

Local Letters: North Edition

March 29, 2008

A city reconnect to 'agri-CULTURE'

In response to “Farm and city: Never the twain shall meet?” (North County Editorial, March 15):

Thank you for telling our story! Nonprofit Tierra Miguel Foundation and Farm in North County's Pauma Valley exists for the very purpose you outlined in your plea for farm and city to meet.

Tierra Miguel Foundation is reaching out especially to our regional city dwellers and their families to reconnect to agri-CULTURE and to link to and treasure the joys and gifts of our 85-acre organic farm. We've worked over the last nine years to bring awareness to the values and benefits gained by sustaining our link to nature and her nurturing.

Working with schools, organizations and volunteers of every stripe, Tierra Miguel also has pioneered in Community Supported Agriculture programs for San Diego and its three neighboring counties.

Coming in May is our famous Strawberry Festival, this year featuring Art at the Farm (see tierramiguelfarm.org). Education and Farm Visit Days are held the first Saturday of every month and are open to all visitors. We welcome you and your children, as well as your support.

As your DialogNorth pointed out, farmlands are under development pressures and low food prices push local farmers into nonfood crops. We at Tierra Miguel Foundation are committed to educating about the importance of local foods, about maintaining connections to local markets and supporting conservation of land and soil.

“Efficiency” and mega-distribution (read expensive transportation) systems have trapped us into forgoing support for local farmers and their wares. The ability to control our food future is being removed from us. So is the opportunity to maintain the multiple food and cultural gifts that farms bring us.

Farm and city can meet through common awareness of the interconnectedness of all things related to food (health, the economy, the environment) and the urgency we begin to feel as the global market system shifts.

It will take local, regional and statewide action to alter hidebound processes that inhibit sustainable food, farmland and community health. Progress on encouraging community involvement can be reviewed at rocfund.org.

Now is the time for all good folks to become Farmers for a Day! The next Volunteer/Education Day is Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 14910 Pauma Valley Drive, Pauma Valley. The phone

number is (760) 742-4213.

BETH LEVENDOSKI

President

Tierra Miguel Foundation & Farm

Professor's critique of re-enactors criticized

In response to history professor David Miller's critical review of what the what the Civil War re-enactors missed (March 22):

Perhaps Miller would like to volunteer to present the information in some form that he believes is missing. The re-enactors are there to show what was occurring on the battlefield.

While I cannot vouch for the knowledge being imparted to current generations, I think that I'm sufficiently versed in the multiple causes of the Civil War that I don't need a refresher history lesson. The re-enactors spend a lot of their own time and money in an effort to authentically re-create the sights and sounds of a specific moment in time.

The good professor is going overboard believing the entire panorama of the Civil War can be portrayed in one afternoon. He misses the point that getting people interested in history is the hard part. That interest eventually exposes them to much more information about the period than the "guns and coffee" that he seems to find objectionable.

DAN SHAPIRO

Oceanside

Professor Miller's commentary regarding the Civil War re-enactments in Vista, while excellent, misses a key point.

While the socio/political issues of slavery and race relations are valid discussion points, they belong at roundtable and classroom venues.

Civil War re-enactors, heritage groups such as "Sons of Union Veterans" and "Sons of Confederate Veterans" participate in living history sessions and re-enactments to show the public and especially young folks what Civil War soldiers experienced in camp life and on the battlefield. The rank-and-file soldier on both sides was too busy just trying to survive from day to day to give much thought to these social questions.

Civil War re-enacting throughout America provides a valuable lesson on this one facet of our Civil War history. Let's leave it this way.

JIM STEPHENS

Oceanside

State's budget woes and school spending

As a parent outraged with the proposed cuts to the Escondido Union School District budget, I was not convinced by Senate Minority Leader Elect Dave Cogdill's "facts" about education spending ("More money, more problems for state", Opinion, March 14).