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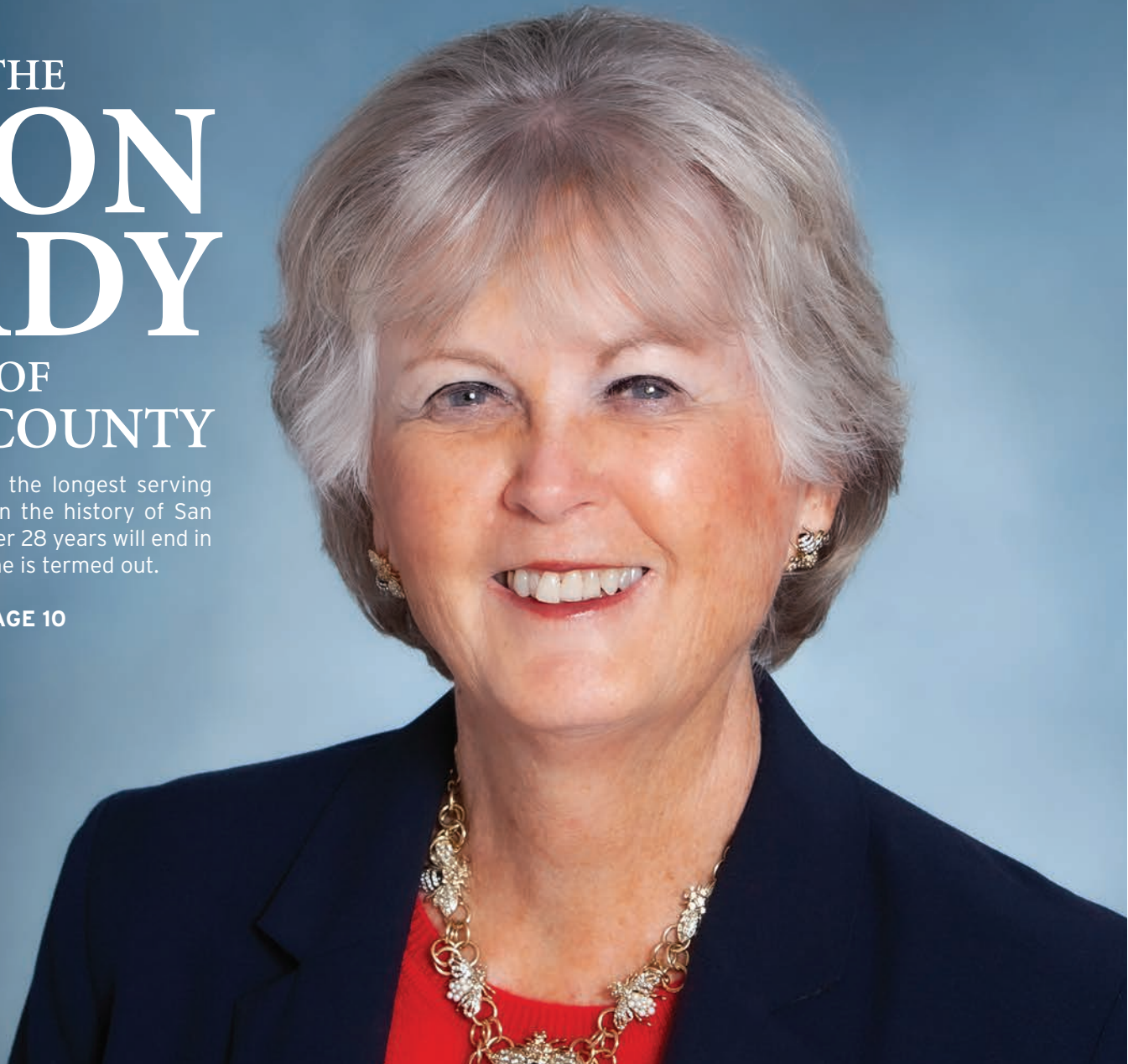
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NO. 3 VOL. XXXV

THE IRON LADY OF EAST COUNTY

Dianne Jacob is the longest serving elected official in the history of San Diego County. Her 28 years will end in January when she is termed out.

Read more on **PAGE 10**



WOMEN OF INFLUENCE 2020 SEE THIS YEARS WINNERS ON **PAGE 6**

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COVER STORY:
The Iron Lady of East County

Dianne Jacob switched from reining horses to reigning over the East County as the 2nd District supervisor on the Board of Supervisor. When she leaves office in January, she will have served 28 years on the board, leaving a strong legacy of accomplishment. This from a girl who originally just wanted to be a cowgirl. Page 10



Scientists Solve Key Challenge in Fusion Plasmas

Scientists at the DIII-D National Fusion Facility in San Diego have made an important discovery that could significantly improve the reliability of future fusion power plants by helping prevent damaging phenomena known as "runaway" electrons (REs). The research is outlined in an April 6, 2020 article in the journal Nuclear Fusion.



Women of Influence 2020

Teresa Campbell, shown here, is president and CEO of the San Diego County Credit Union and among our selection of Women of Influence for 2020. Read about her and the other amazing women who've made outstanding accomplishments in the region.



San Diego Scene: UCSD to advance stem cell therapies

UC San Diego and Space Tango receive NASA award to develop first dedicated stem cell research laboratory within the International Space Station.

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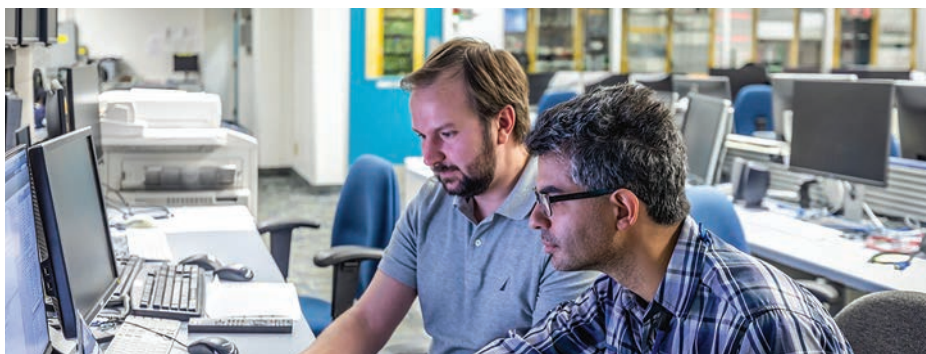
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Scientists Solve Key Challenge for Controlling ‘Runaway’ Electrons in Fusion Plasmas

Discovery could help control potentially damaging burst during plasma disruptions



General Atomics researchers Andrey Lvovskiy (left) and Carlos Paz-Soldan working at the DIII-D National Fusion Facility in San Diego have discovered a new mechanism for preventing potentially damaging phenomena known as “runaway electrons” in fusion reactors. (Courtesy General Atomics)

Scientists at the DIII-D National Fusion Facility in San Diego have made an important discovery that could significantly improve the reliability of future fusion power plants by helping prevent damaging phenomena known as “runaway” electrons (REs). The research, published in an article April 6, 2020 in the journal *Nuclear Fusion*, discovered new mechanisms that dissipate REs through exploitation of resonances that occur between the high-energy electrons and the magnetic field configuration.

This improved understanding of RE behavior suggests a pathway toward controlling them in large fusion devices known as tokamaks, such as the ITER experiment under construction in France and the commercial power plants that will follow it.

“Runaway electron beams are a significant challenge for tokamak operation because of their potential to seriously damage the walls of the device,” said Andrey Lvovskiy, who led the multi-institutional team at DIII-D. “To control their impacts on ITER, we need better

information about their behavior and effects.”

DIII-D, which General Atomics operates as a national user facility for the Department of Energy’s Office of Science, hosts researchers from more than 100 institutions across the globe, including 40 universities. The heart of the facility is a tokamak that uses powerful electromagnets to produce a doughnut-shaped magnetic field for confining a fusion plasma. Plasma is the “fourth state of matter” in which electrons are stripped from the nuclei of their atoms, leaving charged ions that are confined by the magnetic fields.

In DIII-D, plasma temperatures several times hotter than the Sun are routinely achieved. At such extremely high temperatures, hydrogen isotopes can fuse together and release energy.

However, certain conditions in a tokamak can cause a loss of plasma confinement, known as a disruption. These disruptions can separate an existing population of confined, energetic electrons, which are further accelerated to nearly the speed of light by the quenching plasma.

These high-energy particles, known as “runaway” electrons, can cause significant damage to materials that they encounter.

In current tokamaks, the potential damage is rarely a threat to operation. The much larger size and current of future power-plant scale reactors, including ITER, means the damage potential there is greater. However, the complex physics of RE beams makes predicting the degree of impact difficult.

To improve understanding, the DIII-D team intentionally created and maintained a RE beam at low current and impurity content. Using an ultrafast gamma-ray detector, they were able to measure the gamma radiation from the RE beam to determine the energy, number, and spatial distribution of the REs. They were also able to measure the current distribution inside the RE beam, which is an important element in understanding the beam’s stability.

The results suggest that REs may excite kinetic instabilities in the plasma that both drain energy from the runaway electron population and act to redirect some electrons so that they are lost from the runaway beam before reaching very high energy. This points toward a method to control REs and mitigate potential damage to the tokamak walls, though further work on detection and exploitation of RE-driven instabilities is necessary. The team is continuing its research in this area, as RE-driven kinetic instabilities have been an active area of study over the past few years at DIII-D.

Another novel result from these studies is the measurement of the current distribution inside the RE beam. Theoretical models predict that the RE

beam can have a “peaked” current profile, that is, its current is concentrated in the center of the beam. Such a profile can destabilize the beam and cause magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) instabilities (those driven by plasma current and pressure), which worsen the confinement of REs.

The experiments on DIII-D confirmed these theoretical models, observing both the predicted peaking of the RE current profile and associated impact. Scientists further showed that, by increasing the RE current, they could deliberately produce MHD instabilities and destabilize the beam. It is still unclear whether this effect will be advantageous or a problem in future fusion devices operating at high current, as an uncontrolled instability could cause both significant loss of REs and potential damage to the chamber walls. Thus, further work on mitigation and control techniques is necessary.

“These discoveries are very important for our understanding of the physics of runaway electrons,” said David Hill, Director of DIII-D. “The research is one more example of how collaboration between research institutions is essential for the progress of fusion science.”

The work, part of DOE’s Frontier Science Campaign that funds research relevant to both fusion and general plasma science, involved researchers from Oak Ridge Associated Universities, General Atomics, the University of Milano-Bicocca, the University of California San Diego, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

(This article is from General Atomics’ website: ga.com/

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Ronson J. Shamoun, Principal Attorney and CEO of RJS LAW, is an Adjunct Law Professor at the University of San Diego—School of Law where he teaches a Tax Practice and Penalties class. He was recently presented with the following awards:

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· San Diego Magazine- Top Attorney 2016	· San Diego Daily Transcript- Top Attorney 2014 & 2015
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Meet our selection of Women of Influence in the San Diego region

Teresa Campbell

Teresa Campbell is the president and CEO of San Diego County Credit Union. SDCCU is an industry leader in San Diego and across the nation. Under her leadership, SDCCU has grown to \$8.5 billion in assets and reached over 422,000 members. Membership has more than doubled (from 204,000 in 2010) in the nine years she has served as president and chief executive officer. SDCCU welcomed 44,000 new customers in 2019, representing an increase of 4.5 percent over the previous year. The net worth to assets ratio for 2019 was 16.54 percent, well above the seven percent minimum capital level for credit unions regarded as “well capitalized” by the National Credit Union Administration. Under its continued expansion drive, SDCCU now has 44 branches in San Diego, Orange



and Riverside counties. Campbell has made a strong commitment to increasing customer safety as SDCCU continues to embrace strong security standards in the financial services industry. SDCCU is the title sponsor of the 14th annual OC Marathon and Half Marathon. It is the title sponsor of the BBB Ambassador Scholarship Program. SDCCU supports more than 75 nonprofits and participates in more than 5,009 community events in the three counties which it serves. It has been voted best credit union, best auto loan provider by several publications in San Diego County. With Campbell at the helm, SDCCU has been recognized with a Raddon Financial Group, Crystal Performance Award for growth, income, efficiency and margin management. SDCCU is the presenting sponsor of A Salute to Teachers, the Broadway San Diego Awards and the Innovative Video in Education Festival. Campbell is an effective leader with a genuine passion for improving the lives of others by providing breakthrough banking products and sound financial services. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a master’s in financial management from Johns Hopkins University.

Erica M. Pinto



As chairwoman of the Jamul Indian Village of California, Erica Pinto is a poised and effective leader. Her efforts have resulted in more than \$100 million in public benefits and safety improvements for the residents of San Diego County, and under her leadership nearly 1,000 permanent jobs have been created for members of the tribe and the surrounding region. She is co-founder of the Acorns to Oaks Tribal Program which organizes activities focused on culture, youth development, health and fitness and technology, all designed to help prevent drug and alcohol abuse and teen pregnancy and promote education. She services on the board of the Southern California Tribal Chairman’s Association and is the vice chair of the Southern Indian Health Council. The Jamul Indian Village of California (JIV) is one of 13 tribes of the Kumeyaay Nation who trace back 12,000 years in San Diego County. Pinto has been involved with the JIV Tribal Council since 1997, becoming a council member at the age of 22. She was appointed vice chair in 2008 and in 2015 was the first woman elected chairwoman of the Jamul Indian Village. She has led JIV through significant economic progress on its path to self-reliance. In April 2016 JIV signed an agreement with San Diego County which cleared the way for a world-class gaming facility on their reservation. Pinto has received the Women in Leadership Award from the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce.

Jolanta Campion

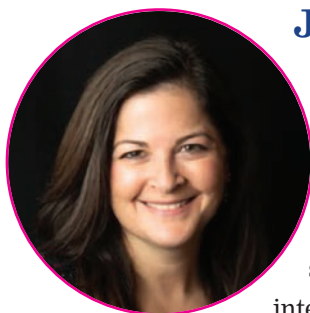
One of the most respected, leading commercial real estate market analysts in the Southwestern United States, Jolanta Campion serves as Cushman & Wakefield's director of research for San Diego, Las Vegas, Reno and Salt Lake City. She manages the regional research departments stationed in each of these markets. Her work covers a multitude of key industry topics which she stays in tune with, including office, life science, medical office, industrial, retail, multi-family, capital market trends, private client investments, innovative economy, tech markets, craft breweries, cross border and more. She produces and utilizes new trendier items such as infographics as well as multi-social media channels. She is regularly featured in many local and national media publications for her insight as a trusted industry expert. She has been a running coach for the Girls Heart & Sole 6th-8th Grade Program in Carmel Valley. She sits on her Coral Cove Condominium Board and currently serves as its HOA president. Campion migrated to the United States in 1999 from Latvia. She is a wonderful example of someone driven, goal-oriented, dedicated and passionate. She has completed 11 full marathons and 56 half-marathons. Her ultimate goal is to qualify and run in the Boston Marathon. She was recently selected to be profiled by Cushman & Wakefield in their celebration of Women's History Month. She has a master's degree in business administration from Bradley University.



Beth Callender

Beth Callender is a principal at CallenderWorks. She has worked in marketing and advertising for more than 30 years in San Diego. She started her career with Stoorza Advertising where she served as vice president/account supervisor. In 1996, she co-founded Greenhaus, a nationally recognized marketing and advertising firm, with her partner Craig Fuller. For the next 20 years they built the business from a staff of five to over 30 marketing and creative professionals. The firm specialized in the branding and marketing of physical places whether cities, resort properties, master planned communities or cultural institutions. Callender started Urban Interventions in 2018 with her husband, Pete Garcia. The nonprofit, open-source initiative creates and funds public art and beautification projects to transform urban places using innovative, high impact, fast and low-cost design. They have completed a public art project in the East Village called Window Stories, a multi-media art installation on 13th Street between E and F. They also designed a program using art to replace all the missing trees in Downtown San Diego in collaboration with the Downtown San Diego Partnership, called Grow Urban — a Tree Planting Movement. So far the effort has raised \$47,000 to plant 67 trees. Callender and her team have left an indelible mark on numerous institutions and communities across the western United States and Mexico. She is a graduate of San Diego State University.





Johanna Schiavoni

Johanna Schiavoni, the principal at Schiavoni Law, is certified as a specialist in appellate law by the State Bar of California and has more than 17 years of appellate experience. She has argued over 30 cases in the state and federal appellate courts, and has been the principal brief writer in at least 70. She regularly represents large companies, closely-held corporations and small businesses and individuals in high-stakes appellate matters. She has participated in cases on subjects ranging from business torts to health care law to employment, insurance, contract, and intellectual properties disputes. Schiavoni is a member of the board overseeing the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. As a member of the board, she routinely evaluates multi-million dollar contracts, oversees implementation of a multi-billion-dollar terminal renovation project. In March 2020, she was unanimously reconfirmed for another three-year term. She is also president of the San Diego County Bar Association, elected as only the 14th woman to lead the bar association in its 113-year history. She has also been president of the Lawyers Club of San Diego, a 1,300-member legal association to advance the status of women in the law and in society. One of Schiavoni’s proudest accomplishments is co-founding the San Diego Leadership Alliance, a 501.c.3 nonprofit focused on developing young professional leaders in San Diego. She has been named a Super Lawyer for Appellate Litigation for each of the past six years. She is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis.

Amy Bulgatz

Amy Bulgatz is president and chief executive officer of Sammy’s Woodfired Pizza. Prior to joining Sammy Ladeki, she was involved in operations of another food and beverage firm. She is highly engaged in the operations of the business first and foremost and applies her financial acumen to the money side of the business to be able to understand what truly can be done to make the business more profitable. She is always looking for ways for Sammy’s food presentation to be refreshed. She was instrumental in creating the new Toast and Toasted Gastrobrunch concepts which have helped the company flourish. Bulgatz has walked the Susan G Komen 3 Day walk five times and has participated in just about every half marathon and 10K that take place in San Diego. She is also on the board of the California Restaurant Association, and is active in helping the community with outreach through Sammy’s, which donates thousands of dollars each month to different charities. 2019 was a noteworthy year for Bulgatz as she returned to school at the University of San Diego to finish her Master’s in Accountancy (a 4.0 GPA) and passed sections of the CPA exam all while working full time. Her work inspires others around her to pursue things they didn’t think they could accomplish.



Sarah Buchanan, Amanda Nelson, Laura Nunn



Sarah Buchanan, Amanda Nelson and Lara Nunn are the three women of influence at the San Diego Housing Federation. Buchanan is director of events and marketing, Nelson is communications manager and Nunn is director of policy and programs. Buchanan has helped elevate events through detailed planning and she continues to provide high-quality events on a nonprofit budget that feel inclusive, vibrant and in line with the San Diego Housing Federation. She is on the board of Christie’s Place and is involved with San Diego LGBT Center. Under her guidance the housing federation’s membership has grown to over 200. She is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. Nelson is communications director. In 2015, she started her own video production company and later founded a grassroots organization, Uptown Housing Advocates. She volunteers for San Diego Pride and San Diego Film Festival. She is a graduate of the University of San Diego. Nunn has spent nearly a decade advocating for affordable housing. She supports the Homeless Experienced Advocacy and Leadership Network. She continually provides inspiration for her team, the affordable housing sector and her two young daughters. She is a graduate of the University of San Diego.



Luda Safransky

Luda Safransky is the business development manager at Balfour Beatty Realty. With 15 years in the design and construction industry, a B.S. in business administration and a MBA completed at the age of 24, and registered LEED Green Associate, Safransky is a pioneer in leveraging relationships, information and resources to drive value for her company. At the onset of her career at Balfour Beatty she was a prominent contributor to the marketing department. In her tenure in the marketing department her efforts secured more than \$250 million worth of work in Southern California. Working in Balfour Beatty's California Division, she is the business development manager and her insight has played an important role in the team's acquisition of over \$1.5 billion worth of work. She personally landed three contracts worth more than \$20 million. She secured two contracts with the County of San Diego, an office tenant improvement project and a renovation of a detention facility. She also won a major contract with UC San Diego worth \$10 million. She has sat on the board for Balfour Beatty's Connecting Women Employee Resource Group. Safransky's community philanthropic activities include volunteering for the Challenged Athletes Foundation, and supporting Junior Achievement through their annual bowl-a-thon. In the past 12 years, Balfour Beatty's employees have raised over \$130,000 for Junior Achievement. She was a 2018 winner of SD METRO Women of Influence and has won an Outstanding Women of Construction award. She is a graduate of San Diego State University.

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The Iron Lady of East County

By Marsha Sutton

Dianne Jacob put her cowgirl dreams aside to lasso a 28-year career on the San Diego County Board of Supervisors

How does a painfully shy young girl grow up to become one of the most well-recognized and well-spoken public figures in San Diego County?

"In school, oh my gosh, when the teacher was calling on kids, I'd put my head down on the desk just hoping, hoping that the teacher didn't call on me," said District 2 County Supervisor Dianne Jacob, recalling how she was teased and called names when she was 5 years old because she needed to wear glasses.

To overcome her shyness and reluctance to speak in public, she forced herself to take a speech class in high school.

"What I learned is, you need to prepare what you're going to say and you need to have a message to deliver to people, something that you feel is important," she said.

Her strategy worked, clearly.

Jacob, who turns 81 this year, is now the longest-serving member of the County Board of Supervisors and has held elected office longer than anyone in San Diego County history. When she is forced to retire next January, after being termed out, she will have served 28 years on the board.

Her trajectory, from her early dream of being a cowgirl to a position of authority, is a story of determination and perseverance.

A third-generation San Diegan, Jacob grew up in the Rolando area of East County, graduated from Helix High School and received a teaching credential from San Diego State University.

Jacob credits her parents for instilling in her the value of hard work and appreciation for the importance of family.

"I had a really good upbringing," she said. "My family was not wealthy; my dad worked hard for every dime, every penny



Jacob on horseback.

he got. The support of my mom and dad I think is really basic to where I am today."

She learned from them that nothing is impossible if you think it's important. After graduating from college, Jacob taught mostly sixth grade for six years. "I loved teaching," she said.

She met Paul Jacob, a jet pilot in the Navy stationed at Miramar, at a bowling alley. They eventually married in 1961. A few years later she quit teaching after her son, Tom, was born.

The Jacobs moved to a ranch in the Jamul area where they raised Angus cattle.

"We did it all, including making the little bulls into steers, which was always an interesting time," she said.

The Angus operation went on for more than 20 years. During that time Jacob grew an organic garden, harvesting an extensive variety of fruits and vegetables, and enjoyed riding her horse.

"I was on a horse when I was 3 years old and always have ridden horses," she said. "My dream was to grow up and be a cowgirl on a ranch. That was as close as I

got to it."

Her goal was to learn how to live off the land.

"We would butcher our own beef and I made soap and we raised pigs and pickled pigs' feet," she said. "We did all kinds of things. It's a lot of hard work but it is a very healthy and rewarding way of life."

Making changes

Jacob, who still lives on the same ranch in Jamul, said she was happy with her work there, "living the life, living the dream – with my horse and the cattle and the garden and all."

At the same time she was also a volunteer at her son's school in Jamul where she said the quality of education was "not good."

"I remember going into one of the classrooms and seeing 'I Love Lucy' on the screen," she said. "That was what they called school. There were no curriculum standards or anything."

Jacob was recruited to run for a seat on the Jamul-Dulzura Union School District school board in 1975. She ran and won, she said, "on a platform of change and to do what I could do to make our schools in Jamul the best that they could possibly be."

"I rode into my first school board meeting like Joan of Arc on a white horse, ready to change the world," she said. But she learned quickly that three votes are needed to make change. "It's kind of a basic lesson," she said, wryly.

Two years later at the next election they had a majority on the school board, and improvements were made.

Jacob served on the school board for 17 years, eventually becoming involved at the state level and serving as president of the California School Boards Association in 1987.

Her first exposure to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors came while she was still serving on the school board, when a friend alerted her to a land use problem at the historic Winnetka Ranch

in Jamul.

Jacob said a developer on a bulldozer was “just raping the heck out of the land.”

“We weren’t against growth,” she said. “We just wanted it done right with respect for the resources and the land and the historic [value].” The group won that battle.

Her second encounter with the Board of Supervisors happened shortly thereafter, with the proposed development of the Honey Springs Ranch, located five miles southeast of Jamul.

“We went to the Board of Supervisors opposing it,” Jacob said. “It was a classic example of leapfrog development – miles and miles away from services. This was wrong. And so we fought it.”

The group lost at the Board of Supervisors meeting but didn’t give up. “I got the legal defense fund of the Sierra Club to work with us because we couldn’t afford a lawsuit,” she said.

Under the Williamson Act, the court reversed the Board of Supervisors decision. “It was a 10-year court battle and we won,” Jacob said. “Honey Springs Ranch to this day is in open space and the public is enjoying it.”

Her experiences before the Board of Supervisors made an impact on Jacob.

“That really got me interested in those five people that sit there,” she said. “I watched people get up in front of the board. It was when Lou Conde was chair of the board. He treated people badly.”

She said she remembered one woman

testifying before the board and “he just ripped her to shreds and she was crying.”

Even though she was involved in the supervisor elections in the late 1970s and was appointed to the County Planning Commission, she still wasn’t ready to run.

“I went about my school board business and ranching business,” she said. Then in 1990 she was recruited to run. “People said, ‘Dianne, you’ve got to do this.’ I said okay, I’ll give it a try. So the rest is pretty much history.”

She started running in 1990, was elected in November 1992 and took office in January 1993.

Achievements

After serving 27 years representing District 2 on the Board of Supervisors, Jacob’s list of accomplishments is lengthy.

“My passion has always been kids,” she said. “That goes back to my teaching days. As an elected official I learned on the school board that you can make a difference.”

“We probably built over 200 facilities of one kind or another,” she said, mentioning sports fields, gyms, pools, playgrounds, open space, nature trails and other parks and recreational facilities.

Giving kids the opportunity to play sports remains important to her, because “you learn life skills, you’re keeping kids out of trouble, and they’re getting good exercise,” she said.

The environment has also benefited from Jacob’s efforts. She co-authored the county’s

Multiple Species Conservation Plan in 1998, helped open the Santa Ysabel Nature Center in 2019, and worked to improve public access along the San Diego River and in the San Dieguito River area.

Libraries too were a focus. “I think we built 13 libraries in my district and two more to go, hopefully,” she said. “At least I’ll get them started by the end of the year.”

Improving services for seniors has also been one of her top priorities. In 2014, she launched The Alzheimer’s Project to create a regional roadmap for addressing Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia.

But perhaps her greatest impact has been her focus on fire protection.

Back in the early 1970s, the county contracted with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, now known as Cal Fire, for fire protection for the entire unincorporated area. But in the mid 1970s, there was a proposal to terminate the contract, she said.

Before she was elected, Jacob objected publicly to terminating the contract, but the board did it anyway, saying it was too expensive.

“They basically told the unincorporated area people, ‘You’re on your own. You can either form a fire district, you can form a volunteer fire department, or you can do nothing.’ So when I came into office I felt that was really wrong.”

Jacob worked to get the county to pony up more money for fire protection. But nothing really happened until the 2003



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Cedar fire.

“The Cedar fire,” she said, “was a moment in time that should be remembered because it was the very first time in San Diego County history that a fire that started in the back country ended up in the cities.”

Then at last all five supervisors “were on board to really engage and invest in the fire protection in our back country,” she said.

Before that, she said it felt like the board was telling her and then District 5 Supervisor Bill Horn, representing the two districts with most of the county’s back country, that they were on their own.

“And then of course after that was the 2007 fire, but we’d already started investing heavily,” she said, with more than \$500 million spent on firefighting improvements such as new stations, aircraft, bigger and better-trained firefighting forces and other protections.

“We’ve got 1.5 million rural acres that now have fire protection and emergency medical services that are equal to any city fire department or fire agency,” she said. “And in the last ballot, the voters voted to put fire protection in the county charter.

“So the county will be in the fire business in perpetuity. It’s a good thing not just for the unincorporated area but for the region.”

But Jacob was quick to point out that none of these efforts could have happened without first focusing on the county’s finances.

When she first took office, “county government finances were upside down,” she said. “It was a broken county government at the time.”

She said cost-cutting measures to stabilize the budget, which in the mid-1990s was experiencing a \$50 million shortfall, included selling off the trash system for \$160 million, outsourcing the IT department and other government services, reforming the county pension benefits which she said saved taxpayers \$2.2 billion over 20 years, paying cash for many projects which she said has saved taxpayers over the years more than \$1 billion in interest payments, and other actions.

“A lot of attention went to fixing the finances of county government and that has enabled us to do a lot,” Jacob said. “That’s what earned us the Triple A credit rating.”



Meeting with constituents in 2019. Jacob has been regularly holding coffees across her 2nd District since 1993.

Disappointments

Alongside her accomplishments of increased fire protection, responsible land development, services for children and seniors, and helping to fix government finances, there have been disappointments.

“One has to do with the sexually violent predators,” she said. “That’s been very frustrating to me because a sexually violent predator should be locked up for good and nowhere near our community.”

At hearings, decisions seem to favor the predator rather than the victim, she said.

The second disappointment concerns San Diego Gas & Electric.

“While we have no control over SDG&E, it’s a monopoly,” she said, saying the company has “gouged ratepayers over the years” and does “whatever the heck they want to do.”

She called it legal bribery “when you’re up against the big guys with the expensive suits and the money to lobby and put money into campaigns.”

SDG&E, she said, is able to get the public utility commission to raise the rates whenever the utility asks for it. “There needs to be competition brought in to SDG&E,” she said.

When Jacob was elected to the board, she said she and then District 3 Supervisor Pam

Slater-Price were the only two who wanted to make some changes. But they were not a majority.

In the mid-1990s, the board changed, Jacob said. “Then it was a united board for fixing the finances and moving to make sure people felt safe in their neighborhoods,” she said. “The public safety issue was a big priority.”

She said it was a stable board at that time.

“We had our disagreements but we were respectful of each other, and most of the disagreements frankly were on land use issues,” she said. “There was a difference of opinion on development issues, [on] how to move forward with growth.

“It’s a good 20-plus years we had a board that worked well together. For all intents and purposes we were on the same page.”

Today that’s changed, Jacob said.

“We’ve had a few 3-2 votes and everybody’s entitled to their opinion. But boy, some of the discussions have been a bit heated and I think a bit personal,” she said, mentioning posts on social media that have been disrespectful.

Because Greg Cox is termed out, a new representative for District 1 will join the board. And Jacob predicts a change in District 3, the seat held by Kristin Gaspar, a Republican, which will shift the makeup of

the board.

“I work very well with Nathan Fletcher, and of course Greg and I have been on the board together for quite a number of years,” she said. “[With] the other two (Kristin Gaspar, Jim Desmond), it’s been a little bit difficult.”

Although Jacob is a lifelong Republican, she said, “Party has never really been a big issue to me. It’s all about the people; it’s not about the party. Yet party influence comes into play.”

Jacob said the coming changes are not necessarily negative, calling the times today very different than they were when she first took office. “I think a change on the board will be good going forward,” she said.

“We’re in 2020, and we’re involved now with a major pandemic on top of this economic crisis,” she said. “And then the racial unrest exists today.” And fire season is coming.

The next chapter

Jacob has received dozens of awards over the years, for her work on land use, the environment, nature preservation, human trafficking and domestic violence prevention, senior care, business, schools and education, and more.

District 2 has more than 620,000 residents and encompasses a 2,000-square-mile region, the largest of the five districts in San Diego County.

Stretching east from the city of San Diego to the border of Imperial County, and south to the Mexican border, District 2 includes the cities of El Cajon, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Santee and Poway, as well as rural communities in the unincorporated areas that include Ramona, Alpine, Julian and Spring Valley.

“For the unincorporated area, the Board of Supervisors is like the mayor and city council of a city,” Jacob said. “We provide all of the municipal services that a city would provide.”

That includes law enforcement and land use issues, which is “how I cut my teeth on getting where I am today,” she said.

The annual operating budget for the county is about \$6.25 billion.

Regionally, the Board of Supervisors oversees the Health and Human Services agency, the county’s biggest department and the focus for many during the pandemic. The budget allocation for HHS is about \$4.26 million.

Other major programs are public safety (\$2.06 million), finance and general government (\$729 million) and land use and the environment (\$652 million).

The county also oversees the criminal justice system, animal control, child and welfare support, public works, the district attorney’s office and behavioral health services which is a new priority.

“At some point in time in an individual’s

life, county government is going to affect or touch each and every person in this region,” Jacob said.

For Jacob, the next chapter in her life consists of getting back “to the dirt and the earth.”

“I bought a tractor a few years ago so I’m really looking forward to doing more out at the ranch,” she said.

Improving her golf game (she shot her age a few weeks ago) is on her to-do list, along with involvement with The Alzheimer’s Project, serving on numerous boards and committees, and continuing to be involved in the issues that brought her to the board initially.

“I’m sure I’ll be called upon to continue to fight for our back country and trying to maintain the character of our communities in the unincorporated areas,” she said.

“And kids. That’s where I started. That’s where my heart is, with the kids. To coin an overused phrase, they are our future.”

From cowgirl to supervisor and back again -- Dianne Jacob leaves behind a strong legacy. She may be termed out, but don’t expect her to ride off into the sunset.



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SAN DIEGO SCENE

International Space Station as seen from Space Shuttle Discovery in 2007. (Credit: NASA)

UC San Diego to advance stem cell therapies in new Space Station lab

UC San Diego and Space Tango receive NASA award to develop first dedicated stem cell research laboratory within the International Space Station

A three-year, nearly \$5 million award from NASA will allow researchers at the Sanford Stem Cell Clinical Center at UC San Diego Health, Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine and their partners at Space Tango to develop a new integrated space stem cell orbital research laboratory within the International Space Station (ISS) and launch three collaborative research projects within it.

Stem cells self-renew, generating more stem cells, and specialize into tissue-specific cells, such as blood, brain and liver cells, making them ideal for biological studies far from Earth's resources. The goal of the new effort is to leverage microgravity and these unique properties of stem cells to better understand how space flight affects the human body.

The studies will also inform how aging, degenerative diseases, cancers and other conditions develop in a setting with increased

exposure to ionizing radiation and pro-inflammatory factors. The findings from these studies may speed the development of new therapeutics for a broad array of degenerative diseases on Earth.

"We envision that the next thriving ecosystem of commercial stem cell companies, the next nexus for biotechnology, could be created 250 miles overhead by the establishment of these capabilities on the ISS," said Catriona Jamieson, co-principal investigator of the award and Koman Family Presidential Endowed Chair in Cancer Research, deputy director of Moores Cancer Center, director of the Sanford Stem Cell Clinical Center and director of the CIRM Alpha Stem Cell Clinic at UC San Diego Health.

The project's first flight to the ISS is planned for mid-2021. The ISS stem cell lab is expected to be fully operational and self-sustaining by 2025.



San Diego County property tax roll tops \$600 billion: Hits record high with 8th straight year of growth

San Diego County's property tax roll for 2020 topped \$604 billion, a record-setting value reflecting an increase of 5.18 percent, or \$29.78 billion, over last year, County Assessor Ernest Dronenburg Jr. reported.

The 2020 assessment roll is comprised of 1,004,808 real estate parcels, 56,689 business personal property accounts, 13,444 boats and 1,554 aircraft. The county's net assessed value is \$581.53 billion after deducting \$23.22 billion from a record high reduction of property tax exemptions that saved over \$230 million for homeowners, disabled veterans, and charitable organizations.

"The 2020 property tax roll reflects a robust real estate market as of the state mandated Jan. 1, 2020 valuation date," said Dronenburg. "Properties impacted by COVID-19 will have their values reflected in the 2021 assessment roll per state law, however, my office is proactively working to provide relief to COVID-19 impacted taxpayers."

Without Proposition 13, many homeowners and seniors on fixed incomes would have seen their property taxes double or triple within the last few years causing them to potentially lose their homes in order to pay their property taxes, said Dronenburg.

The 2020 assessment roll reflected record property tax savings for taxpayers, according to Dronenburg. The Taxpayer Advocate outreach program with the exemption teams qualified over 480,000 homeowners for over \$36 million in savings from the Homeowners' Exemption, saved 10,108 San Diego County 100 percent disabled veterans over \$14,000,000 in property taxes using the Disabled Veterans' Exemption, and qualified over 5,000 welfare institutions such as schools, churches, museums, and non-profits for property tax relief savings of over \$230 million.



Nuffer Smith Tucker, San Diego's oldest public relations firm, has new owners

Nuffer Smith Tucker, considered San Diego's oldest operating public relations agency, has changed hands.

Three long-time employees, including Teresa Siles, president, and Mary Correia-Moreno and Price Adams, both with the executive VP title, have purchased the agency from Nola Trumpfheller, widow of the late Bill Trumpfheller, who passed away from cardiac arrest on Dec. 29, 2016.

Trumpfheller joined NST as an intern in 1986 and became president in 2000. When he passed at age 53, he was NST's president and CEO. More than 800 family and friends filled San Diego State University's Montezuma Hall in January 2017 for a celebration of life service. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Soon to start its 46th year in business, NST currently has 20 employees and had 2019 billings of \$3.9 million. Offices are located at 4045 Third Ave. in downtown San Diego.

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