

'White lives matter ... more' scrawled on downtown sign

Message was fine print of large 'F— your mask,' '#Trump' vandalism on Tiburon mask-ordinance board at Shoreline Park

By HANNAH WEIKEL

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Tiburon police say they're ramping up overnight patrols of Shoreline Park after someone over the weekend vandalized a town sign about face masks with a message that read, "F— your mask," with the expletive spelled out, and "#Trump" followed by "Oh yea, white lives matter ... more," an apparent rebuke of the Black Lives Matter movement.

The message was reported by residents early Aug. 17 and immediately removed by police. Officers then canvassed the area, which stretches along the shore from downtown Tiburon to The Caprice restaurant, in search of security-camera footage and other leads.

The incident was still under investigation at The Ark's press deadline.

The sign vandalism comes on the heels of a similar incident July 12 in downtown Tiburon in which someone scrawled "All Lives Matter" alongside "Don't Tread on Me" and "Vote Out Gavin" in colorful chalk along the sidewalk on Main Street. Those messages were immediately denounced by Tiburon officials and also led to a police investigation.

Tiburon Police Chief Mike Cronin said he believes this weekend's incident was "a real step up" from the chalk messages found last month.

"It's always disappointing to know we have people here who think that way, but we clearly do," Cronin said Aug. 17. "It's reprehensible behavior, and there isn't any room for that here or anywhere."

According to Tiburon police, the message was reported about 8 a.m. Aug. 17, meaning it was likely written overnight. An reader sent a photo of the sign to The Ark about an hour later.

"People are pretty vigilant to that

type of messaging," said Officer John Gomez, who responded to the call. "So if someone came across it in the morning, it likely happened last night or early this morning."

The message was written in black marker on the back of one of the paper signs mounted on A-frame stands throughout Tiburon, which ask people to mask up to protect against the spread of the coronavirus. The paper had been removed, flipped over and written on. No other signs along Shoreline Park were vandalized, police said.

Officers took the sign to the Tiburon Public Works Department, where the words were removed before the sign was put back out, Gomez said.

Cronin said officers would continue to search for leads, adding that vandalism is a misdemeanor. He said a message doesn't become a hate crime until there's "clear intent to prevent someone from a constitutionally protected right," like if someone wrote a message on a school telling a specific group or race to stay out.

Over 5,000 homes lose power Aug. 17 amid severe weather

Severe weather was likely the cause of a power outage the morning of Aug. 17 that affected 5,127 customers — about 12,000 residents based on average household size — in Strawberry, Tiburon and Belvedere, according to Pacific Gas and Electric Co. officials.

The Tiburon Peninsula went dark about 10:45 a.m. Monday as storm clouds loomed overhead and 18 mph gusts blasted the area.

Power was restored to most customers by noon, with the exception of 176 along Knoll Lane and a section of South Knoll Road near Tiburon Boulevard.

Southern Marin Fire Protection District Deputy Chief Tom Welch said a transformer there blew, possibly due to lightning, which caused an HVAC system on a nearby roof to short, creating smoke but no fire.

It's unclear whether the incident caused the larger outage, which was still under investigation at The Ark's press deadline Aug. 17, but PG&E spokeswoman Deanna Contreras said most of the day's outages were weather-related as thunderstorms struck around the Bay Area.

The outage was not part of the roll-

ing blackouts implemented over the weekend amid a heat wave that threatened to strain the state's power supply. Those rolling blackouts were scheduled to continue through Aug. 20.

The outage also was not a public-safety power-shutoff, which intends to prevent electrical equipment from sparking wildfires on hot, dry and windy days.

All local customers affected by the Aug. 17 outage were estimated to have their power restored by 2 p.m., after The Ark's press deadline.

— Hannah Weikel

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could enter a variety of events and compete from their chosen location. Results could then be submitted several different ways, including videos, photos or screenshots of a GPS device showing distance and time.

Stotter competed in his events July 31 at Redwood and Tamalpais high schools. The decathlete, who will turn 91 next month, is one of the top-ranked track and field competitors in the world in his age group. — Emily Lavin

Parents and coaches, submit your sports results online at arkn.ws/

reportscore. In 350 words or fewer, focus on all Tiburon Peninsula members of your sporting event, including include first and last names, ages and cities of residence, along with relevant player statistics, opponent names and key dates. Send high-resolution photos to Executive Editor Kevin Hessel at editor@thearknewspaper.com.

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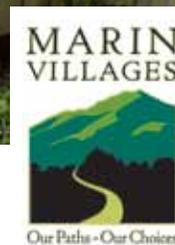
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