

MEDIATE THIS !

‘THERE IS ROOM FOR EVERYBODY’ TO BE A PHILANTHROPIST

BY STEVEN P. DINKIN

Now that the last bits of Thanksgiving dinner have been repurposed for the very last time, we are headlong into the holiday shopping season. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, you will likely spend time this month pondering and purchasing gifts for family and friends.

You may also be among the millions of individuals making a gift to a charitable cause. While Giving Tuesday has passed, our mailboxes — physical and electronic — continue to fill with requests for donations. It's no wonder: Fully 30 percent of annual giving occurs in December; 10 percent occurs on the last three days of the year.

In donating, we put the interests of others above our own to enhance community well-being. In fact, the word “philanthropy” comes from a Greek word meaning “for love of mankind.” Along with helping others in need, acts of charity give us pleasure that goes beyond satisfying our altruistic desires. In a 2017 article in *The Atlantic*, Alexia Fernandez Campbell writes that charitable giving activates the same two brain parts that control our enjoyment of food and reactions to cute babies.



EDUARDO CONTRERAS U-T FILE PHOTO

Malin Burnham said he believes philanthropists are also people who give their through volunteer work.

Simply put, donating money makes us feel better, mentally and physically.

Noted San Diego philanthropist Malin Burnham believes that there is more to philanthropy than check writing. When accepting the Philanthropy in Peacemaking honor from the National Conflict Resolution Center earlier this year, Malin noted that 99 percent of charitable gifts are made only after someone asks. Because of their pivotal role in

fundraising, he considers the people asking to be philanthropists. His view extends to volunteers, who contribute their “shoe leather and brain power” to charities.

“As far as I’m concerned,”

Malin says, “they’re philanthropists, too. There’s room for everybody to play.”

As you think beyond December, how might you become a San Diego philanthropist? The needs in our community are great and

resources (to find the ideal volunteer opportunity) are abundant, including sites like Volunteer Match, HandsOn San Diego and Live Well San Diego. Just a few hours a month can make a real impact on the causes that matter to you and infuse your life with more meaning. I am reminded of Mahatma Gandhi’s words: “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

As rewarding as the work may be, the reality is that we already lead demand-filled lives. The prospect of yet another commitment can feel overwhelming. Allow me to introduce you to someone who’s figured it out: Nico Marcolongo, a Marine Corps officer who saw two deployments to Iraq and is now the senior program manager for Operation Rebound at the Challenged Athletes Foundation.

I met Nico earlier this year, when he was named a KPBS and National Conflict Resolution Center Community Hero. Nico helps injured veterans strengthen their mental and physical well-being and reintegrate into the community through participation in sports — work born of his own experiences with post-traumatic stress. He joined Operation Rebound in 2008; since its inception, the program has assisted more than 2,700 veterans.

Nico spends his free time giving back to others. For the last 20 years, he’s run the Buddy Bowl, a nonprofit that raises money for military, law enforcement and children’s charities through an annual flag football tournament series. The Buddy Bowl is played in four locations around the country and includes challenged and able-bodied athletes of all ages on the same field of play. In addition, Nico volunteers alongside his wife to honor veterans in hospice care, to whom he gives commemorative pins. And recently, he acted in “What Happens Next,” a Cornerstone Theatre Company production about veterans returning from war.

Nico laughs at the idea of being called a philanthropist. “That’s only for the Rockefellers,” he says. Over the next several months, I will introduce you to other San Diego philanthropists who are making a difference in our community. I invite you to join them.

Steven P. Dinkin is president of the National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC), a San Diego-based organization that is working to create innovative solutions to challenging issues, including intolerance and incivility. NCRC is nationally recognized for its conflict management and communication strategies. To learn about NCRC’s programming, visit www.ncronline.com.

NOTEBOOKS

From Union-Tribune reporting staff

GOVERNMENT: LUKE HAROLD

Haviland named new Del Mar mayor

DEL MAR
For the first time in Del Mar’s 60-year history, the city’s mayor and deputy mayor are both women.

City Councilwoman Ellie Haviland, who became mayor for the first time at the council’s annual reorganization Monday, said it’s “a great milestone” for Del Mar. She succeeds City Councilman Dave Druker, who completed his fourth one-year term as mayor.

Council members elected Councilwoman Terry Gaasterland the new deputy mayor, based on her first-place finish in the 2018 City Council election.

City communications consultant Adam Kaye said a review of city records confirmed it’s the first time women have held both posts at the same time.

Haviland, who served as deputy mayor over the last year, emphasized the council’s code of civility as it moves forward in the new year.

“Let’s please try to adhere to that during the difficult year we have ahead,” she said.

“It’s the only way that we can ensure that all of our residents will have an opportunity to be heard and to feel comfortable coming into council and presenting their views.”

Some of the immediate challenges on the horizon for Del Mar include winning California Coastal Commission approval for its plan to manage sea level rise, and a March ballot measure to determine the fate of the Marisol resort project, which would add 65 hotel rooms, 31 villas and 22 affordable housing units. The council will also be hiring a new city manager, following the retirement of the current city manager, Scott Huth.

Haviland also said one of the biggest challenges will be updating the city’s housing element to accommodate 163 more residential units across all income levels in Del Mar. The state is requiring San Diego County to add zoning for about 171,000 new units over the next decade, and each city received a share of that number based on a formula designed to place more housing near jobs and transit.

Harold writes for the U-T Community Press.

THE READERS’ REPRESENTATIVE: ADRIAN VORE

Weather is big news in S.D. County

“Weather never happens in San Diego.” We’ve all heard that. Our home might not be New England, but we do indeed get weather. The past two weeks have seen plenty of rain.

Weather stories are among the most well read in the paper, and online, too.

The U-T has two staffers who cover weather: science reporter Gary Robbins and copy editor Rob Krier. Robbins writes the bulk of the stories, but Krier does a fair share, as well, when Robbins is covering other subjects on his beat or when he’s off. Krier also handles the annual rain contest and does the daily weather question on the weather page.

“Weather is one of the few things that interests virtually everyone who reads our print and online editions,” Robbins said. “That’s because it affects everyone, in different ways, at different times of the day or night.”

Because of weather’s prominence, and because the news lends itself to pictures, the stories frequently appear on A1 or B1.

“I typically give a sense of what the temperature will be across the county, and whether our lives will be significantly affected

by things like rain, wind or heat,” Robbins said about presenting the news to readers. “I also point out particular areas of interest. For example, during (last) week’s storms, I made it clear that the plume of moisture that was arriving from the south could flow up the side of local mountains, condense, and cause heavy rain. That’s exactly what happened on Palomar Mountain.”

Robbins, Krier and editors like to run a box that lists rain totals by community. Only a handful of communities can run in print because of space constraints. Editors try to provide representation from throughout the county, while keeping the largest rain totals. (A reader emailed last week to complain that some communities were omitted. Online has no space constraints. In fact, Robbins published on the U-T’s website Wednesday rain totals from 54 communities.

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BORDER: ALEXANDRA MENDOZA

New lanes open at border crossing

The first four of eight new lanes scheduled to open this month at the San Ysidro Port of Entry are now operating, and border travelers say they already are noticing a difference.

On Monday, commuters waiting in Mexico on the west side of one of the busiest land border crossings said the wait time was between 15 minutes and 30 minutes, far less than they anticipated.

Regularly, that side of the port of entry is assigned for travelers with no Ready Lane or SENTRI documents, so they tend to wait longer. However, the new lanes — in front of former Puerta Mexico — are equipped so that they can be used as Ready Lanes or SENTRI lanes, if needed.

“I was surprised it was this short,” said Maria Martinez, who was returning to San Diego with her family after spending the holiday weekend in Tijuana.

Other commuters were reserving judgment. “Hopefully, it would be like this every day,” said Tijuana resident Raúl Luisa. “But if it is like this with just four, let’s see what

happens when they all open.”

The vendors in the area noticed the new lanes opening last week and said they were surprised that the lines were so short.

An inaugural ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 17, with authorities from both sides of the border expected to be in attendance.

The opening of all eight lanes — for a total of 34 — will mark the final step in the San Ysidro Port of Entry Expansion Project, which started in 2011. It is the first major expansion in the number of border lanes since the port of entry site was constructed in 1976.

Border travelers will still have to wait until Mexico finishes its part of the project to enable easier access to the eight new lanes. Authorities south of the border must tear down the former Puerta Mexico site, which for many years served as the main entry point from San Ysidro to Tijuana.

Until then, drivers must get to the front of the line to be able to access the new lanes. An official with the Mexican government said in mid-November that the demolition project was in the works.

NORTH COUNTY: PHIL DIEHL

Carlsbad says no to beach grooming

CARLSBAD

Beach grooming is too expensive and environmentally disruptive to use in Carlsbad, a city commission decided last week after hearing a staff report on the idea.

Some coastal cities, including Oceanside, use machines to rake or sift their beaches to remove trash and debris, leaving a corduroy surface that looks like a freshly groomed ski slope.

Carlsbad’s Beach Preservation Commission recently asked city staffers to look into whether mechanical grooming might be a better way to keep the beach clean in the heavily used area north of the seawall to the Oceanside border.

However, the process has numerous drawbacks, according to a report presented Tuesday. Fees alone for the required permits would cost about \$50,000. The tractor-like vehicles needed for the work are \$75,000 to \$130,000 each, and annual maintenance costs were estimated at \$40,000.

“Corroding of the equipment is a big is-

sue” because of the constant exposure to salt and sand, said Kasia Trojanowska of the city parks department in her presentation to the commission.

Beach grooming also can disturb nesting birds and marine life including grunion, a fish that periodically swims ashore at high tide and spawns in the sand.

“I haven’t seen the need for a machine like that,” said Commissioner Kathleen Steindlberger. “There’s not that much trash, and there are regular volunteer cleanups.”

Air quality also could be an issue, she said. She’s seen grooming under way in Oceanside, and it created a lot of dust that could be unpleasant for beach visitors and nearby residents.

The California Coastal Commission frowns on beach grooming and regulates the removal of kelp, which often washes ashore and provides a home and food for insects and other seaside creatures.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

WHEN WAR CAME TO SAN DIEGO

One day after Japan’s surprise attack on Pearl Harbor Congress declared war on the Empire of Japan on Dec. 8, 1941.

From The San Diego Union, Monday, December 8, 1941:

WAR NEWS STUNNING BLOW TO SAN DIEGANS; POLICE, FIREMEN READY TO PROTECT CITY

War came upon the United States on as peaceful a Sunday as San Diego has enjoyed in many a month.

The morning was almost too peaceful under the rays of a warm winter sun. Thousands of persons were in church. There was nothing to indicate the United State and Japan were coming to grips immediately in a new act of the axis drama of world conquest.

A few minutes before noon those who had their radios turned on in their homes were stunned to hear that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. Unbelieving, they clung to their radios for confirmation. In hundreds of homes, service men were being entertained as Sunday guests.

UNKNOWN ON STREETS

But on the down town streets there was virtually no word of the cataclysmic events that were transpiring. Throngs of window shoppers peered into stores in quest of an answer to the Christmas gift problem.

Suddenly The San Diego Union newspaper boys raced on the streets with an extra proclaiming that American territory had been bombed.

Many sailors and service men already had hurried to their ships and posts. With the appearance of The Union extra, the movement soon was complete in the downtown area. By 2:30 o’clock a few uniformed sailors were to

be seen in the Plaza, a spot usually teeming with men from the fleet. The few gathered in pairs and talked in hushed tones.

ORDERED TO STATIONS

Soon after the Japanese attack on Pearl harbor had been reported, Capt. Byron T. McCandless, acting commandant of the 11th Naval District, summoned all the navy’s personnel in the district to return to duty, if any were on leave. Within an hour the district headquarters here was reported fully manned. Capt. McCandless’ orders were repeated in San Pedro by Rear Adm. Charles A. Blakely, district commandant.



Capt. McCandless later issued an order that “Beginning tomorrow and until further notice, all personnel on active duty must wear uniforms at all times.”

Indicating the reaction of industry, Maj. Reuben H. Fleet, president of Consolidated Aircraft Corp. telegraphed a message to President I. Roosevelt, as follows:

“We are on the job and at your command, sir.”

The telegram went also to the secretary of the navy, the secretary of war, the chief of the army air corps, the bureau of aeronautics and to Adm. Blakely.

SNAPS INTO ACTION

The announcement of the outbreak of hostilities in the Pacific electrified San Diego into action.

Mayor Benbough reported by late afternoon that: “We are ready and awaiting orders. Firemen and police have been ordered to stand by, but we will wait for orders from

the naval authorities, or from the federal bureau of investigation before undertaking any other than emergency duties.

“We are ready to go. We are standing by awaiting orders from the navy,” Sheriff Bert Strand reported.

The city has 250 police officers ready for duty.

MANY ATTENDING RACES

Among the 3500 spectators at the professional football game in Balboa stadium were many soldiers, sailors and marines. The men left immediately after an announcement was made over the public address system ordering military personnel to their stations. Military police also went through the stands in search of servicemen.

Attired in civilian clothes, many servicemen were enjoying the races at a Caliente when they were ordered to return to duty. Soon after the announcement was made, the men were en route to San Diego.

One noticeable reaction was the quick response of naval men. Buses and street cars soon were alive with men who had been on leave and visiting at distant points within the city, private cars, often driven by wives of the uniformed men, were seen speeding toward the waterfront. Some sailors rushed to the corner drugstore to purchase razor blades, toilet goods and cigarettes.

“I am buying all I can get,” one sailor explained. “This is likely to take quite a time and I’ll be needing supplies. But the Japanese will know after this that they had better stay in their own backyards.”

HISTORICAL PHOTOS AND ARTICLES FROM THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE ARCHIVES ARE COMPILED BY MERRIE MONTEAGUDO. SEARCH THE U-T HISTORIC ARCHIVES AT NEWSLIBRARY.COM/SITES/SDUB