### La Mesa to provide rental subsidies to seniors

Jewish Family Service officials hope to launch program in more cities

By Gary Warth **UNION-TRIBUNE** 

LA MESA — Up to 40 La Mesa seniors will begin receiving \$500 monthly rental subsidies this year as part of a pilot program the city is launching to help prevent older

residents from becoming homeless. The La Mesa City Council approved \$300,000 for the program in February 2024, with the money coming from the \$10.8 million the city received in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Last month, the council approved a \$70,000 contract with Jewish Family Service of San Diego to run the program.

"The La Mesa City Council recognizes that housing affordability is a critical issue for seniors, many of whom live on fixed incomes and face increasing rental costs," La Mesa Mayor Mark Arapostathis said in an email.

Arapostathis also noted that 25% of individuals engaged by the city's Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement team in 2023 were older than 55, and the number of seniors entering homelessness continues to rise.

JFS Chief Operating Officer Dana Toppel said La Mesa is the first city they have contracted with for the rental assistance program, and she hopes other cities will also sign on.

The program is called a shallow senior subsidy rental assistance because it provides just a portion of a person's rent, which Toppel said is often enough to prevent someone from becoming homeless.

"It's a lot more cost-effective in the long run than having older adults with major medical issues living on our streets or in their cars," she said. "So not only is it more dignified, but it's also financially very prudent."

Toppel said a University of San Francisco study in 2023 found that monthly subsidies of \$300 to \$500 or one-time subsidies of \$5,000 to

See **RENTAL** on Page B4

SOMEONE SAN DIEGO SHOULD KNOW

### Dogs using school fields creates issues

Officials seek to curb off-leash activity at S.D.'s joint-use sites

**By David Garrick UNION-TRIBUNE** 

San Diego officials are scrambling to crack down on people letting their dogs run free on school playing fields, which have become hot spots for illegal off-leash activity because the security fencing for kids also keeps dogs enclosed.

City and school officials have intermittently closed joint-use parks at five elementary schools since last year to send a message they'll no longer tolerate off-leash dogs damaging turf, biting students or leaving poop for them to step in.

But because those closures risk depriving law-abiding residents actions of a few people violating the rules have resulted in the of recreational opportunities without stopping illegal off-leash activity, officials are launching a new campaign using color-coded warning signs.

When school officials get reports of bites or find lots of dog poop and damaged turf on a school field, they will shift the sign there from green to yellow. If things get worse, the sign will turn red and the park will be

The city will design, pay for and install the new signs.

The new campaign is another attempt to encourage dog owners to be responsible and thoughtful, without resorting to a crackdown where San Diego Humane Society enforcement officers start writing expensive citations.

"It is unfortunate that the

joint-use park areas being closed to protect public safety," said Nicole Darling, a city spokesperson. "We ask pet owners to take responsibility for their animals and help ensure that shared spaces, like joint-use park facilities, can remain open for the community."

 $The \, of f-\dot{l}eash \, problem - which$ San Diego Unified School District officials say keeps getting worse could jeopardize a highly touted partnership that has created 94 joint-use parks at school sites across the city.

When schools are out of session, school playing fields become public parks that often provide the only recreational open space in a dense urban neighborhood.

But there's a problem: The

special fencing at school fields that aims to keep students safe from kidnappers and drug dealers also happens to create an ideal space where dog owners can run their pets off-leash without fear they will escape.

"The perimeter security fencing is for student and staff protection and safety during the school day and provides site security after hours, but a large grass field with a full perimeter fence appeals to pet owners that wish to allow their dogs off-leash, since they are contained by the park perimeter fence," said Samer Naji, a school district spokesperson.

The negatives of off-leash activity include dogs digging holes that lead to twisted ankles, urine destroying turf and liability for injuries from dog bites, Naji

See SCHOOLS on Page B4

## HONORING PURIM



Dan Pritsker writes the names of visitors in Hebrew and explains the language to them during the Purim celebration held on Sunday at the House of Israel in Balboa Park. He is dressed as Haman, the villain of the story that inspires Purim. BRITTANY CRUZ-FEJERAN / FOR THE U-T

### Hayden family prioritizes helping, housing for East County homeless

Couple run program to provide treatment, job skills training, more

By Jan Goldsmith

FOR THE UNION-TRIBUNE

"If we could duplicate what we're doing here, I believe it would help solve homelessness," said Julie Hayden, CEO of East County Transitional Living Center.

"We have the model that works," added her husband, Ray Hayden, who helps run the center.

The Haydens, who reside in Lakeside with their three children, met in 1995 when Julie was 15 and Ray was 17. They were married in 2000, sharing a common career goal of helping people.

"I grew up in a traumatic childlife around when I met Julie. We volunteered through our church and became a team and wanted to work in the ministry helping people.

Both earned bachelor's degrees in Bible studies and doctorates in psychology.

After completing their education, Julie helped clients with addiction and mental health issues, rising to become a clinical director. Ray worked in the business side of psychology, running clinics and training programs.

Since becoming the nonprofit's CEO in 2023, Julie has focused on inspiring homeless clients to help themselves rather than just

provide housing. "We stabilize them at first, then



hood," Ray said. "I turned my Julie and Ray Hayden's East County Transitional Living Center has more than 500 beds across multiple locations. JAN GOLDSMITH

we prepare them with life skills ing family and single units. We're and when they're finished with the program and are on solid ground, they leave us and enjoy their lives," Ray explained.

Ray conducts training that includes inspirational goal-setting; relationship, job and management skills; resume-writing and job-interviewing.

Participants get job training and work though East County Transitional Living Center's outside contracts and contribute to their housing costs. "Their sense of selfworth is improved quickly and they learn how to keep a job and curriculum, the emergency shelter

apartment," Julie said. "We have 540 beds, includalways full and there is a waiting list of 500. Lots of agencies refer

"I love we have so many we're helping, but it's heartbreaking there are 500 families who want to be here but can't be. When they're here, I see their lives transform. We want to give everyone a chance at a better life."

The center runs a 28- to 60-day emergency shelter program and a one-year program. Although the one-year program is faith-based in that Bible study is part of the

See **KNOW** on Page B2

### Town hall crowd wants to know how to resist Trump

Rep. Mike Levin says people need to speak out against policies

By Blake Nelson **UNION-TRIBUNE** 

Versions of the same question

were asked over and over. keep the federal workforce from being slashed? What's the best way to resist Elon Musk and his Department of Government Efficiency? How should citizens oppose President Donald

Trump? Rep. Mike Levin, a member of San Diego's congressional delegation, returned repeatedly to the same answer: People around the country needed to speak up. "You all remember the Women's March, the March for Our Lives, the Science March," Levin told a packed theater in San Juan Capistrano on Sunday afternoon, referring to protests from in the president. Trump's first term. "All of that happened not because anybody in Washington told them to march, it happened organically, it happened from the bottom up and that's what needs to happen

Levin, a 46-year-old Democrat from San Juan Capistrano, represents the relatively purple stretches from Del Mar in San advance.) The woman was soon Diego County to Ladera Ranch in Orange County. Much of that

coastal area had been in Republican hands until Levin first won in 2018 - he was re-elected to a fourth term in November — but the crowd that showed up to San Juan Hills High School for his latest in-person town hall was overwhelmingly opposed to the current presidential administra-

The few times attendees How can the average person became frustrated were when Levin didn't appear angry enough about what's happening in the nation's capital. After a woman asked about Trump ignoring judicial rulings, Levin noted that many lawsuits challenging the White House's sweeping executive orders were headed to the U.S. Supreme

"That's when we will really see whether we are in a near constitutional crisis or a fullblown constitutional crisis," Levin said, adding that he was relatively confident that a majority of justices would vote to rein

The crowd grew restless. I don't think so," one person murmured.

Another time, a woman who appeared to be in her 30s interrupted the event to point out that nobody from younger generations had so far been able to ask a question. (Much of the crowd appeared to be older and attend-49th Congressional District that ees had to submit questions in

See **LEVIN** on Page B2

#### **SCHOOLS**

From Page 1

said. But another concern is that community members just decided to avoid the fields.

"When off-leash dogs damage the fields, leave waste behind or present a safety risk to other joint-use field users, it creates an environment where students and their families no longer want to use the space intended for them during the school day, nor after hours when these facilities are intended to serve as a community park," Naji said.

School district officials say the off-leash problem has gotten worse as San Diego has added more higher-density housing to older neighborhoods without providing new recreational facilities to match — especially off-leash dog parks.

Darling, the city spokesperson, noted that San Diego has opened seven new off-leash parks during the last five years.

The city now has 18 off-leash areas, including highly popular Fiesta Island and Ocean Beach dog beach. There are also off-leash areas outside the citv.

School district officials acknowledge the city is trying.

The Humane Society, which handles animal enforcement for the city, has launched a "love 'em leash 'em" campaign and sends out enforcement offi-



Elementary School in San Diego on Friday. SANDY HUFFAKER / FOR THE U-T

cers when people report one per day – each year in tough issue that definitely off-leash activity to a hotline at 619-299-7012.

But the city's Parks and Recreation Department in January said that the Humane Society "has focused its officers on education prior to enforcement," despite the off-leash problem at school sites.

That means warnings and encouragement, but usually not citations.

The Humane Society issued between 300 and 400 off-leash citations — about said off-leash activity is a

2022 and 2023 in San Diego. Numbers for 2024 aren't yet available.

The Humane Society declined requests to comment on the off-leash problems at schools, but the nonprofit's chief of law enforcement told The San Diego Union-Tribune in 2023 that he doesn't have nearly enough personnel to aggressively enforce leash

The official, Jace Huggins,

has two sides.

He said people feeling safe at city beaches and in city green spaces is crucial, but that it's also tough to ticket people for letting their dog do something that comes naturally and keeps the dog healthy — roaming free in a park.

School district officials say the bottom line is that the problem isn't getting solved.

"Increased public messaging about the issue

and increased enforcement has not deterred off-leash dog activities at SDUSD joint-use sites," Naji said. 'We do believe that enforcement measures sufficient to deter misuse need to be in place to ensure these fields remain safe and well-maintained for student use."

The color-coded warning signs, which should be posted across the city in coming months, might do more than just encourage dog owners to obey the law by warning of imminent consequences, he said.

Parents have mostly stopped calling in complaints to the Humane Society about off-leash activity because of spotty responses from city enforcement, but a yellow sign warning that a park might soon close could encourage them to call more aggressively, Naji said.

Another possible option: The city and Humane Society could give school district officials the discretion to issue citations — something Naji said "warrants discussion and consideration."

The school district also plans to keep using closures strategically.

Fields at Ibarra, Hearst, Birney, Franklin and Garfield elementary schools have been closed to the public intermittently.

A typical closure lasts eight weeks — enough time to clean out the feces, fix the holes and send a message to off-leash users that there are consequences for their actions.

The fields at Garfield and Franklin remain closed every weekday after school, but they are available for public use on weekends and

during school breaks. There's a chance the off-leash problem could jeopardize the joint-use parks program — or at least

slow its expansion. City Parks and Recreation officials said in January that students being sent home because their shoes and clothes are smothered in dog waste could pose a problem

under state law. "Joint use of school property is permitted under the (California) Civic Act providing there are no negative impacts to the school curriculum," Parks and Rec officials said.

Naji said the problem could also sway public sentiment against the partner-

"Continued misuse of district facilities does jeopardize the widespread family and staff support of these projects," he said.

Even if the partnership isn't in jeopardy, the problem needs to be solved, said Marcella Bothwell, chair of the city's Parks and Recreation Board.

"I hate to threaten people," Bothwell told her colleagues on the board this winter. "But we can't have our kids running around in feces. If they know a closure is a possibility, they might rally around not doing stupid stuff."

### RENTAL

From Page 1

\$10,000 can keep seniors housed or help them become re-housed.

Locally, Serving Seniors conducted a study in 2021 that found \$300 a month could stabilize housing for seniors, which led to the county Board of Supervisors funding a \$3 million pilot program to provide \$500 a month to 220 seniors.

JFS Director of Nutrition and Aging Services Kristine Stensberg said the nonprofit program, the city of San shortage.

**Financial** 

Wesley Financial Group,LLC Time-share Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in

Investment

Opportunities

\$\$\$ for business urpose Real Estativoans. Credit unimortant. V.I.P. Trus eed Company w.viploan.com Call -818-248-0000

Broker-principa DRE 01041073. No Consumer Loans (CDCN)

**Transportation** 

RVs Wanted

**WANT TO BUY** 

RVs/TRAILERS Vehicle

1-800-613-5410 Al

COUPLE

created its own privately funded fund to provide rental assistance for 27 Jewish seniors before contracting with La Mesa. With the first payments expected to go out in May, Stensberg said the subsidies will help keep La Mesa seniors in their homes, while JFS caseworkers will help tenants with various services over the next year.

Those services include helping people with their budgets so they still can make ends meet when the subsidy ends, she said. Besides the county's shallow subsidy Diego's Housing Commission also provides rental subsidies for seniors, with the city providing an average monthly subsidy of \$372 and Serving Seniors providing case management.

Paul Downey, president and CEO of Serving Seniors, said the program has been a success, but with a caveat.

While the intention was for seniors to find more-affordable housing while receiving a subsidy over a finite period, Downey said that plan has been a challenge because of a housing

"When we first proposed shallow rent subsidies, we thought it would be buying time, but rents skyrocketing has made it really difficult to find alternative housing for folks," he said.

With seniors on a fixed income and little alternative affordable housing available, Downey said another longterm solution could be a type of "mini-housing voucher" that would continue to pay partial rent indefinitely.

Still, he said shallow subsidies even over finite periods can play an important role in helping tenants cover unpaid back rent that could cause evictions. As the vice chair of the California Commission on Aging, Toppel advocates for statewide shallow subsidy programs. Attempts have failed so far. In 2024, a Califor-

nia Senate bill that would have created a state shallow subsidy was vetoed by Gov. Gavin Newsom and a state Assembly bill that also would have created a similar program failed. An information session

for applicants to the La Mesa keeping people housed and program is scheduled for

10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. March 20 at the Adult Enrichment Center, 8450 La Mesa Blvd. People also can call 619-667-1322 to reserve 20-minute appointments that will be available March 24, 26 and 27.

Eligible applications are La Mesa residents 55 or older whose income is below 50% of the area median income and have more than 50% of their income going to housing or are at risk of homelessness. Priority will be given to households 65 or older and are at or below 30% of the area median income.

### **Announcements**

Announcements

\$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free infor-mational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-403-2314 (CDCN) DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not - 24 Hour Re-sponse - Maximum Tax Donation - Help Find Missing Kids! Call 1-844-408-0971. (CDCN)

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-491-2884 today!

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? Your car donation to Patriot-ic Hearts helps vet-erans find work or start their own business. Fast free pick. Running or not! Call 24/7: 855-569-1425. (CDCN)

day! (CDCN)

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator.

Act
now to receive a
FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call
1-844-9643998 today to
schedule a free
quote. It?s not just
a generator. It?s a
power
move.

Tiene un vehiculo no deseado? Donelo a Patriotic Hearts! Recogida rápida y gratulta en los 50 estados. Patriotic Hearts ofrece programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llama ahora: 866-388-1713 (24/7) (CDCN)

**Business** Services to Financial Aids, Find it in the Classifieds

Commercial Over \$10K in Debt?
Be debt free in 24 to
48 months. No upfront fees to enroll.
A+ BBB rated. Call
National Debt Relief
1-866-628-5726.
(CDCN) **Real Estate** 

**Real Estate** 

Commercial/Industrial For Rent Location: South Bay, 1 mile-805 eatures: \*\* Large fenced yard, office Contact:\*\* Ed 619-807-8580

Rentals

Rentals

**Real Estate** 

Commercial

**Real Estate** 

**Industrial Property** 

POWAY SINGLE OCC. GUEST HOME for **RENT 1 bed 1 bath,** full kitchen, private entrance, includes water/electric, no pets \$1700/month. Close to Marine Corps airstation. Call 757-771-6745

Other Rentals Rooms for Rent Spring Valley Furnished Room Private entrance. Util., cable, laundry incl. \$985/mo \$250/Dep. **619 665 - 9425.** 

From bikes and trikes, to mopeds and motorcycles, find it in the

classifieds!

Real Estate to Sell or Buy, right

here in the Very Best Classified Section!



Services

**Bathtub Repair** Refinish

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply.) Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/29/24.) Call 1-855-419-8241 (Offer ends 12/29/24.) Call 1-855-419-8241

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehen-sive lifetime war-ranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featur-ing our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Fi-nancing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-937-4157 (CDCN)

Misc Services

DID YOU KNOW
N e w s p a p e r generated content
is so valuable it's
taken and repeated,
condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted,
copied, edited, and
emailed countless
times throughout
the day by others?
Discover the Power
of Newspaper Advertising. For a free
brochure call 916288-6011 or email ce
celia@cnpa.com
(CDCN)

The difference in winning and losing market share is how businesses use their advertising Services' power to connect to nearly 13 million of the state's readers who are an engaged audience, makes our services an indispensable marketing solution. For more info call Cecelia @ 916) 288-6011 or cecelia@cnpa.co

Put your money where your market is! 866-411-4140

utclassifieds.com

The San Diego Union-Tribun **Business Notices** 

The San Diego Union-Tribune

### Legal Notices

Metro and North San Diego | 866-411-4140

The Californian, SW Riverside | 951-251-0329

Introduced
Ordinance No. 2025-1558
Ordinance No. 2025-1558 - an ordinance of the City
Council of the City of San Marcos, California,
amending San Marcos Municipal Code Chapter 9.08 amending San Marcos Municipal Code Chapter 9.08 (Parks and Recreation Commission) to add two alternate members. Ordinance No. 2025-1558 was introduced on March 11, 2025, and will be presented to the City Council for adoption on March 25, 2025. A certified copy is posted in the office of the City Clerk at 1 Civic Center Drive, San Marcos, CA. Phillip Scollick, City Clerk, City of San Marcos.

San Diego Union-Tribune
Published: 3/17/25

Published: 3/17/25

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
School Photography - RFP #422-25-26

The Fallbrook Union Elementary School District is inviting proposals from qualified companies, partnerships, or corporations to provide professional school photography services. Responses to RFP #422-25-26 shall include one (1) original and one (1) copy. Proposals are to be submitted to: Fallbrook Union Elementary School District, Attention: Angeline Puckett, 321 lowa Street, Fallbrook, CA 92028-2108. Questions regarding the RFP may be directed to Angeline Puckett, Accounting Specialist at (760) 731-5434 or apuckett@fuesd.org. The deadline to submit bid responses is by 12pm on April 14, 2025. Proposals received after 12pm will be returned to the proposer unopened.

San Diego Union-Tribune Published: 3/17, 3/26/25

Notice is hereby given that personal property in

| CODEN | Published: 3/17, 3/26/25 | Notice is hereby given that personal property in the following units will be sold at public auction pursuant to the California Self-Storage Facility Act. The Items to be sold are generally Described as miscellaneous personal and household items. The sale will take place on 03/24/2025 starting at 7:00AM on the California Self-Storage Facility Act. The Items to be sold are generally Described as miscellaneous personal and household items. The sale will take place on 03/24/2025 starting at 7:00AM on the control of the State of the State

CITY OF SOLANA BEACH, CALIFORNIA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
Until 2:00 PM on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, the City shall accept bids at the Office of the City Clerk, 635 South Highway 101, Solana Beach, CA 92075, at which time they will be opened by the City Clerk and read. The bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes and marked on the cutside with the fallowing project marked on the outside with the following project

ADA Pedestrian Ramps

Bid No.: 2025-03

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The work to be done consists of furnishing all materials, equipment, tools, supervision, labor and incidentals required to complete the above stated project. The work includes: Constructing six (6) pedestrian ramps at various street intersection corners, including traffic control, demolition of existing surface improvements and patching, per the List of Ramp Locations

OBTAINING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS: Plans and Specifications and other contract documents may be secured from the Office of the City Engineer. A non-refundable fee of \$25 is required for each set A non-refundable fee of \$25 is required for each set of documents. Mailing fee is an additional \$10. Bid documents may also be downloaded from the City website http://www.ci.solana-beach.ca.us at no charge. Select "City Government," then "Engineering/Public Works," then "Projects Accepting Bids." It is the Contractor's responsibility to verify all the contact information for their company (including mailing address, email address, office phone number and office fax number) is included on the electronic plan holder's list available through the electronic bidding website linked to the City website. Failure to do so may be cause for rejection of the bid.

San Diego Union-Tribune

San Diego Union-Tribune Published: 3/17, 3/24/25

# Your one-stop place to shop is at home!

Thousands of buyers are looking for your product every day.

Place your ad in the classifieds!

To place an ad that works, call one of our professionals today!

866-411-4140 utclassifieds.com

The San Diego Union-Tribune

