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The Voice of the Village SINCE 1995

MINEARDS' MISCELLANY



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MAY MADNESS



The first Saturday in May is day for Montecito's biggest estate sale of the year... and the largest ever (story begins on page 12)



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Spamalot (and a lot more)

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Vanishing History

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OUR TOWN

by Joanne A. Calitri

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Welcome Back, Saima



Saima Bari, Coast Village Road UPS Store Manager with her staff Marion Freel, Blake Kingston and Billy Perysian

A few weeks ago as I went to pick up my mail at the Coast Village Road UPS Store, a huge smile came over my face when I saw past manager **Saima Bari**. Within a few minutes, the joy was also shared by other customers, like **Don Burg** and **Jill Vacaro**, when she replied that she is now back at the store from a two-year hiatus working at the Hollywood UPS Store. **Cris Quinnell**, owner of the UPS Store on Coast Village Road, added, "I couldn't be more pleased to have Saima return as manager of the store. We have been serving the Montecito community for over almost thirty years and having Saima back at the helm is truly the icing on the cake. She has over ten years of experience in The UPS Store business and a wealth of knowledge about all of our services." Saima agreed to be interviewed as part of an Our Town welcome home:

Q. Tell us about yourself and your career path leading up to UPS Store Manager.

A. In the Bay Area, I went to Diablo Valley College and after the first year decided to study abroad through one of the programs they offered. I attended University of London for a semester, when I came back to the States, I went to Santa Barbara to visit a friend and celebrate my birthday and instantly knew I had to move there. I attended SBCC in the fall and finished with my AA. Took some business courses on the side as well.

How did you decide on working at UPS?

I started out at the UPS Store, by needing a part-time job while I was going to school for some extra money. My friend that lived next door to me worked at the UPS Store downtown and said that they were looking for some help and that I should apply. At

first I was put off on the idea because I thought it was a "guys" job, and he said, no it's really not, you should apply. So I went in and applied and got hired on the spot from my current boss and owner of the store, **Cris Quinnell**. As of today I have been working with the UPS Store for ten years and with **Cris**, eight years. I moved to Santa Monica to experience the city life and worked at the UPS Store in Hollywood for two years and now I'm back and so happy! I have managed the Montecito store for about six years.

How does it feel to be back here among your "fans"?

It feels good to be back home, where it's peaceful, mellow, and everyone knows your name. I've always had a great relationship with **Cris** over the years and we talked often; I had told her that I was thinking about coming back to Santa Barbara and she was overjoyed and without a doubt in her mind she wanted me back. I am so happy to be back, and I have a great staff who are extremely knowledgeable and friendly. The day I came back to the UPS Store in Montecito, it was so nice to see familiar faces, old friends and the best customers in town. It felt great to know how many people were so excited to see me and to know that I was back!

Ambassador Ordway Visits Laguna Blanca Lower School

As part of their Global Studies Program, "American Diplomacy: Facing Global Challenges - Past, Present & Future," students at Laguna Blanca School Lower & Upper Schools received an inside look at American diplomacy, foreign relations and the



Saima Bari with longtime fan and loyal customer of 28 years, Don Burg

role of the Foreign Service Officer and embassy during a three-day symposium with three U.S. Ambassador guest speakers. Laguna Blanca initiated this program last year to educate students on the challenges and responsibilities they face as global citizens. "Most Americans have no idea of the complex duties of diplomats. We are extraordinarily privileged to have three Ambassadors and an officer from the joint state and commerce department to give our students a firsthand look at diplomacy and foreign relations," said Upper School history teacher **Martha Elliott**, who also coordinates the Laguna Global Studies Program.

Keynote speaker **Ambassador John Ordway** visited the Lower School campus on Thursday, April 18. Arriving in the third grade classroom, he was greeted by the students with a welcome note on the classroom white board surrounded by hand drawn hearts and exclamation points. Prior to his visit, each student had to research what the word ambassador means and design three questions to ask him about his work. The kids sat in a circle on the classroom floor rug, which has a globe in its center and is surrounded by various world symbols. The overhead projector showed a current map of the countries he worked in as Ambassador.

Questions from the students included where he worked and for how long in each location, what problems he solved and the most important thing he did as an Ambassador. He replied that most assignments were from two to four years, with visits home to the U.S. to see his family. Key assignments he worked on included getting equipment to our troops in Afghanistan through a new route and negotiating the agreements to do so in each country that agreed to allow it and his work on African Affairs, specifically with convincing the Cubans to leave Angola and South African independence in Libya during the Apartheid era.

Following the presentation to the students, Ambassador Ordway told me that he is "officially retired" from his position as a Foreign Service Officer, lives in Sacramento, and is

"on call" for various security needs as they arise. He enjoys sharing his life's work with children and answering their questions about this important position for our government and U.S. citizens. A native Californian, he graduated from Stanford University and the University of California's Hastings College of Law before entering the Foreign Service in 1975. His unique path to Ambassador includes: Director of African Affairs at the National Security Council during the first Bush Administration, as well as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow from 1999-2001, Ambassador to Kazakhstan (2004 - 2008) and to Armenia (2001 - 2004) and Commissioner to the U.S.-Russian Bilateral Consultative Commission under the New START Treaty (Strategic Arms Regulations Treaty).

Laguna Blanca teachers **Chelsea Miro** (third grade) and **Lisa Gilmore** (fourth grade) wrote a global studies curriculum for grades 3-6. Lisa said, "The students are currently studying borders and how countries manage border issues, so we arranged for Ambassador Ordway to come and speak on the topic, as well as the importance of learning foreign languages, and what it is like for his children to live in other countries." The teachers shared the background of the program:

Q. When and why did you begin a global studies program at Laguna Blanca Lower School and what are the learning objectives for the kids?

Lisa and Chelsea: As world travelers and global thinkers, we are passionate about educating young minds to be both aware and able to critically engage with the world around them. Our main objective is to prepare them to be successful leaders and contributors in a world that we cannot yet imagine. The best way to prepare them for this is to give them a solid foundation in the cultures, histories and politics of all the world's people. That is the driving mission of our program and what fueled our desire to create an innovative, unique and interdisciplinary global studies program. We were able to develop this program as a result of a grant the



Ambassador Ordway gives a presentation to the Laguna Blanca Lower School kids in the Global Studies Program

studies, history and global initiatives across the country, as well as internationally.

What is the focus of the program, and is it part of the year curriculum?

The program is developed to be a supplement to our social studies curriculum and runs the full school year. The development was guided by central enduring understandings and essential questions. We broke it down into six main components: Culture, Arts and Food; Politics and History; Connections and Relationships; Earth Art (Geography); Rhetoric; and year-long projects. The skills and concepts included in the program build on each other through the years of engage-

ment in order to systematically build knowledge.

Is the Ambassador the culmination of the program, and what other learning tools do you use?

The Ambassador's visit is through Martha Elliot's Global Studies Symposium. When the school received the grant for the program we developed they also received one for a program in the middle and upper school to focus on a central, globally minded theme and create a two-day symposium around it. We arranged with Martha to have him come spend time with our second, third and fourth graders as a highlight to the global studies work we are doing in class. *My*

school received for a global studies curriculum. We submitted a proposal to the school, which was accepted. We developed the curriculum over the summer of 2012 and began implementing it in third and fourth grade in

the fall of 2012. Above all, the goal of this curriculum is to open up a world of curiosity, wonder and action in the lives of students beyond the classroom. This curriculum is based on extensive research into various social

John Ordway (center) with the Laguna Blanca Lower School kids and their teachers, Chelsea Miro, third grade teacher and Lisa Gilmore, fourth grade teacher



Ambassador Ordway (center) with Chelsea Miro and Lisa Gilmore



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