

High school youth thank police officers

By Christopher Coburn
FOR THE EAST COUNTY CALIFORNIAN

Youth from high schools across East County gathered at Harry Griffen Park in La Mesa to present oversized thank you cards to local law enforcement for their efforts in helping to reduce underage drinking.

At the event, Kyle Brangwynne, a graduating senior from Steele Canyon said that underage drinking is “something that greatly affects us all” and “can be prevented if stores stop selling to minors.”

Brangwynne participated in the decoy program with Todd Moore of the El Cajon Police department. One of the aspects of his service was to attempt to purchase alcohol from stores. He said that about one out of 10 sold to him, which is a little higher than the overall numbers.

“These programs work and have



Photo by Christopher Coburn

(Left to right) Officer Todd Moore with Granite Hills junior Mike Misenson, Mount Miguel sophomore Kelly Phung and El Cajon Police Chief Pat Sprecco.

worked,” he said.

In the past year, retail sales to minors have decreased from 58 percent to 3.7 percent and third party transactions (where an adult agrees to purchase for the minor) decreased from 32 percent to 5.7 percent.

Moore said that the police department will continue to use such operations.

“We’re very appreciative of Kyle and the other kids who have participated in the program,” said Moore.



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