Hawk eye to eye

By Brenda Dunkle

Don Lugo High seniors will not graduate in their new stadium this year as they wanted, in large part because of the high cost of protecting the artificial turf that will soon be installed at the stadium.

"They’re going to be very upset, utterly disappointed," student board member Kyle Anderson said of his fellow Don Lugo High seniors’ response to the school board’s decision Thursday to hold high school graduations again at Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario.

The school board voted last spring to move graduations of the district’s four comprehensive high schools to the arena as a cost-saving measure and to provide a larger venue for the ceremonies. At the time, former superintendent Ed Heatley said high schools were paying between $35,000 to $37,000 each for their graduations at school campuses. The district and the four schools split the $51,000 cost of renting the arena this June, with each paying $10,200.

Conducting graduation ceremonies at Chino Valley’s high school stadiums could now cost more than $109,000 each, with a significant amount of the cost coming from protecting the artificial turf that was recently installed at Ayala, Chino and Chino Hills high schools and will be installed at Don Lugo’s stadium, which is currently under construction.

In a Sept. 25 report to the school board, interim Superintendent Wayne Joseph and his facilities and maintenance staff said the artificial turf fields could be damaged by large crowds.

The superintendent reported that it would cost $72,000 to $96,000 per school site to rent a covering to shield the artificial turf from damage that could occur during large events, such as graduations. He said purchasing rather than renting the protective floor

A rescued Harris Hawk named April is keenly aware of onlookers who stop to gaze at her during the Bird Festival, including 11-year-old Madison Walters of Chino Hills (background). April belongs to falconer Henry Armijo, a field assistant for the Santa Ana Watershed Association, who also brought Jenny, a rescued goshawk who wore a hood to cover her eyes. May calm. See story, photos on Page A3.

Champion photo by Marianne Naples
The Master of Horror has found a new haunt. Edgar Allen Poe, or rather the personality of Mr. Poe inhabiting actor Travis Rhett Wilson in "Lord Save My Poor Soul," will be fitting fare for Halloween night at Chino Community Theatre. Mr. Wilson, of Corona, is an Inland Theatre League award winner.

Mr. Wilson will portray the life and times of Mr. Poe including interpretations of some of his most famed works at 11:55 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, at Seventh Street Theatre, 13123 Seventh St., in Chino. The production was written and directed by John Lynd.

"It's weird to say that you wrote a show that's about somebody else's writing. I'd say I compiled it, and I'm writing the stuff that goes in between," Mr. Lynd said.

The midnight-hour show will include what Mr. Lynd calls Poe's "greatest hits," such as "The Raven," "The Tell Tale Heart," "El Dorado," "Alone," and "Annabel Lee," the last complete poem composed by Mr. Poe before his death.

Mr. Poe, whom Mr. Lynd described as the original boogeyman, is said to have lived a dark and tortured life. He unnerved readers by writing in narrative form and discussing subjects such as heaven, hell and the possibility of the afterlife, Mr. Lynd said.

"Poe's death is the last mystery he leaves," Mr. Lynd said "Nobody knows how he died."

Ticket cost is $10 at the door; no reservations are necessary.

For the Record
The name Judge Virgin was omitted from Sept. 26 edition on Chino Chino.

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