

CARMEL VALLEY NEWS

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Community

DMUSD students outperform county, state on new state tests

BY KAREN BILLING

Del Mar Union School District students significantly outperformed students in the county and the state on the new Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, the comprehensive tests that accompany the new Common Core State Standards.

The SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consor-

tiuum) test, given in spring 2015 by CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, replaced the STAR test which became inoperative in July 2013.

The SBAC is a comprehensive assessment in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics, measuring grade level learning through

a computer adaptive test and a performance-based task.

District students were more than up to the task.

"Our district is one of the top-performing districts in the state, if not the top performer in the state," said Shelley Petersen, assistant superintendent of instructional services at the school

board's Sept. 16 meeting. "Not by a little, but by a lot."

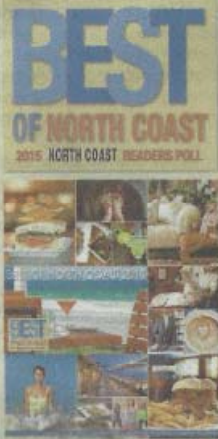
In ELA, 90 percent of DMUSD fifth-graders met or exceeded standards, compared with 52 percent in the county and 44 percent in the state. At the third-grade level, where only 38 percent of students in California met or exceeded ELA standards,

86 percent of DMUSD students did.

Sixty-five percent of DMUSD third-graders exceeded ELA standards, compared with only 18 percent statewide.

In mathematics, 88 percent of DMUSD third-graders met or exceeded standards compared with 47 per-

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See the special "Best of" section inside to check out who your favorite businesses are.

Lifestyle



NCL San Dieguito Chapter holds event to kick off another year of philanthropy.

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Miracle League Fall Season



The Miracle League fall baseball season kicked off on Sept. 12 and runs through Nov. 14. Games are played on Saturdays only and all games are played at Engel Family Field in Del Mar and Coronado Green Field in Coronado. Photos on this page are from a Sept. 19 Yankees vs. Marlins game.

The Miracle League of San Diego provides children with special needs the opportunity to play baseball in an organized league. Every player is matched with a buddy for the entire season and each buddy is paired with the player based on his or her unique needs. For more information, visit www.miracleleagueofsandiego.org. (Above) Nate Barnes, Jake Froman, Max Isaacman; (Right) Jake at bat. See page 23 for more.

Photos by Jon Clark. For photos online, visit www.delmartimes.net.

Local residents complain about Kaaboo noise

BY KRISTINA HOUCK

Although Kaaboo is already set to return to Del Mar next year, the verdict is still out on whether the three-day music, comedy and art festival will be welcomed with open arms.

The inaugural festival featured more than 100 performances on seven stages from Sept. 18-20 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, beginning with a VIP event on Sept. 17.

Shortly after plans for the event became public, community members expressed concerns about noise, traffic and security. In the months leading to the festival, orga-

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Santa Fe Irrigation District considers raising water rates 9 percent to compensate for low demand

BY KAREN BILLING

The Santa Fe Irrigation District is considering raising rates by 9 percent, to generate enough revenue to cover expenses in a time when demand for water is at its lowest in nearly 40 years.

At its Sept. 17 board meeting, the board of directors heard the district's proposal to modify rates so that all San Diego County Water Authority and Metropolitan Water

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Del Mar's Tourism Business Improvement District to dissolve

• City to promote downtown through transient occupancy tax

BY KRISTINA HOUCK

With Del Mar's Tourism Business Improvement District set to expire this month, the Del Mar City Council on Sept. 21 decided not to renew the district, but rather promote downtown through the transient occupancy tax.

"From a city perspective, we still dedicate the

same amount of fee to the effort," said Mayor Al Corti. "You can get more dollars to the bottom line."

Formed in 2010, the district allows hotel operators to charge guests a 1 percent fee that is collected through the transient occupancy tax and must be used to attract more visitors to the city. It was authorized for

five years and automatically expires at the end of September unless the council has approved an extension.

A representative from each of Del Mar's hotels, motels and inns — Del Mar Inn/Clarion, Del Mar Motel on the Beach, Hotel Indigo, L'Auberge Del Mar, Les Artistes Inn and Secret Garden Inn — make up Visit Del

Mar, the nonprofit created by the district to manage the assessments. Visit Del Mar was incorporated in 2010 and received tax-exempt status in March 2011.

The district admittedly got off to a slow start. It took about three years to connect with the right marketing company, and the district didn't launch its site — dreamdelmar.com — until 2013.

Still, the district has shown signs of success.

After the Dream Del Mar online marketing campaign commenced in February 2014, there were 119 million total ad impressions, resulting in nearly 125,000 site visitors, according to the district's annual report, which was presented in June. From those visitors, on

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Miracle League Fall Season begins!

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The Miracle League of San Diego provides children with special needs the opportunity to play baseball in an organized league. Every player is matched with a buddy for the entire season and each buddy is paired with the player based on his or her unique needs. The League's mission is "to ensure that every participant walks away saying they had a great day!"

For more information, visit www.miracleleagueofsandiego.org.

Photos by Jon Clark. For photos online, visit www.delmartimes.net.



Top row, l-r: Elizabeth at bat; Jacob at bat; Second row, l-r: Tim and Jason Gackstetter with Taran; Ashley at bat; Pitching in the Miracle League; Sophie and Naomi Williams; Mac Solomon, Dan Engel (Co-Founder); Third row, l-r: Ian Shirley, Chris Banna, Mara Wong; Rachel at bat; Alexander at bat; Aaron at bat; Katie at bat.

