

Local & Region

QUOTE OF NOTE

“It’s more convenient for border-crossers and increases business sales, which in turn helps everyone.”

John Moreno, Calexico mayor

QUESTIONS? Contact Local Content Editor Richard Montenegro Brown at rbrown@ivpressonline.com or 760-337-3453.

DEAF PROBE

What do you want to know?

Submit your questions and read responses to others at ivpressonline.com

Q A resident in the 600 block of Brighton Street in El Centro has a motor home in the backyard we can see. The resident has illegally rented this motor home as a dwelling. This motor home does not have properly connected electricity, runs extension cords from inside the house, nor proper sewage/water connections. Also, the odor of marijuana comes over the fence toward our home. What can be done about this situation? — Concerned, El Centro

A Motor homes, travel trailers, RVs, etc. are allowed to be stored in front, back and side yards within the city of El Centro. However, they cannot be used for living, sleeping or housekeeping purposes, said Frank Soto, acting building official for the city of El Centro. The Probe writer also provided an address for the residence in question,

which we passed along to the city’s Building Department. Soto said that the city code enforcement officer will inspect the site to confirm whether there is a violation. If the violation is confirmed, a code enforcement case will be initiated and the property owner will be contacted and ordered to correct the violation or face possible fines, he said.

As for the strong scent of marijuana possibly emanating from the trailer, Soto suggested that the Probe writer contact the El Centro Police Department for further assistance.

In case anyone forget, the city has a variety of restrictions that apply to the proper parking and storage of motor homes, travel trailers and RVs at residences within city

limits. These regulations state that such vehicles must not be left standing on any street, highway, or public place in the city for more than a consecutive period of 48 hours, unless issued a permit by the city. City code also states that such vehicles must be parked on a paved surface if they are parked in the front of the house.

Electrical hookups are also prohibited when

parked on the street except during loading and unloading or for the charging of batteries. Sewer hookups are prohibited at all times, Soto stated. For more information about regulations as they apply to motor homes, travel trailers, RVs and similar vehicles please visit the city’s website listing of municipal codes at www.cityofelcentro.org

MAKING TRAVELING EASIER

Highway 98 section next to receive repair

BY HERIC RUBIO
Staff Writer

CALEXICO — Road conditions continue to improve throughout Calexico, with a section Highway 98 set to be renovated beginning early next week.

Highway 98, referred to as Birch Road within city limits, will see im-

provement work starting Monday in order to repair raised cracks and potholes between Highway 111 and Ollie Avenue, according to email correspondence between Imperial County Board of Supervisors Chairman John Renison and Bill Figge, deputy district director of planning for

California Department of Transportation, District 11.

“(O)ur initial step will be to either serrate or cold plane this area,” writes Figge.

Cold planing refers to the controlled removal of the surface of the existing pavement to the desired depth. Figge went on to

note that based on how well the ride improves, further work could be done if deemed necessary.

As Highway 98 is a federal roadway, all work is being handled by Caltrans and being funded using federal money.

The new work planned for Highway 98 is the latest

in a series of road improvement projects implemented in various areas of the city, including the renovation of the much-maligned Cole Road.

“We have a lot going on,” said Nick Servin, Calexico public works director. “It makes travel easier, it’s easier on cars

and prevents traffic.”

Servin noted that most work is being conducted at night so as to avoid causing as much disturbance as possible, though he did offer advice for any drivers that may come across a construction zone.

“Observe the signs and watch for workers,” he said.

SUMMER DAYS DRIFTIN’ AWAY



Parents and children play and swim in the pool during the sixth annual Splash Bash on Aug. 16, 2013, in Imperial. JOSELITO VILLERO FILE PHOTO

Imperial End of Summer Splash Bash is back with several changes

BY KRISTA DALY
Staff Writer

IMPERIAL — This city is hosting its annual End of the Summer Splash Bash on Friday with a few changes from previous years since the city adopted water conservation policies last week.

The event will not have a water slide, the Fire Department water spray or the water balloon toss, said Ember Haller, recreation program manager. However, it will have the usual free open swim, a dunk tank with community leaders and lifeguards participating and the watermelon-eating contest.

New activities include a hula hoop contest and a game area, she said. Prizes have been sponsored from the Imperial Irrigation District, Crazy Horse, Johnny’s Burritos and others.



FROM LEFT: Eryka Quines, then 7, and Janessa Gomez, then 5, compete in the watermelon-eating contest during the sixth annual Splash Bash on Aug. 16, 2013, in Imperial. JOSELITO VILLERO FILE PHOTO

“It’s not the end of the summer weather-wise ... but it’s a nice time to come out at a community event before (children) have the responsibility of going back to school and having homework,” Haller said.

Additionally, Robert Flynt from Finer Sounds will be the master of ceremonies and disc jockey for the night. Hawaiian shaved ice

and kettle corn will be available for purchase, but admission and entry into contests and games are free.

“It’s a nice way to cool off and have fun with friends and family,” Haller said.

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UP TO \$5,000 PER CHILD ANNUALLY

Children’s medical grants available for qualifying families

BY CHELCEY ADAMI
Staff Writer

The UnitedHealthcare Children’s Foundation offers grants for families to pay for children’s medical expenses not covered, or not fully covered, by a commercial health insurance plan and encourages those burdened with these medical bills to apply.

There were 164 grants awarded by the foundation in California over the past three years, totaling more than \$480,000, and one for \$5,000 was awarded to a family in Holtville in November.

The foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides families with up to \$5,000 annually per child, and applicants do not need to have insurance through UnitedHealthcare to be eligible. The money can be used for medical services and equipment such as physical, occupational and speech therapy, counseling services, surgeries, prescriptions, wheelchairs, orthotics, eyeglasses and hearing aids.

“Thousands of children struggle every day for something many of us take for granted – our health. That reality is the driving force behind UnitedHealthcare Children’s Foundation’s mission to help families in need access medical care that will improve their child’s health. Our medical grants have already helped thousands of children in need, and we are looking to help thousands

more children in the future,” according to CEO Brandon Cuevas of UnitedHealthcare of California.

To be eligible, children must be 16 years old or younger, and their families must meet economic guidelines, live in the United States and have a commercial health insurance plan. Grants are available for medical expenses families have incurred 60 days prior to the date of application as well as for ongoing and future medical needs.

Parents or legal guardians may apply for grants at www.UHCCF.org, and there is no application deadline.

Last year, the foundation awarded more than 1,700 medical grants worth about \$5.6 million to children and families across the country for treatments associated with medical conditions such as cancer, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, diabetes, hearing loss, autism, cystic fibrosis, Down syndrome, ADHD and cerebral palsy.

Visit www.UHCCF.org for more information about grant applications or for information about donating to the foundation. Donations are used for grants to help children and families in the region in which they are received.

Staff Writer Chelcey Adami can be reached at 760-337-3452 or cadami@ivpressonline.com

FREE TO ATTEND

Museum to host ‘Indian Feast’ exhibit opening Saturday

STAFF REPORT

If you go

What “Opening of Seaweed, Salmon and Manzanita Cider: A California Indian Feast”
When 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday
Where Imperial Valley Desert Museum, 11 Frontage Road in Ocotillo, off of Interstate 8
Info Free admission

Hudson Museum and Exhibit Envoy.

It will be the museum’s largest traveling exhibit to date, and the first exhibit of its kind in Imperial County in more than 30 years.

The exhibit will run through Oct. 11 and features traditional foods important in the lives of Native Californians including fish, shellfish, meat, fruits and acorns.

The exhibit contains historic and contemporary framed photographs of California Indian peoples gathering, preparing and enjoying traditional food; large format framed contemporary photographs of California Indian food resources; and informative text panels.

For visitors to take home, there are tear-off recipe pads of some ways to enjoy California Indian foods.

The IV Desert Museum has included food-related artifacts from its collections such as projectile points, throwing sticks and abalone shells to supplement the exhibit.

A collection of woven baskets and winnowing trays is on loan to the museum from John Eagle Spirit Elliot of the Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation for visitors to enjoy during these eight weeks.

Opening day of the exhibit will be free to the public due in part to event sponsors Imperial Valley Aggregate and Gibson & Schaefer Inc.

The local museum is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.

For more information visit www.ivdesertmuseum.org or contact museum officials at ivdmuseum@gmail.com