.)

As dinner wrapped up, it was time for games! Shannon was the lucky winner of the Golden Ticket (turned in for a prize) and then everyone had fun trying to guess how many Santas, Fairy Santas (they have beards AND wings... who knew?), and Holy Family groups, surrounded us. The decorations were truly enchanting. Next year, I'll know to start counting

SOCIAL / See Page 7

COVID-19 isolation guidance shortened from 10 to 5 days

By JOSÉ A. ÁLVAREZ, **County of San Diego**

Most San Diegans who test positive for COVID-19 only have to isolate for five days, the County Health and Human Services Agency announced this week.

The County is now following the new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which decreased the isolation period from 10 to five days for most people with no symptoms but who test positive for COVID-19. The California Department of Public Health also aligns with this guidance.

In addition to isolating for five days, COVID-19 patients with no symptoms must wear a mask for an additional five days when around other people. Health care personnel may have different criteria.

"The County is following the CDC guidance because science shows the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, typically 1-2 days prior to developing symptoms and the 2-3 days after," said Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer. "People with no symptoms can leave isolation after that, provided they wear an appropriate mask to decrease the risk to others."

Below are additional changes made by the CDC:

The quarantine period for people exposed to COVID-19 is now 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days for people who are unvaccinated or fully vaccinated but have not received their booster shot.

If a 5-day quarantine is not feasible, exposed people must wear a well-fitting mask at all times when around others for 10 days after exposure.

People who have gotten their booster shot do not need to quarantine following an exposure but should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure.

People who are exposed to COV-ID-19 should get tested at day 5 after

Do not go to a hospital for COV-ID-19 testing.

If symptoms develop, people should immediately isolate until a negative test confirms it's not COVID-19.

Get CA Notify to receive alerts if you were in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.

"The new guidance also works to slow the spread of the Omicron variant, which has led to a significant increase in cases nationally and in San Diego County," Wooten said.

The County is updating its web pages, communication materials and health orders, as well as communication to medical providers and sector partners.

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations

The County has reported a considerable increase in COVID-19 cases in recent days, with daily case counts reaching over 2,300 cases four out of the past six days, including 2,367 cases which will be reported later today.

County health officials are urging San Diegans to take every precaution necessary to slow the spread of CO-VID-19 during the winter months.

In addition to the County testing sites, many neighborhood pharmacies offer same-day testing. The overall testing system has the capacity to meet demand. However, as with every holiday, testing traffic can surge and sites can be very busy. Rapid antigen tests, which are available at many local pharmacies, are a good option if a testing site is unavailable.

Also, the region now has plenty of COVID-19 vaccines and booster doses, which remain the best long-term protection against COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths.

There are more than 400 vaccination sites that include pharmacies, medical providers, clinics and County locations; the region has the capacity to meet demand. You can also make an appointment or find a site near you by calling (833) 422-4255 or visiting the MyTurn or coronavirus-sd.com websites.

Project to being in January

Grand Avenue businesses between Maple and Kalmia have been informed by the City of Escondido that work on the Grand Avenue Vision Project will begin around January 10.

Sylvia Atwan, Management Analyst/ Economic Development sent out a letter this week informing the Grand Avenue merchants that "Businesses on Grand Avenue from Maple Street to Kalmia Street are required to remove their outdoor setup areas (e.g., furniture, tents, stands, and signage) by January 6, 2022." She added, "K-rails (concrete barriers) in those blocks will be removed after January 6, 2022. Construction will start just a few days after that, likely on the

Although only the block between Maple and Broadway will have the sidewalk widening, the new lampposts will be installed between Maple and Kalmia.

The city has a dedicated project page on the city's website: https://www.escondido.org/grand-avenue-vision-project and a website with

a sign-up form for those who want to receive weekly updates: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/rtgqFiX/grandaveproject

Grand Avenue Vision



The Brass Roots Trio will play at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido

HVCCA to bring Brass Roots Trio to CCAE

The Brass Roots Trio—an extraordinary trio (French, trumpet, and piano) that produces symphonic sounds will be in concert Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 2 p.m. in the Center Theater at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

According to Dennis Tomlinson, president of the Hidden Valley Community Concert Association, the Trio, "performs everything from Baroque majesty to Brubeck to Copland, Gershwin and standards into a heart-warming program that will stir your emotions."

The Trio performs concerts all over the United States, Canada, and England. One of the comments that have greeted their performances: "A superb trio...three standing

ovations" (Reuben Ellis, Times-West Virginian).

This is the second concert of the 75th Anniversary of the Hidden Valley Community Concert Association (HVCCA) that has presented over 300 concerts since 1945. Learn more about HVCCA at www.hiddenvalleyCCAescondido.info.

Tickets can be obtained at www.artcenter. org or by calling the CCAE box office at (800) 988-4253. Adults: \$40.00— Seniors \$20.00—Veterans and Military \$17.00— Students \$10.00— Children \$5.00. All attendees must be fully vaccinated, or have a negative COVID-19 test (72-hour) and wear masks due to current California law.

EAA to have January open show: call for artists

The Escondido Art Association has announced their open show for January, 2022, at the Artists Gallery, 121 W. Grand Ave., Escondido. The theme for the show is "It's a New Day" and will be open to EAA members and non-members alike.

Entry fees will apply: Members \$20, 1st entry, \$5 each 2nd & 3rd; Non-members \$30 1st entry, \$10 each 2nd & 3rd.

Take-in of art will be on Saturday, January 8, 2022, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

"It's a New Day" will run through Friday, February 4, 2022. All artwork must be picked

up by Saturday, February 5 between 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

January 15 the Artists Gallery will host a free reception open to the public from 4 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

The EAA is an all-volunteer non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to promote the arts in North County San Diego. New members are welcome and may visit the association's website www.escondidoartas-sociation.com, email them at eaa121grand@gmail.com, or call the Artists Gallery 442-317-0980, for more information.





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Wrapping up 2021

By MARIE WALDRON, 75th Assembly District

During 2021, 2,776 bills were introduced in Sacramento, despite a suggested 12-bill limit for each assembly-member. The legislation we reviewed involved some of the most consequential issues facing California.

Hot topics this year ranged from health care affordability, homelessness and housing, to the environment, the economy, criminal justice and much more. Since most bills fail to pass, the most significant results often involve failed legislation, and this year was no different. Bills to legalize psychedelic drugs, to allow criminal offenders to have their records expunged, to overhaul the bail system, to establish a single-payer health care system, all failed.

Housing-related legislation, which created a great deal of controversy, was aimed at easing the housing shortage by eliminating single-family zoning in many areas. Duplexes will be allowed in some areas, with up to four units on lots previously zoned single-family. Near transit zones, up to 10 units will be allowed on some single-family lots.



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The largest budget in history passed in June, a record \$232.6 billion. That included \$4 billion for small businesses to help them recover from the pandemic, \$7 billion in subsidies to help people who couldn't pay their rent or utility bills, along with \$600 stimulus payments for most residents who lost jobs and income as a direct result of the pandemic. A huge \$31 billion surplus is projected next year.

The state has spent \$13 billion on homelessness since 2018, yet our homeless population has increased 24%. The budget for 2021-22 allotted another \$12 billion over the next three years to address the problem, including \$2.75 billion to buy hotels, motels and commercial buildings to reduce the growing homeless population.

Much is unresolved, and problems persist despite vast amounts of spending. When we reconvene in January, we'll be taking another close look at many of these monumental issues.

Assembly Republican Leader Marie Waldron, R-Escondido, represents the 75th Assembly District in the California Legislature, which includes the communities of Bonsall, Escondido, Fallbrook, Hidden Meadows, Pala, Palomar Mountain, Pauma Valley, Rainbow, San Marcos, Temecula, Valley Center and Vista.

HIDDEN MEADOWS NEWS

Deadline for local article submission:

20th of the month for the next issue. Photographs submitted for publication should be hi-resolution (300DPI), unmodified originals, jpeg format. We cannot accept photos taken from social media sites such as Facebook. If you wish copies of photos in which you are included, email me at address below.

Send drafts to Patricia Fox at: LocalEditor@HiddenMeadows.news

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Health guru to the stars

By ROBERT LERNER, Historian Valley Center History Museum

When visitors and neighbors entered the Valley Center home of Donald Loomis they were immediately struck by multiple autographed photos of the man posing with some of the country's most prominent notables and Hollywood's most famous movie stars.

A physical therapist and chiropractor by profession, Loomis was the Health Director at MGM studios where he regularly looked after the fitness needs of Judy Garland, Clark Gable, Shirley Temple — in fact, every actor under contract to the studio.

In a 1990 interview on file at the Valley Center Historical Society, a colleague stated, "If they were too heavy for a movie role, he slimmed them down. If they were thin, he put on needed weight. He built up muscles for the he-man types and glamorized the figures of the ladies of the silver screen"

A report at the Valley Center History Museum, shows that before his job at MGM, Loomis treated the likes of Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. One

client, a clothing designer, contacted at cousin at the movie studio suggesting he be hired.

Loomis's career in bodybuilding and fitness earned him a cover story in Strength and Health magazine.

His work in physical therapy continued after moving to Valley Center where he lived at Skyline Ranch mobile home park on Paradise Mountain Road. He developed a correspondence course called "Be as fit as the stars of the screen" in which, after determining the physical condition of those who wrote to him, he set up exercise and diet programs to meet their individual needs.

At the time of the 1990 interview, conducted in Valley Center, Loomis was 80 years old and had been practicing for 60 years. Efforts to determine more about his life after that date were not successful.

For more information, visit the Valley Center History Museum at 29200 Cole Grade Rd. The museum is open Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 4 p.m. Information is also available by contacting the museum by e-mail at *museum@vchistory.org* by calling 760-749-2993.

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Linda Collins the Seller's Faire chair in front of the Ash City Ramblers band



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December Seller's Faire

By Michelle Zipse / Resident

The Last Seller's Faire for the year was on Sunday December 5. We were full with vendors and everyone had a great time shopping for the holidays. The Ash Street Ramblers played a country music medley while the shoppers found their treasures. Lisa Nunez headed up the bake sale and many people volunteered and dropped off baked yummies. Crysta Garcia from Scentsy had a booth that way filled with yummy smells. Just Esperanza Shhadeh had a booth full of Essential wellness products with essential oils and other products to focus the senses and promote a healthy lifestyle. There were Christmas crafts and jewelry and homemade aprons. So many wonderful gifts for the savvy gift shopper. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming Seller's Faire for 2022 and have a happy holiday everyone!



Mountain Meadow Equine Rescue and their horse Tucker Left to right: Doug Stoodt founder/owner, Darius Remmell, Connie Brumley and Lynn Wheeler



Lisa Nunez at the bake sale



Crysta Garcia at Scentsy



Hidden Meadows Women's Social Group - the Holiday Edition!



Social Group members enjoying appetizers



L-R Tony Ong, Sam Dailey, Tim Daugherty, and Matthew Grgas.

COME OUT AND PLAY TENNIS

By Katy Freese / Resident

How are those New Year's resolutions going? Are you still munching on leftover cookies? Have the recent rains kept you from going outside? Are you looking for a fun way to keep moving, exercise and enjoy the company of others outside?

Hidden Meadows has an enthusiastic group of tennis players, but there is room for more players at all levels. You can sign up for those days and times you are available to play tennis on a website. Once a week the computer will schedule you to play at those times when there are enough other players to make a doubles match.

Contact Katy Freese via text at: 760-803-5969 or email at: clark-freese@gmail.com. She will get you signed up and you can start playing with a great group of people of all ages and skill levels.



Vicky and Jody



Shannon Akelier, Lynn Wheeler, Michelle Zipse

SOCIAL / From Page 1

when I get there.

Since it was December 7th, there was a moment of remembrance for those lost in the attack on Pearl Harbor; and a reminder to never forget those who've fought or perished so that we may enjoy the freedoms that we do. Me personally... it's a different freedom, but I'm grateful that we can have these wonderful gatherings again.

As we stood around chatting, we realized that many of us have December birthdays, so here's a Happy Birthday Shout Out to... Michelle Zipse (15th), EV Trivoli (22nd), and Connie Brumley (30th). With apologies to anyone we've overlooked, Happy Birthday!

It's my belief that a successful event should have an entrance and an exit. On my way out I noticed that the host-



Darius, the Harpist, with Connie Brumley and Karla Fernandez

ess had changed the nametag table into a goodies table! Guests picked up little holiday-themed doo dahs as a memento of the evening.

At the end of the evening, we all trickled out of the cozy, warm home and back into the darkness. I felt a sense of peace, well-being and gratefulness that we could be together for a wonderful evening.

The twinkling Christmas lights from nearby homes and the stars overhead in a clear, uncluttered North County sky only added to that sense.. and it was just right.

Karla, you are TRULY the hostess with the mostest.

Happy Holidays to Everyone –

For more information on the Hidden Meadows Women's Social Group, email: hmwsg92026@gmail.com.





Pictured left to right, in the back: James Gause, Sean and Ashley Ram, Jeff and Vickey Ciarlanti, Rob Rodriguez, Dani Walther, Brian And Lynley Thinnes, Awara and Dave Van Sumer, Shelley and Dave Bauer, Clayton Bruner, Greg Baldyga and Val Fields, Barb and Dave Zimmerman, Cherie Rogers and Harlan Gruenstern. Seated in the front left to right the December birthday babies: Annette Gause, Michelle Zipse, Tom Fragala, and Mark Rogers

December Birthdays, busy times but not Forgotten

By Michelle Zipse / Resident

December birthdays are a challenge. I know, I'm one of them.

Growing up we all heard the oh-so-familiar statement, "I got you one big gift this year.. it's for your birthday AND Christmas." One of my friends and our neighbor, Ev Trivoli (also a December birthday) sent me a funny essay she wrote on how potential parents of "child-bearing age" should hold off on all... uh... "personal interactions" for the whole month of March – to ensure no December babies. (Sometime for a laugh, maybe we should print her essay in our local paper! In the meantime, feel free to reach out to emtrivoli@gmail.com to see it.)

Let's face it, December is a busy month. Everyone is busy at work preparing for the end of the year/ budget/ deadlines. Everyone is busy at home preparing for the Christmas, Hannukah and Kwanzaa. The list goes on. Kids have obligations, too! Parties and events related to school, sports, and friends. This just adds to the calendar! There may even be personal angst as the year speeds to a close and perhaps there's that laundry list of resolutions or goals we haven't completed yet.

The reality is: December is a time that we can't take on one more thing and someone's birthday can easily be ...forgotten.

of Hidden Meadows who took time out of their busy schedules to make a special celebration for their friends who have December birthdays. First and foremost on that list is Vickey Ciarlanti. Vickey is a wonder and has done so many things to help her neighborhood and community. She took the bull by the horns and came up with a location, theme, cakes, decorations, etc. All the things that go into a great

That didn't happen this year! Many thanks go out to the friends and neighbors



Cutting the cake left to right: Aaron Madariaga, Vickey Ciarlanti and Dani Walther

celebration...she pulled them together. And we had some big birthdays this year! So here comes the shout out for the December birthday crowd. Annette Gause, Michelle Zipse, Evelyn Trivoli, Mark Rogers, Connie Brumley and a neighborhood newbie Tom Fragala (whose birthday was actually December 18, the night

we celebrated). Check out the pics...they're the best part anyway.

Won't you take some time out from the Holiday Rush? Put aside the Red and Green... the Silver and Blue... the Red, Black and Green for a moment and add some Birthday Sprinkles. Celebrate your December Birthday friends.. they will love you for it!



Michelle Zipse and Vickey Ciarlanti at the December birthday celebration



Michelle Zipse standing in front of the gift and cupcake tower table.



Hidden Meadows Community Resources

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Contact Marc Weissman at 760-525-5170 or marcweissman11@gmail.com.

Community Sponsor Group

Contact Chairman Jim Chagala, at 760 751-2691 for more information.

Hidden Meadows Neighborhood Watch

Please join our facebook group: Hidden Meadows Neighborhood Watch. We'll share neighborhood information, safety tips, and news of future events. Contact Info: Erik Tyler 442-235-9060 erikdtyler@gmail.com

Deer Springs Fire Safe Council

Contact Steve Kerrin at 760-807-1141.

Emergency Communication System

To register, visit www.deerspringsfiresafecouncil.com.

An information hotline is updated during emergencies or noteworthy events and may be called 24/7 at 949-472-1407. Red flags are placed on the "Fire Danger Signs" during red flag warnings.

Homeowners Associations

The Meadows Homes Association (MHA) Rimrock Homeowners Association	760-749-7278 760-749-4008
Hidden Meadows Ranch Homeowners Association	760-407-7575
Silverado Management Services Oak Meadows Glen Homeowners Association	760-749-4796

Organizations

Garden Club

Contact Karen Henderson: 760-749-3164 (text messages preferred) or karenh.home@gmail.com

Hidden Meadows Bridge Group

We play bridge at the MHA Pavilion every Wednesday from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Please call Curt Bruce at 442-222-0821 if you'd like to join us.

Hidden Meadows Community Foundation (HMCF)

Contact Sarah Sealey at sarah@bretandsarah.com

Ladies Bible Study

Contact Debbie Hamer at 760-297-1278 or Stephanie Swadell, 619-993-4631.

Tennis Club

Contact Katy Freeze at 760-749-9722 or clarkfreese@gmail.com.

Women's Golf Club

No current contact information

Women's Social Group

 $email\ to\ hmwsg92026@gmail.com.$

Yoga

Contact Joanne Boessow at 760-751-0261 or mljab33@cox.net for more information.

BOOK REVIEW - By Lynn Clark

I decided to give you a short review of several books by best selling authors I read over the holiday season. This will give you some idea of what is out there for your reading enjoyment.

"Mercy" - David Baldacci

I was really looking forward to reading the last installment of "The Long Road to Mercy" series. Unfortunately, I had a preconceived idea on how the 4th book in the series should end, and that was probably a mistake. It took almost half of the book for the sisters to establish contact with each other. Once that happened the book took off in a direction that I didn't foresee. Because of the way Baldacci had set up the first books in the series, I expected some type of interaction in the plot where the whole family was involved and that didn't happen. So I was a little disappointed in the story.

"The Midnight Library" - by Matt Haig

This book was a fantasy based on the possibility that when a person's life ends they enter a "library" between life and death. While there they can become part of a parallel universe by choosing a book which tells of a path that they had at one time followed but left, and if that was a mistake that resulted in regrets.

The main character is Nora Seed, and she has decided to end her life because even though she had at one time enormous capabilities in several fields to succeed, she had failed to follow through in all aspects of her life. Entering the library has given her a second chance to look at her past.

There was interesting ending that the author wrote that you may or may not like, but he used it to impart his philosophy about life and living.

"Better off Dead" - by Lee Child/Andrew Child

The Child bothers teamed up for another Jack Reacher book. In the first chapter Jack is hitch hiking in the desert on his way to the Pacific Ocean, and runs into a wrecked vehicle with a woman slumped over the steering wheel. When he approaches to investigate she sits up and pulls a gun, and so the story begins.

She is an FBI agent looking for her brother who has sent her an SOS message that he is in trouble. The agent has a prosthetic leg which doesn't make any difference in her agility when she raises her gun, and takes aim at Reacher. Of course he helps her find her brother...what else does he have to do. Lots of action in this book and better than the last one written by the brothers.

"The Dark Hours" - by Michael Connelly

This book was pretty contemporary in that it touched on the pandemic, the low morale in police departments, and even briefly the riot in Washington.

Renee Ballard is investigating a murder of an ex gang member that might possibly be connected with a cold case where Harry Bosch can help her with needed information. She is also involved in a case with a not so dedicated police officer in the sex crime division that wants her to cover for her while she takes a short vacation with her boyfriend. Even though she is making progress in both cases, she seems to be running into department bureaucracy that she feels is holding her back from solving the crimes.

The deeper she gets into the investigations the more she turns to Bosch when things get complicated.

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A Shooting, a Victim and a Mom: A Life Saved and a Soul Restored

By Tom Fragala / Resident

On January 15, 2021, two gunshots rang out in Hidden Meadows. Then two lives were brought together and forever changed. A man was gravely wounded in a Hidden Meadows shooting, but a woman came to his aid and made a special connection.

The woman who was there told me her story.

"I'm a mom."

A car was parked on a road in the quiet rural community of Hidden Meadows in Escondido, CA. Hidden Meadows sits on the hilltops above North County, San Diego, basking in peaceful sunshine year-round. Janice (name changed) was standing near Meadow Glen Way West. She had seen the parked car; however, this was not unusual.

She heard two muffled shots and looked towards at the car, which she couldn't see too clearly from where she was standing. As someone who lived in a nearby rural village herself, she wasn't too surprised to hear distant gunshots. From time to time in her community, people would shoot at coyotes that threatened their farm animals.

She was also busy speaking with someone, so she didn't react immediately. She glanced at the car again. What appeared to be the driver got out of the car and ran around to the other side. She later realized someone had dragged a passenger out of the car and onto the side of the road near some trees. She saw the car speed away from the scene.

Soon after, Janice heard a weak, terrified cry for help. As a mother, she was now certain something was wrong. She ran over to the scene where the car had been a moment ago and found Vincent (name changed) lying in the bushes near the side of the road

Vincent was in his early 20s, bone thin, with many tattoos, including a distinctive neck tattoo. Janice quickly assumed Vincent was probably quite familiar with the criminal justice system. Janice discovered he was bleeding from a wound in his abdomen. She immediately applied pressure with her hands. Vincent was conscious but barely able to speak. He kept his head strangely twisted to one side.

She tried talking to Vincent, but he was unable even to tell her his name. He seemed to be under the influence in addition to suffering the trauma of blood loss and pain from the bullet wound.

He would only say, "You're hurting me."

Janice replied, "You're shot, so you're going to have to deal with it!"

She pulled out her phone and called 911. The 911 operator asked her if the blood was seeping past her hand—it was. They asked if she had a towel or something else to put over the wound. Janice responded with a wise-crack, as she often does in stressful situations. "Sorry, I didn't come down here with my gunshot kit!"

She waved and stopped a car that was slowly driving by, asking if they had any towels or rags. She took one they offered and pressed it against Vincent's wound.

Time passed slowly. Janice was scared for Vincent as they waited for paramedics. Her mothering instincts kicked in for this young man. She told herself she would do everything she could to save his life.

Unbeknownst to Janice, the sheriff would not allow the paramedics through until the area had been secured because the shooter was still at-large. They didn't

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arrive for 38 minutes—an interminably long time to be pressing your hands onto a gunshot wound, covered in blood, watching a man move closer to death. For several months after this, Janice would look at her hands and imagine blood on them.

Finally, the EMTs did arrive. They asked if Vincent had taken any drugs. He admitted he had taken opiates. The EMTs stabilized Vincent and brought him to Palomar hospital, where he survived his injuries.

Janice had undoubtedly saved a life. I asked Janice why she didn't hesitate to help a tattooed drug user who was a victim of a violent crime.

"I'm a mom. I just had this concern for him," she said.

A Reunion and Healing

Janice suffered recurring disturbing images of the shooting in her mind for months after the shooting. She would hear Vincent's cries and moans of pain in her sleep. She was diagnosed with anxiety and PTSD.

Janice was also weighed down by guilt from another painful episode. In 2020, a beloved aunt of hers had committed suicide. Janice felt terrible remorse that perhaps she could have done something to prevent it.

As a mother, Janice wondered what happened to the young man whose blood had stained her hands and clothes. Even though Vincent had nearly died from his terrible injuries, she prayed it was a rebirth for him. Janice knew he was involved in a shady world of drugs and violence. However, she hoped he would find a way through that.

Five months after the shooting, Janice would learn Vincent's fate.

Sometime around May 2021, Janice was driving along a rural back road on her way to take care of a friend's horse. She saw ahead of her two cars parked off to the side of the road. One of the cars was apparently broken down, as it had its hood up. She slowed down a bit and recognized a man who appeared to be assisting the stranded motorists. The man was an old friend whom she hadn't seen in ten years.

Janice wanted to say hello, so she pulled over in front of the other cars. She greeted her old friend. While they were talking, a man got out of the broken-down car. He was lean and tattooed. She didn't recognize him immediately. Then she noticed something that made her gasp—a neck tattoo that she'd never forget. It was Vincent.

"Oh my God, it's you!" she said.

Janice and Vincent stood face to face, smiling and emotional but slightly uncomfortable. "Can I hug you?" Vincent asked. "Yes of course," she replied. They embraced and reconnected. "Thank you for saving my life!" he said. Vincent told her he still had the bullet lodged in his body. "It's stuck inside me, just above my butt!"

"Want to feel it?" he asked, twisting around. He pointed to the spot. She awkwardly reached out and felt a bump. She laughed. "Let me introduce you to my girlfriend," he said. He turned and waved a young woman to his side. "This is Teresa." (Name changed.) "Teresa, this is the woman who saved me when I was shot."

"Thank you so much for helping him!" Teresa said. She hesitated briefly before hugging Janice.

Janice asked how he was doing. Vincent revealed he was in drug rehab and his life was much better.

Sometime later, as Janice drove away, she considered if God had brought her and Vincent back together so she would know he was all right. With this closure, her visions of bloody hands dissipated. The guilt around her aunt's death lifted. She had found peace.

Looking Back

As I think about the shooting, I consider if maybe Janice had briefly become a mother again while holding onto Vincent, and her "offspring" was reborn into a better man with a new outlook on life. Perhaps Vincent was redeemed by a mother's love. A love he found that day in Hidden Meadows.

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Hike will explore Santa Ysabel preserve

The Valley Center Trails Association will sponsor a hike Friday, January 7, 2022 - 8 a.m. along the Santa Ysabel Preserve East Loop.

Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve is one of San Diego County's hidden gems. With oak woodlands, riparian, chaparral, and grassland habitats, the Preserve offers variety and wide open spaces. There are cows in the Preserve, which we are sure to see, as well as coyotes, bobcats, and badgers.

The hike is about four miles long and has hills. This hike is rated moderate; participants should be physically fit and have some recent experience walking longer than an hour. The hike is on established trails. Long pants, water, and sun protection are recommended. Dogs are welcome if they are on an 8' (non-retractable) leash and if they've trained their owners to clean up after them.

Meeting place: This hike starts at the trailhead on Hwy 79 - not at the Visitor Center. The parking is on the side of Hwy 79 just 1.2 miles from the 79 junction with Hwy 78 (where Dudley's Bakery and the Julian Pie Company are.) The hike organizer, Anita Noon, added, You can look for my little red Chevy sedan as I am usually there first. Allow about an hour to get to the trailhead from Valley Center. Please be on time. We'll begin hiking by 8:05 a.m."

Heavy rain during 24 hours before hike or steady rain one hour in advance of start time cancels hike. Notice will be given on VCTA FaceBook page. Questions? Email the Trail Master: anitanoone@gmail.com

Valley Center Trails Assn., PO Box 605, Valley Center, CA 92082; www. vctrails.org; a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the creation of non-motorized trails and pathways in Valley Center



Mountain Meadow Equine Rescue Volunteers

Mountain Meadow Equine

By Michelle Zipse / Resident

Every great organization is created by their people and in the case of Mountain Meadow Equine Rehab and Rescue, the great people who make the magic happen are volunteers. These men and women volunteer their time to rescue and rehabilitate horses. Doug Stoodt, a retired attorney, donates his home and resources to this great cause.

They have about 15 horses on the property. These horses come from relinquishments, retired racing thoroughbreds etc. It takes a lot of love to rehabilitate one of these animals and these people put their heart and soul into their volunteer work. Thanks for all you do in our neighborhood. We hope you had a great holiday party!



Katy Freese Celebrates her Birthday with the Tennis Club

By Michelle Zipse / Resident

Katy Freese is the backbone of the Hidden Meadows Tennis Club. She's the primary contact and organizes the weekly games. This is a big labor of love for her friends and neighbors and fellow tennis enthusiasts.

Katy also celebrates a December birth-

day. I'm glad to see the club converged on the courts to help her celebrate on Saturday December 11th. They had pizza and other fun things to eat and lots of time among Current tennis players range from 25 to

90 years young. Some matches are organized according to ability, but most are just fun matches where everyone can play. If you play tennis and want to dust off that old racket and have some fun, contact Katy and she will introduce you to the group and get you set up to play.

Contact Katy Freese at 760-803-5969 or email at clarkfreese@gmail.com You'll be glad you did and make sure to wish Katy a happy belated birthday and a thank you for all she does for the club!

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Tips to Prevent Your Vehicle from Being Stolen

By JOHN BALOGH, Crime Prevention Specialist San Diego County Sheriff's Department

Every day there are vehicles stolen and recovered across California and San Diego County. The vehicles consist of trucks, cars, motorcycles, off-road/recreation, and farm equipment. CHP reported that 180,939 vehicles were stolen in 2020 and 10,174 were from San Diego County. According to CHP, 89% of the vehicles stolen, were recovered.

Some of the vehicles are stolen by professional thieves who may be part of an organized crime group. These thieves are given specific requests for a vehicle that someone wants, such as, make, model, year, color, and trim features. Most of the vehicles end up being shipped out of the state and country. Other times the vehicles end up in a "Chop Shop" where the vehicles are dismantled for parts to be sold off.

The remaining vehicles stolen are by people with various motives. Some are looking for an easy and free transportation tool, the thrill of taking a car "joy ride," dared to do it by peers, quick cash, or a crime of opportunity. These thieves are usually not looking for a particular vehicle per se, but more of an opportunity to try to make money or get transportation somewhere. There are top targeted vehicles that are stolen, and your local law enforcement agency or insurance company can give you a list.

Here are some strategies to reduce your chances of being a stolen vehicle victim:

- Keep your vehicle locked, even when you are driving.
- When parked, never leave your keys/ fob in the vehicle, and keep windows and sunroofs closed.
- Park in a well-lit area when possible, thieves like the dark.
- On an incline, park with your tires turned into the curb, it's harder to tow a vehicle
- Install an anti-theft device. Check it to make sure it works and does what it is supposed to do.
- Install a tracking device or have a service if it is stolen.
- Keep a spare key with you, not "hidden" on the vehicle.
- Pull a spark plug wire, you can hide it in the vehicle or take it with you.
- Install a quick release steering wheel with a locking ring.
- Install a hidden kill switch. If it is not switched on, the vehicle will not start.
- Install a wheel lock "boot" works with most vehicles.
- Having a standard or stick shift will deter a lot of thieves.
- Chain the wheels of motorcycles and trailers, attach to a large item. Spend the money on the highest quality chain.
- Some companies offer insurance on their products against theft.

Other precautions:

- Don't leave your registration, title, other information with your address in the vehicle.
 Make a copy and put in your wallet or purse that is with you.
 Know your license plate number.
- Don't leave birth certificates or Social Security cards in the vehicle.
- Don't leave valuables in the vehicle. (wallets, computers, purses, change, sunglasses)

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- Have lug nut locks so your wheels are there when you return to the vehicle.
- Park your own car, do you really know/trust the valet?



Sheriff's Department Crime Specialist John Balogh





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