

Local

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FRED DICKEY
The Way We Are

In backyard brawl, beagle is no match for raccoon

"You need to write something lighter," my wife, Kathy, lectured. "You've been writing too much sad stuff. Write about what happened to Moxie (our beagle)."

"You think that's not sad stuff?" I said. "Moxie was attacked. She was in agonizing pain. The poor little creature was brutalized."

"Well, you could write it humorously."

Where to start? It was an eventful day for us and our runty beagle. "Eventful" usually means expensive.

Uneventful days for Moxie consist of sleeping for 18 hours, eating two meals and begging for six more, and guarding the house from the deck against leashed terriers out on a walk, but with furtive behavior that makes Moxie watchful of a sudden move to take over her territory. You can't trust sneaky dogs.

But back to the (more interesting) other kind of day.

It became eventful the moment a raccoon waddled by, intent on finding an unguarded koi fish pond. It was only being a coon, which can be irritating to koi owners.

Suburbanite raccoons no longer seek meals in creeks for little one-bite fish, which has a poor cost-benefit ratio.

That is so yesterday. They now dine on plate scrapings of filet mignon in Del Mar garbage cans. Of course, nailing a fat carp in a backyard pond is a piece of cake (actually, a fish), even if a coon's skills are rusty.

An urban raccoon can range from 15 pounds up to gastric-bypass weight, depending on the security of garbage-can lids. However, in a fight, no raccoon is small. Those 15 pounds include 10 pounds of claws. Though they look cute, which they are as a stuffed toy, don't be fooled. They're wolverines with an arthritic walk.

They say raccoons are prey to coyotes, but I'll tell you what: That's got to be one tough coyote willing to pay for its dinner.

When humans seek to prove their stupidity, coons are happy to oblige. It's been known to happen in the rugged Sierra wilderness, between the Yosemite Lodge gift shop and the bus stop, that foreign tourists from Japan or New York rush for medical help holding a bloody hand out in front like a bowling trophy. The raccoon watches them run away while spitting out a finger. Doritos are preferred.

The ranger postings warn not to feed the animals. Apparently, the signs don't have room to mention no petting.

Down south, a "coon dog" hasn't earned the title if it doesn't have as many scars as a day-dreaming butcher.

So, what skin does Moxie have in this game? Beagles aren't guardians of gentrified carp.

First, a word about the pampered Moxie. She's a cuddly pet to us "owners." Can I still say that?

Some pursed-lip souls oozing with unctuous, preening sentimentality take offense at the "owner" label. They prefer "guardian" or "companion." Even "pet parent" is suggested. However, that might be awkward for a woman who becomes "parent" to a male dog.

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NELVIN C. CEPEDA U-T

UC San Diego honored Rear Adm. Timothy Gallaudet for his research at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and his role in the Navy.

He's the Navy's eye in the sky

Scripps oceanography alumnus monitors weather conditions for drone missions, keeps tabs on climate change

BY DEBORAH SULLIVAN BRENNAN

LA JOLLA

In modern warfare, the U.S. Navy must keep minute-to-minute watch on weather conditions for aerial drone operations, while tracking the rise of global oceans and gradual shift of Arctic ice.

Both of those tasks fall under the command of Rear Adm. Timothy Gallaudet, a Los Angeles native and two-time Scripps Oceanography graduate who became the Oceanographer and Navigator of the Navy last September.

This month, UC San Diego honored Gallaudet, 48, as one of five

distinguished alumni from the university, recognizing his master's and doctoral work at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and his role in overseeing Navy exploration of the sea and sky.

The recognition points to the way the Navy is increasingly relying on scientific intelligence, using information

as "a platform for fighting wars and more than just a tool," Gallaudet said. And it signals the strategic need to better understand one of the least known environments on Earth.

"We have mapped the surface of the moon and Mars to a higher resolution than the sea floor," Gallaudet

SEE NAVY • B3

S.D. UNIFIED REWARDS LANGUAGE MASTERY

Native tongue is key to some students' diplomas

BY MAUREEN MAGEE

Understanding spoken English has been the hardest part about navigating Hoover High School since Tullue Huka immigrated to

San Diego from Ethiopia more than three years ago.

Now fluent, he is preparing to graduate and, he hopes, validate his mother's decision to flee their native country in search of a better life.

Oddly enough, it is Oromo — Tullue's first language — that qualifies him for a diploma under the

San Diego Unified School District's new graduation standards that go into effect with the class of 2016.

"Graduation. It means to me a huge step in my life," said Tullue, who is among hundreds of students who are expected to meet new graduation criteria this year by demonstrating mastery of their native language.

For the first time, San Diego Unified will require students to complete the coursework necessary for admission to a California public university to earn a diploma. That includes two, yearlong classes in the same foreign language — an incredible hurdle for English learners, some of whom enroll in lo-

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CREATING AN AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY IS SUMMIT TOPIC

Workshops to look at housing, health

BY MICHELE PARENTE

Continuing its focus on Alzheimer's, the county's biennial Aging Summit on Wednesday will explore what it would take to transform San Diego into an age- and dementia-friendly community.

Promoting a healthy and safe place to live will be the subject of talks and workshops in the areas of housing, transportation and mobility, civic engagement and brain health.

"Alzheimer's disease is the most expensive disease in America and the third-leading cause of death in San Diego. We are really facing an epidemic here," said Supervisor Dianne Jacob, who in 2014 developed the county's sweeping Alzheimer's Project and also put the fatal, incurable disease in the spotlight at that year's Aging Summit.

"The Aging Summit is an important way to get information out to our seniors about this and other areas that affect their lives, like making San Diego more age-friendly," she said. "The

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K.C. ALFRED U-T

Reigning Ms. Senior America Barbara Mauldin dances during the Ms. Senior California pageant Sunday at the University of San Diego.

SENIOR WOMEN TAKE THE STAGE

San Diegan named winner of Ms. Senior California pageant

BY MIKE FREEMAN

Joyce Schumaker spent a lifetime as a dancer, dance teacher and theater choreographer. So it made sense for Schumaker, 68, to employ a dance metaphor when she introduced herself to the audience at the Ms. Senior California pageant Sunday in San Diego.

"I have to get out on the big stage of life and move my feet to the beat," she

told the crowd at the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice Theater at the University of San Diego. "I have to be the choreographer of my own life and choose activities that inspire me."

That theme repeated itself for the nine other contestants in the Ms. Senior California Pageant, where competitors strive to show that talent and grace don't have to fade with age.

SEE PAGEANT • B3

SURVIVORS CELEBRATE WINNING THE CANCER FIGHT

Scripps event provides support and camaraderie

BY LYNDSEY WINKLEY

SAN DIEGO

A lot has changed since Russ Zinser found out he beat cancer 30 years ago.

Zinser was the keynote speaker at a Cancer Survivor Green Day event at Scripps Green Hospital on Sunday. He recalled being diagnosed with a type of leukemia and undergoing a relatively risky bone marrow transplant procedure. Now, the type of cancer he suffered from can sometimes be treated with a pill.

He later mentioned being lucky enough to have a relative who could be a donor in the process. Now, there is a worldwide database of potential bone marrow donors.

National Cancer Survivor Day events didn't even exist when he was battling his disease.

"The support that I was going to get was going to come from my family and friends," he said. "There wasn't anything like this."

More people than ever are surviving cancer. And more are staying cancer-free

SEE CANCER • B2

NAVY

FROM B1 said. "We've only explored about 3 percent of it. Just think about all that we don't know about it."

As a Navy oceanographer and navigator, Gallaudet is charged with both long-term planning and immediate operations.

His staff advises field commanders on weather conditions during sensitive special ops missions, he said. Predator drones send video feeds during missions on high-value targets, so he monitors weather to make sure skies are clear for that coverage. He also projects marine conditions crucial to ships and submarines, just as weather forecasts predict atmospheric changes.

At the same time, he plans decades out for the impacts of climate change on Navy bases, global navigation and border wars.

The Navy is analyzing projected effects of sea level rise on all its bases, and adjusting building plans to update or move facilities as waters rise, he said. Scripps' models of sea level rise are key to that planning.

Military units are also switching to more efficient or renewable energy sources to cut carbon emissions, save money and keep military troops safer, he said.

"Fuel convoys are subject to attack, so reducing those saves lives," he said.

Worsening drought expected as a result of climate change will create food and water insecurity in the developing world, fueling clashes such as the civil war in Syria, he said. So the Navy is bracing for that instability, along with humanitarian crises expected from intensifying tropical storms.

Leaders are also preparing for loss of Arctic sea ice, which will open ship traffic across the North Pole in summer. That could affect everything from Arctic oil exploration to luxury cruises through the Northwest Passage. The Navy is readying for potential conflicts and high-risk rescues in those icy, uncharted waters, Gallaudet said.

"To know that we could traverse the North Pole with a surface ship by 2030 changes the game," he said.

Navy leaders are also fine-tuning tactics in response to ice loss, he said. Sea ice that was once thick and stable, the product of many years' accumulation, is now newer, thinner, more mobile and more complex.

"I was up there in March on the Arctic ice," he said. "We made camp, and two submarines surfaced below the ice. It was all designed around using their sonar to hide from each other and hunt from each other. The breakup of sea ice changes the ocean structure, so we're revising tactics to be effective in a new environment."

Scientific know-how is increasingly key to military operations, Navy officials said.

"By knowing the ocean better than anybody else in the world, that gives our Navy a home team advantage at away games," said former Navy oceanographer, retired Rear Adm. Jon White. "Tim really has been a great example of how to apply knowledge of the ocean and environment to Navy needs at every level."

The son of a naval intelli-

gence officer, Gallaudet was born in Hollywood and attended high school at Chaminade College Preparatory High School in Canoga Park. Growing up in Southern California, he was a competitive swimmer and hit the waves at Zuma Beach and Carpinteria whenever he could.

"I went to the beaches and fell in love with the ocean," he said.

Gallaudet had his eye on a scientific career with the Navy early on, and he studied at the U.S. Naval Academy in Maryland. After failing a color vision test, he was unable to pursue the path of aviation or ship command and instead diverted to oceanography — his preferred field.

He then earned a master's degree at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. There he used satellite imagery to study the California Current, where eddies spinning off the main current change the structure of the water, creating cold and warm zones that distort the way sonar propagates.

Differences in density can also throw off submarine depth, said Margaret Leinen, director of Scripps Institution

"I went to the beaches and fell in love with the ocean."

Rear Adm. Timothy Gallaudet • oceanographer

of Oceanography. Knowing how to calculate those effects can ensure more accurate navigation and help submarines elude adversaries on sonar, Gallaudet said.

Gallaudet completed a series of operational tours before returning to Scripps to earn a doctorate. For that degree, he developed sonar systems for underwater drones designed to map the sea floor. It was a useful primer for his current position, in which he manages 100 such devices.

The Navy and Scripps have teamed up since World War II, when pioneering oceanographer Walter Munk developed wave motion models used for the D-Day landing in Normandy, Leinen said. Former Scripps director Roger Revelle helped create the Office of Naval Research and headed its geophysics branch from 1946 to 1948.

Gallaudet's career is an example of that collaboration, said Bill Kuperman, director of Scripps' marine physical laboratory, who worked with Gallaudet at the institution.

"While he's an admiral in charge of things, not doing this (research) anymore, he has very in-depth knowledge of this process," Kuperman said.

For Gallaudet, national security and scientific discovery go hand in hand.

"NASA is committing billions of dollars to Mars, which I think is awesome," he said. "But we have this inner space on our planet that we have just begun to explore. And that's where my heart lies, in the inner space of the ocean."

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PAGEANT • Evening gowns, talents judged

FROM B1 Schumaker of San Diego won the competition Sunday, taking the crown from 2015 Ms. Senior California winner Reina Bolles, 63, also from San Diego. Bolles opened the show Sunday by singing "Dream Girls." Mary Wilkerson, another San Diegoan, was first runner-up.

The annual pageant shows off the singing and dancing, evening gown modeling and wisdom of women ages 60 and older. Five judges evaluate the contestants on talent, a statement on their philosophy of life and other criteria.

After winning California, Schumaker moves on to compete in the national Ms. Senior America pageant this fall in Atlantic City.

The national pageant was created in 1973 by organizers who felt that the seniors were becoming a "lost generation," said Elvia



Joyce Schumaker of San Diego was named Ms. Senior California.

Harris, state administrator, chief executive and pageant director. California joined the competition a few years later, she said.

The theme of this year's pageant was Celebrate Your Dreams. "We are people who have raised our families. We had careers. Now it is our time," said Harris. "We aren't just old fogies. We are very involved and active. We like to have a good time."

There are preliminary pageants in San Diego, Orange County, Sacramento, Long Beach and Thousand Oaks, with winners and runners-up advancing to the state competition.

The pageant is a cross be-

tween beauty contests for younger women and theater. There isn't a swimsuit competition. When asked why they compete, contestants invariably say they love to perform. Five of this year's finalists also take the stage in the San Diego Follies, a theater group.

During Sunday's show, two competitors performed tap dances, Schumaker and friend Jeanne Lenhart, who still plays beach volleyball weekly at age 70. Other competitors' talents included playing the harp, dancing the hula and singing.

Lenhart said the competition helps keep her active and in shape. But it is most rewarding for the self-confidence and camaraderie that emerges. She said contestants have young hearts.

The judging process involved a personal interview, which counted for 30 per-

cent. There were evening gown and philosophy of life categories, which each counted for 20 percent. The women also were judged for their talent, which counted for 30 percent.

Barbara Mauldin of Mississippi, the reigning Ms. Senior America, also performed Sunday. A practicing dentist, Mauldin, 61, said she is amazed at the talent and vibrancy of the senior women competing across the U.S.

"There are people who reach 60 and look ahead and think, 'I don't have a lot of offer,'" she said. "But I know that our experience, what we have learned through our lives, we can share that. I love to perform and I love to show people that there is more to any of us who are over 60 than maybe they expect."

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SUMMIT • Actor Van Dyke to deliver keynote speech

FROM B1 emphasis is on making our community more welcoming to our residents — easier to age in place, retrofitting a home, having the support services they need so people can stay in their home as long as they want and get all of the care they need."

Actor and song-and-dance man Dick Van Dyke, 90, who last year published the book "Keep Moving: And Other Tips and Truths About Aging," will deliver the keynote speech.

Van Dyke is known for a variety of roles, in both film and television, including "Mary Poppins," "The Dick Van Dyke Show," "Diagnosis Murder" and, most recently, the "Night at the Museum" franchise.

Jacob called Van Dyke "a great example of someone being sharp" into his 90s.

The supervisor has hosted the Aging Summit every two years since 1998. In recent years, however, the county's changing demographics have given the event an added sense of relevance and ur-



INVISION/AP FILE

Dick Van Dyke will speak Wednesday at the event.

gency. The number of San Diegans 65 and older is expected to double by 2030. With increased age comes an exponential risk of having Alzheimer's or other type of dementia.

More than 60,000 people in San Diego are currently living with Alzheimer's, a number that's also projected to double by 2030.

Jacob's multiyear Alzheimer's Project includes creating a pipeline between research and drug discovery for a cure, instituting clinical best practices for

Aging Summit 2016

When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday

Where: Town & Country Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North; keynote and other speakers will also be webcast at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Blvd.

Cost: Event is free; \$3 parking at Town & Country. Lunch is included.

Information/registration: Call the AARP registration line at (877) 926-8300 or go to aisevents.org

neurologists, psychiatrists, family physicians and geriatric specialists for diagnosing and treating dementia, and boosting support for Alzheimer's caregivers.

There will be information specifically for caregivers at Wednesday's event. Attendees will also be able to view a

model of an age-appropriate home as well as an exhibit on a liveable community.

Jacob cited the fairly new Ramona branch library as an example of how San Diego County could be made more age-friendly by creating an intergenerational campus.

Right now, seniors use the library's community room and are side-by-side with students using the computers for their homework.

The next phase of the campus' development will be to build a dedicated senior center there, with senior housing, and then a teen center with a gym.

"Seniors who are close by can share their experiences with the younger people and younger people can help the seniors with things, particularly with technology," Jacob said.

"What we have now is great and we're expanding that on a grander scale."

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