

Hunt for new career ends in quest for photo adventures

Signing up for a social club gave rise to new business venture

By Lillian Cox

ENCINITAS — After being laid off by Kyocera in the fall of 2010, Chris Geirman went ahead on a planned white water kayaking trip to Bhutan, Nepal. Because he didn't have a job to return to, he extended the trip to include Southeast Asia.

Just prior to the layoff, he read the Timothy Ferriss' book, "The 4-Hour Workweek." It provided food-for-thought during his journey.

"It changed the way I thought about providing for myself," he explained. "I decided to create my own opportunities going forward. The ultimate goal was to have more free time to travel and more control over my life."

Geirman signed up for a local social club that offered house parties, volleyball, outings to concerts and scavenger hunts. The latter caught his attention.

"I thought, 'I want to do that ... I can do that,'" he recalled.

The experience led to the birth of his business, FrogQuest Photo Scavenger Hunts.

Geirman hosted his first two events in San Diego. On June 9, FrogQuest is making its North County debut with a photo scavenger hunt beginning at 1 p.m. at the Lumberyard Tavern and Grill in Encinitas. A social gathering, including a slide show of the day's photographs, will follow.

Anyone can participate whether they are part of a (four to six-person) team, or come alone and are willing to be assigned to a team. Geirman said the only requirements are a sense of adventure and a web-enabled phone with camera.

At the beginning of the



Chris Geirman, originator of FrogQuest Photo Scavenger Hunts. The first North County competition will take place between 1 to 3 p.m., June 9 at the Lumberyard Tavern and Grill in Encinitas. "I'm looking to create an opportunity to make a spectacle of yourself and people on your team," Geirman said. Photo by Lillian Cox

event, each team receives a list of about 70 photo quests valued with points, the number of which is based on the level of difficulty. Previous photo quests have included a synchronized group handstand or persuading a store manager to allow a team member to pose with a mannequin in a display window and dressed in the same apparel.

"Another one was having an entire team gather inside a portable toilet," Geirman said. "Participants received bonus points for each stranger who was in

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there with them." One team member is assigned responsibility for taking a photo and emailing it to Geirman. A former IT professional and web developer, Geirman designed a software program that enables him to validate photographs to ensure adherence to contest criteria, then organize them into a slide show that is shown at a post-FrogQuest celebration.

Geirman has been cruising Encinitas the last few weeks getting ideas for photo quests.

"Developing the quests isn't that easy," he said. "I've searched the Internet for inspiration and gleaned inspiration from those around me, and now I'm constantly thinking about

what would make a fun quest. I'm growing my database one inspiration at a time, but am always happy to hear suggestions from others."

The second-place team at the last San Diego FrogQuest in April, called "Frog Whisperers," is returning for the Encinitas event with two of the original members, including Andy Hughes.

"San Diego FrogQuest was a fun, social event that was different than most things you do," he said. "There were certain themes such as 'stores and escalators,' so we went over to Horton Plaza and knocked off a bunch of quests there. The goal is not to do all the

TURN TO CAREER ON B15

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Canyon Crest Academy senior Scott Jacobson is the winner of the Don Diego Scholarship Foundation \$5,000 college scholarship. Courtesy photo

CCHS grad wins major scholarship

DEL MAR — Canyon Crest Academy senior Scott Jacobson has been awarded a \$5,000 college scholarship from the Don Diego Scholarship Foundation, the nonprofit arm of the San Diego County Fair. He and three other 2013 scholarship recipients will be recognized at the Don Diego Steve Miller Band dinner and concert gala June 15 at the fair. Tickets are available at dondiegoscholarship.org.

Don Diego Chair Paul Ecke III said, "In a year with a record number of applicants and three strong

goals are focused on pursuing a degree in Agricultural/Animal Science at the University of Wyoming at Laramie. "I want to combine my passion for livestock and exotic animals, encouraging governments around the world to develop conservation programs that allow exotics and livestock to co-exist."

Jacobson developed a love of livestock at an early age. "I literally grew up in the fair's Livestock Department where my mother, Kim Jacobson, was livestock coordinator." He gained a greater knowl-

“ Scott Jacobson is a shining symbol of the quality young leader you desire to represent your fair community.”

Jeff and Nicolina Alves
 Owners, Terra Bella Ranch

finalists in the highly competitive 4H category, Scott's academic excellence, public speaking skills, 4H achievements — including a blue ribbon at the fair for every animal shown over the last 10 years — and, not least of all, his ambition to succeed and passion for animals, made the selection committee's choice apparent."

Jacobson will also be graduating with a 3.48 GPA. "I was diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD at an early age," Jacobson said. "But my mom never let me use this as an excuse to not do well in school or set goals. I attended several hours a week of special tutoring through junior high so I could learn to overcome and adapt to these disabilities rather than succumb to them."

Today, Jacobson's

edge of animals on a trip with his mother to Costa Rica to observe Howler and Spider monkeys, Camens, three-toed sloths, poison dart frogs and other exotics in their natural habitat.

In their letter of recommendation, his Terra Bella Ranch employers, Jeff and Nicolina Alves, wrote, "Scott embodies the qualities of the late and respected Tom Hernandez (aka Don Diego) and the values that the Don Diego Scholarship Foundation is looking for. Like the appeal of the Don Diego Statue, smiling and welcoming with hat in hand, Scott Jacobson is a shining symbol of the quality young leader you desire to represent your fair community."

For more information, visit dondiegoscholarship.org



One of the challenges at San Diego FrogQuest in April was for all team members to stand in a trashcan. Frog Whispermers team members: Front row, from left: Andy Hughes and Tiffany Brown. Back row, from left: Melanie Sabelka, Joe Zeenkov, Molly Roudabush, Pete Murdoch. Photo courtesy of Chris Geirman

CAREER
CONTINUED FROM B6

quests. You go for the high-point ones, keeping the others in mind. As long as you are capable of walking, I think it appeals to anyone with a sense of adventure and challenge and competition.”

Participating teams are required to come up with a name and costume theme in

advance to show solidarity. Other teams who have participated include the “Irresistibles” (wearing black dress, red lipstick and carrying a microphone) and “Tenacious T” (wearing green, hand-painted shirts). To register, visit frogquest.com and sign up for a newsletter. Early notification is \$20 for solo participants; \$100 for a team of four to six members. Late notification is \$35 for solo participants; \$175 for teams. The deadline is 10 p.m. June 8.

People of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to participate. “It’s all photo-based, so it’s not a physical challenge,” Geirman said.

The Lumberyard Tavern and Grill is located at 967 S. Coast Highway, Encinitas.

SMALL TALK
CONTINUED FROM B1

would be the same songs your child has been singing over and over in the shower, the car, the supermarket and at bedtime for the past six weeks.

Then there are the class picnics, field trips, dances or, heaven forfend, promotion ceremonies. These add a guaranteed fight with your child about what they will

wear.

You will probably hear, “We need organic, nut-free snacks, we need cupcakes, we need bottled water, we need sunscreen, we need to book a park, we need chaparrones, we needeed ...” Phew. I am still not convinced that my adorable children worked hard enough to deserve this week of fun and fresh air, just before six weeks of fun and fresh air. Heck, I want them

to really appreciate that summer break. Let them work that pencil to the nub until 2:25 p.m. of the final day.

With any luck, that might delay the dreaded words that you know will come. “Mom, I’m bored!”

Jean Gillette is a freelance writer who keeps small chocolates at hand to restore a mother's soul. Contact her at jgillette@coastnewsgroup.com.

CYCLING
CONTINUED FROM B1

May 15 is officially “Pierre Godefroy Day” in San Diego.

Godefroy, who lives in Del Mar with his wife, began cycling for the health benefits. More importantly, the hobby also helped ease his transition from two major stages of his life.

Born in Boston, he graduated from Boston College in the mid-1950s. Upon getting his cap and gown, he served in the Navy for more than two decades — a career that included commanding the USS Lynde McCormick. Following that, he owned a carwash and auto parts store, among other jobs. He retired in the mid-1990s, but the change proved a bit difficult at first.

“As you get older and you retire from the workplace, it’s harder to meet people and make good friends,” Godefroy said. “You feel cut off from the rest of the world.”

Yet thanks to group rides with the San Diego Bicycle Club and the Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA bike group, he soon found himself with new friends.

“Now my social circle is

people I bike with,” Godefroy said. “And I feel blessed to have met them.”

Steve Bartram, who biked with him through France, said that Godefroy “is a leader in many ways.”

“He’ll lead the group when biking and at the same time he’s heavily involved in the community,” Bartram said.

Godefroy said that perhaps more than other activities, bicycling promotes a sense of camaraderie. He couldn’t put his finger on why exactly that is, but believes it’s a phenomenon worth noting.

“I think a lot of people meet their good friends through bicycling; I don’t feel unique in that regard,” Godefroy said. “You start talking about your bikes. Before you know it, you’re good friends.”

If buying the used bike kickstarted his love of cycling, he became hooked on the sport after giving his son’s triathlon road bike a spin five years later.

“That thing would just go when you pushed down on the pedal,” Godefroy said. “I viewed bikes as something of a toy before that. No more. I decided I had to get one.”

With his evolving view of bikes, he’s also taken up cycling maintenance — what he called “almost another hobby itself.”

When he’s not on his bike, he’s also an active member of St. James Parish in Solana Beach. Through the church, he volunteers time serving meals with programs like Bread of Life and has helped build homes in Tijuana, Mexico.

He said Rancho Santa Fe is his favorite place to ride in the county because of fewer stop signs and less traffic. Other than that area, he especially enjoys pedaling through Encinitas due to the scenery and restaurants.

Next up, he’ll complete the 70-mile Los Angeles River Ride.

As for the proclamation, he said: “I had no inkling that would happen.”

Upon being surprised by friends and family, he was presented with the proclamation May 15 at Encinitas’ St. Tropez Café.

“I was very touched by it,” Godefroy said.

“I feel like I’m healthy and in a good place right now,” he added. “I owe a lot of that to biking.”

College president’s contract renewed

OCEANSIDE — The MiraCosta College’s Board of Trustees has voted to extend the contract of college Superintendent/President Dr. Francisco Rodriguez for four years through 2017. The new contract will take effect July 1.



FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ

“MiraCosta College is an exceptional institution with an unflinching commitment to educate students and serve the community,” Rodriguez said.

“It’s been an honor and a privilege to serve as president and I appreciate the confidence of the board to lead this institution into the future.”

Since his tenure began in 2009, Rodriguez has guided the college through substantial growth, even during times of reduced financial resources. The college’s credit enrollment has increased nearly 25 percent, while the number of veteran and

active duty military students served has increased by more than 50 percent. The college has met student demand by increasing the number of online and hybrid classes, offering more university-transferable classes and scheduling courses in ways that work better with students’ schedules.

Rodriguez is the recipient of multiple awards and honors for his leadership, scholarship, service and con-

tributions to higher education, including the 2012 Small Business Development Center Advocate of the Year Award and the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations Communicator of the Year. Also in 2012 he was appointed to a three-year term on the National Science Foundation Education’s Human Resources Advisory Committee. Rodriguez serves on the board of directors for the Oceanside and Carlsbad Chambers of Commerce and is an Oceanside Rotarian.

Rodriguez’s contract includes an annual salary of \$256,208, the same salary as when he was hired in 2008. He has a Ph.D. in education from Oregon State University, a master’s degree in community development and a bachelor’s degree in Chicano studies, both from UC Davis.

Learn and play at Oceanside Humane Society

OCEANSIDE — The San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, has ongoing activities and opportunities for animal owners and animal lovers.

Need a little fuzz therapy? Drop in for Fur Fix Thursdays, every Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. at 576 Airport Road, Oceanside. Visitors can touch, pet and play with some incredibly cute and cuddly animals ... or stop by the enrichment table and make toys for the animals.

For more information, call (619) 243-3419 or visit sdhumane.org.

Anyone is invited to the Pet Loss Support Group at 10 a.m. June 15 at 5500 Gaines St., San Diego or at 6:30 p.m. June 27 at 572 Airport Road. The Pet Loss Support Group is open to ages 10 and up, including pet parents who are considering or preparing for euthanasia. Thanks to support from the San Diego Pet Memorial Park, sessions are free; however, donations to support the program are appreciated. Call (619) 299-7012, ext. 2311, to make a reservation or for more information.

Be part of the Project KEPPT Pet Food Bank from 1 to 3 p.m. June 12 at 572 Airport Road.

Contact ahoang@sdhumane.org or call (619) 299-7012, ext. 2907 for program qualifications and details.

Training your pup? Join the “Using TTouch with Pets” lecture from 6:30 to 8 p.m. June 12 at 572 Airport Road. Note that classes are for people only - please leave your pets at home. The Tellington TTouch method is a gentle, hands-on approach to the care and training of our animal companions. Using specialized touches and movement exercises, TTouch helps reduce various signs of stress such as excessive barking and separation anxiety. Cost is \$12 per person and includes materials. Register on-line or call (619) 243-3424 for more information.

Ready to socialize? Visit the Doggie Café from 6 to 8 p.m. June 14 at 572 Airport Road.

Bring your friendly, on-leash dog to socialize with other dogs during our Doggie Café events. Dogs should be friendly and on-leash. One dog per human handler, please.

Dogs should be at least 4-months-old and up-to-date on all vaccines, including rabies, to attend. Complimentary desserts

and dog treats will be provided. Behavior and Training specialists will be there to answer training questions. There is a \$10 suggested cover charge for the event. Call (619) 299-7012 ext 2230 for more information.

A Mobile Licensing Clinic will roll over to South Buena Vista Park, 1602 Mountain Pass Creek, Vista, from 10 a.m. to June 22. On the fourth Saturday of each month, the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA hosts an affordable Vaccine and Microchip Clinic at various locations throughout Oceanside and Vista. Microchips are only \$10. Vaccines are cash only. Visit sdhumane.org/Licensing for additional details, including other event locations and dates.

Learn about your new pup at the Puppy Support Group at 9:30 a.m. June 8 and June 22 at 576 Airport Road. Bring your puppy for an hour of open-forum problem-solving and puppy play. Puppies must be current on their vaccines and under 18 weeks of age. This is a one-hour workshop for \$35.

Register by calling (760) 757-4357 or online at behavior@sdhumane.org.

CALENDAR
CONTINUED FROM B5

meet 10 to 11:30 a.m. June 11 in the Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. For information, contact boylepam@gmail.com or (760) 942-7466.

JUNE 12
HELP WITH GRIEF The Center for Compassionate Care of The Elizabeth Hospice is reaching out to parents who are grieving the death of a child of any age. The support group meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at 5938 Priestly Drive, Carlsbad. For more information, call (760) 737-2050.

ON YOUR TOES Ballet classes for children and adults will start June 12 at the Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, Encinitas. Youth Ballet, for ages 7-13 will be Mondays from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Teen/Adult Ballet level 1 is Mondays 6:30 to 7:30 pm, Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 to 11 a.m. For more class information, visit EncinitasRecReg.com or call (760) 943-2260.

NATURE WALK Join Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve docent, writer and artist, Donna Walker, for a free nature walk 10 to 11:30 a.m. June 9, June 16 and June 23

at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, 8833 Harmony Grove Road, Escondido. For more information, visit escondidocreek.org or call (760) 471-9354.

JUNE 13
MOONLIGHT TIME Save the date for Moonlight at Sunset. From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. June 13, the city of Encinitas invites all to the official ribbon-cutting and grand re-opening of the newly renovated Moonlight State Beach, at 400 B St., Encinitas. The evening will include a ribbon-cutting, tours of the new buildings, Q&A with project staff, light refreshments and a sunset at the beach. Be sure to bring a beach chair or blanket.