

THE CATALINA ISLANDER



BRIEFS

Water level

As of Thursday, April 20, the water level at Middle Ranch Reservoir measured 634 acre feet.

Only on Catalina

Chuck Liddell reflects on the time he played the lead role in a church Easter pageant.

See story, page 3

On the Water

A member of Capt. John's crew has a close encounter with an eagle.

See story, page 4

Chamber Challenge inches toward raising \$25,000

The Chamber Challenge campaign is about \$1,600 away from raising \$25,000.

See story, page 4

All Things Scuba ...

A diving instructor thought he saw two leopard sharks, but it turned out they were actually swell sharks—another non-aggressive shark species known to Catalina waters.

See story, page 5

Lions Club to offer eye screenings

The Avalon Lions Club will be going back to its roots at the Catalina Island Medical Center's 33rd Annual Health Fair next Thursday when free eye screenings will be performed.

See story, page 5

Easter Egg Hunt succeeds

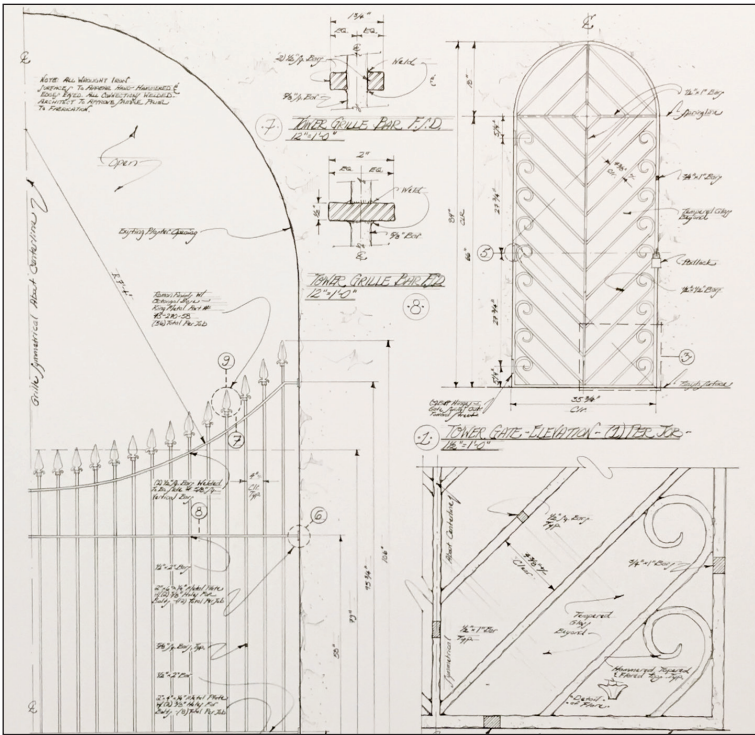
The Community Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success! On April 16th, 350 participants stormed Descanso Beach Club for the annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. More 2,000 eggs were laid out over the lawn behind inflatable animals.

See story, page 6

Straight Up Builders take softball tournament

During the final game to claim the softball tournament championship, Coyote Joe's took on Straight Up Builders in a fight to the finish.

See story, page 7



Pictured above are design plans for the Chimes Tower. Courtesy photos



The Chimes Tower door has seen better days.

Catalina Chimes Tower Foundation updates community on progress

Avalon landmark restoration receives tremendous support

FOR THE ISLANDER

The Catalina Chimes Tower Foundation held its 'Bells & Whistles' event at the Catalina Island Museum on Wednesday, April 5 to share progress on the Chimes Tower restoration project. More than 75 Avalon community members and island visitors gathered to hear remarks from Foundation Chair Alison Wrigley Rusack and Vice Chair Blanny Avalon Hagenah. Attendees also had the opportunity to view original architectural drawings, historic photos and chimes mechanisms, as well as architectural renderings depicting the Chimes Tower as it will look upon completion.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the outpouring of support we received from the community," said Wrigley Rusack, great granddaughter of Ada and William Wrigley, Jr., who commissioned the Chimes Tower in 1925. "It means a lot to know that so many share my love for this important Avalon landmark."

As one of Avalon's most charming features, the Chimes Tower has been bringing enjoyment to both residents and visitors for more than 90 years. The Foundation is in the process of finalizing its overall assessment of both the Chimes and the Tower, though it has confirmed that the Tower's foundation is structurally sound.

"Since 2013, the Foundation has been working to preserve and build on the dreams of William Wrigley, Jr. and his wife, Ada," said Hagenah, also a great granddaughter of the Wrigleys. "Our goal is to not only restore the Chimes Tower to its past glory, but also make it accessible for future generations to enjoy."

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Chimes, Page 7

Mysterious Island

Catalina's facts, folklore, and fibs

This Week: AL CAPONE AND 'GENTLEMAN BOB'

BY JIM WATSON

Editor's Note: Jim Watson is the author of "Mysterious Island: Catalina," available on Amazon, Kindle and in stores in Avalon.

In past columns I've regaled you with tales of Robert "Gentleman Bob" Hanley, one of Catalina's most legendary and renowned seaplane pilots of yore.

Those columns (not

to mention the opening story in my book "Mysterious Island: Catalina") revolved around a couple of supernatural incidents related by Mr. Hanley that occurred during his remarkable flying career—a pair of incidents that will chill you to your ailerons.

But Hanley, who is perhaps known best locally for his operation of Catalina Channel Airlines for nearly two decades, had more on



Watson, Page 10



Notorious bootlegger Al Capone was not only the "Boss of Booze," he was also the first boss of one of Catalina's Island's most colorful seaplane pilots—Bob Hanley. Photo courtesy Wikipedia Commons

Expert advocates \$19M desal-plan

Project would add about 2 million gallons of storage

BY CHARLES M. KELLY

A desalination expert presented a \$19-million plan to improve Avalon's desalination system to the City Council this week. The \$19 million (rounded) price tag would be for construction costs. Maintenance and operations would add almost \$1 million a year to the cost. The project would include adding almost 2 million gallons of water storage capacity to the system. (Last year, Avalon staff proposed adding a 2-million gallon tank.)

According to City Manager David Jinkens, up to \$10 million in Proposition 1 grant funds would be available for desalination improvements. "Ten million would go a long way to making improvements that are needed in the near and middle term. We can always and will seek other grants for the remainder of the improvements."

According to Jinkens, the projected costs included 40 percent for contingencies and city officials hope the actual costs will be less than \$19 million.

Dr. Val Frankel, a vice president with the environmental engineering company Greeley and Hansen, looked at three alternatives for improving the desalination

Water, Page 6



Straight Up Builders take softball tournament

Final championship game is a fight to the finish

BY PATTI ENGEL
FOR THE ISLANDER

This has been one of the most competitive leagues in recent memory. The final game to claim the tournament champion title was no different. Coyote Joe's took on Straight Up Builders in a fight to the finish. With one out, Jose Gamboa hit a double for Coyote Joe's. He was left stranded at second. Straight Up Builders' Danny Alonso opened with a home run. A walk, a double from Justin Hernandez and a sacrifice

fly brought home the second run. Coyote Joe's put a run on the board in the second inning.

In the bottom of the inning Straight Up Builders turned an error into a run before the inning ending double play. Coyote Joe's put another run on the board in the third. Ryan Hinkley ended the threat of more with his come from nowhere catch in left to deny Jose Gamboa the extra base hit. In the bottom of the inning with two on, Danny Alonso hit his second home run of the night, this time for three runs. The fourth inning saw Coyote Joe's wake up offensively. An error, two walks, five base hits and a double from Juan Cisneros brought home a total of eight. Straight Up Builders kept

it close, with two runs on two base hits and a double from Robert Ozark. Straight Up Builders crept closer, with another run in the fifth. Matilda Martinez stayed in there at second to tag out the runner for the second out. Top of the sixth, and Coyote Joe's left another two runners stranded. Straight Up Builders regained the lead in the bottom of the inning. With three runners on, it looked like Robert Ozark hit a grand slam, only to pass the runner ahead of him to be called out. In the seventh and final inning, down by two, Coyote Joe's got their last at bat. They made the most of it, using two errors, and three base hits to score six and regain the lead. In the bottom of the inning, Frank Rojo made the highlight reel with

his laid out catch at left to deny Mike Fekete the extra base hit. Three base hits and a walk later, Josh Flynn had a double. With the game tied, two outs, and bases loaded, Ryan Hinkley hit the walk off single to score the winning run. Straight Up Builders won the hotly contested game, 17-16. What a fun game to watch! Congratulations Straight Up Builders.

For Coyote Joe's, Frank Rojo and Chuy Sillas both collected three hits. Jose Gamboa, Juan Cisneros and Rachel McCormick all had two hits. Jose Cuevas, Ron Bevins, Francisco Bravo, Julio Chavoya and Matilda Martinez contributed one hit. For Straight Up Builders, Danny Alonso, Josh Flynn, Ryan Hinkley, Robert Ozark

and Bart Glass contributed two hits. With one hit each were Justin Hernandez, Mike Fekete, Brian Wooten, Scotty Rohlfesen, Amanda Younger, Sandy Gutierrez and Aurora Felix. Special thanks to our sponsors: Bravo's Landscaping, Coyote Joe's, Straight Up Builders and Virgie's Snack Bar. We appreciate your support. Kudos to the City of Avalon, for the remodeled Joe Machado Field – it's a really fun field to play on. Thank you!

It was a great season – thanks to all the athletes who participated! Next up is summer fun – Women's League on Thursdays and Men's League on Fridays will begin in June. Watch for those sign ups. Catalina Co-Ed Softball will return in the fall.

Fish and Wildlife marine calendar

April 25

California's Artificial Reefs—Public Informational Meeting and Webinar. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife will host a public meeting at 8:30 a.m., April 25, both online and at the agency's Los Alamitos office. The meeting will provide information on Fish and Wildlife's role in the placement and management of artificial reefs in California, including laws and regulations; historical background;

what the public should expect. To access the webinar, visit <https://cdfwmarine.wordpress.com/2017/04/10/public-meetings-webinar-set-on-artificial-reefs-in-california> and follow the link to the Skype website.

April 30

Last day of commercial surfperch season (shiner perch exempted)

Last day of commercial spot prawn trap season north of Pt.

Arguello

Last day of April recreational ocean salmon season, Horse Mountain to the California-Mexico border.

May 1

First day of recreational red abalone season

First day of recreational groundfish season, Oregon border to Point Arena

First day of May recreational Pacific halibut opener.

Chimes

From page 1

the Foundation's next event on Saturday, July 15 at Castillo del Mar, Hagenah's Avalon home. More details, as well as ticket sales information, will be available soon on CatalinaChimes.org.

In the meantime, a special exhibit dedicated to the Chimes Tower

is on display at the Catalina Island Museum through summer 2017. The Catalina Chimes Tower Foundation thanks Steve's Steakhouse for catering the event; Glen Gustafson for providing a dramatic drone video that captures the current condition of the tower; and the many volunteers who helped make this event run smoothly. "Bells & Whistles" would not have been possible without all of your support.

How You Can Help

To make a tax-deductable donation, please visit CatalinaChimes.org. Contributions can also be mailed directly to the Catalina Chimes Tower Foundation at P.O. Box 677, Avalon, CA 90704. A receipt for your contribution will be mailed to you.

If you have any questions, please email info@catalinachimes.org.



AVALON GRILLE

You Bring Mom...We'll Do the Rest

Join Us for Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 14
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

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and a Flower for Mom

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Ryan J. Fait, DDS * USC Graduate * Navy Veteran

As a former resident of Avalon, I know how great it is to live in such a beautiful place. However, I also understand the inherent challenges that you face as islanders. I am aware of the time constraints involved with traveling off the island and will do everything possible to take care of your needs in a timely manner.

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The *Perfect* Blend

Scoops and Starbucks have coupled together creating an 'Affogato', the perfect collaboration of both Coffee and Ice Cream. **Love at first mix.**

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