



100th anniversary of Dipsea 'hike'

This Saturday will be the 100th run of the Women's Dipsea in Mill Valley.
 ▶ SPORTS | B5

Malugani's Tires still rolling after 70 years

The family business in Mill Valley is 'community involved at heart.'
 ▶ LOCAL NEWS | A4

Family bonds enslave us for the good

Marinscope therapist about town Steven Kalas offers his take on family values.
 ▶ MARIN LIVING | A8

SAN RAFAEL News Pointer

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THE WEEK OF APRIL 18, 2018

Meet the originators of '420'

Elliot Karlan
 Marinscope

... A simple number used as a code by a handful of students at San Rafael High School in 1971, which by mythical transference over 47 years, has morphed into a global language signifying and symbolizing an international euphemism for anything and everything having to do with marijuana.

The simple truth is that five fun loving seniors used '420' or '420 Louie' as a secret code, that simply meant they should meet after school at 4:20 in the afternoon by the Louis Pasteur Statue on campus to partake in a recreational toke or two, and make plans to drive out to Point Reyes in search of a rumored pot garden that had been allegedly abandoned by a group of Coast Guard cadets out there.

Over time, due to the relationships some of those five students had with rock musicians (such as the Grateful Dead) the term '420' began to take on a new life of its own, growing exponentially throughout county, the Bay Area, the state, the nation, and ultimately becoming an iconic global terminology. The icing on the cake was the inauguration of an unofficial commemorating of April 20 (4/20) at 4:20 p.m. of each year as a marijuana holiday. Hippie Hill in Golden Gate Park became Mecca to a great smoke outs with tens of thousands descending into the park, marked with vendors selling everything from '420' T-shirts to coffee mugs. In recent years, the gathering has been marred by a sea of garbage strewn about and refuse left behind on the ground in the park.



Standing alongside the now famous Louis Pasteur Statue (hence the code '420 Louie') on the San Rafael High School Campus, the place where they met at 4:20 p.m. after school, are, left to right, Waldo Mark Gravitch, Waldo Larry Schwartz, Waldo Dave Reddix, Waldo Steve Clapper, and Waldo Jeff Noel.

PHOTO BY ELLIOT KARLAN

We're safer as MERA makes strides

Chris Rooney
 Marinscope

Marin has just gotten a little bit safer. The Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA) announced last week that it received Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licenses for the Next Gen radio frequencies — and that new equipment has been ordered.

MERA, a collection of public agencies formed to provide and operate a public safety radio system, provides vital communications between local and regional public entities that serve all facets of public safety including fire, police, public works, transportation and other emergency responders.

"We're proud of the progress we've made this year, but there is a lot of work ahead," stated a MERA newsletter.

Dave Jeffries of Jeffries Public Safety Consulting — and a MERA spokesman — fielded some questions about the authority's latest news.

Marinscope: One of the complaints from people who lost their homes in the Sonoma/Napa fires in October was a complete lack of warning. Once in place and operational, will MERA Next Gen provide such warning for Marin?

Jeffries: Not directly, as this is a public safety voice radio system to allow public safety users and their dispatch centers the ability to communicate amongst themselves. It does support these emergencies in that it allows a means to gather and disseminate critical information that can support and coordinate key decisions and tactics, such as evacuations and public warning. One of the unique capabilities of these systems is the ability to talk one to many and to create needed work groups on the fly. As an example, an incident commander may have a talk group to communicate with dispatch centers while different groups of responders may be on different tactical talk groups working on the incident. In a fire, that might include divisions working on fire suppression, while other groups are working on established traffic control and others on evacuation.

With the new system, we will also be adding regional mutual aid channels that will facilitate our incorporating mutual aid into Marin County operations as well as aid our responders deploying to other parts of the region.

This radio system is also a critical link to the 911 system. Once the public contacts a dispatch center with an emergency, the information flows across the MERA system to first responders who then coordinate their response, deployment, resource requests and resolve community emergencies as well as being a lifeline for first responders needing assistance.

The Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services provides community public messaging via Alert Marin and Wireless Emergency Alerting (WEA) amongst other technologies that is rapidly available to all Marin agencies.

Marinscope: How important is the FCC licensing? Was it difficult to obtain?

Jeffries: The process to get to FCC licensing was a three-step process. The first step was approval from what is known as the Regional Planning Committee. This step involved approximately four months of time and our meeting with them three times before we received unanimous approval of our application. Their charge involves determining potential interference between neighboring public safety radio systems. Once we passed that hurdle, the next steps of Frequency Coordination and FCC licensing went smoothly. This was one of several milestones along the way to completing the project.

Marinscope: Can you be a bit more specific about the radio equipment in regards to what devices, how many, who receives them?

Jeffries: Our Vendor, Motorola, had offered an opportunity to acquire dual band radios at the cost of single band radios. We currently operate in what is referred to as UHF-T band (Same area as the old UHF TV stations in the high 400 MHz range). The new system will be operating in 700 MHz range. This provides the opportunity to use these radios immediately on the existing system while ensuring they can be used on the new system when it is ready. In a few cases, radios were ordered by a fire agency with a third band, VHF-high, which allows the radios to also operate on the band commonly used for fire mutual aid. This first order was aimed at agencies that had an immediate need for new radios because of radios that were no longer repairable.

Find information at meronline.org.

Marin Symphony's final Masterworks

The Marin Symphony returns to the Civic Center for its final Masterworks of the season, "Fantasy," on April 29 and May 1.

The Symphony's Artistic Ambassador Zuill Bailey (still fresh off his Grammy triumphs from last year) headlines the season finale in a performance of Richard Strauss's Don Quixote, a virtuoso outing for solo cello and full orchestra filled with sumptuous sounds and imaginative effects. Stravinsky's brilliant Suite from his ballet "The Firebird" brings the season to a close in a blaze of glory.

The concerts are played at the Marin Center Veterans' Memorial Auditorium in San Rafael.

Pre-concert talks begin at 2:30 p.m. (Sunday) and 6:30 p.m. (Tuesday) and are free for all ticket holders. All concert attendees are also invited to the post-concert gathering at Gaspare's Pizzeria in San Rafael, minutes away from the concert hall, following Tuesday's performance. Tickets for the concerts are \$45-\$85 (adults) and may be purchased



COURTESY PHOTO

Zuill Bailey, above, headlines Marin Symphony's season finale in a performance of Richard Strauss's Don Quixote.

at <https://tickets.marincenter.org/> or by calling 415-473-6800.

The Marin Symphony Orchestra, es-

tablished in 1951, presents classical Masterworks and Pops concerts in the Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium and other venues in Marin. Under the music direction of Alasdair Neale, more than 80 professional symphony musicians, 110 chorus members and world-class guest artists come together to bring live classical music performances to the community. Over 150 musicians participate in the Symphony's youth programs, including the Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Zuill Bailey, widely considered one of the premiere cellists in the world, is a Grammy Award winning, internationally renowned soloist, recitalist, artistic director, and teacher. His rare combination of celebrated artistry, technical wizardry, and engaging personality has secured his place as one of the most sought after and active cellists today.

The Marin Symphony has enjoyed a special relationship with Zuill, featuring him as a soloist on a regular basis. He has also served as the symphony's Artistic Ambassador for the last five years.

New lane on bridge opens Friday

Traffic experts are pegging a lot of hopes that the opening of a new lane at the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge will alleviate some of the traffic nightmares in the area.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission says that the eastbound third lane will open on Friday, April 20.

Evening traffic slows down around the bridge which then backs up traffic onto northbound Highway 101, eastbound I-580 and southbound Highway 101. According to the MTC, this is the 15th worst traffic spot in the Bay Area. By opening up a third lane, it is hoped the congestion will ease.

Dianne Steinhauer, executive director of the Transportation Authority of Marin, told the Marin Independent Journal that "we think that the backup on 580 will disappear. We also think it will relieve the backups on 101."

The exact details on how the new lane will work will be released this week.



PHOTO BY ELLIOT KARLAN

The third installment of a question and answer forum between the 3 candidates running for Marin County District Attorney took place at San Rafael City Hall on Friday, April 13. This meet and greet was sponsored by a cooperative effort between the Marin County League of Women Voters and the Marin County American Civil Liberties Union. There is yet another forum scheduled for tax initiative group, also at San Rafael City Hall on May 3. This is the first time in 20 years there has been a contested election for district attorney. Left to right, A.J. Brady, Laurie Frugoli, and Anna Pletcher take a moment together for a photo before the debate.



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