

Santa Ynez VALLEY NEWS



Goal setting

Solvang Senior Center reaches \$3M fundraising goal, will build in 2023, VALLEY LIFE, B1



Former Pirate earns major honors

Pritchard named to All-Region team for third time. SPORTS, A6

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ABOUT TOWN

Art show supporting UC Natural Reserve System slated for Dec. 3-4

An art exhibit highlighting the diversity and beauty of the seven UC Natural Reserve System sites managed by UC Santa Barbara will be on display Saturday and Sunday Dec. 3 and 4 at the Music Academy in Santa Barbara.

Doors open from 2 to 8 p.m. Saturday with an awards reception slated from 5 to 7 p.m., and on Sunday art will be on display from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Art sales will benefit the Reserve System, according to hosting artist nonprofit S.C.A.P.E., Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment.

The group helps raise funds for nonprofit environmental organizations through a variety of events.

The Santa Barbara Natural Reserve System was established in 1965, and its resulting Reserve System features 41 reserves and field stations representing California's diverse ecological regions. They include coastal, wetland, oak woodland and mountain systems that support wildlife, migratory birds, diverse vegetation and research.

The upcoming show, which is free and open to the public, marks the group's 20th anniversary.

The event will be set up in Lehmann Hall at Music Academy in Santa Barbara, 1070 Fairway Rd.

SYV libraries schedule holiday book sale

Solvang Library's "Holiday Hallway Book Sale" kicks off Tuesday, Nov. 29 at 3 p.m. and runs through Saturday, Dec. 10, featuring an assortment of books, DVDs, and audio for sale at the hallway lobby.

Sale tables will be refreshed daily, according to library staff.

An ongoing program through November includes a free craft kit that consists of a triangle and ball game — a modern day version of a historic children's game in honor of Native American Heritage month.

Kits are available for pick up during hours of operation and are free.

The Solvang Library will be closed on Thursday and Friday Nov. 24-25 for the Thanksgiving holiday, reopening Saturday, Nov. 26.

The Los Olivos and Santa Ynez libraries will be closed on Saturday, Nov. 26.

The Solvang Library is still recruiting for a temporary, part-time library technician position. The position is 15 hours per week.

Free hot breakfast served at St. Mark's

The community is invited to enjoy a free hot breakfast at the newly renovated Santa Ynez Valley Community Kitchen each Saturday at 8 a.m.

The meal, which is available to everyone at no charge, includes hot and cold, gluten-free, and vegan options.

The "Valley Breakfast" is an initiative to address food insecurity in the community and the community kitchen helps support micro-businesses and provides a no-fee space for nonprofit and community-based groups.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Over 60 volunteers rallied at Camp Rancho Alegre for a camp cleanup day on Nov. 5 in preparation for The Outdoor School's fall 2023 reopening. Attendees included scouts, scout leaders, families and other members of the community.

'Still have much to accomplish'

The Outdoor School targets fall 2023 reopening in grand rebirth after 2017 Whittier Fire

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Los Padres Council of Boy Scouts of America's Outdoor School at Camp Rancho Alegre in the Los Padres National Forest is on pace to reopen to the public in 2023, marking a comeback of the program some five years after the camp was destroyed in the 2017 Whittier Fire.

The 215-acre camp in just 45 minutes was devastated by the blaze which charred more than 18,000 acres in the Santa Ynez Mountains, destroyed 16 homes near Highway 154 and decimated 47 of the 50 on-site structures.

According to Carlos Cortez, Scout executive and CEO for Los Padres Council, Boy Scouts of America, efforts to fully rebuild the camp remain underway while a target date is set for the fall of 2023 to reopen The Outdoor School.

"We have made progress with six buildings now in operation



A building burns at Rancho Alegre Boy Scout Camp and Outdoor School during the Whittier fire in July 2017.

while eight buildings are in various stages of completion with the entrance road still needing to be widened and paved," Cortez said. "But we still have much to accomplish to be ready for the youth of Southern California."

Camp Rancho Alegre once served over 10,000 boys and girls and their families each year through its various community events that included a unique overnight education program provided through The Outdoor School, as well as community church retreats, community gatherings, and Boy Scout camps.

The Outdoor School is de-

signed for fifth and sixth grade public school children to explore beyond the classroom walls, immersing in hands-on outdoor environmental and STEM educational activities, hiking and exploring nature.

According to Los Padres Council officials, restoration of The Outdoor School is one of the driving factors behind the push to rebuild the 50-year-old Rancho Alegre — an undertaking estimated at \$18 million after 90% of the buildings at the camp facility were destroyed by the fire.

Earlier plans were announced by the Los Padres Council to reopen both Boy Scout Summer

How to help

The Los Padres Council is seeking funding for ongoing repairs and improvements at Camp Rancho Alegre, as well as funding for the operation of The Outdoor School.

Interested donors can visit the council website at www.lpcbsa.org or contact Kenneth Miles, Boy Scouts of America Development consultant, at 805-835-9456, or email Kenneth.Miles@Scouting.org

Camps improvements can be viewed at campranchoalegre.com/

For camp reservations, information, and other volunteer opportunities, contact Glen Goddard at 562-760-0256.

Camp Rancho Alegre is located on the San Marcos Pass near Cachuma Lake and serves youth in both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

Camp and The Outdoor School program to area school youth in 2020, "but COVID got in the way," a council spokeswoman said.

Please see ACCOMPLISH, Page A5

Wildling Museum of Art and Nature now debt free after paying off mortgage

More educational experiences to be offered in 2023

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Solvang's Wildling Museum of Art and Nature is debt free after posting its last mortgage payment on a \$1.6 million loan note owned by the Adams Legacy Foundation, opening up a new chapter for the 22-year-old local cultural institution to expand its offerings.

"It's an amazing feeling to have paid off the mortgage five years early and we're so excited to be developing plans for the next several years to make us even more

accessible and relevant to our community," said museum Executive Director Stacey Otte-Demangate.

According to Otte-Demangate, both the Adams foundation and long-time supporters and financial contributors Judy and Jack Stapelmann were factors in the museum success in reaching the major financial milestone.

"We are so grateful to the Adams and Stapelmann families for kicking off this campaign," she said. "Their leadership inspired the confidence of our other supporters."

The Wildling Museum, which was founded in 2000, purchased the building at 1511 Mission Drive in Solvang in 2017 with a \$1.6 mil-

lion loan from the Adams Legacy Foundation and after making a \$1 million down payment.

The private family foundation set a 10-year timetable for repayment, a museum spokeswoman said, which resulted in a long-range planning retreat in 2012 when the board of directors set a key goal to improve the museum's financial sustainability.

"I'm so happy to see the Wildling thriving," said Pete Adams, founder of the Adams Legacy Foundation. "The Wildling has built a strong foundation and now can look confidently to the future. I look forward to seeing what they will do."

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Solvang's Wildling Museum of Art and Nature is debt free after posting its last mortgage payment on a \$1.6 million loan note owned by the Adams Legacy Foundation, allowing the 22-year-old local cultural institution to expand its offerings in the coming year.

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