



The Desert Sun

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015 R1

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COACHELLA VALLEY, A3

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SPORTS, C1



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Condoleezza Rice shines at event full of sports stars

Ex-diplomat calls crisis in education a threat to country

By Shad Powers
The Desert Sun

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coachella Valley hosted its first-ever Sports Heroes Luncheon on Thursday, and in a room of Super Bowl MVPs, boxing champions and Olympic gold medalists, one person was the clear star of the show.

That person was Condoleezza Rice.

The former Secretary of State, who's been involved with the Boys & Girls Clubs since the early 1990s, was the keynote speaker and held the audience captive during her 15-minute speech in a ballroom at the Hyatt Regency in Indian Wells.

She deftly weaved comical stories about her family with serious wake-up calls for America. A running thread was the struggle America is having right now educating its children.

"The crisis in K-12 education is the greatest national security threat that we face as a country," she said. "We have a lot of work to do in our schools. This is the great civil rights challenge of our time. If you are not educated, and you cannot read, you will not find a job and you will not find a place to live. We will become two societies, one capable and one not."

She said it was her grandfather on her father's side that set her on the right educational path. His mother was a slave, but she taught him to read, because she had learned to read. He asked how a black man could go to college, and he was told that he can go to a Pres-

Please see RICE, A13



DENISE GOOLSBY/THE DESERT SUN

Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was the keynote speaker at the Sports Heroes Luncheon, benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Coachella Valley, at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa on Thursday.

"This is the great civil rights challenge of our time. If you are not educated ... you will not find a job and you will not find a place to live."

CONDOLEEZZA RICE Speaking to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coachella Valley

Kaiser to make solar investment

Health care giant to purchase electricity from Blythe project

By Sammy Roth
The Desert Sun

Another massive solar plant is coming to Riverside County, this time with help from Kaiser Permanente.

The health care giant said Wednesday it would buy 110 megawatts of power from NextEra Energy Resources' Blythe solar project in eastern Riverside County, following Apple's announcement of a similar clean energy deal last week. NextEra can now start construction on the stalled Blythe project, which is expected to employ nearly 500 people at the height of construction and should come online by the end of 2016, just in time to secure a 30 percent tax credit.

Riverside County Supervisor John Benoit, a long-time renewable energy advocate, called Kaiser's decision to buy solar power from the Blythe project "further proof that the ideal location for a lot of this stuff is still in our backyard."

"It's an exciting new piece of the puzzle," Benoit said.

Kaiser will also buy 43 megawatts of power from

Please see KAISER, A7



CRYSTAL CHATHAM/THE DESERT SUN

NextEra's 250-megawatt Genesis solar plant, which uses concentrated solar technology, is located on nearly 1,950 acres of land managed by the BLM in eastern Riverside County, between Desert Center and Blythe.

Watchdog nonprofit calls for JFK hospital audit

By Victoria Pelham
The Desert Sun

The advocacy nonprofit organization Consumer Watchdog is calling for government officials to audit 10 California hospitals recently fined for errors that placed their patients in "immediate jeopardy" of serious in-

jury or death, including John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital.

The California Department of Public Health last week penalized the Indio hospital for the way it handled a 2011 discharge and transfer of a patient seriously ill with liver disease. The patient later died. Carrying a \$100,000 administrative fee

price tag, the violation is JFK's sixth in five years.

Consumer Watchdog said the state agency fines are not enough to pressure hospitals to improve safety.

"An audit would uncover whether hospitals are honestly reporting when adverse events occur, and reveal what, if any,

steps hospitals have taken to prevent these 'never events' from happening," the advocacy group said in a statement.

JFK Memorial was one of 10 hospitals to receive the "Immediate Jeopardy" penalties last week. Totaling \$700,000, the department said each hospital "failed to ensure the health and

safety of a patient when it did not follow policies and procedures regarding the treatment and care of a patient."

The California-based watchdog group, whose banner touts a motto of exposing, confronting and changing, keeps a close eye

Please see HOSPITAL, A10

MODERNISM WEEK



Modern Love on video

Follow The Desert Sun's coverage of Modernism Week at DesertSun.com/modernism and view The Desert Sun's continuing video series Modern Love. Friday's video features Canyon View Estates in Palm Springs and homeowner David Webb.

HI 86° LO 55°
Very warm, some sun.
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Health officials: 'Superbug' no threat to public health

CALIFORNIA, A15

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Sportscaster Al Michaels served as emcee at the Sports Heroes Luncheon for the Boys & Girls Club of Coachella Valley. Condoleezza Rice delivered the keynote address during the star-studded luncheon and fundraiser.



From left, former Major League Baseball player and broadcaster Ron Fairly, sportscaster Jack Whitaker and former Raiders coach Tom Flores at the Sports Heroes Luncheon, benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Coachella Valley, at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa on Thursday.

PHOTOS BY DENISE GOOLSBY/THE DESERT SUN

Rice

Continued from A1

byterian school down the road. So he went to Stillman College in Tuscaloosa for a year. After that year, he was out of money, and he asked why certain students didn't have to pay and he was told they were on scholarship. He asked how he could be on scholarship.

"If you want to be a Presbyterian minister, then you could have a scholarship, too," Rice said her grandpa was told. "And granddaddy Rice said 'That is exactly what I had in mind.' My family has been college-educated ... and Presbyterian ... ever since."

Speaking of America's youth, a nice touch during the event was the pairing of the valley's top high school athletes with one of the sports heroes on hand. Each duo, one teen and one hero, paraded down the middle of a ballroom, almost like a wedding procession.

"It was awesome, I didn't know we were going to do get to do that," said Hogan Lizza, a cross country runner from Xavier Prep who got to walk with valley boxing hero Timothy Bradley. "He was cool. A real funny guy."

The other pairings were:

» Super agent Jerry Argovitz with Palm Springs High School quarterback Will Oliveira.

» Tennis legend Rosie Casals with Xavier Prep tennis star Tiani Jadulang.

» Local boxing former champion Antonio Diaz with Xavier Prep water polo player Dan Alling.

» Two-time Super Bowl champion coach (and should-be Hall of Famer) Tom Flores with Palm Springs football player Franklin Miller.

» Tennis doubles great Mark Woodforde with Palm Springs volleyball star Mary Lake.

» Olympic figure skater Dorothy Hamill with Palm Desert golfer Jiyeon Jang.

» Heisman Trophy and Super Bowl MVP Jim Plunkett with La Quinta tailback Chris Toribio.

» Stanford basketball star and Olympian Ron Tomsic with Palm Springs football coach Dan Murphy.

» Famed Missouri basketball coach Norm Stewart with La Quinta cross country runner Marisa Rodriguez.

» Tony Reagins, Ron Fairly and Jack Whitaker were also honored.

Sports television legend Al Michaels was smooth as the emcee of the event. The best ad-libbed moment came when Michaels was reading Toribio's



Numerous articles of sports memorabilia were up for bid during the silent auction at the Sports Heroes Luncheon for the Boys & Girls Club of Coachella Valley.

statistics for the year.

"And Chris Toribio with 3,010 yards rushing and 49 touchdowns. Is that a typo? Man, I need to sign this kid before Jerry Argovitz gets to him," Michaels said.

The event doubled as a fundraiser for the five valley Boys & Girls Club Clubhouses. And a highlight was the auctioning off of a football signed by 20 Heisman Trophy winners, including Plunkett, who was on hand with Michaels to try to sell the ball. After some timid bidding and with a goal of \$10,000, the crowd

was elated when a bidder pledged to take the ball for \$20,000.

Michaels was impressed by the event, particularly with Rice.

"She's a fairly amazing human being," he said. "I've known her a little. That speech was a home run as always. You come to expect it. It will be interesting to see what she does down the line as far as getting back into politics, but I'm all for it."

Of course, Rice certainly has ties to the sporting world her-

self. She is the first woman to become a member at Augusta and is on the committee that picks the college football playoff teams. She thanked Ohio State for making the committee look like geniuses for including them.

But again, it's making America as great as it can be that motivates Rice. She said what unites America is not ethnicity or religion, but an aspirational narrative that "It doesn't matter where you come from. It matters where you're going."

And that's where volunteerism and organizations like the Boys & Girls Club can fill those gaps in the course of a child's day with something positive.

She closed with this idea.

"When you take upon yourself the responsibility to make sure there are no weak links. Never again are you aggrieved. Asking why don't I have. You ask yourself, 'Why do I have so much?' Never again are you entitled, 'Why don't they give me?' You think, 'What can I give?' And that is the firmest foundation for our democracy and the democracies around the world."

Shad Powers is the sports columnist at *The Desert Sun*. Reach him at (760) 778-4627 or shad.powers@desertsun.com. Follow him on Twitter at @shad_powers.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Seized items obtained from law violators and other consignments which constitute the majority of items at this sale.

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 Remington Bronzes	 Rare Multi Color Sapphire GIA 20 ct. GIA Alexandrite Necklace	 Original Tarkay
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Preview: 11am * Auction: 11:30am

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Healthy Living!


EISENHOWER LECTURES AND ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY


Still Alice

 *Wellness Matters Speaker Series*
F, Feb 20, 7 p.m.
Lisa Genova, PhD, Neuroscience, Harvard University and author of *Still Alice*
Visit emc.org/wellnessevents for series information and to purchase tickets for this event: \$55/\$65 at door, or call 760-610-7360.

The Magic of Recovery

 *Alcohol & Other Drugs Awareness Hour*
SA, Feb 21, 9 to 11 a.m.
Dean Apple
The International Man of Magic
Free and open to the public.
760-773-4310 or visit bettyfordcenter.org.


Bariatric Surgery Information

 *Bariatric Surgery Information*
SA, Feb 21, 10 a.m. to noon
Bobby Bhaskar-Rao, MD, General Surgery*
760-778-5220

Open House: Barbara Sinatra Center for Abused Children

SU, Feb 22, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Open to the public; no registration required. 760-773-1636

Broadway and Beyond

 *Benefit Concert for Eisenhower Memory Care Center*
SU, Feb 22, 3 p.m.
Eisenhower Medical Center Auxiliary honoring 2014 Five Star Gala Benefactors and Host Committee.
For details, visit emc.org/calendar.
760-773-1810

Keys to a Healthy Heart

TU, Feb 24, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Negin Sanchez, MD, Family Medicine Associate Physician (Resident)
Held at Caliente Springs Resort, 70200 Dillon Road, Desert Hot Springs.
760-423-4855

Blood Pressure: The Silent Killer

TU, Feb 24, 4 to 5 p.m.
Sangeetha Vinayagam, MD, Family Medicine Associate Physician (Resident)
760-423-4855

Eating Healthy for Your Heart

Eisenhower Indian Wells Healthy Living Resource Center
TU, Feb 24, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Cari Sudmeier, RN, MS, FNP
Family Nurse Practitioner
760-423-4855








Roadmap to Medicare

Eisenhower Indian Wells Healthy Living Resource Center
TH, Feb 26, 2 to 4 p.m.
Ricardo Gonzalez, Outreach Coordinator
HICAP of Riverside County
760-423-4855

Treatment Update for Adults with Acute Lymphocytic/Lymphoblastic Leukemia

CancerCare® Live, Interactive Teleconference
F, Feb 27, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
760-834-3798

Most classes and lectures are free and early registration is recommended. For a full listing of lectures, events, programs and support groups, visit emc.org/calendar. Online registration is available for most events.

-  Annenberg Center for Health Sciences at Eisenhower
-  Eisenhower Lucy Curci Cancer Center
-  La Quinta Library
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