



SUN POST NEWS

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OUR TOWN



'Take me'

Sparky is a 4- or 5-year-old Dalmatian, gentle but shy. Handlers at the San Clemente Animal Shelter say Sparky is housebroken and would be best as the only pet in the household. For adoption info, visit Sparky at 535 Avenida Fabricante or call 492-1617.

Video hits

These were the most popular movie rentals this past week at TOPS Video, 400 Avenida Pico:

1. "As Good As it Gets"
2. "The Rainmaker"
3. "Desperate Measures"
4. "Starship Troopers"
5. "Tomorrow Never Dies"
6. "The Jackal"
7. "Flubber"
8. "Alien Resurrection"
9. "Mousehunt"
10. "Red Corner"

Have spirit

Triton Stadium blankets are available through Spirit, a new enterprise run by local San Clemente High alumni.

The stadium blankets are 100-percent cotton, emblazoned with the Triton emblem in red and black. The cost is \$64.40 (including shipping). Of that, \$5 goes to a school fund of your choice. To order a blanket, call 498-0911.

School grants

Capistrano Unified schools in San Clemente received \$7,500 in foundation grants this year, more than any other city in the district.

Some \$17,000 in grants were given this year by the CUSD Foundation to help finance programs that wouldn't have found funds elsewhere. Truman Benedict Elementary School teacher Susan Beschen received a \$400 grant to use in an architectural engineering program. Ole Hanson Elementary School teachers Jody Guardino and Kendra Larsen each received grants. Guardino will use her \$975 grant for a science program and Larsen will use her \$200 grant for a cross-curriculum program.

Bernice Ayer Middle School teachers Karen Gerhard and Bob McClean each got grants of \$1,000. Gerhard will use it on an intramural sports program. McClean will use it for a math program. Shorecliffs Middle School teacher Paul Sileci won a \$925 science and technology grant.

San Clemente High School teachers Julie Baron, Andy Magaña and Patrick Harris each received grants of \$1,000. Baron and Magaña will use theirs for a music program. Harris will use his grant for a social science/psychology program.

A reminder

Don't forget to bring an American flag at 3 p.m. this Sunday as you watch San Clemente's third annual Flag Day Parade.

It goes from the top of Avenida Del Mar to the Community Center. There'll be marching Marines, bands, a color guard, dignitaries, high school musicians and lots of patriotic kids. At 4 p.m., everyone says the Pledge of Allegiance on the Community Center lawn.

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Steed Park could reopen by September

By FRED SWEGLES
SUN POST NEWS

Closed by city budget cuts since last July, Richard T. Steed Memorial Park could reopen as early as September.

All Sports Communications, a Nevada company that runs youth and adult sports parks nationwide, is prepared to sign a five-year contract to operate Steed Park's four softball fields, its volleyball facility and its restaurant.

Built in 1989 by private entrepreneurs on city-owned land along Avenida La Pata

as an adult softball park, Steed Park went belly-up as a private concession, was handed to the city and then failed to make it financially under operation by other private concessionaires.

Last July, the City Council closed the park because the maintenance costs were a financial drain on a budget that was facing a \$2.8 million shortfall.

Last fall, city staff and interested groups formed a Steed Park committee to find ways to fund maintenance and reopen the park.

Under a proposal that will go to the City Council at 7 p.m. Wednesday at City Hall, the reborn park would be marketed primarily for girls' and women's softball leagues and tournaments. The park's volleyball courts would be marketed for youth and adult volleyball leagues, tournaments and classes.

Steed Park would be open to the public, free of charge, Mondays through Thursdays. Youth sports organizations could reserve the park during those days. From Friday through Sunday, All Sports Com-

munications would have exclusive use of the park for its leagues and tournaments.

According to Bruce Wegner, director of beaches, parks and recreation in San Clemente, the community's two girls' softball leagues (Bobby Sox and Beach Cities) are expected to make Steed Park their home, each having two fields. San Clemente Little League then can take over San Geronio Park's ballfields (in addition to Little League's primary field at Vista Bahia Park). AYSO (soccer) can continue

See STEED, 6



Debbie Ferrari, a real estate agent with First Team San Clemente, says her Web site is unique among South County realtors.

DAVID E. CABALLERO,
SUN POST NEWS

Use a mouse to find your house

Local 'Internet Realtor' sells homes through award-winning Web site

By RACHEL TUINTRA
SUN POST NEWS

Carole Shannon got her first taste of San Clemente real estate while sitting in front of her computer in Oregon.

She found her real estate agent over the Internet. And she first viewed the house she ultimately decided to buy in photos shot with a digital camera and e-mailed to her.

Shannon is a client of Debbie Ferrari, the self-proclaimed "Internet Realtor."

"I was intrigued with the site," Shannon said. "For me, it was totally convenient. It had good information and was efficient."

With all of the uses of the Internet, it's hardly surprising that real estate agents are going on line as well. What is unique about Ferrari's site is that it gives Internet surfers the ability to search on-line real estate listings themselves. Customers can see for themselves if there's anything they might be interested in before e-mailing Ferrari. Through her site, searchers can log into HomeSeeker, a nationwide database of real estate listings. Most other real estate sites require you to e-mail a form detailing what you're looking for so they can check for you.

"For me, it was totally convenient. It had good information and was efficient."

— Carole Shannon, Customer

"I try to be consumer-oriented and give them the information they're looking for," Ferrari said.

Ferrari, who is a broker with First Team San Clemente, specializes in real estate in San Clemente, Dana Point, San Juan Capistrano and Laguna Niguel. Her site also links to other Web pages about these cities, so out-of-towners can get a feel for what their prospective neighborhoods would be like.

It makes sense to give customers access to more information, Ferrari said. That way the buyer has a better idea of what they're looking for when they come to her, she said.

And potential buyers are paying atten-

tion to this resource. From March 11 to May 21, the site logged 120,021 hits, rivaling the visitor statistics of large corporate real estate sites.

The site, which is orchestrated by Bill Koelzer, has evolved a lot in the two years it's been up, she said. It has become more comprehensive and user-friendly, and now about 100 people use its resources daily. Ferrari has actually sold about 40 homes from buyers who found her on the Internet, she said.

The industry also has taken notice. The page is the most awarded individual Web site for a real estate agent on the Internet, Ferrari said. More than 20 national real estate organizations have given Ferrari's Web site their content and design awards. Recently, Ferrari was selected as "Realtor of the Month" in Broker Agent magazine in Dana Point.

But one thing Shannon liked about the Web site is it doesn't focus on Ferrari's accomplishments, it focuses on giving consumers information.

"She's a buyer's agent," said Shannon, who plans to move into the Shorecliffs home of her choice sometime by the end of summer.

Planning Commissioner Oliver dies at age 70

By FRED SWEGLES
SUN POST NEWS

Joseph H. (Joe) Oliver, a retired Marine Corps officer who became a community volunteer in San Clemente, died Wednesday at age 70.

He probably was best known in recent years as a member of the San Clemente Planning Commission. Appointed by the City Council to serve on the commission in 1995, he was reappointed in 1997 to a second two-year term.

He also was a past president of the Triton Booster Club at San Clemente High School, a past president of Sunrise Rotary and a past commander of the local chapter of the Military Order of World Wars.

A native of Providence, R.I., Oliver was a graduate of Boston University with a bachelor of science in kinesiology. During a 33-year career in the Marine Corps, he served with distinction in Korea and Vietnam. He retired in 1978 as a lieutenant colonel.

Oliver later worked as a per-

sonnel director and general manager in the business world until he retired in 1989.

A San Clemente resident off and on since 1953, Oliver moved here permanently in 1969. He became involved in veterans', charitable and civic activities. He served three two-year terms on the city's Community Design Commission from 1989 until his appointment to the Planning Commission. He also served on two citizen advisory committees that helped reshape San Clemente's zoning code and sign ordinance.

In addition, he served as San Clemente's representative on the Orange County Transportation Authority's Senior Citizen Advisory Council Transportation Committee.

Oliver is survived by his wife, Barbara; sons, Joseph Oliver of La Crescenta (wife, Erin), Michael Oliver of Laguna Niguel (wife, Lana), Mark Oliver and Christopher Oliver of Goffstown, N.H.; and daughters, Leslie Oliver of Hickory Hills, Ill., and

See OLIVER, 6



ANDREW SCHOLER, SUN POST NEWS

Kara Bernal walks to her first class of the day, newspaper, at San Clemente High School. Bernal has not missed a day of school in the last 13 years.

Dependability

SCHS senior has never missed a day of school in 13 years

By RACHEL TUINTRA
SUN POST NEWS

When Kara Bernal graduates from San Clemente High School she will have attended 2,340 days of school — providing of course she doesn't get sick.

In 13 years of school, Bernal has never missed a full day of school. She has never ditched to go snowboarding with friends or taken off a day for a family vacation. She has never stayed home to nurse a cold, get over the flu or fend off any other virus or sickness.

But it's not like she's been dragging herself to school ill. The 18-year-old just doesn't get sick, said her mom, Ann Bernal. And since both parents are school teachers, they don't let their kids take off from school for no reason.

"My mom's not strict, but that's one thing she always stressed. 'School is important,'" Bernal said. Bernal attended Truman Benedict Elementary School and was written up in the school newspaper for never missing a complete day. Shorecliffs Middle School presented her with a plaque for perfect attendance.

But she will not receive any awards from SCHS because the school only recognizes students who have not missed any time whatsoever. Wendi Lewis never missed a single class period from seventh grade to her senior year. She was recognized at the senior awards program last week.

Bernal has missed parts of days for various reasons but was always in class long enough to be counted.

See PERFECT, 6