



NEWS

Progress can be seen at the site of the Town Center project. The developer gave an update to city officials on Monday. Page A3



SPORTS

La Cañada's pitching carried the team against L.A. Baptist, but the bats helped against North Hollywood. Page A36



The La Cañada Flintridge Educational Foundation Gala Saturday night drew many familiar faces. Page A30 & A31

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Children of all leagues of the LCJBSA gather on the field at Paradise Canyon Elementary School on the Tuesday before opening day. The season officially begins with ceremonies, food, contests and more at La Cañada High School this Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Third well now working for JPL

BY MARY O'KEEFE
VALLEY SUN

A third well at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory on-site groundwater treatment system has been completed, part of an ongoing groundwater clean-up project.

Since 2005, the on-site groundwater treatment system has been removing perchlorate — which has been traced to thyroid gland disorders — and volatile organic compounds from groundwater that was contaminated over 50 years ago through fuel used in rockets during the time JPL was working with the U.S. military.

JPL stopped the military work in the late 1950s but the damage to the groundwater had already been done. The contamination was discovered in 1980 and investigations into its cause began. For more than two years the JPL groundwater clean-up project has had two wells working; the third well increases the ability to complete the project in a more timely manner.

"We have had a treatment plant at Lincoln Avenue Water plant [in Pasadena] for three years and we are working with the city of Pasadena to build a new plant in the mid-plume area between JPL and the Lincoln Avenue plant," Steve Slaten, project manager, said.

Drilling on the most recently completed well began last summer and became fully functional last month. It is a third in a series of wells that are being used to extract groundwater and re-inject clean, treated water into the aquifer hundreds of feet beneath the surface.

The rites of spring

Little League and LCJBSA are back.

SETH AMITIN
VALLEY SUN

You can have your dewy meadows, your warm weather, your picnics in the park, your evenings at the Hollywood Bowl. Spring really only means one thing.

Grass fields, dirt mounds, white chalk lines, spiked shoes, home runs, double plays and nine guys playing as one.

That's right, baseball is back and the 2008 La Cañada Junior Baseball Softball Association season begins with the opening ceremonies this Sunday at La Cañada High School.

And with it comes the slogan of the faithful, so commonly associated with spring itself: hope springs eternal.

"[I'm looking forward to] getting these boys and girls out

there this season," Opening Day Ceremonies Coordinator Jack Johnson said. "Hopefully we'll have some good weather and we'll be able to get in most of the games this year.

"We just want to have a sunny, fun year." In addition to being the general manager of the Shetland league, Johnson will coach a 9-year-old team.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. and will run until 4 p.m. For the hungry baseball fans, an In 'N' Out truck will be set up at 11 a.m. and will serve meals until 3 p.m.

The official Opening Day Ceremony itself will begin at 1 p.m. with the parade of players onto the LCHS baseball field. Vocalist Ronnell Hein will sing the national anthem and Mayor Dave Spence and Assist-



JASON BALLARD/VALLEY SUN

Shetland league player Michael Callahan, 6, plays catch on the Paradise Canyon Elementary School's baseball field.

ant LCUSD Superintendent Mike Leininger will throw the ceremonial first pitch of the baseball season.

Awards for coaches and

people involved in the Association that best exemplify the spirit of the LCJBSA and little league baseball will also be handed out.

Among the festivities, the LCJBSA will hold contests, including the home run derby and the golden arm competition, with the winners receiving a Domino's Pizza party with Juice It Up smoothies.

In addition, the Easton Bomb Squad, a store on wheels (mostly top-of-the-line metal baseball bats), will be on the site, selling their products at a discount price.

Though games will not be played on Sunday, the season starts for many little leaguers on Monday and next week.

"This is the American dream," Johnson said.