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DIANE BELL

Art stolen in Wisconsin has link to San Diego

It was with intense interest that a San Diego businesswoman read about the recent arrest of a former guard at the Wisconsin governor's mansion for stealing a painting from the residence he oversaw.

The crime had gone undetected for nearly five years until a state archivist was doing an inventory of the mansion's artwork. She discovered an oil painting by the late painter Aaron Bohrod was missing. He was artist in residence at the University of Wisconsin and a war correspondent for Life magazine, and has paintings in the White House and Pentagon collections as well as in the Harry S. Truman museum in Independence, Mo.

Bohrod was the San Diego woman's father. Georgi Bohrod Gordon owns a downtown San Diego communications firm, GBG & Associates, and her daughter, Rebeka Neubarth, lives in Escondido. One of his paintings, pictured on the cover of Time magazine, was on display here during the San Diego Natural History Museum's "Dead Sea Scrolls" exhibit.

Tempe, Ariz., resident Travis Sackett, 32, was charged last week with theft of the artwork. The former Wisconsin Capitol Police officer was tracked down through records kept by a Connecticut art dealer who had purchased the painting in 2011 from Sackett, who claimed he had bought it at an estate sale for \$400.

Gordon says times have truly changed. Her father used to say how badly his feelings were hurt when, earlier in his career, a thief broke into his art studio and stole only his frames — leaving all his paintings behind.

In this case, the Wisconsin Department of Administration auditor valued the pilfered 12-by-16-inch Bohrod artwork, "Gold Fantasy Box," at \$100,000.

"We wish she would appraise all of his artwork," laughed Gordon, noting that many of his paintings still remain in the family's possession.

Getting Kevved up: Mayor Kevin Faulconer gave, arguably, his second most important speech of the year Thursday at the installation dinner of the Downtown San Diego Partnership. He devoted at least half as much preparation time as he had to his 2016 State of the City speech, confided mayoral chief of staff Stephen Puetz.

Faulconer's second annual "Kev Talk," modeled after the inspirational "Ted Talks" on "ideas worth spreading," was Kev Lite or, more to the point, Kev on laughing gas. The mayor's spiel, subtitled "Ideas Not Worth Spreading," was as unserious as his State of the City was serious.

No one was spared, friend or foe. The mayor took jabs at City Hall, the government and anyone who does business with either — even at himself, noting that he was always the back-up guy when someone resigned.

He referred to Councilman Scott Sherman as "the Shermanator" and Councilwoman Lorie Zapf as "the Zapfinator." A street could be named after his election opponent David Alvarez bearing, of course, "a dead end sign." Supervisor Ron Roberts' proposed city gondola was nicknamed the "Rondola." Councilman Mark Kersey, Chris Cates and Councilwomen Myrtle Cole, Marti Emerald and Sherri "Electrifying" Lightner weren't spared.

SEE DIANE BELL • B5

5 CHARGED IN HOME BREAK-IN

Victim was robbed, sexually assaulted in Jan. 31 incident; 4 gang members, 1 woman linked to other invasions

BY DANA LITTLEFIELD & KRISTINA DAVIS

SAN DIEGO

Four adults and one juvenile, who investigators said were linked to a series of home-invasion robberies across northern San Diego, have been formally charged in one of those incidents — a break-in at a home in Sorrento Valley.

The defendants — Thomas Smith, 24, Stephen Gomez, 20, Aaron Rico III, 20, Aaron Rico V, 17, and Robin Shawvner, 20 — pleaded not guilty Friday afternoon to felony charges including conspiracy, home-invasion robbery and burglary.

All but Shawvner, the only woman charged in the case, are documented gang members, a prosecutor said in San Diego Superior Court. The juvenile has been charged as an adult.

Deputy District Attorney Jalyn Wang said more charges against these defendants and possibly others could be filed as the police investigation continues. Victor Harvey, another man who police said was arrested Wednesday with the others, was not arraigned Friday.

"These are the only defendants that are charged," Wang during the arraignment and afterward when questioned by news reporters.

The five people who appeared in the courtroom Friday are accused

in a Jan. 31 incident, during which a group of assailants entered a home on Passerine Way about 2:15 a.m. through an unlocked door. A woman was asleep inside, as were her three children: ages 4, 6 and 8.

The assailants barged into the woman's bedroom, demanded money from her and asked her where a safe was located, the prosecutor said. They took the woman's engagement and wedding rings off

SEE ROBBERIES • B4

STORK WORK CONTINUES



HAYNE PALMOUR IV U-T
Dwight Rodriguez, lead painter for Sharp Mary Birch Hospital, paints feathers on the stork that normally sits atop the hospital's parking structure and will be returned to its perch soon. The stork, which was donated to Sharp Memorial Hospital after it was in the Rose Parade in 1960, was taken down after the sling and baby that hang from its beak blew down in the recent strong winds that hit the county.

STABLE FUNDING SOUGHT FOR FORENSIC CENTER

Victims of rape, child abuse taken to Escondido office

BY TERI FIGUEROA

ESCONDIDO

Two years ago, the aging Escondido office where police detectives took victims of rape or child abuse for their medical exams and to document their attacks was on the brink of closing. The problem: not enough money.

Today, Forensic Health Services has regained its footing and has started a small endowment that it hopes will grow and keep the center operating for years to come.

"We are out of the woods, but we are not in the clear yet," said Kimberly Cardoso, the director of major giving for the Palomar Health Foundation, which helps raise funds for the center.

The endowment has reached \$31,000, thanks to three donors so far. The goal is to get it to \$5 million, to fund the program in perpetuity, Cardoso said.

"Eyes on the prize," she said. "It could take years."

The Fig Street office is where police, deputies and federal agents take nearly all North County rape and abuse victims, from Camp Pendleton to Fallbrook to Borrego Springs.

The work done in the little nondescript building matters. What the victims say here is documented in police reports and court files, and their recorded interviews can land in front of juries.

The interviewers see more than just rape and child abuse or molestation victims — they also talk to young witnesses of violence. In 2012, center staffers interviewed an 8-year-old girl who saw her mother stabbed to death in their San Marcos apartment. In 2008, the center interviewed about 50 kids who were on the playground of Carlsbad's Kelly Elementary school when a

SEE FORENSIC • B5

ALZHEIMER'S NO BARRIER FOR INSEPARABLE OCEANSIDE PAIR

Husband, 90, moved into memory-care ward to be with, helping ailing wife of 64 years

BY PAM KRAGEN

OCEANSIDE

Every morning after breakfast, 90-year-old Chuck Steffen leaves his apartment to drive to the gym for a swim and workout, followed by a few errands. Then by lunchtime, he's home again inside the secure walls of the memory-care wing at Aegis of Shad-owridge.

Chuck doesn't have Alzheimer's, but his wife of 64 years, Mary Alice, does. And rather than put her in a center and visit each day, the



PEGGY PEATTIE U-T
Dr. Charles Steffen moved into an assisted-living dementia care center nearly three years ago to be with his wife, Mary Alice.

tired dermatologist sold their home on Fire Mountain in Oceanside three years ago and moved in with her. He laments that the

small and spare two-bedroom unit at the care center is a big step down from the large home and gardens they

SEE COUPLE • B3

DOUG INMAN • 1920-2016

PIONEERED COASTAL OCEANOGRAPHY

Scientist was on the faculty at UCSD's Scripps Institution for about 60 years

BY GARY ROBBINS

Doug Inman, a La Jolla scientist who became known as the founder of coastal oceanography for his insights about the subtle and brutal ways that nature and people shape the world's coastlines, died Feb. 11 at Thornton Hospital. He was 95.

Inman died of natural causes, said officials at UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, where he was on the faculty for about 60 years.

His career sprang from lessons he learned about the coastal zone when he was serving in the South Pacific as a Marine during World War II. Inman went on to revolutionize science's understanding of how waves

SEE INMAN • B7



Doug Inman

DIVERSITY PROTESTS CONTINUE AT CSUSM

Student coalition has list of demands

BY TATIANA SANCHEZ

Students at Cal State San Marcos are continuing a series of protests over what they say is a lack of diversity and cultural sensitivity on campus.

A coalition of student-run organizations says the school promotes its ethnic and socioeconomic diversity but doesn't practice those values.

"There's a lot of issues happening on our campus that tend to be swept under the rug," said Karen Guzman, a women's studies major who's leading the protests. "It's very hypocritical. It's contradictory to what the school says it cares about."

School administrators say they are taking the group's concerns seriously but stressed that practicing diversity and multicultural acceptance is one of the school's core missions.

"The fact that we have had this kind of passion and this kind of energy (from students protesting) I see as rather exciting. Now, the content of their concerns are something we need to look at," said Patricia Prado-Olmos, interim chief diversity officer and vice president of community engagement at CSU San Marcos.

"I don't discount what students say at all. We as in-

dividuals have moments when we wonder, 'what just happened here? What just went on?' In any working environment we're going to run into people who we perceive don't understand us."

The protests have focused largely on the sudden departure of the school's former chief diversity officer, Arturo Ocampo. Students also have asked for a more diverse faculty, greater rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students, and better efforts to prevent on-campus sexual assaults.

Ocampo joined the university in 2013 as associate vice president for the Office of Diversity, Educational Equity and Inclusion. The school announced his parting in an email Feb. 1.

Students and faculty described him as a leader in advancing diversity on campus, someone who challenged the university on issues of equality. They say that it's this defiance that led to his termination.

Prado-Olmos, who is filling Ocampo's position until a replacement is found, declined to explain the circumstances of his departure.

Ocampo on Thursday told the Union-Tribune that he was advised by his attorney not to comment on the situation.

Students have held up a banner at several protests that reads, "Why did you fire our diversity champion?"

Derron Wallace, a profes-

sor of sociology and education at Brandeis University, said college students across the country are challenging school administrators to prioritize diversity on campus.

"These students really see diversity as a code word for intellectual and innovative leadership," he said. "A 21st-century education requires diversity as its centerpiece."

The U.S. Department of Education designated CSUSM a Hispanic-Serving Institution in 2010, as part of a program aimed at assisting colleges or universities that provide education opportunities for first generation, largely low-income Latino students. The school is also eligible for federal grant funding under this program.

The school has received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award from Insight into Diversity magazine for the past two years, a recognition awarded to schools that demonstrate commitment to inclusion and diversity.

There are 5,131 undergraduate Latino students enrolled at CSUSM in the 2015-16 school year, accounting for an estimated 42 percent of the undergraduate population. That's compared with 4,563 in the previous year and 1,268 in 2004, when Karen Haynes became university president, according to enrollment data provided by the school.

An estimated 407 black students are enrolled in the

current school year, compared with 393 last year and 189 in 2004.

The number of white undergraduate students has remained the same during this time span, with a population of 3,000 to 4,000 students per school year.

The school on Feb. 1 announced it would move its Office of Diversity into the Office of Community Engagement as part of a restructuring plan, a change that some students and faculty said would dilute its power on campus. At the time, administrators said it was an effort to further integrate and support the office.

A group of about 70 students and faculty members confronted Haynes last week during a forum on diversity, education and equity to protest the office's restructuring. They also presented Haynes with a list of demands, calling for Ocampo's reinstatement, the opening of a black student center on campus this year, gender-neutral bathrooms in all university buildings, greater prevention of on-campus sexual assaults and more funding for the school's ethnic and women's studies departments.

After the forum, Haynes reversed her decision on the restructuring, keeping the Office of Diversity under the Office of the President.

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WORKSHOPS SEEK ANSWERS TO SR-52 TRAFFIC IN SANTEE

BY KAREN PEARLMAN

SANTEE

Gridlock in and out of Santee on state Route 52 has been a hot topic in the city.

With new housing developments coming to several parts of the city of nearly 55,000, many residents have come to City Council meetings to speak about their frustration with the traffic, and they're asking for help to fight rush-hour bottleneck.

Route 52 is the east-west freeway that runs from Santee to La Jolla. Congestion has had an increasing ripple effect on surrounding roadways, including Interstate 805, state Route 67 and arterial streets.

According to city planners, conditions are expected to grow more clogged as population and employment increase.

In response, Santee will host two workshops for residents to share their thoughts on solutions to the congestion.

Santee City Councilman Rob McNelis said the City Council understands people's concerns about the traffic and said, "We want to see something done about it, too."

McNelis said the issue goes beyond the Santee borders and has to be handled outside the city as well.

"Traffic backs up in Santee because we're basically the end of the line," McNelis said. "We're looking to see what can we do not in 2050, but now. We

have to deal with the issues and relieve congestion before the problem does get worse."

The first workshop is set for 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Santee City Hall, Building 8, Room 8A at 10601 Magnolia Ave. The second will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. March 3 at the Tierrasanta Recreation Center's Community Room, 11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Tierrasanta.

Potential solutions the city has been considering include freeway ramp meters, road widening, lanes for buses only, park-and-ride lots, auxiliary lanes and vanpool opportunities.

Minjie Mei, Santee's principal traffic engineer, said the city is also trying to develop solutions that work with its existing facilities, like the bike lane along the north side of state Route 52. The city also wants to promote targeted residential and employer incentive programs to people who drive alone to make it worthwhile to carpool.

Santee is also working to find ways to help fund traffic-relieving projects. Grants are a potential source, Mei said. Several developers of coming Santee housing have also publicly spoken about wanting to help with the traffic woes.

For more information on the workshops, call (619) 258-4100, ext. 189, or email mmei@cityofsanteeca.gov

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COUPLE • Husband's sacrifice 'a tribute to his love,' says facility's marketing director

FROM B1
once shared, but for Chuck, living apart was unthinkable.

"We've been very, very close, and we've had a good life together. We've never had four cross words between us in all these years," he said. "When I realized that she needed 24-hour care and she needed to be in a place like this, it was impossible to imagine I wouldn't come, too."

Mary Alice has late-stage Alzheimer's. She can no longer speak, walk or feed herself, and she's incontinent. But to Chuck, she's still his "good, quiet girl." She still recognizes his face, he said, and when she becomes agitated in the afternoons, only he can calm her down by holding her hand and reading to her from newspapers and books. He also spoon-feeds all her meals.

In her four years as marketing director at Aegis of Shadowridge, Suzy Bevevino said the Steffens are only the second couple who have moved into memory care together because one spouse had Alzheimer's. She said it's touching to see the care and time Chuck spends tending to Mary Alice's needs.

"He's made a lot of sacrifices to be here, but it's a tribute to his love," Bevevino said. "He knows how important his presence is to Mary."

Gregory Case, general manager at Aegis of Shadowridge, said it's quite rare for an able-minded spouse to move into a memory-care center at the company's 31 West Coast facilities. Sometimes elderly couples will move into a dual-purpose center, where one is in memory care and the other in assisted living and they visit daily. But every once in a while, a loving couple like the Steffens will arrive who refuse to live apart.

"It tweaks your heart to see the bond of love that couples like Chuck and Mary have for each other, and we want to accommodate that," he said. "Trying to split them up is harder than trying to figure out a way to keep them together."

Jessica Empeno, director of programs for Alzheimer's San Diego, said that couples like the Steffens are increasingly common. However, be-



The 1951 wedding photo of Dr. Charles and Mary Alice Steffen.

cause the cost of memory care is significantly more expensive than other forms of senior care, few couples choose the option unless both need that level of care. The average cost for memory care in California is \$4,500 a month, compared to \$3,750 for assisted living and \$2,814 for independent senior living, according to a national study by Genworth Financial.

Chuck said it's hard to pinpoint when Mary Alice, who is 87, began experiencing Alzheimer's symptoms, because the decline was so gradual. He began noticing symptoms about 15 years ago, when they moved to Oceanside from their longtime home in Rancho Mirage.

Chuck had noticed over time that his wife was no longer able to manage the books for their real estate holdings, so he took her in for a physical. The doctor asked her to draw a clock face reading 5:25 p.m., and when she couldn't, he suspected her memory loss was caused by Alzheimer's.

"It opened a lot of doors,

and it closed a lot of others," he said of her diagnosis.

Suddenly, the changes in her behavior made sense. He also realized that the roots of her illness had already

"It tweaks your heart to see the bond of love that couples like Chuck and Mary have for each other." Suzy Bevevino • marketing director at

Aegis of Shadowridge

been growing for up to a decade after he discovered how her once-meticulously organized stamp collection had fallen into years of disorder. Chuck said he slipped into a depression and began drinking more to ease the emotional pain. Finally he had a wake-up call 12 years ago.

"I was sitting there with a glass of Scotch one day, and realized my drinking had to stop or I was going to kill her or kill myself, so I joined AA and haven't taken a drink since," he said.

Chuck grew up in Los Angeles, and after medical school did his internship in New Orleans. That's where he met Mary Alice, a pretty young nurse with a bright head on her shoulders. When he finished his internship, they married in 1951 and headed back to L.A., where he set up his dermatology practice in Covina.

Originally, she was going to work in his office, but she got pregnant with the first of their four boys and became a

full-time homemaker. After about 15 years in L.A., they moved to Palm Desert, where they raised their sons, who are now 55 to 62 and live around the country.

The business thrived, and Chuck kept up an active medical practice until just eight months ago. Although he no longer saw patients, he worked as a consulting pathologist studying tissue biopsies. Over the years, the couple loved to travel to New York to see Broadway shows and concerts at Carnegie Hall. They also loved dining out, visiting their sons and spending quiet time together.

The Steffens used the income from the medical practice to invest in real estate. It was Mary Alice's job to manage the accounting for the apartment buildings they bought and sold. When she was in her early 70s, Mary Alice started to need help with the books, so Chuck asked a family member to come once a week to help out. As time

passed, she needed more and more help until she got to the point where she just sat at her desk all day without accomplishing anything.

When Chuck made the difficult decision to move as a couple into memory care, it surprised his family, and he admits the cost has been significant, but Mary Alice adjusted well. She lost the ability to speak two years ago, but her very last word was "home," which Chuck said was a sign that he made the right decision.

It can be lonely in the memory-care wing, because many of the residents are no longer verbal. Chuck said he keeps busy by working out at the gym, watching movies on his computer, talking to each of his sons every day and helping with his wife's care. Last weekend, nearly 30 family members gathered at Aegis to celebrate his 90th birthday.

Chuck said he understands that the choice he made is not one that many families or caregivers would make or could afford, but he knows it was the best one for him and Mary Alice.

"We've loved each other, and we've always been inseparable," he said. "There are ups and downs here, but they take good care of her, and I know she knows I'm here."

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