

The San Diego Union-Tribune

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NOAH BERGER AF

Flames from the Saddleridge fire make a run up a hillside toward homes in Porter Ranch Friday. The blaze broke out Thursday night on the north side of Interstate 210 and quickly spread, aided by Santa Ana winds.

'A WHOLE CURTAIN OF FIRE': 100K EVACUATED IN L.A. AREA

Fast-moving blaze chars more than 7,500 acres; state of emergency declared

ment's notice.

dress systems and sent dozens

of officers knocking on doors as

the fire swept west. "A lot of peo-

ple left but some didn't," he said.

"We aren't going to force people

U-T NEWS SERVICES

A wind-driven brush fire carved a devastating path in the northern foothills of the San Fernando Valley on Friday, burning at least 31 structures, closing freeways and forcing the evacuations of thousands.

Peak winds above 50 mph drove embers hundreds of yards in front of the flames. The fire hopscotched west from Sylmar - leaping over Interstate 5 into Granada Hills and Porter Ranch, at times consuming 800

acres an hour.

More than 1,000 firefighters from multiple agencies fought the sprawling blaze night and day, deploying eight helicopters and amphibious fixed-wing "super scoopers." Ground crews manned bulldozers to cut containment lines into nearby hillsides. At least one air tanker blanketed fire retardant across the ridges between Granada Hills and Porter Ranch.

By Friday afternoon, 7,500 acres had burned. Mandatory evacuations were

issued to roughly 23,000 homes to leave." north of state Route 118 — an

It was familiar territory, not area covering 100,000 residents just because of the Sayre fire in – and officials warned that Sylmar that burned 489 homes in 2008 but also the Aliso Canyon other communities near the fire gas leak four years ago that need to be ready to leave at a moforced the evacuation of 11,000 Deputy Chief Jorge Rodripeople in and around Porter Ranch, and the fire that deguez of the Los Angeles Police Department said the city sent stroyed 13 homes in Porter Ranch in 1988. alerts, used police public ad-

With the unrelenting wind, warm temperatures and low humidity, officials said they expect it will take days to get the blaze SEE FIRE • A12

LOBBYING PROBE **SAID TO** TARGET GIULIANI

PLUS TAX

Trump attorney reportedly under scrutiny for efforts to undermine ambassador

U-T NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON

Federal prosecutors in New York City are investigating whether Rudy Giuliani, President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, broke lobbying laws in his dealings in Ukraine, according to two people familiar with the inquiry.

The investigators are examining Giuliani's efforts to undermine the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, one of the people said. She was recalled in the spring, reportedly as part of Trump's broader campaign to pressure Ukraine into helping his political prospects.

The investigation into Giuliani is tied to the case against two of his associates who were arrested this week on campaign finance-related charges, the people familiar with the inquiry said. The associates were charged with funneling illegal contributions to a congressman whose help they sought in removing Yovanovitch.

Giuliani has denied wrongdoing, but he acknowledged that he and the associates worked with Ukrainian prosecutors to collect potentially damaging information about Yovanovitch and other targets SEE UKRAINE • A13



NEW LAW WIDENS GUN RESTRAINING ORDERS

Measure among 15 gun-related bills signed by governor

U-T NEWS SERVICES

SACRAMENTO

California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday signed a law that will make the state the first to allow employers, co-workers and teachers to seek gun violence restraining orders against other people.

The bill was vetoed twice by former Gov. Jerry Brown, a fellow Democrat, and goes beyond a measure that he signed allowing only law enforcement officers and immediate family members to ask judges to

temporarily take away peoples' guns when they are deemed a danger to themselves or others.

Newsom signed a companion bill extending the length of gun-violence restraining orders from one to five years, although the gun owners could petition to end those restrictions earlier.

The new laws were among 15 gun-related laws that Newsom approved as the state strengthens what the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence calls the nation's toughest restrictions, including a ban on the purchase of more than one semiautomatic rifle per month.

"California has outper-SEE LAWS • A10

GUN SALES BAN AT DEL MAR FAIRGROUNDS NOW THE LAW

Newsom signs bill written by Gloria; it takes effect in 2021

BY PHIL DIEHL

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday signed into law a bill that will ban the sale of guns and ammunition at the Del Mar Fairgrounds beginning in 2021, the first time the Legislature has stepped in to prohibit the purchase of firearms and ammo on state-owned property.

"The community spoke and the state listened," said the bill's author. Assembly-



man Todd Gloria, D-San Diego, in a news release. "This victory is policy and action, not thoughts and prayers and it demonstrates that California, with leaders like Gov. Newsom, will step up when the federal government fails to act."

Fairground officials said Friday the signing was expected and that they will adhere to the new law when it takes effect.

The law, Assembly Bill 893. is the latest development in an ongoing battle that's already entered a federal court over firearms sales at Del Mar.

SEE GUNS • A11

McALEENAN RESIGNS

NEWS

Kevin McAleenan, acting secretary of Homeland Security, is leaving his post. A13

COURTESY PHOTO

Chula Vista's Ana De Almeida Amaral is one of 10 to earn the Girls Scouts' top honor, the Gold Award.

SETTING THE **GOLD STANDARD**

BY DEBORAH SULLIVAN BRENNAN & DIANE BELL

Ana De Almeida Amaral, a teenager from Chula Vista, has earned the Girl Scouts' top national honor for an ethnic studies course that she developed and taught at her high school, High Tech High Chula Vista.

On Friday — International Day of the Girl — Amaral became one of 10 Girl Scouts recognized as "National Gold Award Girl Scouts" at a ceremony in New York City.

"It's such an honor, not only to be the first person from San Diego to have gotten this award, but because the Girl Scouts are making a stand by supporting my project," she said. "They're saying they believe in my work."

SEE GOLD • A8

With offer imminent, price higher than SDSU aims to pay

BY JENNIFER VAN GROVE

With San Diego State University set to soon make a formal offer to buy 132 acres of city-owned land in Mission Valley, a new report suggests that the property's present-day price tag might be substantially higher than its recently appraised value.

Friday, the city's Office of the Independent Budget Analyst, which advises City Council on financial matters, concluded that the land's "actual fair market value could reasonably be determined to be as high as \$104.5 million, assuming a 2020 closing date."

The determination is a potential blow to the university, which has said since the release of a draft appraisal earlier this week that it is prepared to pay the assigned fair market value, in 2017 dollars, of \$68.2 million. On Monday, SDSU leaders plan to present a formal offer to City Council that is expected to include the SEE APPRAISAL • A6

JUDGES BLOCK BORDER FUNDING, GREEN CARD RULE

BY NICK MIROFF

Federal judges in New York, Texas and California sided against two of the Trump administration's key immigration initiatives Friday, the latest in a series of lower court rulings against the president's push for new physical and administrative barriers to migrants.

In El Paso, Texas, the court ruled the Trump administration's attempt to reprogram military funds for the construction of border fencing was a violation of appropriation laws, a decision that could freeze work on the barrier in that area.

And in separate rulings in New York, California and Washington state, judges partly blocked the implementation of the "public charge" rule that aimed to disqualify immigrants from receiving green cards if they use public benefits or the government considers them likely to do so.

SEE BORDER • A13

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GOLD

FROM A1

The Gold Award is Girl Scouts' highest honor, comparable to Boy Scouts' Eagle rank. The 10 national award recipients were selected from all of this year's Gold Award Scouts "for their extraordinary leadership and ability to develop lasting solutions," according to a statement on the ceremony.

Their New York trip included a whirlwind tour of the United Nations, a visit to the flagship store for Microsoft, which sponsored the event, and media appearances. Each of the 10 Gold Award winners, known in past years as National Young Women of Distinction, will receive \$20,000 in scholarship funds.

"I was incredibly honored and humbled because this award is not just a recognition of the 700 plus hours that I put into this project, but it also represents an award to an entire community that is making a difference," said Amaral, 18,



GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA

Ana De Almeida Amaral receives the National Gold Award Girl Scout pin from Girl Scouts CEO Sylvia Acevedo in New York City.

now a freshman at Stanford Univeristy studying comparative race and ethnic studies, with plans to go into education. Amaral was among 61

girls in San Diego County to earn a Gold Award this year, along with many others throughout the country. All passed a rigorous multistep review, and each project had to demonstrate a lasting community impact.

"This year's National Gold Award Girl Scouts have truly distinguished themselves as visionary leaders," Girl Scouts CEO Sylvia Acevedo said in a statement. "In a time when an increasing number of young people are using their voices to come together and take action,



these girls stand out. They have made an incredible impact in the worlds of STEM, education, agriculture, the environment, civil rights, and beyond."

Amaral's project evolved from her realization that her high school, with its primarily Hispanic and Filipino student population, had no curriculum or activities that reflected that.

"I saw that representation of people of color wasn't apparent in our curriculum, in our history classes, or in school clubs," she said in a video about her project.

She set out to change that, developing and teaching the materials to her peers, and training younger classmates to take over the student-taught class. She recruited a team of students as instructors, and together they decided which topics to study each semester, covering subjects such as the role of Hispanic Americans in the Civil Rights Movement, and the involvement of Filipino farm workers in the 1965 Delano grape strike.

Amaral also ran seminars for educators about culturally responsive teaching in other classes beyond ethnic studies, according to the Girl Scout statement. Her biggest hurdle, she said, wasn't convincing school officials that students' ethnic history was worthy of study, but that their cultural identities should be high lighted and reinforced throughout their education.

"Often, schools try to claim that schools are a race-free and racism-free place; we don't see color, and everyone is equal," she said. "But students come in as racial beings, and it's important to be able to own that and interact with people who have different cultural backgrounds.... You know that together you can change the world, and be champions for justice.'

As the state of California debates a potential ethnic studies requirement for public schools, Amaral's class brought that material to light ahead of that. She believes that the class offers them not only insight into their cultural history, but also a way to improve their educational performance. She cited Stanford research showing that at-risk students who took ethnic studies classes improved both their grade point average and attendance, allowing them to bridge the achievement gap between Hispanic and black students and their white counterparts.

"For ethnic studies to be a place for students to be able to share their identities feel connected wit one another, and have the resources to feel empowered by their education means students are engaged with school, students are graduating high school, and students are going to college." she said in a video on her project.

previously earned a local Gold Award, joined her in New York for the ceremony. Her sister, Cristina De Almeida Amaral, also a longtime Girl Scout, completed a social media detox project for her own Gold Award, after studying the neurological and psychological effects of social media use on teen mental health. So she knew first hand the commitment the Gold Award process involved, as well as the benefits of that time investment.

"I was really excited for her," Cristina said. "I was extremely proud of her. I definitely felt like the amount of work, dedication and passion she had for this project deserves this kind of recognition. She's really working hard to spread the goals of her project to teachers around the U.S. So it's only appropriate that an organization such as Girl Scouts would recognize that and allow her to have that national platform."

Her mother, Liz De Almeida Amaral, said the Gold Award project provided Ana with a kind of template for life-long problem-solving and leadership.

"It's given her the ability to look at a problem and try to find solutions," Liz said. "She knows that it will not just be one simple fix. It takes community, networking and leadership skills. They have to be innovative, they have to take risks. They may make mistakes, but they learn from those mistakes. I think the Gold Award gives the girls these skills and propels them into the future.

Carol Dedrich, CEO of Girl Scouts San Diego, praised Amaral for her work and its lasting impact: "We are beyond proud of Ana."

Chula Vista High Tech High Director Angela Guerrero echoed Dedrich's sentiment. She explained that High Tech High is a projectbased learning school. "Our greatest goal is to instill a sense in students that their voices matter, their work matters and their passions can be mobilized toward positive change in society," Guerro said.

She added that Amaral's leadership projects represent the school's greatest hope that students "find work that is personally meaningful and transformative ... We are extremely proud of Ana!"

For Ana, the project forever altered her experience of education. She recalled leaving her Mexican-American identity at the door of her classroom and reminding herself she could return to being Mexi can-American again when she got home. Now, Ana said, "I think it has really changed that because students recognize that their identity has a place in academia.

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Amaral's mother, Liz, and sister Cristina, 21, who deborah.brennan @sduniontribune.com diane.bell@sduniontribune.com



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