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& Chino Valley News

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Solar farm picked for Tres Hermanos

By Marianne Napoles

A solar farm, instead of houses, has been designated for the 2,500-acre Tres Hermanos Ranch located on both sides of Grand Avenue in Chino Hills and Diamond Bar.

The oversight board governing the sale of the land voted 4-3, Thursday, to sell the property to the City of

Industry for \$41.65 million dollars.

The board is requiring Industry to include a restrictive covenant that would not allow the land to be used for any purpose other than a renewable energy project, open space, public use, and preservation.

The three-hour meeting was held at City of Industry council chambers. Tres Hermanos Ranch

is owned by the successor agency to the City of Industry's former redevelopment agency. The successor agency is the City of Industry city council.

Industry city manager Paul Philips noted that its previous offer of \$100 million did not include a restrictive covenant so he suggested the original offer of \$41.65 million. He said the lower offer will allow more

cash to be infused back into the project.

James Casso, attorney for Industry, said the project will include hiking trails and open space for people to enjoy. He said residents have spoken clearly that they do not want more houses.

Chino Hills' general plan would allow 467 housing units and Diamond Bar's plan allows 624.

Both Diamond Bar and Chino Hills require a "specific plan" for Tres Hermanos that calls for public input and additional review by the planning commissions and city councils.

What open space?

Chino Hills city attorney Mark Hensley said he reviewed numerous documents related to the project.

See FARM, Page A3

Chino valley enjoys partial eclipse



Champion photo by Josh Thompson



Champion photo by Dawn Marks

It was the eclipse that almost wasn't.

On Aug. 21 Chino Valley residents awoke looking forward to a solar eclipse, and saw only gray, cloudy skies.

However, the clouds broke up just before the celestial event was supposed to start at 9:06 a.m., and everyone got the chance to see the moon block out the sun, at least partially.

Chino Valley residents donned glasses and gazed through boxes to safely watch the event.

Turn to pages A8-9 to see our favorite pictures from the eclipse, including some sent in by readers.

Yellow fever mosquitos found in Chino Hills



Photo by Brian Reisinger

Vector biologist Quan Vong reviews larvae collected in Chino Hills.

By Marianne Napoles

Yellow fever mosquitoes, known to transmit yellow fever, West Nile virus and the Zika virus, were found in Chino Hills on Tuesday.

The West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District set traps near Slate Drive and Agate Road Aug. 21 after a resident in that area complained about mosquitoes biting in the

daytime.

Michelle Brown, district manager, said the mosquitoes were tested and there is no indication they are carrying disease.

"Because they are new to our environment and with their unique biting and egg laying habits, yellow fever mosquitoes have the potential to spread rapidly and introduce previously

See Mosquitos, Page A3

Historian to speak on Antonio Maria Lugo

Chino Hills resident and historian Paul Spitzzeri will speak on the history of Antonio Maria Lugo and the early years of the Rancho Santa Ana del Chino at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18, at the Chino Hills Community Center, 14250 Peyton Drive.

The event is being hosted by the Chino Hills Historical Society.

Antonio Maria Lugo was born in 1775 near Monterey, Mexico, six years after the Spanish settled in California.

When a soldier in the Spanish Army, he was granted the Rancho San Antonio encompassing nearly 30,000 acres southeast of Los Angeles.

He and his family acquired Rancho Santa Ana del Chino that encompassed today's cities of Chino and Chino Hills.

"Lugo was torn by the loss of California to the Americans during a war that included the Battle of Chino, which was fought on what is now Boys

Republic," Mr. Spitzzeri said. "He was known for his forthright personality, hospitality, and strength of character."

Mr. Spitzzeri, who has lived in Chino Hills for 20 years, is the museum director at the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum in the City of Industry.

He has bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Cal State Fullerton. His works on local, regional, and state history have been published in many journals and anthologies.

He maintains the blog *carboncanyonchronicle.blogspot.com* containing colorful stories about the canyon and its history.

"Paul really captivates the audience as he paints a picture of the history of the area," said Denise Catterm, president of the Chino Hills Historical Society.

Information: 597-6449 or send an email to chhistory@aol.com.



Submitted photo

Paul Spitzzeri, a local historian will speak about Antonio Maria Lugo, a soldier who was granted much of the land that is now Chino and Chino Hills.

Portuguese traditions honored at Festa do Espirito Santo

Chino DES Club's Festa do Espirito Santo (Feast of the Holy Spirit) continues today (Aug. 26) through Monday in honor of Queen Isabel of Portugal, a compassionate queen who gave food to the poor and was canonized a saint after her death.

The celebration involves three days of processions, dancing, feasting on traditional Portuguese dishes of sopas, roast beef and beans, as well as the Catholic traditions of Mass and rosary to honor the third person of the Blessed Trinity.

Rosary will be recited at 6 p.m. today at the Chino D.E.S. Hall, 5216 Riverside Drive. Presentation of queens and her attendants will take place at 7 p.m. followed by dancing at 8 p.m. with D.J. Production.

The annual procession from the D.E.S. hall to St. Margaret Mary Church steps off at 10 a.m. Sunday.

See FESTIVAL, Page A2

Six apply for vacant fire board seat

By Josh Thompson

Four Chino residents and two residents from Chino Hills will interview Monday afternoon for the vacant Chino Valley Fire District board of director's seat, left by Chino Hills resident Brian Johsz, who was appointed this month to the Chino Hills city council.

Interviews will begin at 3 p.m. at fire district headquarters, 14011 City Center Drive in Chino Hills. The meeting is open to the public.

Board members Mike Kreeger, Ed Gray, John DeMonaco and Sarah Evinger could appoint one of the applicants to the board after the interviews, but will also have the option to decide at a meeting in early September.

Applicants are Chino Planning Commission members Harvey Luth and Steve Lewis, Chino Community Services Commissioner Kevin Cisneroz, retired Chino city manager Richard Rowe, Chino Hills Parks and Recreation Commissioner Joe Schaffer, and Carbon Canyon Fire Safe Council member Vance Stearns.

The person appointed will hold the seat until December 2018. The seat will be up for election in the November 2018 general election, and will be a two-year term.

In the November 2020 election, the seat will return to a four-year seat.

Applications for the vacant fire board seat were due Thursday. The district will no longer accept applications, fire officials said.

Fire board of directors regularly meets at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 13.

Mosquito

Continued from Page A1

unseen human disease to our area," Dr. Brown said. To carry disease, the mosquito would have to bite somebody who is infected, she said. Residents need to get in the habit of using mosquito repellent when outdoors. Dr. Brown said yellow fever is still a real threat. A recent outbreak occurred in Brazil, she said, adding there is a vaccine for yellow fever. She described the mos-

quitoes as very aggressive biters that prefer human blood. Females do the biting because they need blood to produce eggs. Dr. Brown said the discovery of the mosquito was a surprise. She said it is prevalent in Los Angeles and Orange County but interactive maps show it is spreading. "It's logical that we would be next in line because Chino Hills is so close to those counties," she explained. Dr. Brown said if residents are getting bit in the daytime, they should con-

tact the vector control district at 635-0307. The main concern about this mosquito is that they are container breeders and need only small amounts of water to lay eggs, such as in flower pots, bird baths, and even bottle caps, she said. After removing the water, residents should scrub out the container to remove all eggs. If not, the eggs will remain in place and dry out. When the eggs come into contact with water again, they will hatch, unlike native mosquito eggs that die. Information: wvmvcd.org.

Farm

Continued from Page A1

but could not find any details about open space. He said Industry spent more than \$9 million on consultants and plans related to a solar farm but did not inform Chino Hills or Diamond Bar. "People are coming forward expecting open space and nowhere in the plans is there any discussion of open space," Mr. Hensley said.

Board memers Santos Kreimann, Michael Gregory, and Darin DeKnikker voted against the proposal stating that Industry was secretive, did not disclose plans for a solar farm, and did not provide details. Mr. DeKnikker, a Chino Hills resident, said he had no idea a solar farm was proposed until he read about in the newspaper. When asked about the ratio of solar panels to open space and whether the solar panels would be visible from Grand Avenue, Mr. Casso said he could not answer specifics because he did not know the size of the project.

Conservation
Board member Esteban Torres, father-in-law of Mr. Casso, said he was proud to represent the people of San Gabriel Valley as a former Congressman and supported the project on behalf of the people. About a dozen members



Champion photo by Marianne Napoles

A photo of Tres Hermanos on westbound Grand Avenue heading into Diamond Bar taken two hours before the oversight board voted to approve a solar farm and public use on the 2,500-acre ranchland.

of the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps held signs in support of the solar farm stating that open space will allow green jobs, green infrastructure, and green justice. Mayor Ray Marquez said the oversight board let Industry off the hook for \$58 million although its role is to obtain the maximum amount. He said many residents in Chino Hills do not want a solar farm and he would do everything he could as mayor to ensure residents

don't see solar panels on both sides of Grand Avenue. Industry city manager Mr. Philips said the proposal will be released in the coming months and will include open space and recreation space. "Industry city council is dedicated to protect Tres Hermanos from the possibility of a high-end development that would have resulted in worse air quality and added further gridlock to the 57/60 and Grand Avenue," he said.

Appointment system launched for passports

By Marianne Napoles

Passport services have become so popular the City of Chino Hills launched an appointment system and a new schedule to accommodate walk-in customers. Appointments may be made from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; from 2 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays; and from 7:30 a.m. to noon Fridays. To schedule a time, call the passport hotline at 364-2607. The new schedule for walk-in customers is from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday. City clerk Cheryl Balz said the transition may take up to

six months, so walk-in customers will be accepted during appointment hours as time permits. The city clerk's office has been providing passport services since 2005 but its growing success has caused unintended consequences. "We frequently exceed our capacity for service well before closing time," Ms. Balz said. "The lobby was not designed to accommodate such large crowds and customers are often waiting by a doorway which creates a safety concern." Many times, customers visiting city hall for other business are lost in the crowded lobby, she added.

In fiscal year 2016-17, the city clerk's office processed 7,481 passport applications. The U.S. Department of State oversees all aspects of the program and sets the fees, the city clerk said. The execution fee received by passport acceptance facilities is \$25 per application. The fee is expected to increase to \$35 per application but a proposed ruling to that effect has not yet been approved. Passport services are provided at the city clerk's office on the second floor at city hall, 14000 City Center Drive. Information: chinohills.org/passports or the city clerk's office at 364-2620.

League

Continued from Page A2

port of this resolution are La Mirada, Lakewood, Monrovia, Pico Rivera, Rolling Hills, Santa Fe Springs, and South Gate. No cities were reported to be opposing the resolution.

EMT Designation
The city of Tracy, which is located in San Joaquin County, proposed a resolution clarifying the control individual cities have when it comes to emergency medical services. When the Emergency Medical Services Act was enacted in the 1980 it created a two-tier system that focused on

state medical services and local medical services. The city of Tracy would like local EMS powers clarified as the city has seen a variety of medical service quality between the local and county levels. Tracy feels the act, with its current wording, limits the power of local fire departments.



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