

# Local & Region

## QUOTE OF NOTE

**"We all love him to pieces. I don't know what we would do without him. He is our rock."**

Alyssa Bostic, on her grandfather, Darrel Bostic

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Local Content Editor Richard Montenegro Brown at [rbrown@ivpressonline.com](mailto:rbrown@ivpressonline.com) or 760-337-3453.

## SUMMER FUN



**FROM LEFT:** Celia Otis and her two children, Logan and Noelle, work on their mosaic pattern during the Garden Art event held Saturday morning in Imperial. ERIC MILLER PHOTOS

## Art workshop fosters creativity, giving back to the community

BY SANDY SIERRA  
Staff Writer

IMPERIAL — Leticia Pastrana watched and guided her son Mustafa Karakoc, 7, as he worked on creating a rocket ship and moon out of mosaics during a garden art workshop held at the Rainforest Art Center in Imperial on Saturday.

Pastrana was just one of a small group of parents, along with their children, who decided to take advantage of the workshop hosted by RAC and offered by the Imperial Parks and Recreation Department.

"It's a way for the community to take part and help with the park," said director Eddie Shiffer who had been involved with RAC in the Imperial Valley for more than 6 years. "It allows kids to create something."

Those participating with the garden art workshop have the option of taking home their mosaic project or add their artwork to the park RAC is working on. The workshop is free to participants who choose to donate their project to the park.



**Attendees of the Garden Art event work on mosaic creations Saturday morning at the Rainforest Art Center in Imperial.**

For Imperial resident Tracy Moreno, the art workshop gives her a chance to keep her son busy during his summer break.

"It keeps the kids stimulated so they're not in front of the TV all the time, and it also gives back to our community," explained Moreno.

"This is our first time," said Moreno about the workshop which started last Saturday.

Although Moreno was going to take her son's project home and add it to their garden, she hopes to contribute their next mosaic piece to the community park.

It was a few years ago when Pastrana first heard about the RAC program while watching the art center set up a mural at the local park.

"He was just too young to participate at that point so now that they started up the program again, he's at the perfect age to come," said Pastrana, who, along with her son, was working on a stepping stone.

The workshop also provided her son an opportunity to do something artistic and use his imagination, added Pastrana.

Celia Otis brought her daughter Noelle, 11, and her son Logan, 6, after she saw a flyer advertising the workshop.

"We're always looking for stuff to do that's also indoors," said Otis. "This is our first time here and we want to come back next time."

The workshops will continue to take place at the RAC every Saturday until July 26.

## FIFTH ANNUAL



**A father puts his hands behind his daughters in a prayer during the fifth annual Father-Daughter Purity Ball held at the Gateway Church gymnasium Saturday in Brawley.** SERGIO BASTIDAS PHOTO

## Fathers, daughters bond at Purity Ball

BY CHELCEY ADAMI  
Staff Writer

BRAWLEY — Around 40 fathers proudly escorted in their daughters to the fifth annual Father-Daughter Purity Ball presented by the Imperial Valley Missions for Youth on Saturday evening.

The night featured photos, a dinner, a waltz, two speakers as well as a pledge and rose ceremony.

"They love it. A lot of people that come are coming for their second, fourth, fifth time. The daughters look forward to it all year and the fathers enjoy it, too," said Purity Ball director Nicole Rothfleisch "It's a very special night for the fathers and daughters to have a bonding experience and make memories."

"I think it's really cool," she said. "It's a nice way to be with my father."

"It's a special time with my daughter and being around great people with the same beliefs and values," her father Ryan Floyd said. "As fathers, we have to

lead the way in how they're supposed to be treated and to let them know how special they are."

In the pledge ceremony, fathers take the pledge to "cover my daughter as her authority and protection in the area of purity," as well as to "be pure in my own life as a man, husband and father" and to "be a man of integrity and accountability as I lead, guide and pray over my daughter and my family as the high priest in my home."

Their daughters also sign it as a witness and participate in a formal rose ceremony featuring two men bearing swords, violin music and a ceremonial laying of a rose at the foot of a cross to symbolize giving their purity to God.

Tony Romano came with his three daughters: Gianna, 7, Sofia, 8, and Isabella, 10.

"For us, it's a chance for us to dress up and spend time with them," he said. "Just give them time for them to enjoy each others' company."

"We love him," Sofia said excitedly at the event. "It's really exciting to be here at our first one."

SEE BALL | A5



**Eleana Lucio, 5, plays with her stuffed animal as her father Richard Lucio watches during the fifth annual Father Daughter Purity Ball.**

## STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT ...

## Eager stargazers fill museum, learn from local astronomer

BY SANDY SIERRA  
Staff Writer

OCOTILLO — On a regular day, one may not realize that the earth underneath our feet is moving at an average rate of a 1,000 miles per hour. This was just a fragment of the overall picture local astronomer Dennis Mammana aimed to illustrate during the Imperial Valley Desert Museum's seventh stargazing event Saturday night.

For more than four decades Mammana has been educating audiences of all ages about the wonders of the earth and the night sky.

What he hoped to focus on during his Saturday night lecture was how our planet moves through space.

"We're on a flying blue marble," said Mammana. "Earth is moving seven different directions right now and we don't even feel it."

As seats were beginning to fill during the lecture, Mammana bounced around gargantuan numbers to describe distances from stars to planetary objects to galaxies light-years away.



"I'm going to be throwing out huge numbers. You might not be able to grasp it," said Mammana.

While many audience members may not be able to grasp those large distances, Saturday night's event brought new visitors to the museum who were eager to try.

It took Karla Mora, 39, and her boyfriend more than an hour to arrive at the museum from Mexicali.

"I've never been to this museum. I always pass it but I've never stopped by," said Mora. "I live in a metropolitan area and I love art, culture and museums."

Mora added that she was really interested in hearing what Mammana had to say.

"I'm really excited to look at the stars," Mora added. "Plus, I thought it would be really romantic for my boyfriend and I."

Imperial resident Christina Benson is also a first-time visitor. Benson heard about the event from her mother-in-law, who had nothing but good things to say about her trip to the museum when it had first opened its doors.

"I thought it would be a good thing to take the kids to," said Benson who, along with her daughter Corrinna, also invited her niece and nephews to the event.



**LEFT: Stars shine over the desert near the Imperial Valley Desert Museum during a stargazing event Saturday in Ocotillo.**

**ABOVE: Local astronomer Dennis Mammana gives a presentation titled "Flying Blue Marble" during the stargazing event.** SERGIO BASTIDAS PHOTOS

Corrinna, 11, said she hoped to learn about all the moons that orbit the planets.

"I'm excited to learn about stars and how they're formed," said niece Clarissa Guicar, 16.

"We're so lucky to be able to have access to telescopes where we can actually see planets and moons," added Benson. "People don't normally get to do that."

The event's question-and-answer session

after the lecture opened the floor to deeper discussions about the universe.

At the end of the day, Mammana hoped the audience can go back home appreciating the way the universe works.

"What I hope they take away is a little bit of a better perspective," said Mammana.

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