

JUST PLANE DAZZLING

Riverside airshow hosts masters of the wild blue yonder | A11

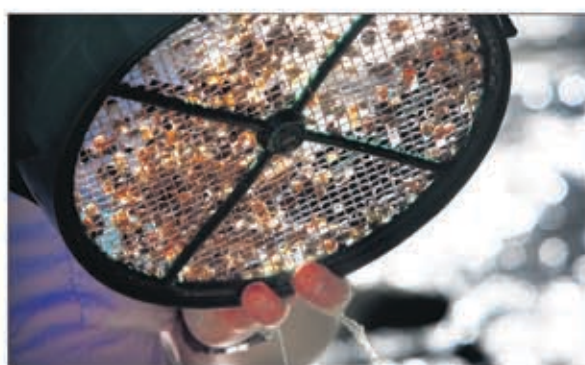
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2014 | \$1

INLAND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S NEWSPAPER

AN EDITION OF THE REGISTER

TREASURE HUNT



KURT MILLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GOLD HIGHS AND LOWS

1972: Low of \$44 per troy ounce (about \$250 adjusted for inflation)

2011: High of \$1,895 per troy ounce

This week: High of \$1,303 per troy ounce

What is a troy ounce? Slightly more than a conventional U.S. ounce, it is based on the troy weight system in use for centuries to weigh precious metals. One U.S. pound equals 16 ounces or 14.58 troy ounces.

Is it fueled by golden dreams of instant wealth? Or Golden State nostalgia? Either way, some folks are taking a shine to prospecting.

A century ago, the hills around Perris were mining country. The best-known gold mine, the Good Hope, produced millions of dollars of the precious metal during its heyday.

These days, most of the shafts and tunnels are sealed up and the only signs of what were once bustling mining operations are leveled-off hilltops and huge mounds of dusty tailings — the crushed material left behind after the valuable minerals are removed. Tools the miners once used and fuzzy photographs of miners themselves are on display in a corner of the Perris Valley Historical Museum dedicated to the rich mining history of the area.

But mining isn't just history in Southern California.



SARAH BURGE
STAFF WRITER

A handful of people are still trying their luck at mining for gold around Perris, and many more are prospecting in the mountains and deserts of Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Jeff Runnells, 36, of Murrieta, has staked a claim in a long-abandoned mine on federal land near Perris. He sometimes brings his kids to mine as a fun family activity, but he aspires to

earn a living mining. "I have this passion for mining and I don't know where it's coming from. I've always been drawn to it," Runnells said. "There's just something about finding gold that hasn't seen

Top photo: Mike Ward of LaVerne looks over what he has collected in his sifter as he takes a sluicing class on Cajon Creek.

Lower photo: Paige Carr of Orange County pours water into her sifter during the class. Prospecting has caught on anew in inland desert and mountain areas.

SEE TREASURE A5

THE PRICE OF SHAME

San Bernardino County marks first year of battling prostitution with humiliation.

Last April, the first mug shot appeared on the San Bernardino County district attorney's Stop the John Project website.



BRIAN ROKOS
STAFF WRITER

A 32-year-old Alhambra man had been convicted of soliciting a prostitute, a misdemeanor. He was the first in a photo gallery now numbering 20, the

result of District Attorney Mike Ramos' decision to wield humiliation to decrease the number of customers — the johns — and thereby reduce prostitution.

A year later, Ramos said it is difficult by statistics alone to measure the effectiveness of his campaign of shame, on either the number of prostitutes operating on the county's streets and offering their bodies via the Internet, or the number of men seeking their services.

But Ramos is convinced that johns are well aware that their faces could wind up on the World Wide Web if they attempt to pay for sex in his county.

SEE PROSTITUTION A4

CRACKING DOWN

Here are measures being taken or considered by San Bernardino County law enforcement officials to combat prostitution:

- Posting convicted johns' mug shots online.
- DA attempting to persuade other counties to post mug shots.
- Treating prostitutes as victims to get them to leave streets and to identify pimps.
- Forming district attorney/sheriff human trafficking task force to investigate felonies such as pimping and gang activity.
- Considering creating "john schools" to educate defendants about consequences of prostitution.

How Coachella became hipster Disneyland

The Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival isn't just the 170 or so musical artists invading the Empire Polo Club in Indio.

Nor is it riding the Ferris wheel and looking down at 90,000 other concertgoers, or the sunset surrounded by palm trees and mountain vistas, or the sweaty dancing to the throbbing beats of DJs in the Sahara Tent.

Coachella, which runs April 11-13 and April 18-20, is an all-encompassing sensory experience and escape that's about sound, taste and, if only for a weekend, embracing a different life.



VANESSA FRANKO
STAFF WRITER



FILE PHOTO

Fans scope out the painted wood offerings in the Coachella Boutique. The Boutique features unique, limited items at the festival.

SEE COACHELLA A8

81 | 54
RIVERSIDE



TEMECULA: 79/49
DESERT: 85/59
MOUNTAINS: 63/41

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Dream pairing

Michelle Wie and 19-year-old Lexi Thompson share the lead and will be in the last pairing of the day in Sunday's final round of golf at the Kraft Nabisco Championship at Mission Hills. Each player is trying to win her first major championship.

SPORTS

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