

# THE CATALINA ISLANDER



## BRIEFS

### Water level: 141 acre feet

According to Southern California Edison, as of Friday, Aug. 26, the water level at the Middle Ranch Reservoir measured 141 acre feet. The previous measurement was 145 acre feet. Stage 3 water rationing will begin the day after Labor Day 2016.

### New doctor starts at Medical Center

Dr. Aimee Warren, D.O. begins seeing patients in the Catalina Island Medical Center Medical Group Office on Friday, Sept. 2 and will give residents and visitors new options for family practice or primary care.

See story, page 2

### Only on Catalina

Chuck Liddell tells the bittersweet story of one of the bottles that Islanders cast into the sea to celebrate the nation's bicentennial. See story, page 3

### On the Water

Capt. John King considers the tactics required to capture big tuna. See story, page 4

### Life on the Rural Side

Jessica Scofield looks at how the drought has effected her Two Harbors family as they prepare for Stage 3 water rationing. See story, page 4

### Sheriff's Log

Avalon deputies recently handled an incident in which two young boys were reportedly shooting a realistic toy gun at other people and golf carts. See story, page 5

### Letters to the Editor

Readers chime in on the subject of chimes on Catalina Island. See story, page 6

### The Old Man and the 'C'

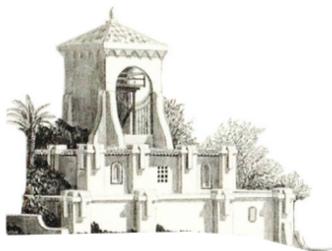
Columnist Michael Camp ponders to power of words. See story, page 7

## Catalina Kid Ventures kindergartners graduate



Recently, Catalina Kid Ventures happily and proudly celebrated the graduation of their kindergartners. Pictured from left to right are Hannah Savoie, Justin Silva, Alexia Rodriguez, Penelope Garcia, Caidon Hall, and Ada Ponce. Courtesy photo

## Catalina Chimes Tower Foundation begins fundraising efforts



BY BLANNY AVALON HAGENAH  
FOR THE ISLANDER

Fundraising is in progress to restore one of the most iconic and beloved buildings in Avalon, The Chimes Tower.

Completed in 1925 by Ada and William Wrigley Jr., the Chimes Tower was their gift to the citizens of Avalon. Mr. Wrigley commissioned a special set of melodic Westminster Chimes from Deagan

and Co. of Chicago at a cost of \$25,000, and built the beautiful tower to house them.

The chimes were designed to strike on the hour, the quarter hour, the half hour, and the three quarter hour. They were also played manually from an electric console that was originally housed in a viewing room at the entrance to the Steamer Pier (where Antonio's is located today). Passengers could watch a musician play songs on the keyboard, and hear the notes chimed from the tower perched high above Avalon.

The first notes from the Chimes Tower were played in March of 1926. The chimes test was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Deagan and SCI Company General Manager D.M. Renton, who stood across Avalon

on the front porch of the Wrigleys' home, Mt. Ada. The citizens of Avalon stopped in the streets to enjoy the melodic tones, and the chimes have entertained millions of Avalon residents and visitors ever since. However, after 90 years, the Chimes Tower has begun to show its age and is in need of renovation.

In 2013, the board of the Santa Catalina Island Company decided to create a non-profit foundation, and deeded the chimes and tower to it. The newly formed Catalina Chimes Tower Foundation (CCTF) had its first meeting in 2015, and took ownership of the building. Since then, the CCTF Board has been developing a plan to restore and beautify the iconic structure and its surroundings.

As the CCTF works on the design,

costs, and timeline of this project, a number of residents and visitors from overtown have begun making donations to CCTF, and many others have asked how they can help. The Catalina Chimes Tower Foundation welcomes donations from individuals, organizations and businesses, as it launches fundraising efforts for this Avalon landmark. To kick things off, Geoffrey C. and Alison Wrigley Rusack have issued a challenge grant, and will match the first \$100,000 raised.

For those who would like to help, tax-deductible contributions may be made on our website, [www.CatalinaChimes.org](http://www.CatalinaChimes.org), or sent to the Catalina Chimes Tower Foundation at P.O. Box 677, Avalon, CA 90704. For questions or comments please e-mail [info@catalinachimes.org](mailto:info@catalinachimes.org).

## Mysterious Island

*Catalina's facts, folklore and fibs*

**This Week: CATALINA'S 'GREAT' ECLIPSE OF 1923**

BY JIM WATSON

*Editor's Note: Jim Watson is the author of "Mysterious Island: Catalina," available on Amazon. Kindle and in stores in Avalon.*

In a little under a year from now, a broad swath of the continental United States will be treated to one of the most spectacular phenomena that nature can throw at us: a total solar eclipse.

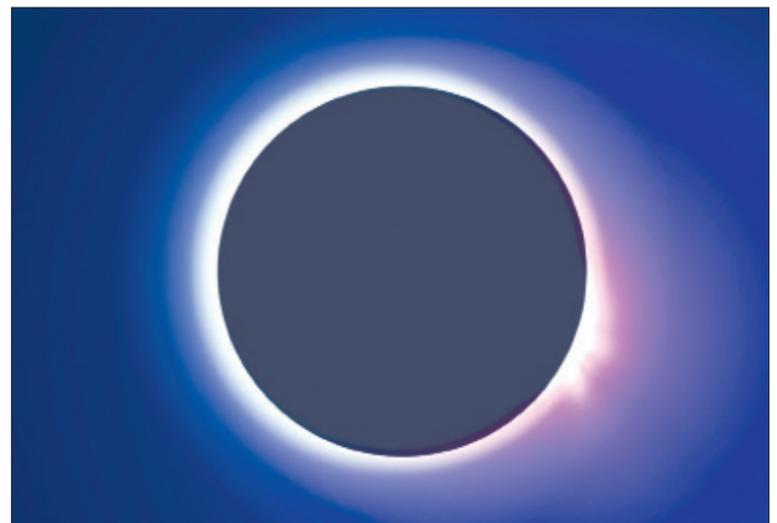
On Aug. 21 of next year,

beginning at sunrise off the coast of Oregon (the sun will actually rise while eclipsed), the totality phase will begin and will travel eastward across the fruited plains, down through Missouri, Kentucky and South Carolina where it will exit into the Atlantic.

I don't know about you, but I plan on planting myself somewhere along that route of totality during this event, probably in eastern



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Catalina Island was right in the path of a total solar eclipse in 1923, but things didn't go as expected. Courtesy photo

