

Opinion
Here and There

Where the insects are 'awesome'



Champion photos by Marianne Napoles

Children representing the biodiversity of the State Park including wildflowers, a bumblebee, bobcat, and other species, parade around the Discovery Center led by resource scientist Alissa Ing.

Discovery Center opens at State Park

By Marianne Napoles

Children in costume representing the biodiversity of Chino Hills State Park paraded around the Discovery Center on Sunday at the Brea entrance to the park to commemorate the 150th anniversary of state parks.

When the doors to the large, airy lobby opened, the first thing seen was a collage of bright colorful photos of the State Park, including the California Poppy, gracing the rustic wall.

Children and adults scrambled to the long-awaited exhibits unveiled to the public for the first time.

Boy scouts examined bees, butterflies, and beetles under microscopes and magnifying glasses, and pushed buttons to light a map showing where coyotes and bobcats frequent.

Mikayla Castillo, 9, of Chino Hills, bounced from exhibit to exhibit. "I think the insects are awesome," she said.

Exhibits demonstrated how mountain lions, golden eagles, and hawks are tracked. A bobcat radio collar was displayed.

Feathers of roadrunners, barn owls and woodpeckers were displayed next to sage leaves, willow leaves, a tarantula and California poppy.

Screens covered the large windows with the words "hit the trails," "explore," "take a hike," while still allowing a view of the rolling hills against the blue sky.

Residents strolled a looped trail lined with plants grown from seeds and cut-



Claire Schlotterbeck, (left) executive director of Hills for Everyone, the group that founded the park, enjoys her granddaughter Kennedy Swann, dressed as a wildflower for the parade. She is shown with daughter Melanie Schlotterbeck (center), also of Hills for Everyone, and daughter Jennifer Swann.

tings in the park, including chaparral, coastal sage scrub, grassland and woodland.

Trail hikers commented on the mild weather, very blue sky and puffy clouds that floated above the hills.

Presentations about the urban impacts and history of the park were shown on exhibits and played on a flat screen television, beginning with the

Tongva Gabrieleno American Indians who "created a sustainable life for thousands of years on the hills and flatlands of the Chino Hills State Park."

Adrian Spitzzeri, 10, of Chino Hills, thoughtfully signed the visitor's book with an illustration of nature and the words: "I love the exhibits and I love nature. You did a real good job. Thank you."



ABOVE: Mikayla Castillo, 9, of Chino Hills tries on a handprint, assisted by Kelly Elliott, parks district superintendent.

LEFT: Twins Brady and Alex Nordbeck examine an exhibit with David Plourde, wearing a raccoon mask. The three boys from Riverside are 10 years old.

School district prepares to open Gird Hall of Fame

By Brenda Dunkle

A ribbon cutting for a hall of fame to honor persons who have contributed to the Chino Valley school district will be held at the Oct. 16 school board meeting, according to district spokeswoman Julie Gobin. The board will meet at 7 p.m. in the district office, 5130 Riverside Drive, Chino.

The Richard C. Gird Hall of Fame, named for the founder of the city of Chino, will be located in the lobby area just outside the school board room at the district office.

A receptionist desk and window and storage cabinets at the south end of the lobby have been removed to make room for the Hall of Fame. The district is planning to have a large bust of Mr. Gird placed on a stand and centered against the south wall. The west wall will become home to plaques for each year's inductees into the Hall of Fame. Track lighting may also be installed. Also under consideration is a mural or art treatment behind the bust or on the walls that is relevant to the history of the school district, Ms. Gobin said.

The north end of the lobby that currently features photos of school principals is not expected to undergo any change as a result of the makeover, Ms. Gobin said.

First inductees in the Hall of Fame will be Mr. Gird and his wife Nellie, who will be honored at the school district's sixth annual Golf Tournament and State of the District Address on Nov. 17 at Vellano Golf and Country Club in

Chino Hills. The address and dinner will be held at 4 p.m. that day.

Champion Newspapers publisher emeritus Allen McCombs, a member of the school district's Hall of Fame Committee, will provide a historical presentation on the Girds at the State of the District address.

The large bronze bust of Mr. Gird to be placed in the Hall of Fame was commissioned by the City of Chino for more than \$24,000 and donated to the school district in February after city council members learned there are no city funds to erect the sculpture for public viewing. It was sculpted by Lawrence Noble, then of Crestline.

It will cost the district approximately \$4,240 to build a stand sturdy enough for the bust, which is large and quite heavy, Ms. Gobin said. The spokeswoman said she had no estimates for the renovation or costs associated with the Hall of Fame.

Mr. Gird, who founded Chino in 1887, furnished and supplied a teacher for the first school in 1888. He also built the first permanent school that opened that year at Fifth and D streets.

Mrs. Gird, who was a community leader in the late 1800s, also served as a school board member for several years and was named board president in 1897.

The Hall of Fame is the brainchild of school board member Sylvia Orozco, who often said she wished there was a way to honor people who have been important to the school district.

Chino Hills searches for someone to take \$

By Marianne Napoles

The City of Chino Hills is attempting to find 558 individuals and businesses that are due unclaimed funds from the Recreation Division, according to spokeswoman Denise Catteran.

The funds, which have been held for more than three years, may be refunded from deposits when a meeting room was reserved, or refunds due from a class cancellation, Mrs. Catteran said.

On July 2, the city mailed 741 letters to parties who were due a total of \$21,900. More than 180 persons responded but less than \$7,000 was claimed, Mrs. Catteran said.

Eight customers whose combined claims added up to \$61 donated their refunds to the city, she said.

Amounts ranged from

\$5 to \$240. The highest amounts included: \$240 owed to Linda Dang, \$218 for Carlos Garcia, \$212 for Kara Sesma, \$196 for Benjamin Hermsillo, \$190 for Ying Huo, \$181 for Evelyn Stephens, \$179 for Enzina Maier, \$163 for Larris Gofforth, \$147 for Cindy Feliciano, \$142 for Faranak Eftekhari, and \$130 for Sunyoung Oh.

Residents may view the list by visiting chinohills.org, go to "local news" on the home page, then click on "Does the City Owe You a Refund?"

The city also published the list in the Sept. 13 and 20 editions of the Champion.

The refund claim form must be submitted to the Recreation Division by Wednesday, Nov. 12.

Information: Bonnie Sotelo, administrative assistant, 364-2706.

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