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## Hawk eye to eye



Champion photo by Marianne Napoles

A rescued Harris Hawk named April is keenly aware of onlookers who stop to gaze at her during the Bird Festival, including 11-year-old Madison Walters of Chino Hills (background). April belongs to falconer Henry Armijo, a field assistant for the Santa Ana Birders Association, who also brought Jenny, a rescued goshawk who wore a hood to cover her eyes to stay calm. See story, photos on Page A3.

## Schools discover faux turf's drawback

By Brenda Dunkle

Don Lugo High seniors will not graduate in their new stadium this year as they wanted, in large part because of the high cost of protecting the artificial turf that will soon be installed at the stadium.

"They're going to be very upset, utterly disappointed," student board member Kyle Anderson said of his fellow Don Lugo High seniors' response to the school board's decision Thursday to hold high school graduations again at Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario.

The school board voted last spring to move graduations of the district's four comprehensive high schools to the arena as a cost-saving measure and to provide a larger venue for the ceremonies. At the time, former superintendent Ed Heatley said high schools were paying between \$35,000 to \$37,000 each for their graduations at school campuses. The district and the four schools split the \$51,000 cost of renting the arena this June, with each paying \$10,200.

Conducting graduation ceremonies at Chino Valley's high school stadiums could now cost more than \$109,000 each, with a significant amount of the cost coming from protecting the artificial turf that was recently installed at Ayala, Chino and Chino Hills high schools and will be installed at Don Lugo's stadium, which is currently under construction.

In a Sept. 25 report to the school board, interim Superintendent Wayne Joseph and his facilities and maintenance staff said the artificial turf fields could be damaged by large crowds.

The superintendent reported that it would cost \$72,000 to \$96,000 per school site to rent a covering to shield the artificial turf from damage that could occur during large events, such as graduations. He said purchasing rather than renting the protective floor

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a majority of the options recommended by interim superintendent Wayne Joseph, and hopes to trim \$15 million deficit by \$1 million.

expected to vote on recommendations at its next meeting.

s list of recommendations would resolve the outstanding board member budget study Thursday could not expect to accept two increases in class sizes to 30 students and elimination of school counseling as "intervention

30 to 1 class size projected to save over the three-year period and the elimination of counseling would save \$1.8

board accepted the offer by Mr. Joseph would increase varying amounts at different levels. This would save \$2.6 million over the next 10 years following implementation in 2010-11, teacher ratios at different levels: kindergarten, first grade, 26 to 1; second grade, 28 to 1; third grade, 30 to 1.

of varying teacher ratios for a fixed cost the decision not to implement intervention counseling would save \$1.6 million deficit, current projections. Additional savings would be realized, Mr. Joseph said, from the savings from the employees' bar-

coverings for the fields could cost approximately \$400,000.

Mr. Joseph also said additional costs per school site for a graduation would be \$2,000 for a stage rental, \$2,250 to rent a fence for crowd control, \$4,200 for renting approximately 1,000 chairs and \$5,000 to clean up the turf after the event.

The Sept. 25 report said the weight and motion of large graduation crowds and the seating they require could disengage and stretch the artificial turf if it were not shielded.

"Large crowds moving in the same direction can actually cause entire sections of turf to disengage from the base material, bunch up and shift," the superintendent reported to the board. "This movement can also cause seams, which are the natural weak spot of the turf, to open up between rolls."

The report also said tissues, flyers, food and other debris could settle into the turf and infill and rot and that a large number of people coming onto the field in their street shoes could introduce bacteria and other contaminants from the street into the turf.

"Unlike real grass, the blades of grass in synthetic turf cannot regenerate or grow," Mr. Joseph reported. "Pedestrian traffic can cause tearing, abrasion, cutting and general wear of the mono- or duo-filament material which forms the basis of the field's 'grass.'"

Mr. Joseph also reported that the weight and movement of pedestrians and equipment on the fields during a graduation could damage under-field drainage systems, which are difficult to locate and repair. He also said any warranty on the fields might be voided if the district uses the fields without proper care. A high heel poking a hole in the turf would violate the fields' eight-year warranty, Sandra Chen, assistant superintendent of facilities and planning told the school board Thursday night. District maintenance director Michael Chapko said the recent fire on Chino High's artificial turf did not violate the warranty because it did not penetrate the turf's membrane.

Ms. Chen said the fields are being used by the high schools' sports teams and bands.

"What would happen if a band's color guard dropped one of their poles or sabers?" Kyle asked after the meeting.

Trustee Fred Youngblood questioned whether band field shows could be held at the stadiums without damaging the fields. Mr. Chapko said the bands shouldn't cause any damage because they alternate their moves on the field and do not go in the same direction for long periods of time.

"According to this report, we have greatly limited our ability to use these fields," trustee Michael Calta said. "Which is unfortunate. We should have had this information before we spent millions of dollars on the turf."

Mr. Chapko said the turf was installed, in part, because water shortages in the

The Master of Horror has found a new haunt.

Edgar Allen Poe, or rather the personality of Mr. Poe inhabiting actor Travis Rhett Wilson in "Lord Save My Poor Soul," will be fitting fare for Halloween night at Chino Community Theatre. Mr. Wilson, of Corona, is an Inland Theatre League award winner.

Mr. Wilson will portray the life and times of Mr. Poe including interpretations of some of his most famed works at 11:55 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, at Seventh Street Theatre, 13123 Seventh St. in Chino. The production was written and directed by John Lynd.

"It's weird to say that you wrote a show that's about somebody else's writing. I'd say I compiled it, and I'm writing the stuff that goes in between," Mr. Lynd said.

The midnight-hour show will include what Mr. Lynd calls Poe's "greatest hits," such as "The Raven," "The Telltale Heart," "El Dorado," "Alone," and "Annabel Lee," the last complete poem composed by Mr. Poe before his death.

Mr. Poe, whom Mr. Lynd described as the original boogeyman, is said to have lived a dark and tortured life. He unnerved readers by writing in narrative form and discussing subjects such as heaven, hell and the possibility of the afterlife, Mr. Lynd said.

"Poe's death is the last mystery he leaves," Mr. Lynd said "Nobody knows how he died."

Ticket cost is \$10 at the door; no reservations are necessary.

area are expected to become even more serious. He said that if the district kept the natural grass at the stadiums and were put under limited watering restrictions, there would soon be nothing but dirt fields.

Graduations at the stadiums came up at the Sept. 17 school board meeting when the \$52,500 contract to use Ontario Citizens Business Bank Arena for June 2010 graduations was up for a vote.

Kyle reported that night that a significant majority of Don Lugo High seniors said in a school survey that they want to graduate at their new stadium.

Past Don Lugo graduations have been at the stadium of cross town rival Chino High.

The 4,000-seat, \$7.7 million Don Lugo stadium is expected to be com-



Champion photo by Melodie H. Magouirk  
Edgar Allen Poe (portrayed by Travis Rhett Wilson) will recite some of his chilling poems at 11:55 p.m. Oct. 31 at Seventh Street Theatre in Chino. The production, "Lord Save My Poor Soul," is written and directed by John Lynd.

## Poe and Poe again

Mr. Poe's work also will be the subject of a one-man dramatization called "In the Shadow of the Raven," to be presented at 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at the James S. Thalman Chino Hills Branch Library.

Broadway and film veteran Duffy Hudson will combine the dramatic interpretation of "Annabel Lee," "The Raven," and "Tell Tale Heart" with biographical information about Poe. Information: 590-5380.

pleted in March.

The school district spent \$3 million this summer replacing the natural grass fields at Ayala, Chino and Chino Hills High with artificial turf and installing synthetic tracks at Ayala and Chino Hills High. Chino High already had a synthetic track. District officials said the grass replacement at the three schools would save the district approximately \$45,000 a year in annual maintenance and replacement costs.

The board voted Sept. 17 to delay action on the arena contract to Thursday's meeting and asked for a cost analysis of holding graduations on the artificial turf fields.

"I'd hate to think we spent all that money on that new turf and we can't put chairs on it," trustee Michael Calta said Sept. 17.

ing one TO/district \$86,0 an identical a Still unknow the money th from so-calle appropriated erment. Bo: Youngblood could receive million in uni funds and st alternatives w mind.

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