

THE CATALINA ISLANDER

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FRIDAY April 10, 2009

BRIEFS

Easter "sonrise" service

Avalon's Easter "Sonrise" Service will be held at Descanso Beach on Sunday and is sponsored by Avalon Community Church, Catalina Bible Church, and St. Catherine's Parish. The service will begin at 6 a.m. and will be followed by a "Pancake Breakfast" from 7:15 to 9:15 a.m. There will not be a Sunday Night Live service due to the earlier Easter celebrations.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Avalon's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 11, at the Pitch n Putt area between Avalon School and the Sand Trap. Enter at the gate by the school auditorium. The program is for children ages pre-Kindergarten through third-grade. For more information, call the Avalon Recreation Department at 1987.

Co-ed softball registration begins

The Catalina Co-Ed Softball League will be played on Thursday nights, with two games at 6 and 7:30 p.m. respectively. Registration closes once the league has received 48 paid applications or on April 14, whichever comes first. If you have questions, contact Kenny or Patti Engel. See story, page 6.

Lobster Trap Opens

The all new renovated Lobster Trap Restaurant will re-open Saturday, April 11, for dinner and live entertainment. Reservations will be performing.



Trans-Catalina Trail dedicated

For the first time in history, hikers can now traverse virtually the entire length of Catalina Island on the 37.2-mile Trans-Catalina Trail. The trail was officially opened during a ceremony on Saturday, April 4 at the Haypress Recreation Area.

Anyone who hikes a portion of the Trans-Catalina Trail can pick up a souvenir certificate at Conservancy House, home of the Catalina Island Conservancy, 125 Clarissa Ave. in Avalon.

Avalon school children, along with Los Angeles County 4th District Supervisor and Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Don Knabe, representatives of the City of Avalon, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Conservancy placed the last stones to mark

the pathway that has been under design and construction for more than 10 years.

The full length of the trail runs from Renton Mine Trail head on the east end, to Starlight Beach on the Island's west end.

"Although this is surely a landmark accomplishment, we're not finished expanding and improving our trail system," said Ann Muscat, President and CEO of the Conservancy, addressing the 150 people in attendance. "In the coming months and years, the Conservancy's Trails Department will continue to maintain and improve the system by adding loop trails, and amenities like shade structures."

She added that interpretive signage would be installed at

select points of interest to provide interesting information about what hikers are seeing on the Trail.

"The Trans-Catalina Trail offers something for everyone — loops and shorter segments for those who have a few hours or a day, and the full length of the Island for serious trekkers who have several days," Muscat shared with the gathering.

"Using those portions of the Trans-Catalina Trail that are multi-use, along with alternative road routes that parallel the trail, bicyclists, too, can traverse nearly the entire length of the Island — from Renton Mine Trail Head all the way to Parson's Landing," she said.

Avalon School students and representatives of Los Angeles County, Avalon, Conservancy Staff and Donors get ready to lay the final rocks along the Trans-Catalina Trail.

Photo by Bob Rhein, Catalina Island Conservancy

See Trail, Page 6

Trianna project underway

The Trianna housing project committee held a series of public meetings at City Hall on Wednesday, April 1 and Thursday, April 2.

In 12 to 14 weeks the Trianna Condos will be ready for residents to occupy. The foundations were laid on Tuesday, April 7.

This process will take 10 days and then the pre-built modular units will be barged-in from Arizona until they reach their final resting place.

A new, private, 22-foot-wide road, equipped with a guardrail, will be built behind the Bird Park (the Trianna Condos location) in order to allow more access to the condos and keep road congestion down.

The first 17 condos will be built in three phases: Phase I will consist of four units. One being two bedroom one bath for \$399,000, one two bedroom two bath for \$499,000 and two three bedroom two bath units for \$599,000.

Phase II will be similar to Phase I; and Phase III will be flexible to the needs of applicants. These first seventeen units will be the require 20% Inclusionary or

See Housing, Page 2

Childhood sweethearts' love rekindled on Catalina

Trail

From page 1

Supervisor Knabe said the Trail "marks a milestone for hiking enthusiasts, Island residents, visitors from throughout Los Angeles County and the state, and from around the world.

"We know that thousands of people will be able to enjoy the natural beauty of the entire Island today and in perpetuity," he added.

Knabe presented the Conservancy with an engraved plaque commemorating the Trail's Opening Day.

Earlier in the ceremony, Kevin Ryan, Conservancy Trails Supervisor and Lenny Alther, Facilities Director, were presented with a California State Certificate of Recognition sent by California State Senator Alan Lowenthal.

Ryan, referencing equipment lent for the occasion by REI, demonstrated what a well-appointed hiker would want to bring on a three-to-four-day jaunt along the full length of Trail. He told the youngsters in attendance that they could have fun exploring nature any time without special-

ized equipment, but pointed out the need to be well-prepared with water, sunscreen, appropriate footwear and simple first-aid supplies when hiking in secluded areas.

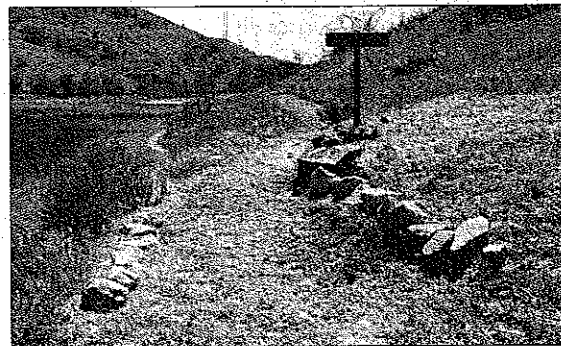
The brief ceremony on Saturday afternoon was punctuated with firsts: The first organized hiking group, the Thad Jones Hikers, arrived on the scene after starting out the day before on the Trail at remote Starlight Beach. The group was remembering Thad Jones, a yachtsman, who in 1956 along with friends Steve Royce and Dick Lyon hiked the entire length of the Island in just more than 11 hours.

Children from the Avalon Schools became the first school group on the trail - being led by the Conservancy's Senior Wildlife Biologist Julie King, and Tachi, the Conservancy's Island Fox Ambassador who was hailed for being "the first paws on the Trail."

For safety, hikers into the Island's interior are required to obtain a hiking permit. Hiking permits are free, and may be picked up at Conservancy House, 125 Clarissa Street in Avalon; at the Airport in the Sky; and at the Visitor's Center at Two Harbors. Camping reservations can be made by calling (310) 510-8368 (a \$10 service fee applies) or visiting: www.catalinaconservancy.org, under "Visitor Guide," click on "Recreation" and then on "Catalina Camping."



Above: Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe and Conservancy President Ann Muscat join students of the Avalon Schools in a "thumbs up" for the Trans-Catalina Trail.



Below: Newly laid rocks signal that the Trans-Catalina Trail is open.

Photo by Bob Rhein, Catalina Island Conservancy

Have a story to tell?

Contact us at
(310) 510-0500 or dan@cinews.org

Co-ed softball registration begins

Spring is here, and with it the start of the Co-Ed Softball League. Dust off your cleats and your gloves, and come on out and have some fun. The league is open to men and women age 18 (out of high school) and over. The Catalina Co-Ed Softball League will be played on Thursday nights, with two games at 6 and 7:30 p.m. respectively. The season opener is scheduled for April 16 so you can't delay in signing up.

Registration forms are now available on the bulletin board in the Post Office Arcade. All registration forms must be returned with the non-refundable \$40 fee per person included. Registration forms and payment can be returned to either Avalon Schools or 83 Sol Vista. Registration closes once the league has received 48 paid applications or on April 14, whichever comes first. This league hasn't needed a second draft or replacement players for the past

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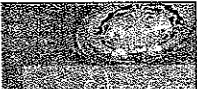
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