

LOCAL EXTRA



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MITCHELL ROSEN

KEEP GRADUATION A HAPPY TIME

Last week I attended my son's graduation from law school. It was one of those occasions where pride welled my eyes and I couldn't stop smiling. The ceremony was at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. An imposing and iconic building I last visited in 1968. Unlike most graduations, this audience was respectful, almost reverent. Not a single cell phone jingled and few whispered or spoke when the ceremony began.

At the end, we were allowed to climb down from our seats to a section cordoned off to take photographs as the students received their diplomas. I made my way close to the podium and tried to figure out my camera. Each time I had the right spot in focus another person taking pictures seem to find their way into my view finder. No problem, just move to the left or right.

After I took a series of out of focus pictures, I started to wade through the crowd back to my seat. It was slow going. Even if I didn't want to hear what others were saying I was stuck right next to clusters of families who likely felt as I did. They too had smiles like a marathon runners who make it across the finish line.

As I waded through the sea of humanity, I heard a man and a woman begin to argue. It grew louder and louder. The woman stood in the aisle and the man was seated with a party of people. The verbiage grew more profane and those around had looks of extreme discomfort. It was hard to hear all of the words but something to the effect of "Why are you and your **#@!! girlfriend here? You both can go and F*#!* yourselves!" The arguing turned to screaming, threatening and seemed so out of place for why we were all congregated.

Eventually the woman moved on and the man started to get up out of his seat to go after her, all the time cursing and screaming. He was restrained, I imagine by family and friends; security surrounded the dais, not the seats. Eventually the man sat back down, muttering with an angry and hate-filled expression on his face.

I've seen this same scene play out at school functions, graduations, weddings, bar mitzvahs; any place families gather for an important event. I don't know why I was so shocked to see it at a law school graduation. Maybe because most of the audience wore suits instead of shorts and flip-flops; perhaps because we were all witnessing such a momentous occasion. I just didn't expect it. My thoughts turned to the graduate, the son or daughter who on what should have been the proudest day of their lives had to hear this. A day when everything changed, nothing really had.

Mitchell Rosen, M.A., is a licensed marriage and family therapist with practices in Corona and Temecula. Contact him at features@PE.com.

Officer pulls kitten out of drain

FRENCH VALLEY: Neighbors heard the little feline crying and called for help.

SUBMITTED TO THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

As a kitten cried Tuesday morning, Officer Amy Farrell let her know she would be there soon.

Farrell needed a manhole cover lifted. Then she could crawl to the kitten and save her from her deep predicament.

The 8-week-old female, domestic-gray-and-white-long-haired feline somehow ended up down a storm drain — 12 feet below the street level.

Concerned residents in the French Valley-area neighborhood on Olea Road, east of Highway 79, called Riverside County Animal Services for assistance.

One resident tried to hang a bed sheet into the storm drain's street opening to see if the kitty would use it to crawl out. It wouldn't. Someone would have to pull the critter to safety.

Farrell got the help she needed from a Riverside County Flood Control worker. Once the manhole cover was removed, she worked her way to the meowing kitty, picked her up, then carried her to fresh air. She scooped her up just a

little past noon.

Farrell gave the cat some food and water and took her to the new Southwest Communities Animal Shelter in Wildomar, at 33751 Mission Trail.

She dropped the kitten off before 3 p.m. She will be cared for there by employees of Animal Friends of the Valleys.

"She seemed a bit feral at first," Farrell said. "That is, until I picked her up. Now she's as sweet as can be. She likes to talk to me and squeaks to get my attention until I pick her up again."

Submitted by the Riverside County Department of Animal Services.



SUBMITTED TO THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE
Officer Amy Farrell and the kitten she rescued by climbing into a storm drain.



2010/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Riders from last year's West Coast Thunder, an annual patriotic ride, arrive at the Memorial Day Observance at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside. This year's event, "A Salute to Fallen Heroes," will feature keynote speaker Riverside County Sheriff Stan Sniff.

CEMETERY HOSTS MEMORIAL

Events at Riverside's military burial ground will honor the nation's war dead

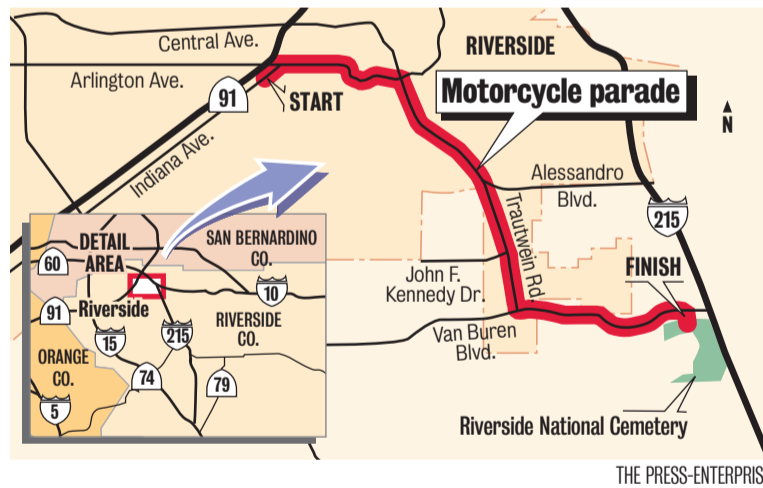
BY MARK MUCKENFUSS
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Inland area Memorial Day observances will be highlighted this year by a motorcycle ride, speakers, a flyover and other events at Riverside National Cemetery.

At 9:11 a.m., the annual West Coast Thunder motorcycle ride will depart from Skip Fordyce Harley-Davidson & Buell in Riverside.

More than 7,000 riders are expected to participate in the event, which will wind through the east side of Riverside before arriving at the cemetery. Some riders will continue on to Soboba Casino near Hemet, where an afternoon of festivities is planned.

At the cemetery, observances are scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. with a performance by the Riverside Concert Band, which will provide musical accompaniment throughout the program. This year's event, "A Salute to Fallen Heroes," will feature keynote



THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

speaker Riverside County Sheriff Stan Sniff, who is a retired colonel with the U.S. Army Reserve, cemetery spokesman Jim Rueter said.

"He is going to talk about both of his careers," Rueter said, referring to Sniff's stints in the military and in law enforcement.

"He is going to tie those together somehow."

Capt. Jay Kadowaki, commander of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Corona, will give a special presentation.

Rueter said Kadowaki recently discovered that a long lost uncle

IN LOCAL EXTRA

■ List of Memorial Day weekend activities around the region. **C5**

who was a Vietnam veteran was buried at the cemetery.

The ceremonies at the cemetery will include a flyover by a C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane from March Air Reserve Base's 452nd Air Mobility Wing.

The events will close with the concert band's rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever."

One hundred flags, all of which once draped the caskets of veterans, will be flying along the main entrance in recognition of the holiday. The cemetery's annual role call of those interred there in the past year will be on Sunday. The reading of the 6,000 names begins at 9 a.m.

The cemetery is located at 22495 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside. Call 951-653-8417 for details.

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Working to present hope via art

BY DANIEL FOSTER AND JILL JONES
SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Riverside artist Nora Ayala explores hope metaphorically in the form of butterflies in her artwork. She tackles large issues and portrays the journey of the human struggle especially as it relates to individuals suffering from mental illnesses.

Ayala's work contains symbols that she has developed over the years working consistently with the themes involved in the human struggle. The main symbolic repeated images that she uses are butterflies, buildings and text. She has already built up a large consist-

tent body of work that focuses on these concepts and imagery.

"Art is a language; visual words that speak to the soul," says Ayala. She uses her work to express her emotions and experiences, but her greatest challenge, and a main underlying theme, is to present hope. She views art as a life-saving experience and believes in the power of hope that she can project

in her work. Her intent is to bring light to some of the darkness she has encountered.

"Nora Ayala creates very personal, thought-provoking and powerful work that speaks of the human condition. She exposes issues and reveals internal darkness that many can relate to — issues of loneliness, anxiety and depression. SEE AYALA/C4A

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: NORA AYALA



SUBMITTED TO THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Riverside artist Nora Ayala explores hope metaphorically in the form of butterflies in her artwork. She uses her work to express her emotions and experiences.