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March 11, 2021

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Volume 25, Issue 10

Theme parks, stadiums to reopen soon

With the most recent wave of the coronavirus pandemic appearing to be in the rearview mirror, some aspects of normal life will start to return next month. On Sunday, March 7, San Diego County public health officials reported 187 new COVID-19 infections and five deaths, far lower numbers than the thousands of new cases and dozens of new deaths reported on a typical day in December or January.

Page A-6

NCFPD approves contract for modular Station 3

The North County Fire Protection District's Station 3 in Rainbow will have a new modular building. A 5-0 NCFPD board vote, Feb. 23, authorized up to \$425,000 for the purchase, construction and installation of the new building, declared the modular building to be a sole source project and authorized NCFPD Fire Chief Steve Abbott to execute a contract for the construction and installation.

Page C-2

Rainbow CPG hears about proposed marijuana ordinance

The Rainbow Community Planning Group held a special meeting, Feb. 24, on the county's proposed marijuana dispensary and cultivation ordinance. Although any recommendation was deferred, possibly to the next regular meeting, March 17, the planning group heard a presentation from county planner Donald Chase while planning group members and members of the public provided input to Chase and asked questions.

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Zion students celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday



Zion Lutheran School students take part in activities to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday, March 2, from left, pre-K student Asher Bramhall wears his Dr. Seuss-inspired hat; pre-K student Eloise Potts points to one of her favorite Dr. Seuss books and kindergartener Shane Fortmeyer makes his own Cat in the Hat.

Village News/Courtesy photos

Fallbrook health district still unable to announce local vaccine events

County shortages continuing to cause distribution problems

Will Fritz
Staff Writer

It will still be some time before the Fallbrook Regional Health District can hold local vaccination events, CEO Rachel Mason said in an email update.

Mason said on Feb. 26 that she expected to be able to announce sometime in the following week that county vaccine supply had opened up enough for the health district to begin vaccinating Fallbrook-area residents but, on March 5, Mason said county officials had told her that in fact it would take longer for enough vaccines to be available.

"We are still being told by county sources that the lack of vaccines is the cause for our clinic dates not being rescheduled," Mason said in a March 5 email update. "The last information I was provided this week, (officials) indicated it may be another two weeks before we are moved up on the schedule."

see VACCINE, page A-8



A nurse prepares a COVID-19 vaccine to be administered at Petco Park.

Village News/Courtesy photo

Administrative permit issued for two Sandia Creek Drive gates

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

The request for an Administrative Permit for a gate on Sandia Creek Drive resulted in the approval of a second gate.

The Administrative Permit was approved March 2 by Kathleen Flannery, who has been the acting director of the county's Department of Planning and Development Services since previous PDS Director Mark Wardlaw took a position with the City of Walnut Creek. The permit will expire on March 2, 2023, although if construction has begun by that date the permit will remain valid.

Those opposed to the decision have until March 12 to appeal. An appeal would be heard by the county's Planning Commission.

The private portion of Sandia Creek Drive is approximately 2.2 miles. The road maintenance agreement for the private section of the road was approved in 1989, and 56 property owners pay for the maintenance of the road. Residents

of Sandia Creek Drive and Sandia Creek Terrace have requested the gate to limit access to the private road portion of Sandia Creek Drive to residents and invited guests.

The property owners voted on a two-gate project which received support from more than 80% of the landowners; one gate would have been at the southern end of the private road while the other gate would have been at the county line.

The county's Department of Public Works deemed the two-gate proposal not feasible due to issues involving road width and California Environmental Quality Act compliance. The single-gate location was moved to just north of Rock Mountain Drive. That plan includes three turnarounds in addition to the gate. One would be just north of the gate, one would be just south of the gate, and one would be near the beginning of the private portion of Sandia Creek Drive.

The gate system would have two swing gates. Solar panels would allow for battery backup in

case electrical power is lost. The gate would be no more than 12 feet high.

The second gate would be just north of the end of the public road just north of the first northbound turnaround. The appropriate assessor's parcel would need to be added to the road maintenance agreement for that gate to be included. The plot plans and building plans will show both gates.

The gates and turnarounds would be complemented by signage notifying motorists that the private section is closed to through traffic. The signage would meet federal standards for night visibility, which would reduce the risk of a motorist who is lost in De Luz driving all the way to the gate before needing to turn around. The signage would also inform southbound motorists entering from the Riverside County portion of the road, which is a public road.

Opposition to the gate project is from two sources: Sandia Creek Drive residents concerned about

the gate and turnaround locations being by if not actually on their property and residents of Rock Mountain and De Luz Heights for whom Sandia Creek Drive is the legitimate route to Temecula – and an evacuation route if needed – rather than a shortcut.

Because the gate project does not have the unanimous consent of the property owners, an Administrative Permit is required for its installation. An Administrative Permit is a discretionary permit and requires CEQA findings. The Administrative Permit utilized a Negative Declaration.

PDS and DPW analyzed both the state-mandated vehicle miles traveled impact and level of service impacts. A traffic study was conducted in 2020 which indicated an average daily traffic volume of approximately 2,200 vehicles including 1,700 through traffic motorists. PDS and DPW estimate that the gate would divert approximately 1,600 average daily

see GATE, page A-8

USPS Residential Customer

VILLAGE NEWS



OPINION

Wildfire threats need to be prevented



Assemblymember Marie Waldron
AD-75 (R)

California's 2020 wildfire season set back the state's fight against climate change, putting more carbon dioxide into the air than millions of passenger vehicles driving over the course of a year. Almost 4.2 million acres burned from 9,600 fires, killing 31 people, and emitting an estimated 112 million metric tons

of carbon dioxide according to a California Air Resources Board report released Dec. 31.

We have to fight this growing threat, which is why my colleagues and I have introduced legislation that takes a comprehensive approach to preventing and fighting wildfires.

Reducing fuel and increasing defensible space is critical to fire fighting and prevention. Among other provisions, AB 297 (Gallagher) will create a continuous appropriation from the greenhouse gas fund of \$500 million for fire reduction projects. AB 380 (Seyarto) will help Cal Fire identify communities at the greatest risk of wildfire and provide regulatory relief so priority fuel reduction projects can be completed in those areas.

AB 926 (Mathis) will make roadside vegetation management projects eligible for local assistance grants, and my bill, AB 497, will appropriate money from the General Fund for grants to local fire districts and agencies in high fire risk areas to purchase

brush management equipment for use along backcountry roadways.

Another bill, AB 648 (Fong), will appropriate \$200 million from existing Cap and Trade revenues for fire prevention and forest management programs.

Other bills will encourage better fuel management on privately held lands. AB 910 and 912 (Bigelow) will encourage land owners to better maintain their lands by removing bureaucratic hurdles that stand in the way of fuel reduction, while expanding the acreage permitted under existing forest management regulations to 15,000 acres.

AB 575 (Fong) will also encourage brush removal by limiting civil liabilities for supervised prescribed burns unless gross negligence is involved.

These are just a few of the fire-prevention bills introduced this session. Our air quality, economy and quality of life are suffering. A comprehensive, multi-pronged approach is necessary, and this package of bills is an important step in that direction.

Public safety power shut offs require planning



Supervisor Jim Desmond
5th District

Public safety power shutoffs can disrupt life throughout San Diego County. The shutoffs can wreak havoc on the community and come at inopportune times.

In fact, Fallbrook had their power shutoff on Christmas Eve while a fire burned on Camp Pendleton.

It's not just the rural areas that have been impacted by these shutoffs. In many instances, cities in the North County have had their power cut for prolonged periods of time. During a power shutoff in 2019, the battery life on a traffic signal at a major North County intersection died and went dark. (Incidentally, if a driver encounters a signalized intersection that is not energized, the intersection is considered an all way stop).

This created a major safety hazard, leaving residents to fend for themselves on an emergency evacuation route. It was clear from seeing it firsthand and from the phone calls my office received, that additional strategy and planning was needed when it comes to

public safety power shutoffs.

Last week, I partnered with Supervisor Anderson to address the gaps and improve coordination when it comes to high-wind power shutoffs. The item works to create greater collaboration with transportation agencies, municipalities and partners with San Diego Gas & Electric to enhance plans to address impacts and address safety issues, especially during lengthy public safety power shutoffs. Most importantly, this item will increase safety by replacing backup batteries at major intersections and backup generators at our fire stations.

I'm happy to announce that the Board item passed unanimously, and I look forward to keeping you updated on the progress!

Re: 'All I really need to know about you' [Letter, Village News, 3/4/21]

The author of the subject letter, to whom I will refer as "author," tells me to consider "last week's post-election court cases, hearings, affidavits, testimony, press conferences and rallies." I did that, but my primary interest remains: "where is that mountain of evidence" for widespread voter fraud?

The author also asked if I had seen the video of "suitcases full of ballots." I have to answer that I saw a 90 second video clip showing a couple of standard ballot containers and nothing happening. The voting officials said it was taken out of context, thus signifying nothing.

The author refers to our "US Supreme Court pansies." Keep

in mind that Trump appointed three very right-leaning members to the court: Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett, effectively stacking the court. To their credit, their decisions so far have been within the bounds of the rule of law.

I have to quibble a bit over the author's reference to "people like me." I believe I am unique – just like everybody else. I don't know about others' TV habits, but I do not watch any cable news. I subscribe to a small selection of digital newsletters. I can get all the news I want in a third of the time or less, and I can skip right by stuff I already know. I heartily recommend others do the same. And thanks to the author for

the reveal of her news source – Fox News and Newsmax. That explains a lot.

The author has been fortunate in finding such exemplary associates. But others have been less fortunate, owing to the following realities:

A Vox Study reports 11 million white Americans think like the alt-right. That's 5-6%, not 0.1% of the US population. White nationalist hate groups have grown 55% in the Trump era. (The Guardian). And the Southern Poverty Law Center reports the number of hate groups has reached a record high during Trump's administration.

Can we still do better? Yes we can!

John H. Terrell

Re: 'Censored doctors, as it turns out, were right' [Village News, Letter, 2/25/21]

We applaud the honesty of the editorials by Julie Reeder. The editorial on Feb. 27 regarding censored Doctors is very significant and is relevant to the experiences of both me and my wife.

In December, preparing for a trip East, I started to research COVID-19 prophylaxis and came across the success many doctors were having with Ivermectin. A local physician researched Ivermectin for us and agreed to prescribe it (cost = \$1.65) for my wife and me in case we came down with COVID-19 on our trip.

One day after our return, Jan.

12, my wife started to have flu-like symptoms, and was soon tested as COVID-19 positive. I initially tested negative. In a subsequent test, both of us tested positive.

I took two doses of Ivermectin and was virtually asymptomatic, eventually testing negative. My wife took the Ivermectin during her second week of symptoms and quickly became asymptomatic.

I failed to note that I am 85 and my wife is 77. The Ivermectin is most effective taken with the early onset of symptoms, and with increased doses of vitamin D3 and zinc.

We thank the Lord and the great doctor who was willing to do the research, then prescribe the Ivermectin. Unfortunately many physicians are still waiting for a formal endorsement by the NIH to an Ivermectin protocol which may never occur since Ivermectin is a drug that has been on the market for many years and is so inexpensive.

Our experience fully supports your editorial. Thank you for covering this subject.

Herb Donner

Awareness is our strength

Have you noticed that, as an example, gas prices have gone up exponentially since the Keystone pipeline was halted? Not only our gas prices (especially in California), but the residents in small towns along the pipeline route have been destroyed, their businesses, their hopes, their dreams.

To what end is this action? To appease the far left-socialists, to overturn the positive actions of President Trump, or is it to create

a power base for themselves?

And what about the dumbing down of American children by closing schools. Don't listen to the left rhetoric. Our children have lost at least one year. Be aware perhaps too of education. It is, however, worth considering what they are being taught, or what they are not.

There is an excess of the un-learning of American history. Are we and have we been perfect – no! Do we learn and correct our errors – yes.

Please look at who has been nominated for Health and Human Services, Dr. Rachael Levine, a transgender individual who is questionable..... but also quite unattractive and seems to have a brain to match.

Keep watching as things become more and more bizarre. I fear for our country unless we are watchful and wary. Be watchful.

Orolie Gubser

Cancel Culture imperils America's very existence as a free nation

Julie Reeder
Publisher

It's been a big week for cancel culture. Six books by Dr. Seuss fell victim, as well as Mr. Potato Head (not sure about Mrs. Potato Head). Two members of Congress wrote a letter asking cable companies to cancel One American News Network, Newsmax and FOX news.

Do we really want our politicians sanctioning news? Deciding which news is acceptable and which should be banned? Do we want to cancel everyone who is questioning or dissenting government and their actions?

People are asking, "When was the last time the group advocating for the burning of books and banning free speech were the good guys?" Really, it's a great question. Can you think of anyone that has done that who we now believe, in hindsight, were the "good guys?"

And it's not just the conservatives or the Republicans who are sounding the alarm. Alan Dershowitz, a prominent Democrat Constitutional attorney encouraged all Americans last week to fight cancel culture.

"I hope all Americans wake up to this," Dershowitz told Newsmax on Thursday.

In referencing the letter from Democrat Congress Members to the cable companies, he pointed out how the conservatives are the victims of cancel culture right now but during McCarthyism it was the left who were the victims.

He reiterated, "we need both the right, the left, and also the center to stand united against censorship, against cancel culture, and in favor of the marketplace of ideas." That is constitutional.

He continued, "We have the right to flip the channel if we don't like what's on Newsmax. Change the channel, but don't tell the carriers, the satellite carriers, and the cable carriers, to deny us the right to watch Newsmax. That is wrong," he remarked.

News networks are self-censoring right now and beeping out the words "fraud" with the word "election" while reporting their stories so that they won't be canceled or banned from social media.

It's a brazen assault on free speech when social media companies under the guise of "misinformation" cancel everyone that doesn't support a certain narrative. It's even more dangerous when the mainstream media, politicians and social media giants all collaborate together to cancel people or groups who don't support their narrative, whatever it is.

President Trump's social media accounts were canceled the same day from Twitter and Facebook and a few days later his official account was cancelled from Youtube. Then it was several Republican senators and congressmen, and then independent voices in media, medicine, and it's working its way down the line, canceling everyone who has a dissenting voice.

As you would expect in America, several alternative platforms started popping up. Trump was considering his options and Parler thought he would switch to their platform. They were a likely candidate with 15 million users, and they were growing by one million users a day, when Amazon shut down their servers. Parler claimed in a lawsuit against Amazon that they were trying to block Trump by forcing Parler offline. I think they were also just killing competition.

At the same time, Apple and Google removed Parler from their app stores. They said it was because of failure to deal with content moderation related to the Jan. 6 Capitol violence, however, a study of the social platforms actually showed that Facebook was the preferred platform, as well as with previous protests and riots throughout the "Summer of Love" last year.

We can't shut down all dissenting voices. We have a longstanding remedy for "disinformation" and "misinformation" and it doesn't include censoring everyone who doesn't think like you do – it's through the court system.

Last week, two Democratic members of Congress sent letters to the presidents of Comcast, AT&T, Verizon, Cox, Dish, and other cable and satellite companies implying that they should either stop carrying FOX News, One American News Network and Newsmax or pressure them to change their coverage.

According to the lawmakers,

these conservative channels are responsible for promoting misinformation and political violence. They asked in the letter, "Why are you letting news channels say these things?"

How scary is that?

Do these lawmakers not understand that the First Amendment prohibits them from infringing on free speech? Including the right of cable companies to provide diverse channels on their platform? Or is it just pure intimidation? Or could it be that they are so entrenched in collusion with the media and social media in shutting down any dissent or diversion from their accepted narrative that they just got sloppy?

The New York Times reported that "The committee members also sent the letter to Roku, Amazon, Apple, Google and Hulu, digital companies that distribute cable programming."

There may be lawsuits that follow against these two congress members. I hope so because while I don't want to shut down their free speech, I don't want them to continue in their unconstitutional bad behavior. Politicians are not in charge of setting the standard for acceptable news on the internet and television. In a free society, that responsibility belongs to individual companies and their viewers.

There is probably some false information at times as reporters aren't perfect, but there is a healthy amount of misinformation that appears on mainstream media and in the New York Times and Washington Post as well.

Reference three years of Russia collusion that we now know the FBI knew early on was debunked and paid opposition research with no credibility from the DNC and Hillary Clinton's campaign. No one is asking for the New York Times to be censored, although they have lost editors from within because of their severe bias.

Another cancel culture "misinformation" victim was the New York Post (besides the American people) who reported on the stories about Hunter Biden's laptop before the election with emails about deals he was making everywhere his father had diplomatic ties and how he had to share the profits with his dad.

Surveys after the election showed that a good percentage of people who voted for President Biden, if they had that information before the election, wouldn't have voted for him.

So what is the answer with tech companies who are moderating information on politics, culture, COVID-19 and its origins, history, vaccinations, etc.? Is it to try and regulate or cancel them altogether? I don't think so. As a publisher, I believe the best thing we can do is to remove their Section 230 protections and allow people to sue them if there is libel or defamation.

They do have a moral obligation, if not a legal responsibility to moderate against calls to violence, pedophilia, etc., so we can't say we want them to not moderate completely. We just don't want them canceling free speech and everyone who has a differing opinion on political, health, history and other issues.

We certainly don't want them banning news channels that are credible news sources with millions of followers. And we clearly don't want them acting in collusion with politicians to either censor free speech or compel free speech (that's a whole other topic).

As I've written before, it's important that we have contentious, highly partisan, disputed conversations so we can work out our issues. If we aren't allowed to have uncomfortable conversations, how will we ever learn from each other, reach true consensus, agreement or the ability to agree to disagree and move forward? Do we really want one side to have the power to just shut down the other "side?"

The First Amendment's protections are vigorous, and the government may not criminalize the dissemination of information that they consider merely wrong, uninformed or critical of the government. Such moves imperil America's very existence as a free nation.

Again, I want to ask, "When was the last time the group burning books and controlling free speech were the good guys?"

Julie Reeder can be reached by email at jreeder@reedermmedia.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

North County Veterans Stand Down takes place April 15-18

VISTA – North County Veterans Stand Down is an annual four-day event that enables homeless veterans from across San Diego County to receive much-needed services in a safe, friendly, drug-free and secure environment.

It is held at Green Oak Ranch in Vista every year. The next stand down event will be held Thursday, April 15 through Sunday, April 18 at 1237 Green Oak Ranch, Vista, CA 92081.

COVID-19 protocols will be in place.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.ncstanddown.org/> or call 866-535-2038.

Submitted by the Fallbrook VFW.

Genealogical society announces monthly webinar

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Genealogical Society will host a webinar Saturday, March 13, about “Immigration Travel to America and Prussia Borders” from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The webinar will be hosted via Zoom, and the speaker for this lesson will be Toni Perrone.

Perrone will give two different talks, “Journey to America” and “Prussia and Its Changing Borders.”

To register for this webinar, visit <https://casdgs.org/event-3582555>.

Submitted by the San Diego Genealogical Society.

County to start sidewalk improvement project

FALLBROOK – The Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce received formal notice from the San Diego County Department of Public Works construction office that the sidewalk construction contractor is scheduled to be in the Fallbrook area week of March 15.

The project will begin with DPW road crews removing the trees two to three days before the contractor begins to demo the existing

sidewalk on North Main Avenue at East Hawthorne Street. After the demo is complete, the contractor will begin construction of the new sidewalks and improvements.

The new trees will be installed once the new sidewalks are complete, just as soon as possible.

Submitted by the Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce.



3 New Books by Local Author Lee Hulsey Are Now Available on Amazon!

Choose one or all!
Lee’s Corner *Lee-ism’s: Life’s Golden Nuggets*
Nana Lee’s Poems to Entertain You
Lee’s Corner Vol. II



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Fallbrook Regional HEALTH DISTRICT

Working together to bring the COVID-19 vaccine to our community. While the vaccine is not yet widely available due to limited County supplies, we are preparing for when our agencies are allowed access.

To be placed on our local vaccination interest list, please contact us at hello@fallbrookhealth.org or at 760-731-9187.

For more information about vaccine eligibility, testing, and other resources, please visit www.fallbrookhealth.org.

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Village News has been granted by the courts of San Diego County the right of adjudication, legal No. GIN013243. We can accept legal notices for publication.

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DuBona named BWC Volunteer of the Year

BONSALL – The Bonsall Woman’s Club held its monthly general meeting via Zoom on March 4. During this meeting, the club announced its annual Volunteer of the Year award.

A committee, consisting of the BWS First Vice President and Dean of Chairman Marlene Rantanen; Second Vice President Sydne Gilbert; and past Volunteer of the Year Robin Scheuer, met and unanimously agreed to award

this year’s prestigious award to member Marleen DuBona.

DuBona joined the Bonsall Woman’s Club in 2017 to make new friends. She soon realized where her talents were needed and then began to pursue them.

She has been continually active and equally creative in several varied functions in the club. Most notably, she is the BWC’s website administrator. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the

website has been an extremely critical vehicle in keeping the members informed of the club’s events as well as general information on club activities.

DuBona took it upon herself to completely revamp and redesign the website’s architecture to make the site more user friendly while safeguarding the privacy issues on membership, club meeting minutes, finances, etc.

This redesign was a major undertaking. She drew on her knowledge of the industry’s available tools, menu driven software, etc., and met the challenge head on. The remarkable results are a testimony to her creativity, resourcefulness, and tenacity to see a task through to its desired end. The website is an ongoing and living evolution and will continue to be expertly administered under DuBona.

She can also be relied on to devote several selfless hours towards making a fundraiser successful. Her creative talents once again surfaced at the annual Christmas fundraiser. She made several wreaths to be auctioned/ raffled off as part of this major fundraiser.

DuBona has devoted several hours towards another passion:



The Bonsall Woman’s Club Volunteer of the Year Village News/Courtesy photo award winner is Marleen DuBona.

photography. Again, her degree of excellence surfaces as is evidenced by the several awards her work has won at the Palomar District Photography contests.

The diligence in her pursuit of excellence is shown in many and varied activities. Her monumental contribution this past year totaled many volunteer hours towards the success of

the club. To say she is most deserving of the BWC Volunteer of the Year Award is probably minimizing her many and varied contributions.

For more information on BWC, visit bonsallwomensclub.org.

Submitted by Bonsall Woman’s Club.

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Please note that the Fallbrook Food Pantry is taking the Coronavirus (COVID-19) very serious and here is how we are addressing/preventing the food insecurity concern. As of MONDAY MARCH 16, 2020, we made our food distributions a “NO TOUCH” service.

HERE’S HOW:

- 1.) Moving our market style distribution to the LEARNING CENTER (which is located at the pantry – 140 N. Brandon Road, Fallbrook) for food pick up only: all food (dry goods, canned, frozen meats, dairy items, bread and fresh produce) will be pre-bagged.
SERVING: MON-FRI 9:30AM-12:30PM
- 2.) No one is allowed to open bags and remove items that are unwanted – we cannot risk contamination. All food in bags must leave with each family/individual.
- 3.) Asking clients to stand 6 feet apart while standing in line for food.
- 4.) Asking both volunteers and clients to wear gloves at all times while in the pantry.
- 5.) Any new clients will be treated as an “emergency” and will be able to receive food with just an ID (YOU MUST HAVE either a driver’s license, state ID, military, school, etc.).
- 6.) Our hours of operation will remain the same: Monday-Friday 9:30-12:30.
If clients show up early to stand in line – we will begin serving them as soon as possible – even earlier than 9:30 to prevent “loitering” or too much contact with others.
- 7.) As long as staff/volunteers are willing and able to serve, we will not have to change days and/or hours of operation – but in the case of this situation changing due to a variety of possible obstacles, we will keep the public apprised of our decisions and make it known if and when we need EXTRA HELP from the community!

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Rainbow CPG hears county staff presentation on proposed marijuana ordinance

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

The Rainbow Community Planning Group held a special meeting, Feb. 24, on the county's proposed marijuana dispensary and cultivation ordinance. Although any recommendation was deferred, possibly to the next regular meeting, March 17, the planning group heard a presentation from county planner Donald Chase while planning group members and members of the public provided input to Chase and asked questions.

"We're doing this to keep things in some sort of order," Paul Georgantzas, chair of Rainbow Community Planning Group, said.

On Jan. 27, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1, with Jim Desmond opposed, to direct the development of Zoning Ordinance and Regulatory Code amendments which would repeal the existing ordinances.

The supervisors directed that county staff report back to the board within 90 days with an update including any regulatory changes which could be implemented during that time and return to the board with a draft ordinance and policies within 180 days.

"We'll come back again once we have more formulated recommendations," Chase said.

Specific limits may be proposed based on input received.

"The goal of our outreach is to receive public comment," Chase said. "We want to make sure that we're providing opportunities for our full spectrum of stakeholders."

Chase said that while the regulations regarding dispensaries and cultivation will likely change, the enforcement activities are not expected to be changed. He noted that three types of enforcement exist: code enforcement for zoning or other code violations, law enforcement for criminal violations and criminal justice enforcement to punish violators. Chase indicated

that the county would look at complaint and crime statistics in the development of the ordinance.

"We have deep concerns about the ability of the county to enforce a program," planning group member Lynne Malinowski said.

The state is responsible for tracking, tracing and testing marijuana to ensure that it meets standards and that no marijuana is missing during the supply chain process from cultivation to retail sales. Chase added that state oversight includes cultivators, transport personnel, distributors and financial partners.

"The state monitors every person who's involved in the operation," he said.

The data the county is collecting also includes information about other jurisdictions' marijuana ordinances.

"We really have received some good information from other jurisdictions," Chase said.

The county Board of Supervisors members are not obliged to adopt policies from other jurisdictions, but Chase noted those include addressing California Environmental Quality Act requirements before the passage of the ordinance rather than with the application for individual dispensaries or cultivation facilities, setbacks from sensitive sites including residences, setbacks between dispensaries, limits on the number of licenses and cultivation acreage limits.

Chase said that the county has previously utilized a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report rather than individual application environmental statements for the tiered winery ordinance, the tiered equine ordinance and the agriculture promotion program.

The preference to past offenders is an issue for planning group member Jon Gorr.

"I don't understand the logic of that in particular," he said. "There is something inherently wrong with

this whole approach."

Debbie Arce, who lives in Fallbrook and has a legal and regulated marijuana manufacturing business on the Santa Ysabel Indian Reservation, said that past offenders likely don't have the business acumen to operate a dispensary but that well-funded investors might use the past offender as a front to obtain a dispensary license.

Liquor licenses are limited, and Gorr said that those are often transferred through the competitive offer most lucrative for the seller.

"I don't think it should be a limited number of licenses for top dollar," he said of dispensary licenses.

Planning group member Lee Taussig suggested that the county confer with the state's Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

"I think we should go to them and let them help us figure out what the rules are going to be," he said.

The county of San Diego will be applying Riverside County's experience about that county's ordinances.

"We're definitely going to sit down with them," Chase said.

At one time the Santa Ysabel Indian Reservation had a casino and, after that closed, the space in that building was rented for cannabis activity under the oversight of the Santa Ysabel Tribal Cannabis Regulatory Agency.

"I'd love to not have to drive 50 minutes on a windy road," Arce said.

Arce assured the planning group that a licensed cannabis business requires review by government entities beforehand.

"A license is not an easy process by any means. It's not a cheap

process," she said.

"It's expensive. It's arduous. It's a lot of paperwork," Arce said. "It's extensive what they make us go through in order to get a license."

During 2016 county Planning Commission hearings on the county's marijuana ordinance, staff confirmed that any cultivation rights would be subservient to groundwater restrictions. Arce said that Santa Ysabel groundwater issues impact marijuana businesses there.

"There are cultivators out there that are bringing their own water," she said.

Arce's facility is less than 1,000 square feet, and her business has never had more than five employees. Although the proposed county ordinance allows for on-premise consumption, Arce said that parking lot consumption would be unlikely. "They're going to have security guards," she said. "They don't want any problem. These are licensed places."

Marijuana businesses must track drivers and keep transport records. "They treat us like we're moving plutonium," Arce said.

Arce said that licensed dispensaries dislike competition from the black market, so those dispensaries rather than citizens may provide the complaints about illegal operation.

"It's just a matter of time before somebody calls the sheriff," she said.

One of the unincorporated county's existing dispensaries is on Nelson Way on the Bonsall-Escondido border, and the city of Vista also has a dispensary.

"There are licensed dispensaries not too far from you," Virginia

Casey said. "A regulated controlled cannabis industry is actually the best protection against the unlicensed market."

The Vallecitos School District has not taken a position on any aspect of the ordinance, but Vallecitos superintendent Maritza Koeppen, who is also the principal of Vallecitos Elementary School, wants to limit cannabis use near children.

"We're right next to a community park, so I worry that there would be some consumption there," she said.

Koeppen said she hoped a separation distance accounts for secondhand smoke.

"Our kids are outside playing, and I don't know how far that would travel," she said.

Timely law enforcement response is also a concern of Koeppen's.

"It already takes them 20 minutes," she said.

"The stakeholders want to figure out what might be the right number of facilities for their community," Chase said. "We do want to explore and recommend a right-size approach."

The community input will be incorporated into the draft ordinance.

"The next step is to formalize what's going to be in the overall approach," Chase said.

The planning group will await more refined county provisions before making a recommendation.

"We look forward to being very active in the future," Georgantzas said.

Joe Naiman can be reached by email at jnaiman@reedermedia.com.

OBITUARIES



This Memorial is for our mom, **Colleen Ann Putnam Keller**. Colleen passed away on Feb. 26, 2021 after a brief illness (not COVID-19).

She grew up in Santa Monica and graduated from UCLA with a Bachelor of Science in 1950. She shared a lifetime of love with our father, Robert Philips Keller. Early on while dating, she dropped some jewelry down a storm drain and Dad crawled down and got it, proving to her that he was the one! Colleen and Bob were married on Sept. 16, 1951. Mom had a note on her wall to this day that says "Never throw this away! Bob Loves Colleen."

They shared many adventures throughout their life together including building a speedboat for their honeymoon, moving to Lancaster on an alfalfa ranch to start their married life, and starting RPK Nurseries in Orange County in the 1950's. They then moved to Fallbrook in San Diego County where they raised all four of their children, who all graduated from Fallbrook High.

Colleen was involved in many activities in Fallbrook, from leading Girl Scout troops including

a trip to Mexico City, running the snack bar for Little League (Bob was a coach), and being active in the Fallbrook Art Association where she and Bob created and showed many pieces.

One of her biggest achievements was raising four strong willed children who cherished and loved her to the end. She was a very funny, kind, intelligent and honest person. There are many stories about Colleen's sense of humor including one story about how she and Cliff's wife Cindy could not get a bottle of wine open and they finally had to ask the remodeling contractor to open it for them. (Talk about your full-service contractor!) She was often the life of the party telling her entertaining stories at the horse parties at the Helmick Ranch where she lived for 15 years in Colorado.

She was preceded in death by her husband Bob, parents Mary Palm Putnam, Warren Putnam, sister Kathy Wilson and brother Warren "Rusty" Putnam, along with many dogs and cats that she loved.

She is survived by daughter L. Robin Keller (Hank Mc Millan), son Mark G. Keller (Glenna Dugan), daughter Debbie K. Helmick (Mark Helmick), son Clifford L. Keller (Cindy Keller) and her cat Scamp. Mom was an incredible person who was all of us children's "Foundation of Love, Our Happiness Crutch."

We love you Mom!!

Robin, Hank, Mark, Glenna, Debbie, Mark, Cliff, Cindy, and Scamp

Comments or photos: can be posted at www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/castle-rock-co/Colleen-Keller-10077394.

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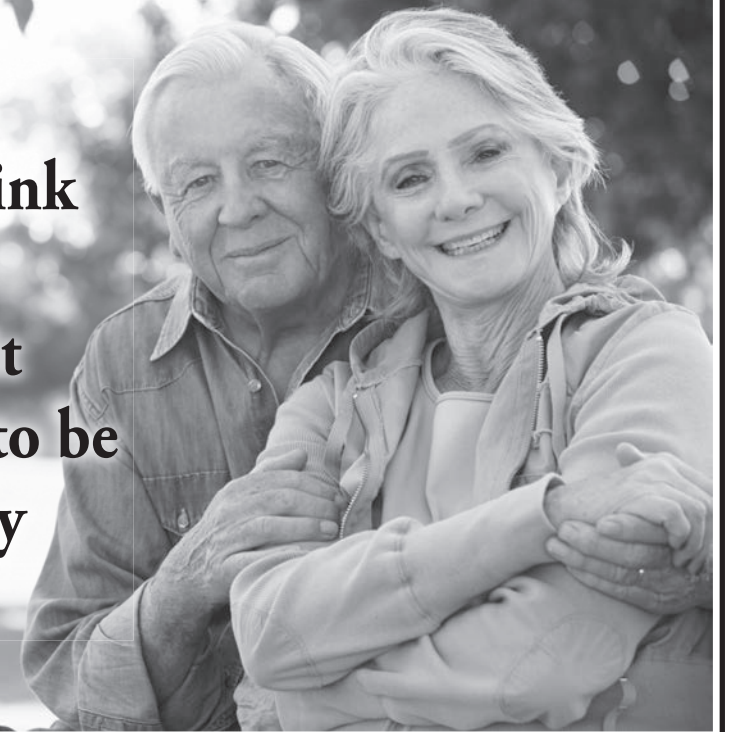
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Real Estate Round-Up: F is for Fair Housing



Kim Murphy
Murphy & Murphy Southern
California Realty

For nearly as long as I've been writing my column, the topic of the shortage of affordable workforce housing has been a key issue in real estate. There are many programs that address affordable housing, so people at the lowest of income levels, or those on state subsidies can secure housing.

But affordable workforce housing is an even bigger problem

within California. It doesn't matter which region a person lives in, the housing available close to employment is generally not affordable to that workforce. Creating housing is linked closely to the related topic of Fair Housing. Let me explain.

The Fair Housing act was passed in 1968. Its goal was to eliminate housing discrimination to any group of individuals based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or familial status. In 1975, the Age Discrimination Act was passed into law, adding that as an additional category of individuals that cannot be discriminated against. The law has been clear for over 50 years, yet various groups still struggle to achieve the basic component, that many of us take for granted, that of stable housing.

Another practice called "Redlining" was outlawed in The Community Reinvestment Act of 1977. The practice of redlining related to the carving out of certain geographic areas, specifically to preserve for a particular group

of individuals, or to prevent a particular group of individuals from living in that area. Reverse redlining targets neighborhoods by selling products and services at higher prices than they are sold for in areas with greater competition which will, in turn, segregate certain groups simply by making it financially impossible to live in an area.

So where am I going with this? It breaks my heart to say it, but I believe all of this "no building" fury is unintentionally denying the rights of homeownership to many of the residents of San Diego County. It is cloaked in the existing problem of traffic congestion and the always present fear of wildfires.

If you consider the thousands of cars that drive in from either Riverside County or Mexico, so those people can work in San Diego County, it's hard to understand how housing people closer to their jobs will create more traffic congestion. Even with many people being able to

work from home, there are still many others who have returned to working on-site, so our highways and interstates continue to be congested.

Having homes closer to where people work, and along transit corridors like I-15, will actually decrease traffic congestion and SD County will collect taxes on those new residents, rather than having them simply use our roadways and take their income out of the area.

So how does this lack of building attitude relate to fair housing and redlining? In the broadest sense, much of the workforce is being denied housing close to their jobs because of the anti-building sentiment. They are being discriminated against by those who are wealthier, be it through income or ownership. Fair housing is a right for everyone. One group is working hard to keep another group out of their area by making it impossible for them to afford local housing. Redlining is illegal.

Currently all homeowners are able to enjoy the robust real estate

marketplace and "cash-in" on some of the highest values in history, yet others are left to watch from the sidelines. As values of the current inventory of homes continue to increase, even with lower interest rates, more and more people are left out of the "American Dream."

Fair Housing should be deliberate, not exclusive. Everyone should have the opportunity to build their personal wealth through real estate ownership. More housing, located along transit corridors, is the right approach. It doesn't clog up our country roads. It doesn't increase traffic in town. It simply provides an open door for all people who are currently standing on the sidelines to start their personal wealth building through real estate.

Kim Murphy can be reached at kim@murphy-realty.com or 760-415-9292 or at 130 N Main Avenue, in Fallbrook. Her broker license is #01229921, and she is on the board of directors for the California Association of Realtors.

FPUD approves change order for CUP

Joe Naiman
Village News reporter

The Fallbrook Public Utility District board approved a change order to the contract with Filanc Alberici JV to construct the Santa Margarita Conjunctive Use Project.

A 5-0 FPUD board vote Feb. 22 approved a change order which will add \$3,389,801 to the price of the contract. Although most of the cost of that change order is for the granulated activated carbon treatment system, \$324,928 of that extra amount addresses changes to the pipeline design and installation required by field conditions and utility conflicts.

"The installation of granular activated carbon at the new Santa Margarita groundwater treatment

plant will give us a high-quality water supply and a facility that can meet any future water quality concerns," said FPUD general manager Jack Bebee.

The Santa Margarita River Conjunctive Use Project will enhance groundwater recharge and recovery capability within the lower Santa Margarita River basin and increase available water supplies for FPUD and Camp Pendleton.

The Camp Pendleton infrastructure will include piping to deliver the water to the boundary of the Naval Weapons Station and Fallbrook behind the FPUD solar facility site on Alturas Road. Construction of the facilities from the NWS boundary is FPUD's responsibility. The water will be treated at the Alturas Road

plant and delivered into FPUD's distribution system.

FPUD's infrastructure will include a groundwater treatment plant, a distribution system to the Gheen Zone east of Stage Coach Lane, the Gheen Pump Station and a storage tank with piping, and construction management and supervisory control and data acquisition integration.

In July 2019, the FPUD board awarded Filanc Alberici JV a \$54,398,232 construction contract for the Conjunctive Use Project. A January 2020 board action amended the design contract with Infrastructure Engineering Corporation so that the groundwater treatment plant can also remove per and polyfluoroalkyl substances contaminants with a combination of granular activated carbon and

reverse osmosis.

The December 2020 FPUD board meeting included approving a contract with Calgon Carbon to provide granular activated carbon treatment system equipment and approving a change order to the contract with Filanc Alberici JV to install pipelines associated with the granular activated carbon treatment system.

The change order with Filanc Alberici addressed only the pipelines and not the installation and startup of the granular activated carbon treatment system. "We've finalized negotiations with the contractor to have them install it," said FPUD senior engineer Aaron Cook.

FPUD and Filanc Alberici negotiated a change order covering the installation and startup. "We

think it's fair," Cook said.

"It wasn't unanticipated and it's right in line with the budget," said FPUD board member Dave Baxter, who chairs the district's Engineering and Operations Committee. "There are no surprises here."

The change order brings the total Filanc Alberici contract amount to \$58,347,178. The completion date was changed from September 13, 2021, to February 14, 2022.

Although no delays are expected, the installation of the granulated activated carbon treatment system cannot occur until FPUD receives the system from Calgon Carbon. "If it does go longer there's a potential that we'll have to cover some additional overhead costs," Cook said.

Kicking It on vacation

Elizabeth Youngman-Westphal
Special to The Village News

Vacations. Can there ever be enough good words said about them? Or is it even possible to have too many? My husband thinks so. He believes one must finish one before planning the next. Naturally, we differ on this.

After all, isn't the unspoken, universal promise of 50 years of steady employment that we get to take vacations anytime we want? Don't we all trust that once retirement finally arrives, we can start taking vacations at will even one after another? Anytime we want?

It has always been my philosophy to live like I am dying. Well, it's true.

Alas, now that our state is coming to its senses, perhaps soon we will once again have our liberties restored and depart from our homes unrestricted.

Here is the thing. Ideally each

vacation will differ from a past one. OK, we have repeated some cruises. It happens. They were spectacular the first time or they offer free ukulele lessons as in the case of our frequent return cruises to Hawaii because my husband likes the free ukulele classes onboard. Oh, and he professes to like the people he meets in strumming class. I, on the other hand, enjoy my own company.

Since 2017, we have spent over 100 days at sea. Pretty good for a pair of land lovers. Naturally, 2020 was a blank since the cruise lines canceled all voyages. Making that a 100 days at sea in three years.

That said, we are taking our maiden river cruise this coming year along the Mississippi River departing out of New Orleans on a paddle wheeler.

I, for one, do not understand why they are so proud of these journeys charging double and sometimes triple what the large ships expect for their voyages. I do

not believe it has a thing to do with size and number of passengers, I am more inclined to believe it is the basis of capitalism, supply and demand.

Most rooms are not larger than a walk-in closet and the daily tipping is billed at a whopping \$19.50 per person per day. While an "industry wide" practice, it is an ongoing push for passengers to pay the wages for the crews on cruise ships, and I for one resent being responsible for any business' payroll responsibilities.

Did you know the purser or customer service will allow this fee to be adjusted up or down? I prefer a personal tip versus tipping the general pool.

Routing our way back to California, we have decided to stop through Texas. We'll visit Waco, Texas, drift along the San Antonio River Walk, pop in to the Alamo and swing through Austin before returning home.

Why Texas? Think there's a

9% savings on state taxes. Waco, Texas, you ask? Several reasons off the top of my head. Chip and Joanna Gaines film their show "Fixer Upper" there. My children's family cemetery is there. Plus for fun, Waco, Texas, has some nasty-tasting-restorative mineral water that you gotta trick fellow travelers into tasting. Naturally, you can only sucker them once.

Waco, Texas, is also the home of Baylor University, the Texas Ranger Museum and the former home of the Branch Davidians Cult which was stormed by federal agents after a 51-day siege back in 1993.

Right after we get home and wash our clothes, we'll repack for a weeklong stay along our California coast. I am excited to fulfill a long-overdue wish to enjoy a place on the sand at the beach.

Like many desires, once the decision was made, the selection process was difficult. Wanting the perfect rental for family and

friends, we have finally settled on a location. Oddly enough it was determined by our 7-year-old grandson who does the happy dance every time he sees his bunk room with a bathroom.

Up next? I'll probably take a vacation to Alaska to visit my daughter before the year ends. Although, I wish she'd meet me in Seattle for a cruise to anywhere. I enjoy shipboard living. Basically, I am lazy. After all, it's lovely to have all my meals prepared, the bed made, the room tidied every day and onboard entertainment, along with happy bartenders. Wait a minute, I mostly get that home. My husband is our house steward, but he demands more than just a few dollars tip money every day.

Even so I do not wish to go just anywhere. I just wanna go where I wanna go when I wanna go. And I am ready to go now.

Elizabeth Youngman-Westphal can be reached at eyoungman@reedermedia.com.

Theme parks, stadiums will soon be allowed to reopen as pandemic wave appears to fade

Will Fritz
Staff Writer

With the most recent wave of the coronavirus pandemic appearing to be in the rearview mirror, some aspects of normal life will start to return next month.

On Sunday, March 7, San Diego County public health officials reported 187 new COVID-19 infections and five deaths, far lower numbers than the thousands of new cases and dozens of new deaths reported on a typical day in December or January.

In the 92028 ZIP code, which includes Rainbow and De Luz, county data showed the case rate dropped to 9.0 per 100,000 for the week of Feb. 14-20, the most recent week for which data is available, from 15.4 cases per 100,000 during the week of Feb. 7-13.

There were 31 new coronavirus cases during Feb. 14-20, an obvious drop from the 53 new

reported cases the week prior and an even sharper drop from the 84 cases reported the week before that. There has been a total of 3,554 reported coronavirus cases in 92028 since the start of the pandemic.

The county combines Bonsall's 92003 ZIP code with neighboring Vista, given Bonsall's low population; that combined area showed a case rate of 11.7 per 100,000 as of Feb. 14-20, down from 18.6 the week prior, and there were 44 new reported COVID-19 cases Feb. 14-20, down from 70 during Feb. 7-14. There have been 4,931 total reported coronavirus cases in the Bonsall-Vista area since March.

Stadiums and theme parks have now gained clearance from state officials to reopen April 1, though they will still have strict limits on capacity.

Theme parks can reopen at 15% capacity in the red tier of the state's four-tiered reopening plan.

Capacity levels will shift to 25% in the orange tier and 35% in the yellow tier.

For now, San Diego County remains in the most restrictive, purple, tier, but numbers are trending downward at such a rate the county could be promoted to the red tier this month.

The changes don't mean the threat of the coronavirus is completely gone, but it is a significant step toward reopening some large venues as virus case rates continue to decline and vaccination numbers increase.

"This is another strong step forward in our COVID recovery," said San Diego County Board of Supervisors Chairman Nathan Fletcher.

"We have worked hard to get to this point and this new state guidance will deliver a safe return to having fans at Padres games, outdoor concerts and amusement parks."

Attendance at such events will

be limited to in-state visitors.

The San Diego Padres expect to have fans at Petco Park for their home opener April 1 against the Arizona Diamondbacks, CEO Erik Greupner said.

"Our #1 priority is providing our fans with a safe and fun experience when they return to the ballpark," Greupner said. "We have been diligently preparing to ensure that Petco Park is one of the safest places to be in San Diego this season."

The team will soon notify its season ticket holders with details of their return to Petco Park, Greupner said.

If San Diego County is in the red tier by the end of March, about 8,500 fans would be allowed to attend the opening day game, 20% of Petco Park's capacity, The San Diego Union-Tribune reported.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a \$6.6 billion legislative package on Friday, March 5, offering incentives for schools to resume

in-person instruction for students up to second grade by April 1 and provides funds to help recoup learning lost during the COVID-19 pandemic, possibly by extending the school year.

The proposal does not order schools to reopen, but those that fail to do so by April 1 will lose 1% of their share of the funds for every day they miss the deadline.

The money will be available to schools in counties that have an average daily new COVID-19 case rate of less than 25 per 100,000 residents, which covers the vast majority of the state, including San Diego County.

As of Sunday, March 7, of the county's population over the age of 16, 23.4% – or nearly 629,783 people – have received at least one dose, and 12.2% – or more than 327,958 people – have been fully inoculated.

Will Fritz can be reached at wfriz@reedermedia.com.

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Seller will entertain offers between \$635,000 & \$700,000

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VACCINE

from page A-1

Mason said the health district has reached out to Supervisor Jim Desmond's office for assistance in getting vaccine supplies for Fallbrook.

"(Desmond's staff) have responded with support and have indicated they will work on our behalf," Mason said.

She said the health district's community partners have also been impacted by shortages and have not been able to offer any new vaccination options.

"A few small, very targeted 'pop-up' events are being offered at Senior Housing complexes," Mason said. "These events will not be advertised to the public at large, however if you are or have a senior with limited mobility or

ability to drive, please contact the Foundation for Senior Care at 760-723-7570 for support."

Mason urged Fallbrookians to "(p)lease continue to be patient and don't give up."

Shortages were still causing problems at county vaccine sites last week – the Scripps Del Mar vaccination super station was shut down on Saturday due to a lack of vaccines, and though it reopened on Sunday, appointments over the weekend were only for second doses.

The county's existing doses will be largely reserved for second doses. Other vaccination super stations, including the one at Cal State San Marcos, and smaller points of distribution will continue to administer second doses this weekend and into next week, as supplies allow.

For those in the Fallbrook-

Bonsall area, FRHD was directing local residents to try seeking vaccines through Tri-City Medical Center or Rite Aid.

Tri-City now has twice weekly vaccination clinics, and appointments are released at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, according to FRHD. Appointments can be made at <https://book.appointment-plus.com/ctbdj1vx/#/>.

FRHD said Rite Aid is currently only doing first dose appointments and has had to cancel many appointments, but recommended local residents check their website (<https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier>) to see if new appointments become available.

Palomar Health also opened up a vaccination clinic in downtown Escondido, which will be open between 9 a.m. and 4

p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, with appointments required.. The hospital's website notes that appointments may be cancelled if supply is unavailable. Palomar Health's vaccination webpage can be accessed at <https://www.palomarhealth.org/about-us/covid-vaccine>.

Mason also said in her email update that <https://www.vaccinateca.com/near-me?zip=92028> is a helpful webpage to utilize for locating commercial pharmacy and similar vaccination sites.

San Diego County's vaccination webpage can be found at [Vaccinationsuperstations.com](https://www.vaccinationsuperstations.com).

And Mason noted that with the county opening Tier 1B-2 for vaccinations on Feb. 27, teachers and education staff are now eligible to receive vaccines. They can do so through the California

Schools Volunteer Employee Benefits Association system at <https://vebavaccinates.com/site/vaccination>.

Vaccines for law enforcement personnel will be organized through Scripps Health, Mason said.

Apart from vaccinations, FRHD announced one COVID-19 testing event in March, which will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 26 at Vallecitos Elementary School, 5211 5th St., Rainbow.

Registration opens three days prior to the testing date, according to FRHD. Appointments, which the health district said are "advised, not required," can be made by calling 211 or online at COVIDtest.SanDiegoCounty.gov.

Will Fritz can be reached by email at wfritz@redermedia.com.

GATE

from page A-1

trips to East Mission Road and another 300 trips to State Route 76.

The vehicle miles traveled study indicated that the gate would reduce the distance by approximately 11% per motorist.

De Luz Road is a public road, so if through traffic takes that street instead of Interstate 15, it will not

impact the maintenance resources of property owners.

Members of the Sandia Creek Road Committee and other proponents of the gates have indicated that access codes would be provided to the United States Postal Service, Fallbrook Propane Gas Company, and others who deliver to the homes on the private portion of the road. Neighbors elsewhere in De Luz may request an access code; such access

would likely be granted to actual neighbors although no written guarantees currently exist.

If the primary source of power is lost, the gates are supposed to open automatically and remain open until full power is restored. The North County Fire Protection District would have a key to unlock the gates manually, and the gates would also respond to emergency vehicle strobe signals.

The gates may also be opened by

a remote radio signal; the nearest NCFPD fire station is 4.2 miles away by air and the radio signal has a range of five miles. Remote operation by the regional dispatch center in Rancho Santa Fe would also be an option. The radio control system would be tested before the gates become operational.

Flannery made findings that the gate structure would be compatible with community character, would not have a harmful effect on the

neighborhood, and would not be detrimental to the health, safety, or general welfare of the surrounding properties or improvements.

The Fallbrook Community Planning Group voted 12-2 Jan. 18 (one planning group member recused himself due to a potential conflict of interest) to recommend approval of an Administrative Permit for a gate on Sandia Creek Drive.



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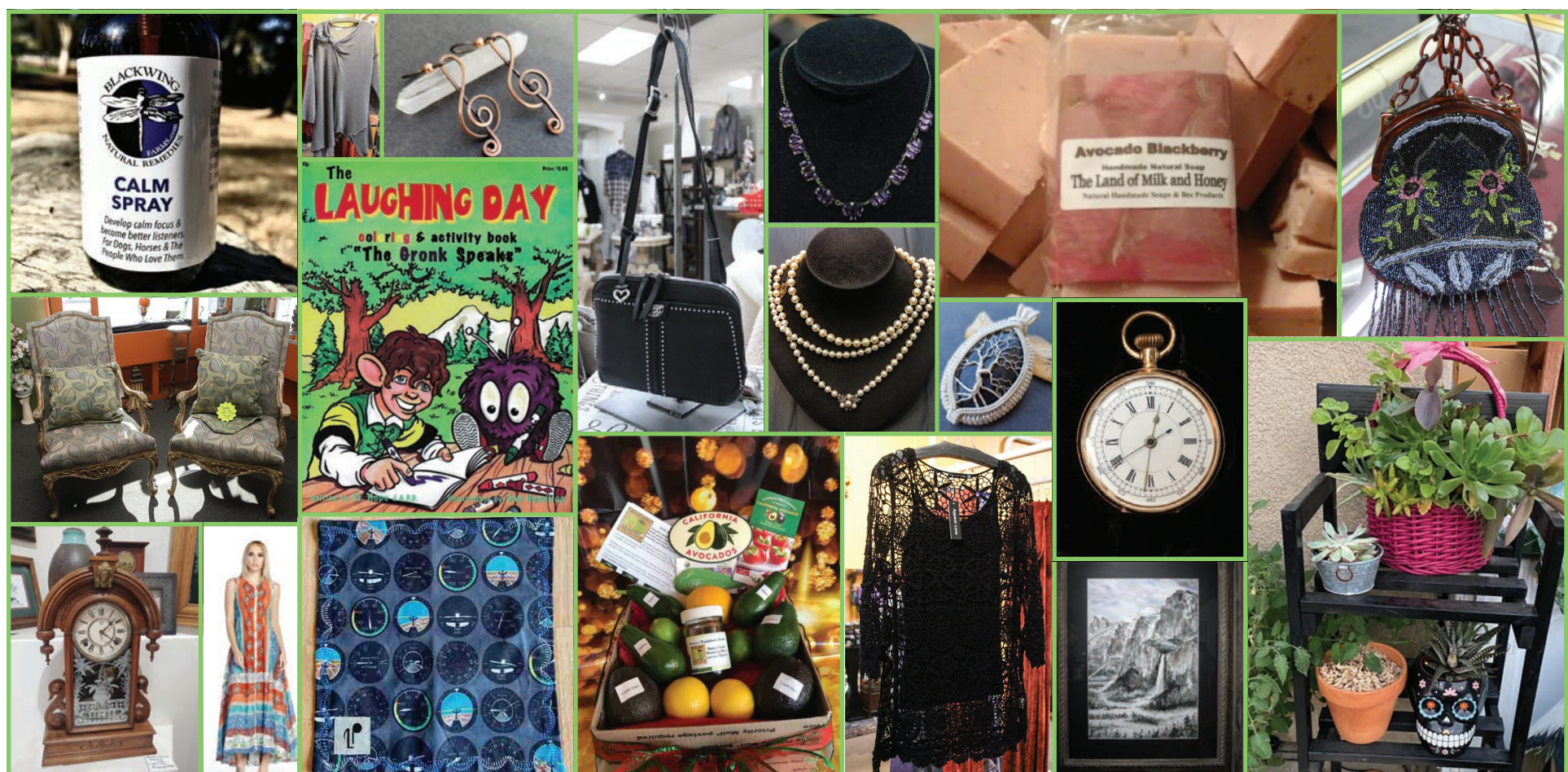
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When green turns to grey

Caring for our aging trees and urban forests



California poppies bloom by the trunk of tree in Fallbrook.

Roger Boddaert
Special to the Village News

When you drive to work, go to the grocery store, or visit family or friends, do you ever wonder where all these trees came from and how they got here?

Just think what your community would be like without trees – only plain asphalt telephone poles and wires, which would not be very pleasing to experience.

The trees that have been planted in our Southern California urban forests come from around the world and have been planted by cities, urban foresters, and volunteers. They are now turning grey with age, just like a few of us today.

Besides the world's natural forests, some of the imported local trees are well over 100 years old, like in San Diego, Sacramento, San Francisco, and here in Fallbrook.

I have always said that trees are like people, with no two exactly alike, and must be cared for accordingly, for they can't do it alone.

City street tree divisions have crews out constantly evaluating their inventories on a routine schedule. This seasonal data is collected and put into an evaluation program, and given a point system for the trees' overall health. Tree hazards may exist, and professional tree care needs to be done, but some trees need to be removed for safety and liability.

The benefits of street trees have been proven to have many attributes for communities' overall health. The shade tree cover percentage in cities is given great attention and priority, and as trees fade away, new replacement trees are planted, which is why I state when green turns to grey.

When we understand the many good things that trees give us, we can appreciate what trees provide us: shelter to live in, food for our tables, the warmth in our hearth, the shade that cools our homes, the habitat for wildlife, and so much more.

You must understand that the tiny cut-out concrete square along any sidewalk is not how to grow healthy trees, yet we still plant trees, hoping that their internal health capsule will provide us with an average of at least 40 years, give or take.

Trees are a community's true heroes and air conditioners, and we must appreciate them for as long as we have them with proper stewardship and individual care.

With the mega-fires plaguing California, millions of trees have been lost to vast forest fires, and new plantings are now being started to help recover our oxygen-giving friends, but it will take time to rebuild these forest lands.

The earth's climate is changing and under stress, and we will see significant changes further down the road, but the planting of new trees is only part of the remedy.

The weather patterns and the lack of annual rainfall put trees and vegetation into a water-stress mode. When this occurs, invasive and opportunist bugs enter the scene and prey on weak trees, so it is essential to care for trees, just like we care for our bodies and overall health.

But one of the natural wonders of trees is that there is hope, and you and I can be a part of the solutions with ongoing commitments in the greening of our planet. Tree plantings are increasing globally, with billions of new trees going into the ground from China and Zimbabwe, and India to California, and worldwide.

Cities are planting young trees next to the older ones, and when the young trees are settling in and becoming established, the older ones are replaced.

Governments and tree planting groups are doing herculean tasks of setting new trees into the earth, and this is being supported by the National Arbor Day

Foundation, California ReLeaf, Tree Planting America, San Diego People for Trees, and the Save Our Forest group right here in Fallbrook which is a fabulous group of volunteers.

States practice National Arbor Day plantings with given dates per each state to celebrate tree plantings. March 7-14 is the week when ceremonial tree plantings occur here in California.

So, join a local group not only to plant new trees but to become an earth-steward and care for some trees in your community. The clock is ticking, and the planting of new trees is of the essence. Stop thinking about it, pick up your shovel, or donate some time or monies to save the planet, for we are all in this together.

Budgetary shortfalls have inspired strokes of creative reorganization around the nation. In recent years, reduced funding for tree programs has also fostered increased involvement of nonprofit organizations and ordinary citizens in managing urban forests for today, tomorrow, and into the future.

Adopt a tree, a bench, or a roadway here in Fallbrook. Get your block to become tree-huggers. Start veggie plantings up and down your block and have a summer food-sharing festival, and if you have too much of anything, donate it to some food bank or a local church to share in its bounty.

If you don't have gardening space or live in an apartment, be a part of the great Fallbrook



Live Oak Park is in the heart of an oak woodland.

Village News/Roger Boddaert photos



Live Oak Park offers benches, made from tree trunks, to rest on.



To enhance this birch tree, colorful flowers are being added at the base of the tree trunk.



Roger Boddaert's favorite saying is seen here.

see **GREEN**, page B-3

BUSINESS

Vince Ross Village Square given FPUD's community service discount



FPUD is providing a Community Service Water Usage customer discount for Vince Ross Village Square.

Village News/Lucette Moramarco photo

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

The Fallbrook Village Association will be receiving a Community Service Water Usage customer discount for Vince Ross Village Square water purchased from the Fallbrook Public Utility District.

The FPUD board voted 5-0, Feb. 22, to approve the Community Service Water Usage customer rate for Vince Ross Village Square, which is at the intersection of South Main Avenue and Alvarado Street.

"Our board wanted to do this since it is a benefit to the community, helping to keep

Fallbrook attractive," Jennifee DeMeo, board president of FPUD, said.

Vince Ross Village Square includes a town center park, an events center and a veterans' memorial. Community and other public events have taken place at Vince Ross Village Square for more than 25 years.

"The Village Association has been dedicated to revitalizing Fallbrook for a long time," Roy Moosa, president of Fallbrook Village Association, said.

Moosa said that the Fallbrook Village Association pays for repairs, pays insurance and pays property taxes on most of its property.

A 3/4-inch meter provides water to the 0.16-acre property. Vince Ross Village Square uses approximately half an acre-foot annually.

FPUD provides free or discounted surplus recycled water to what are known as Community Service Water Usage customers. The Fallbrook Village Association also maintains Jackie Heyneman Park, and FPUD has given the Fallbrook Village Association the Community Service Water Usage customer benefits for Jackie Heyneman Park.

"Village Square is just as much a community meeting area," Moosa said.

"The Fallbrook Village Association is highly valued and is an absolute pillar of community volunteer support," FPUD board member Dave Baxter said.

The Community Service Water Usage customer discount process includes determining a baseline usage figure, which provides an incentive to conserve.

"We look at the water use, come up with an allocation," FPUD general

manager Jack Bebee. "Anything above that is on their dime."

Any annual usage exceeding half an acre-foot would be billed at the standard "irrigation only" rate, which is currently \$7.04 per 1,000 gallons.

The Fallbrook Village Association will still pay monthly charges and other fees.

"The fixed costs still get incurred," Bebee said.

FPUD's estimated annual lost revenue from not charging the Fallbrook Village Association for water used at Vince Ross Village Square is \$1,147 annually, which equates to \$1,147 of annual savings for the Fallbrook Village Association.

"It's a lot for a nonprofit," Moosa said.

Other FPUD users will not have increased rates to fund Community Service Water Usage customers.

"We have to use non-rate revenue to offset the cost," Bebee said.

Bebee said that rental income from wireless communication facilities is one such revenue source which can be used for Community Service Water Usage customer discounts.

"Your help with these endeavors is very much appreciated," Moosa said.

Joe Naiman can be reached by email at jnaiman@reedermedia.com.

FPUD approves boom truck crane purchase

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

The Fallbrook Public Utility District will be acquiring a boom truck crane.

A 5-0 FPUD board vote Feb. 22 approved the purchase of a boom truck crane from Velocity Truck Centers for the amount of \$314,627.03.

"The crane is critical to our work replacing valves throughout the district," said FPUD General Manager Jack Bebee.

"It's a heavily used piece of equipment for us as far as the valve replacement program," Bebee said. "Replacing valves helps minimize pipeline breaks and disruptions in water service to our customers."

In addition to replacing valves and water clusters, a crane is also regularly used for repairs and maintenance at FPUD's water reclamation facility.

FPUD currently utilizes a 1987 Dresser crane. "The crane we currently have needed to be replaced due to ongoing, costly repairs because of its age and the fact that it no longer meets air

quality requirements," Bebee said.

The increased difficulty of parts for the 1987 crane not only results in larger expenses for repairs but also increases time out of service.

"I've seen that thing. It needs to be replaced," said FPUD Board President Jennifer DeMeo.

The existing crane must be transported by a separate truck and trailer. "It blocks half the highway or half the road we're on," said FPUD Board Member Dave Baxter.

FPUD's current crane must be driven to worksites and does not exceed 10 mph. Some sites take more than an hour of travel time to reach, costing the district time as well as slowing the flow of traffic through town.

A boom truck crane allows necessary materials to be loaded on the truck bed, so the valve replacement items can be transported on the same vehicle. "It sounds more efficient," DeMeo said.

The new crane will be a street-legal vehicle. "Due to its different design, the new crane will allow us to use a single piece of equipment instead of two, which will

minimize our impacts to traffic," Bebee said.

"We can have traffic coming through without having to block off two or three lanes," Baxter said.

The design for the boom truck crane is smaller, so it will be easier to maneuver on some of Fallbrook's narrower roads. The use of a single vehicle will also reduce fuel costs for the district.

FPUD solicited vendors and received two responses. Velocity Truck Centers offered a Freightliner flatbed truck with a crane attached for \$314,627.03 while Manitex International submitted a proposal for \$337,042.00.

During the approval of the 2020-21 FPUD budget the board included \$556,000 for fleet procurement. FPUD previously replaced four trucks for \$112,860.13, and \$200,000 had been allocated for those trucks. The remaining fiscal year budget following the purchase of the boom truck crane will be \$138,512.84.

Joe Naiman can be reached by email at jnaiman@reedermedia.com.

San Diego County DA's Office addresses workplace crimes

SAN DIEGO COUNTY – The San Diego County District Attorney's Office has created a new unit to address workplace crimes like wage theft and labor trafficking.

District attorney Summer Stephan announced Feb. 22 the new Workplace Justice Unit, which aims to better protect San Diego County laborers from "dishonest employers," Stephan said.

"Wage theft and labor trafficking are serious problems that we are working on in partnership with the community. We're not going to allow workers to be exploited by heartless, greedy employers who break the law to line their own pockets," she said.

The unit has its own prosecutor, investigator and paralegal. The team will be incorporated into the current Insurance Fraud Division, now named the Insurance Fraud and Workplace Justice Division.

San Diegans who feel they may be the victim of a workplace crime can call the district attorney's workplace justice hotline at 866-402-6044 or make a report online at <https://www.sdcda.org/helping/workplacejustice/>.

The district attorney's office said the idea for the workplace unit came after a panel on workplace justice hosted with San Diego County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher. The group said they felt there was a need to better protect workers who are often minorities or from disadvantaged communities.

"The Workplace Justice Unit is a vital step toward San Diego County's new focus on protecting worker rights and fighting for employee fairness," Fletcher said.

Employers in violation of wage theft may not pay their employees wages earned, may pay less than minimum wage or may not pay overtime or may withhold meal and rest breaks. Employees who work off the clock may be victims of wage theft, the district attorney's office said.

Labor trafficking is when a person is forced to work through violence, threats, lies or fraud. If an employer said free labor will repay some sort of debt, that is also labor trafficking.

Submitted by the San Diego County District Attorney's Office.

SDG&E wins approval to eliminate high usage charge

SAN DIEGO – San Diego Gas & Electric customers will no longer have to worry about getting hit with the state-mandated High Usage Charge – a substantially higher price for electricity that kicks in for customers once their energy usage exceeds a certain threshold.

The California Public Utilities Commission voted March 4 to eliminate the HUC – originally established by the state as a way to encourage energy conservation. This decision comes two years after SDG&E filed an application with the CPUC to remove the charge, which caused tens of thousands of customers' bills to spike during hot summer months when air conditioning is used.

Eliminating the HUC is one of several initiatives that SDG&E has been pursuing to help stabilize bills for customers. Last year, the CPUC approved SDG&E's request to eliminate seasonal changes in energy pricing for some customers as a way to make bills more predictable year-round.

"We heard from our customers loud and clear that they felt strongly the High Usage Charge was punitive and unfair, particularly for those who live in hotter climate zones and by necessity, use more energy for cooling during summer months," Scott Crider, chief customer officer at SDG&E, said. "By eliminating the charge, our customers have one

less thing to worry about during these difficult times and can get some relief."

The HUC is expected to be removed ahead of summer, pending the filing of an advice letter with the CPUC and programming of the billing system. This change applies to about 312,000 customers who are on the traditional tiered pricing plans, which charges customers solely based on the amount of energy they use, not when they use energy.

Last year, about 25,000 SDG&E customers were impacted by the HUC. Customers on time of use pricing plans, which included the vast majority of SDG&E customers, are not subject to the HUC, as the TOU pricing structure already has built-in incentives for customers to conserve during peak hours, 4-9 p.m., when the cost of electricity is the highest.

The HUC was incorporated into

SDG&E's billing structure in late 2017 per state requirements to encourage energy conservation. Residential customers incur the charge after using 400% or more of their baseline allowance.

Providing bill relief to customers in 2020, SDG&E made a second request to eliminate the HUC, which was denied. However, in the March 4 decision, the CPUC determined that the HUC was failing in its original purpose to signal to HUC customers that they should conserve electricity.

Data shared in the HUC regulatory proceeding showed the charge does not have a substantial impact on conservation by individual customers affected by the HUC.

For more information, visit <http://SDGEnews.com>.

Submitted by San Diego Gas & Electric.

GREEN

from page B-1

Community garden on Alturas Street and pitch in to have some fun, learn, and give back a little to your community which makes for a more wholesome, sharing, and giving town.

Last year, a local Fallbrook group of volunteers joined forces and planted 100 new native oak

trees in Live Oak Park to celebrate the park's 100-year centennial.

The key to understanding "when green turns grey" is staggering more senior tree removal as they decline and plant younger trees in establishing themselves.

"We are like trees, for we must create new leaves, in new directions to grow daily."

Roger Boddaert, *The Tree Man of Fallbrook*, can be reached @ 760-728 4297.

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HEALTH

Healthy Habits for Bonsall & Fallbrook Folks: Apple cider vinegar – a serving a day for many reasons

Megan Johnson McCullough
Special to the Village News

When yeast is added to traditional apple juice, the fruit sugar turns into alcohol. It is the premise of fermentation. The bacteria in this alcohol become acetic acid. This acid is the culprit for the sour taste and smell of vinegar. We use vinegar to bake and cook. It's in most salad dressings, and it is readily used as a preservative. It is not meant to be used in high amounts due to its acidity.

Over consumption can lead to stomach problems and damage to your teeth, and it is not good for the lining of your throat. So why are we hearing so many claims that apple cider vinegar is great for our health?

Research doesn't support many of the claims we hear about this vinegar. Mixing a couple of tablespoons with water has been used for several health tricks. Apple cider vinegar has been used as a home remedy dating back to the early Greeks. At that time, it was used topically to treat wounds.

Today, we hear about this product being used for weight loss, to make dandruff go away, clear

acne and to improve heart health. The link to weight loss is based on the notion that vinegar improves blood sugar levels, which would help people with type 2 diabetes associated with obesity. Some health coaches said that it is an appetite suppressant. Others said it interferes with the body's ability to digest starch which means less enters the bloodstream.

Vinegar also has antioxidants which can help with cellular repair.

It has been said to cure the common cold because germs can't survive in the acidic environment that vinegar ingested creates. When it comes to your gut, apple cider vinegar has the good bacteria that can help with an upset stomach and help stop diarrhea. It has also been used to stop hiccups.

The potassium and enzymes in this vinegar have been said to increase energy. The potassium can also help with leg cramps. It has also been said to whiten teeth when used as a toothpaste. Some claim it helps the coloring of bruising go away. The key is that a little goes a long way. It is a weak acid, but it is still acid in your body.

Having too much can cause

heartburn and bloating. Although it may claim to suppress your appetite, prolonged use will damage the stomach's lining. This is also true for teeth whitening use because eventually your enamel will deteriorate from the acidity.

Home remedies are effective in the eye of the beholder and can be the first responder application to a problem that could be treated without too much effort.

Do what is best for your body and what works for your body. It is the freedom of choice and the freedom to control your health's destiny.

Megan Johnson McCullough holds a master's degree in physical education and health science, is a candidate for her doctorate, is a professional natural bodybuilder and is a National Academy of Sports Medicine master trainer.

Apple cider vinegar might be bitter, but the benefits can be outstanding.

Village News/Kathy Magerkurth photo



Spray, don't bake: The Skin Cancer Foundation suggests indoor tanning alternatives this spring

NEW YORK CITY – Spring is finally around the corner, and for many young women, it means memorable events like prom, even if they may be socially distant or virtual this year. It may be tempting to achieve a bronzed, "sun-kissed" look for occasions like these, and studies show women are more likely to use indoor tanning devices than men. However, any young women considering indoor tanning should think twice.

Ultraviolet radiation is a proven human carcinogen, and there has been plenty of research linking melanoma incidence in young women to tanning bed habits. One study shows just how closely the two are connected: according to researchers, 97% of women diagnosed with melanoma before age 30 have engaged in indoor tanning.

Additionally, a woman doesn't even need to use tanning beds frequently for them to pose a threat to her health. Just one indoor

tanning session before the age of 35 increases a person's risk of melanoma by 75%.

"There is no such thing as a healthy UV tan. Whether you're laying out on the beach or in a tanning bed, the damage your skin sustains can lead to skin aging and potentially deadly skin cancer," Dr. Deborah S. Sarnoff, president of The Skin Cancer Foundation, said. "It's so important that young women avoid UV tanning beds and opt for a sun safe beauty routine."

Tanning doesn't only increase one's risk of developing a melanoma – it increases the risk of developing other types of skin cancer as well. A single session causes a 67% increased risk of developing squamous cell carcinoma and a 29% increased risk of developing basal cell carcinoma. Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer, but BCC and SCC are the two most common forms of cancer.

If an increased risk of skin cancer isn't enough of a reason



Just one indoor tanning session before the age of 35 increases a person's risk of melanoma by 75%.

Village News/Courtesy photo

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to steer clear, indoor tanning also contributes to premature skin aging, wrinkles, leathery skin, sagging and age spots. Still can't resist that bronzed look? Opt for sunless self-tanners or spray tans. These are available in many forms, including lotions, sprays and creams.

The Skin Cancer Foundation advocated that "no tan is a safe tan," and that regardless of whether women decide to go with their

own glow or use sunless tanning methods, they avoid UV tanning.

Tips for properly applying sunless tanner:

Prep your skin. Exfoliate skin with a scrub or loofah and follow up with a moisturizer. It ensures that the sunless tanner will be absorbed evenly.

Follow the package directions closely. For example, wait at least 12 hours after shaving to apply to avoid dark spots in hair follicles

and don't use it on skin with active eczema.

Be patient. Self-tanners can take 30-60 minutes to produce visible color on the skin, and this color typically lasts about five days.

Repeat as necessary. Generally, the product should be reapplied daily for two to three days, until the desired shade is achieved. Then, reapply about three times a week to maintain the shade.

Go to a pro. Professional spray tans are an option for those who want to safely achieve a bronzed look in a hurry. Many salons provide automated application of high concentration, no-rub, aerosolized non-UV tanning products, while others provide a customized airbrush tan. When receiving a professional spray tan, wear protective gear for the mouth, eyes and nose to prevent ingestion or inhalation.

Don't rely on sunless tanners for sun protection. Even if your self-tanner contains sunscreen, reapply a separate broad spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher every two hours when outdoors. Sunscreen alone isn't enough, however. The Skin Cancer Foundation recommended that everyone take a comprehensive sun protection approach that includes seeking shade and covering up with clothing, including a wide-brimmed hat and UV-blocking sunglasses, in addition to daily sunscreen use.

For more information visit <http://SkinCancer.org>.

Submitted by The Skin Cancer Foundation.

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COVID-19 one year later: Americans continue to step up to address families' urgent needs

SAN DIEGO – One year since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, people have stepped up to address the emotional needs of families reeling from the coronavirus and 2020's record-breaking disasters.

In San Diego and Imperial counties and across the country, trained American Red Cross disaster mental health and spiritual care volunteers have had more than 53,000 conversations to provide emotional support to people in 2020 – which had the greatest number of billion-dollar disasters in a single year.

In addition, trained volunteers have provided free crisis counseling through the Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center for grieving families during COVID-19.

“The past year has been overwhelming for many in our community, and yet through it all, people are caring for one another,” Sean Mahoney, CEO of Red Cross Southern California Region, said. “When help can't wait, our selfless volunteers provide families the support they need during emergencies. During Red Cross Month in March, we honor this humanitarian spirit and ask you to join us by donating, giving blood, volunteering or taking a class to learn lifesaving skills.”

What is Red Cross Month?

For nearly 80 years, U.S. presidents have proclaimed March as Red Cross Month to recognize people giving back through its life saving mission – which is powered by more than 90% volunteers.

They include people like Pat Lloyd who supports each Red Cross line of service in some shape or form, including Blood Services, Disaster Services, Service to the Armed Forces, the Women, Infants and Children Program and more. A longtime volunteer, Lloyd has also played an integral role in supporting disaster prevention and relief initiatives throughout San Diego and Imperial counties and is actively involved in the Home Fire Campaign. Lloyd helps educate community members on home fire prevention efforts and installs free smoke alarms to help prevent home fire deaths and injuries in our communities.

Volunteers also include Tim

and Gina Glover, a husband/wife duo helping serve the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross by donating their time to deliver blood products to local area hospitals as Transportation Specialists.

“It's extremely fulfilling and just a wonderful way to give back to the community,” Gina Glover said.

Agrowing desire to give back

A 2020 study on a rise in volunteer experiences added to LinkedIn profiles shows that more people want to help others during this unprecedented time. Last year, more than 70,000 people across the country became new Red Cross volunteers largely to support urgent disaster and essential blood donation needs. In addition, thousands of COVID-19 survivors – many new to blood donation – rolled up a sleeve to give convalescent plasma and help patients battling COVID-19.

How to help

You can help ensure that families don't face emergencies alone – especially during a pandemic:

Donate: Support our Disaster Relief efforts at <http://redcross.org/GivingDay>. A gift of any size makes a difference to provide shelter, food, relief items, emotional support and other assistance. Your donation will be part of our annual Giving Day, March 24, to aid families in need across the country.

Volunteer: Visit <http://redcross.org/VolunteerToday> for most-needed positions and local opportunities.

Give blood: If you're healthy and feeling well, make an appointment at <http://RedCrossBlood.org>. Your donation can make a lifesaving difference for a patient in need. As a thank you, those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma March 15-26 will receive a Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

Learn lifesaving skills: Take a class in skills like CPR and first aid to help in an emergency at <http://redcross.org/TakeAClass>. Online options include Psychological First Aid for COVID-19 course, which covers how to manage stress and support yourself and others.

Submitted by the American Red Cross.

COVID-19 hospitalizations drop in Riverside County for fifth straight week

Will Fritz
Staff Writer

The slide continues – for the fifth straight week, federal data shows across-the-board declines in the numbers of coronavirus patients at Temecula Valley and North County hospitals.

Data released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Feb. 28, showed the percentage of patients who were coronavirus positive dropped to 16% at Temecula Valley Hospital from 21% in data released the week before, Feb. 21; 13% at Southwest Healthcare System, which includes Inland Valley and Rancho Springs medical centers in Wildomar and Murrieta, respectively, from 17%; 14% at Loma Linda University Medical Center Murrieta from 25%; and 20% at Palomar Medical Center Escondido from 27%.

Between the Feb. 21 and Feb. 28 hospital data dumps, seven-day average counts of coronavirus patients dropped by double digits Palomar Medical Center Escondido, Southwest Healthcare System and Loma Linda University Medical Center Murrieta and a smaller amount at Temecula Valley Hospital – which by Feb. 21 did not have many coronavirus patients to begin with.

ICUs remain near capacity at all local hospitals, but capacity has been cut at all hospitals as numbers of coronavirus cases have dropped in the region, per the federal data.

Here is a more detailed look at some of the most recent HHS data on local hospitals:

Temecula Valley Hospital

- Total beds (Seven-day average): 130.1 (134.3 last week)
- Total inpatient beds used (Seven-day average): 120.4 (119.9 last week)
- Total adults hospitalized, confirmed COVID-19 positive (Seven-day average): 18.7 (25.1 last week)
- ICU beds (Seven-day average): 20.6 (27.3 last week)
- ICU beds used (Seven-day average): 20.0 (26.6 last week)

Southwest Healthcare System (Inland Valley and Rancho Spring medical centers)

- Total beds (Seven-day average): 224 (203.1 last week)
- Total inpatient beds used (Seven-day average): 211.4 (190.7 last week)
- Total adults hospitalized, confirmed COVID-19 positive (Seven-day average): 27.7 (32.4 last week)
- ICU beds (Seven-day average): 24.9 (25.7 last week)

- ICU beds used (Seven-day average): 23.3 (24.9 last week)

Loma Linda University Medical Center Murrieta

- Total beds (Seven-day average): 132.6 (145.9 last week)
- Total inpatient beds used (Seven-day average): 121.1 (130.9 last week)
- Total adults hospitalized, confirmed COVID-19 positive (Seven-day average): 17.9 (32.9 last week)
- ICU beds (Seven-day average): 21 (24.6 last week)
- ICU beds used (Seven-day average): 17.7 (19.9 last week)

Palomar Medical Center Escondido

- Total beds (Seven-day average): 400.9 (411 last week)
- Total inpatient beds used (Seven-day average): 293.4 (307 last week)
- Total adults hospitalized, confirmed COVID-19 positive (Seven-day average): 59.3 (80.4 last week)
- ICU beds (Seven-day average): 44.9 (55 last week)
- ICU beds used (Seven-day average): 44.9 (55 last week)

Will Fritz can be reached by email at wfritz@redermedia.com.

Neurologist to host open forum on Parkinson's

FALLBROOK – The Fallbrook Parkinson's Support Group invites everyone interested to join its upcoming meeting Friday, March 26, 1 p.m. via Zoom. (Note this is a change from their usual meeting time of 10 a.m.)

The speaker will be Dr. Brenton Wright, neurologist from UCSD Movement Disorder Clinic. He will be hosting an “Open Forum: Ask the Doctor.” Everyone is asked to bring their questions and concerns surrounding Parkinson's disease but refrain from requesting specific medical advice to protect client confidentiality.

Wright is a board-certified neurologist who treats people with movement disorders, including Parkinson's disease, dystonia, tremor, ataxia, chorea, tics, tardive

syndromes and other rare diseases.

As an assistant professor in the Department of Neurosciences, he trains medical students, residents and fellows at UC San Diego School of Medicine. He also conducts research on gait and balance in neurodegenerative diseases; clinical research in Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease and other movement disorders; mechanisms and outcomes of deep brain stimulation surgery; and outcomes of continuous intrathecal levodopa infusion. His research has been published in several peer-reviewed journals.

For more information, see the Neurological Institute website, <https://health.ucsd.edu/specialties/neuro/Pages/default.aspx>.

This meeting is held in support

of Persons with Parkinson's disease, care partners and people interested in improving the world of those affected by Parkinson's disease. There is no cost associated with this Zoom meeting.

Contact Irene at 760-731-0171, NCPSGF@gmail.com or Caryl at cbonnell@ucsd.edu with any questions or concerns about joining a Zoom meeting. Anyone joining as a new attendee to the group can email to request a Zoom invite.

Fallbrook Parkinson's Support Group is an affiliate group of North County Parkinson's Support Group. <https://ncpsg.org/>.

Submitted by Fallbrook Parkinson's Support Group.

Finding the source of your fears

Stanley Popovich
Special to Village News

A sure way to overcoming your fears and anxieties is finding the source of your fears and being able to manage it. In dealing with any kind of fear or anxiety, try to learn what is the real source of your fear and anxiety. Knowing what is causing your anxieties can go a long way in finding the solution.

A person can find the source of his or her own fears by doing some self-evaluation and also by talking to a professional. Asking yourself questions such as: “Why am I afraid?” or “What is causing my anxiety?” will lead you in the right direction in finding the source of your fears. Give it some time and eventually you will find the answers you are looking for.

Once you find the true source of your fears, the next step is to find the solutions that will solve your problem. With the help of a professional, write down a list of possible techniques and solutions that you think will manage your fear and anxieties. The next step is to apply the techniques that you uncovered. Here is a brief list of some techniques you can use to help deal with your fears.

A good way to manage your worry is to challenge your negative thinking with positive statements and realistic thinking. When encountering thoughts that make you fearful or anxious, challenge those thoughts by asking yourself questions that will maintain objectivity and common sense.

Be smart in how you deal with your fears and anxieties. Do not try to tackle everything all at once. When facing a current or upcoming task that overwhelms you with a lot of anxiety, break the task into a series of smaller steps. Completing these smaller tasks one at a time will make the stress more manageable and increases

your chances of success.


Learn to take it one day at a time. Instead of worrying about how you will get through the rest of the week or coming month, try to focus on today. Each day can provide us with different opportunities to learn new things and that includes learning how to deal with your problems. When the time comes, hopefully you will have learned the skills to deal with your situation.

Sometimes we encounter a scary situation that gets us all upset. When encountering these events, always remember to get all of the facts of the given situation. Gathering the facts can prevent us from relying on exaggerated and fearful assumptions. By focusing on the facts, a person can rely on what is reality and what is not.

In every anxiety-related situation you experience, begin to learn what works, what doesn't work, and what you need to improve on in managing your fears and anxieties. For instance, you have a lot of anxiety and you decide to take a walk to help you feel better. The next time you feel anxious you can remind yourself that you got through it the last time by taking a walk. This will give you the confidence to manage your anxiety the next time around.


Many people try to get rid of their anxieties and fears without taking into consideration why they are afraid. The best way to get rid of your fears is to find those techniques that will manage the true source of your fears. If you can do this, then you should be able to overcome your fears and anxieties.

Stan Popovich is the author of “A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear Using Psychology, Christianity and Non Resistant Methods.” For more information, visit <http://www.managingfear.com/>.



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SPORTS

Jones beats boys in virtual swim meet

Joe Naiman
Village News reporter

The Fallbrook High School and San Pasqual High School swim teams had a virtual meet March 4 with the Fallbrook boys and girls competing in the Fallbrook High School pool and the San Pasqual contingent using the Del Norte High School pool.

Although each actual race involved only swimmers from one school, the boys and girls from each school swam in the same race and Fallbrook junior Jocelyn Jones finished ahead of two Fallbrook boys in each of her individual races and had faster times than all three San Pasqual boys in the 50-yard freestyle while bettering two San Pasqual boys in the 100-yard freestyle.

Although dual meets with two teams in the same pool are allowed, San Pasqual, which was scheduled to host the March 4 meet, was not able to obtain a starting time earlier than 6:45 p.m., so the Fallbrook swimmers and divers likely wouldn't have returned home until after 10 p.m. The Fallbrook portion of the meet began at 3 p.m. and was completed around 5 p.m. San Pasqual was not made aware of the Fallbrook times until after the Golden Eagles swam.

"I think the kids had fun because they got to race," said Fallbrook girls coach Sean Redmond.

"I was skeptical that kids wouldn't take it seriously, but it was exactly the opposite,"

said Fallbrook boys coach Bill Richardson. "It definitely worked out okay."

Having boys and girls in the same races meant that one of the girls might have a faster time than at least one of the boys. "That in itself caused excitement," Redmond said. "That worked out for us well."

"They kind of test each other," Richardson said. "I'm sure that pushed the boys."

Each school is allowed up to three swimmers in each of the eight individual events and up to two relay teams in each of the three relay races. Although the Fallbrook and San Pasqual swimmers were unaware of how they would fare against their counterparts, the desire to beat their own teammates provided the pacing and final efforts associated with a normal meet. "It's a matter of pride," Redmond said.

Richardson noted that the pacing includes saving effort for later races. "You have to give it everything you have and see what happens," he said. "I think it will make a difference in the longer events."

Fallbrook took first and second in the boys 50-yard freestyle race with junior Brock Bushnell finishing in 22.84 seconds, which is an automatic qualifying time for the CIF meet should it be held this year, and junior Tegan Cannon completing his two laps in 25.64 seconds.

Cannon was actually the third overall finisher as Jones had a time of 25.33 seconds, which is an automatic CIF meet qualifying

time. "That was a good race to watch between the two of them," Redmond said. "That had a little bit of excitement there."

The first finisher in the 100-yard freestyle, junior Kai Maestas, had a CIF meet consideration time of 51.65 seconds.

Jones' time of 59.04 seconds is a consideration mark. One San Pasqual boy joined Maestas in having a faster time than Jones.

Richardson noted that the boys and the girls practice together. "I don't think it's any surprise to those boys," he said of Jones' speed. "She deserves everything she gets."

Because Fallbrook High School's pool had been closed, Jones practiced with the Renegade club during the summer and fall. Those practices were at the Baker Boys and Girls Club in Escondido, so she swam with many members of the San Pasqual High School team.

"That was the bad part about not being able to do it in person," Redmond said. "She wasn't able to see some of her friends."

The inability to be in person with friends on the opposite team also involved San Pasqual junior Kayden Trafford, who swam for Fallbrook as a freshman and sophomore and also played water polo for the Warriors.

Redmond noted that availability of a local pool in Escondido during the summer and fall gave San Pasqual an advantage in the meet against Fallbrook. "They have quite a few year-round club swimmers

who have been able to swim," he said.

San Pasqual won the girls portion of the meet by a 90-79 score. "They had some really good swimmers," Redmond said.

After the conclusion of the Fallbrook performances, Redmond traveled to Del Norte to watch the Golden Eagles swim and dive. "It was fun to watch," he said.

Fallbrook's boys took a 95-81 victory over their San Pasqual counterparts. "They had a couple of personal bests," Richardson said. "They had some great swims for where we're at in the season."

Because San Pasqual has a declared diver, the diving results were included in the boys team score even though the Golden Eagles' diver didn't compete. Fallbrook senior Donovan Taylor accumulated 245.85 points on six dives, bettering the CIF meet automatic qualification score he achieved Feb. 25.

The Fallbrook girls divers competed for CIF qualifying purposes. A score of 193.00 gave sophomore Payton Wilson automatic qualifying status; senior Cassidy Ewig posted her first consideration score of the year with 178.15 points, and freshman Ava Papoulias accumulated 126.30 points for her six dives.

Papoulias' first high school meet Feb. 25 included a diving score of 101.95 points. "That's a huge improvement," Redmond said of her March 4 score. "She even did new dives."

In both of Trafford's individual races, he finished second overall behind Fallbrook junior Doug Pearce. Pearce won the 200-yard individual medley with an automatic qualifying time of 2:02.68 and Trafford earned consideration status with a 2:17.03 performance. Pearce also posted an automatic time in the 100-yard butterfly he won in 53.63 seconds while Trafford's time was 1:02.93.

Bushnell also won the 500-yard freestyle and had a consideration time of 5:10.57. Maestas added a win in the 100-yard backstroke

while posting a consideration time of 1:06.27. Fallbrook sophomore Ian Ritchie had consideration times in both of his individual events, winning the 200-yard freestyle in 1:56.11 and placing second in the 100-yard backstroke he completed in 1:02.27.

Fallbrook won both freestyle relay races. Ritchie, Maestas, Pearce and Bushnell had an automatic time of 1:35.04 in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Bushnell, Pearce, Ritchie, and Maestas completed the 400-yard freestyle relay in a consideration time of 3:33.19.

San Pasqual won the 200-yard medley relay, but the Fallbrook quartet of junior Jake Martin swimming the backstroke, freshman John Hodgkinson taking the breaststroke laps, junior John Norman using the butterfly stroke, and sophomore Kenneth Fukunaga anchoring the race with the freestyle gave the Warriors consideration status in that event with a time of 2:02.53.

Fallbrook took both first and second in the girls 200-yard freestyle relay. "It was a good race," Redmond said.

Both Fallbrook times met the consideration standard. The winning time of 2:01.61 was posted by junior Grace Goode, junior Erin Burnett, freshman Kela Kendall, and Jones. The quartet of junior Leyla Houx, sophomore Arden Baur, Wilson, and junior Brooklyn Van Norstam finished in 2:02.48.

The faster San Pasqual girls 200-yard freestyle relay team completed the event in 2:02.67. "That would have been a fun race," Redmond said.

San Pasqual won the other two girls relay races, but Fallbrook had consideration times in both. Goode, freshman Ava Dowden, sophomore Stephanie Hanlon, and freshman Marissa Pearce swam the 200-yard medley relay in 2:05.56. San Pasqual won the 400-yard freestyle relay in 4:17.03 while Pearce, Dowden, Hanlon, and Jones took 4:18.67.

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Warriors take on the Eagles



Warrior Ethan Lenaway plays a singles match during a coed tennis meet against the Tri-City Christian Eagles at Fallbrook High School, March 4. Village News/Shane Gibson photos



Fallbrook's Nolan Sim takes a forehand shot against a Tri-City Christian Eagle.



Warrior Nash Youngren goes in for a backhand shot against an Eagle opponent.



Lady Warrior Alexandra Guadarrama plays a singles match against a Tri-City Christian Eagle.



Warrior Carly Hawkins plays a singles match against her Tri-City Christian opponent.



Warrior Angie Palmerin serves the ball to an Eagle opponent during a coed tennis meet at Fallbrook High School.

Traut to play lacrosse for Westcliff

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

Fallbrook High School senior Cole Traut will be playing college lacrosse at Westcliff University.

"I'm just really excited to play there and further my experience playing," Traut said.

"I'm just really proud of him," Mike Zinniger, coach at Fallbrook High School, said. "We're all very excited for him and very proud of his effort through the years. I think he's going to have a great career."

Traut did not consider any other schools.

"Westcliff reached out to me first," he said.

His interaction with the Irvine school convinced Traut to sign a letter of intent.

"Westcliff really fit me," Traut said.

Fallbrook High School and Westcliff University both have the nickname Warriors as does Fallbrook's youth feeder club program. Westcliff had 3,100 students in 2020. Traut liked that Westcliff is close to home and also liked the school's small student to teacher ratio.

At this point, Traut said he is planning to be a business major.

"I'm not sure that's what I want to stick with," he said.

Westcliff also has one of only two non-club men's lacrosse college programs in California. Notre Dame de Namur is in Division II of the National Collegiate

Athletic Association. Westcliff is in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Westcliff is still forming a men's lacrosse program. The 2021 season was supposed to be the first for the Warriors, although the coronavirus shutdown has postponed the beginning of competition.

"He's going to be kind of on the ground floor," Zinniger said.

Traut, a lifelong Fallbrook resident who attended Live Oak Elementary School and Potter Junior High School before enrolling at Fallbrook High School, began his lacrosse activity with the Fallbrook Warrior Lacrosse Club while in fourth grade. He played for the 395 Starz club in sixth grade and with ULAX one year. He is now with the SoCal Devils, who were founded in 2020 and are based at Mount Carmel High School.

Traut started ninth grade on Fallbrook's junior varsity team, although the defender was called up to the Warriors' varsity for some games in 2018. He considers being called up for those games and having some varsity playing time as a freshman to be his favorite Fallbrook High School lacrosse memory, and his favorite overall Fallbrook High School memory is being with friends on the campus.

He spent all of 2019 on Fallbrook's varsity. Not only did Traut play varsity lacrosse as a sophomore in 2019, but he was also on Fallbrook's varsity tennis team. Boys tennis and lacrosse are

both spring sports.

"It keeps you busy," Traut said.

The high school tennis matches are played after school and the lacrosse games at night, so the only conflict was during the postseason. Traut did not play high school tennis as a freshman.

Traut played neither lacrosse nor tennis as a junior. He started the season injured and was cleared to play the week the CIF San Diego Section shut down spring sports due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Westcliff thus brought Traut into the college program despite only one year of high school varsity.

"I was a little surprised," Traut said.

That surprise was because Traut, who was not an all-league player in 2019, has not yet had the opportunity to display his skills past his sophomore year.

"I knew I had the skill," he said.

Westcliff asked for the film of Traut. Although there was none from his junior year, Zinniger had film from 2019 and provided that.

"He's been a great kid for the program," Zinniger said. "He's going to be an excellent representative up at Westcliff."

In addition to his youth lacrosse experience before Fallbrook High School, Traut also played football in Fallbrook Pop Warner through seventh grade. He raced motocross from seventh grade through 11th grade.

"He's just been fun to have. The boys look up to him. We're going to miss him for sure," Zinniger



Fallbrook Warrior athlete Cole Traut signs his letter of intent to play lacrosse at Westcliff University in Irvine. Village News/Shane Gibson photo

said. "I look forward to following his career at Westcliff."

Joe Naiman can be reached by email at jnaiman@reedermedia.com.

Fallbrook School of the Arts encourages creativity during the pandemic



The Mudslingers ceramics class for children has been working on creating clay birds and bird nests for spring.



Finnegan Gilbert, 11, works on forming and carving a bowl on the wheel.



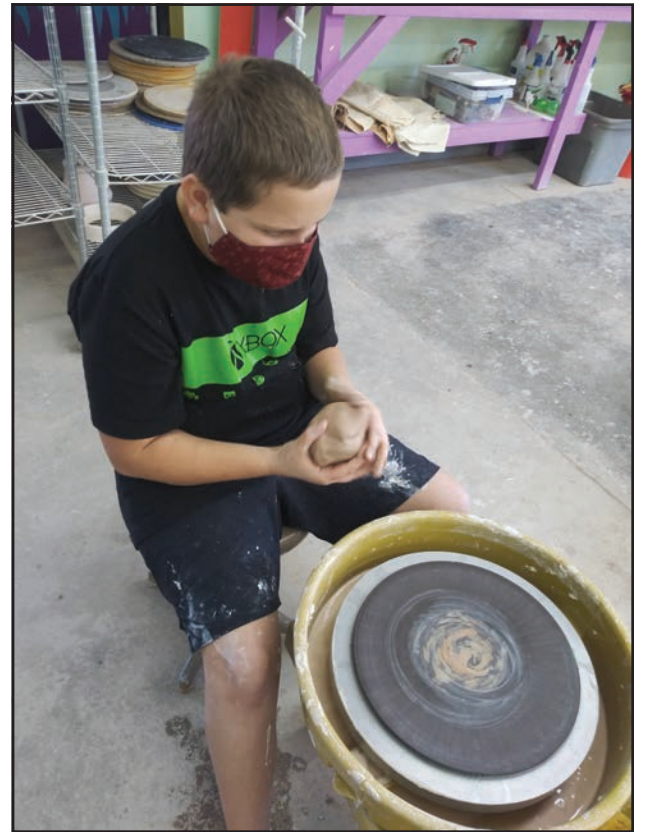
Ceramics teacher Maggie Skidmore helps a student begin her project. Village News/Christal Gaines-Emory photos



Each student meticulously glazes their project after letting them dry out.



Luna Gilbert uses the roller to flatten the slab of clay for her new project.



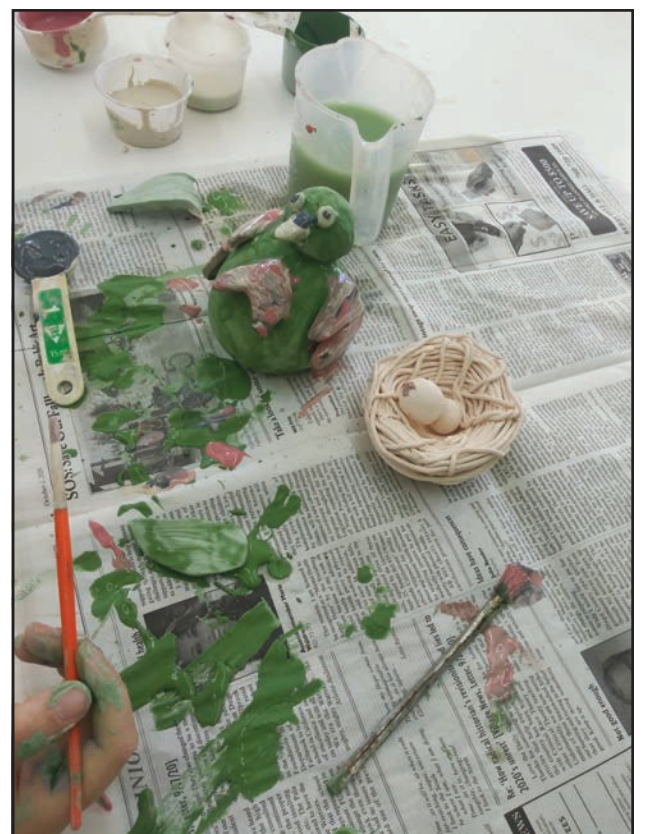
John Gibson starts forming his clay to begin throwing the project on the wheel.



The students work on glazing their ceramic birds by adding multiple layers to make the colors more vibrant.



Maggie Skidmore first began studying ceramics 20 years ago at the Fallbrook School of the Arts, and she fell in love with it.



The students are all encouraged to use their creativity in their projects.

Christal Gaines-Emory
 Writer

The Fallbrook School of the Arts first opened in 1999, and it has been serving Fallbrook residents ever since. Students of all ages are welcome, and they offer a variety of classes including painting, ceramics, glass blowing, jewelry making, and more.

The Fallbrook School of the Arts was closed for five months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but in July the students were able to return to their classes and continue expressing themselves through art. One class that has become increasingly popular is the Mudslingers ceramics class

for children ages 6-13.

Fallbrook School of the Arts Director Christine Vanni said she feels very grateful to be able to offer students a creative outlet during this time.

“At the school, we allow students the freedom to be creative,” said Vanni. “This is a safe environment and a great place for students of all ages.”

This ceramics class is taught by Maggie Skidmore, an experienced ceramist who began learning about clay and pottery 20 years ago at the Fallbrook School of the Arts, and she is one of the original teachers.

“I love introducing ceramics to people who’ve never done it

before,” said Skidmore. “They’re happy to see that they can do art too, even if they hadn’t considered themselves artists before.”

Each Mudslinger class has 12-15 students, and they are required to wear a mask and social distance at this time. The students start by learning about the clay and how to form it, and they work their way up to throwing on the wheel and creating their own projects.

“Maggie encourages the students to be artists, they’re creating art instead of copying others,” said Vanni.

The students love the Mudslingers class, and they love being able to learn new things. They have the opportunity to use

this class as their creative outlet, and they are able to continue learning during this stressful time. Many of the students have taken the class multiple times; they keep coming back to learn more and work on new projects.

One student, 11 year old Finnegan Gilbert, said that he loves being able to make his own dishes on the wheel.

“I like making bowls that I can use at home,” he said. “It’s fun to make new things.”

Another student, John Gibson, has been open about his love for the Mudslingers class and pottery.

“I love learning about all the new projects and learning how to make different objects,” he

said. “I love everything about this class.”

The Fallbrook School of the Arts is currently offering 15 in person art classes, and the staff is excited to continue educating Fallbrook residents in the arts.

“We’ve grown so much since the school first started, we’re very fortunate for the amount of community support,” said Vanni. “Our students are truly making art, and we will continue to nurture artistic creativity in every student.”

For more information about the classes offered at The Fallbrook School of the Arts, visit <https://www.fallbrookschoolofthearts.org/>.

HOME & GARDEN AND REAL ESTATE

Managing a backyard bird habitat

FALLBROOK – For many nature enthusiasts, there’s nothing more rewarding than seeing wildlife right in their own backyard. Providing several different types of foods can be the first step to welcoming a variety of birds to one’s yard.

Bill Askenburg, a backyard birding enthusiast and maker of custom birdhouses, says he offers thistle seed to attract finches and chickadees.

A nut and berry mix is set out for woodpeckers and a sunflower/safflower mix attracts cardinals, wrens, doves and blue jays.

A few different feeders placed at various heights or hung from branches on a property can attract an abundance of wildlife.

Feeding birds is one way to enjoy their company. Offering other features can increase the chances that birds will nest and raise young in a backyard habitat.

Following are some ways to attract the types of feathered friends that will find local yards habitable.

- A hands-off approach may work best. It’s easy to want to remove felled trees, tall grasses or old brush from the yard. However, these items could be the very spots certain birds deem worthy for their nests.

The same can be said for



Placing nesting boxes or bird houses around the yard will attract birds that prefer the protected cavities of small hollows for their nests.

abandoned nests from last season. Leave them in place and they may be reoccupied by other birds or taken apart for nesting material.

- Tall trees will attract a number of birds that prefer nests in the high branches, such as jays and mourning doves.

- Think about placing nesting boxes around the yard. This will attract birds that prefer the protected cavities of small hollows for their nests. The boxes will compensate for lost habitats where these birds would normally nest.

- Water fountains and birdbaths that are frequently refreshed with clean water provide drinking and bathing opportunities for birds. Birds are hard-pressed to resist the gentle trickle of water.

- Enhance a backyard habitat by choosing both native and ornamental plantings that provide seeds or berries for the birds one wishes to attract. These natural options can be used in conjunction with packaged seeds and berries as other food sources.

Having a variety of food sources,



Feeding birds is one way to enjoy their company.

Village News/Courtesy photos

nesting opportunities and hiding spots available will help ensure the greatest chance for wildlife taking up residence in one’s yard.

NCFPD approves purchase, construction contract for modular Station 3

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

The North County Fire Protection District’s Station 3 in Rainbow will have a new modular building.

A 5-0 NCFPD board vote, Feb. 23, authorized up to \$425,000 for the purchase, construction and installation of the new building, declared the modular building to be a sole source project and authorized NCFPD Fire Chief Steve Abbott to execute a contract for the construction and installation.

“This will be an option that I think will serve us well,” Keith McReynolds, NCFPD division chief for administrative services and training, said.

The North County Fire Protection District was created in 1986 when the Fallbrook Fire Protection District merged with the county service area which provided fire protection to Rainbow and Gavilan Mountain was added to the new district. The Rainbow

Volunteer Fire Department retained its autonomy, and the Rainbow fire station became NCFPD Station 6. The station was renamed Station 3 in 2018 when the original Station 3 in Olive Hill was closed due to the relocation of Station 5 in Bonsall. The Rainbow Volunteer Fire Department was consolidated into the North County Fire Protection District in 2018.

Because the Rainbow fire station utilized a volunteer fire department, living quarters were not incorporated into the design.

“The crews aren’t even sleeping in the same area. They’re on different sides of the station,” McReynolds said.

“I see the need for sure,” NCFPD board member David Kennedy said.

The October 2020 NCFPD board meeting included approval of a Facilities Replacement Plan which calls for a temporary Station 3 facility this year.

“That modular building would



The fire station in Rainbow is getting a new modular building with about 2,000 square feet of living space as the former all-volunteer station did not have living quarters.

Village News/Lucette Moramarco photo

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be appropriate for that project,” McReynolds said.

The existing fire station will remain and will be used for such functions as storage, laundry facilities and an exercise and a fitness area.

Custom floor plans cannot follow standard floor plans constructed on assembly lines.

“It’s going to have to be a custom manufactured structure,”

McReynolds said.

The fire district had to identify custom construction companies.

“We ended up finding a builder,” McReynolds said.

Pacific Homes is based in San Marcos and has constructed modular buildings for the Carlsbad and Rancho Santa Fe fire departments and for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Input from those agencies provided

a positive NCFPD opinion about Pacific Homes.

“They were pretty happy and recommended that we go this route for this particular project,” McReynolds said.

A competitive bid process would not have provided any other submissions.

“There’s only one builder out there,” McReynolds said.

The construction cost is estimated at between \$150 and \$200 per square foot. The 2020-2021 NCFPD budget allocated \$400,000 for the new temporary Rainbow fire station. Pacific Homes would design, build, deliver and install the modular building and would also provide utility connection. The cost will also include hardscape and a covered walkway to the existing apparatus bay.

“This is definitely the cheapest way to go,” McReynolds said.

The lack of existing inventory for a custom modular building, other construction commitments and coronavirus protocol will create a time period between the order and the actual installation. “That process can take six to 12 months,” McReynolds said.

A modular building currently on the site has been used as a training facility. That building will be removed; if any interest in that building is conveyed to the district, the new owner will be responsible for relocation while, if the current modular building is to be sent to a waste site, the transport and waste disposal cost would be approximately \$25,000.

Joe Naiman can be reached by email at jnaiman@reedermedia.com.

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SRES

County staff, SDG&E to work on power shut-off vulnerabilities

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

If high winds create the risk of a San Diego Gas & Electric power line causing a wildfire, SDG&E will shut off electrical power to that area. That creates vulnerabilities for those without power, and SDG&E will be working with San Diego County staff to address those vulnerabilities.

On March 2, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 to direct the county's chief administrative officer to identify gaps in Power Safety Power Shutdown mitigations and identify opportunities to reduce the impacts including health and safety needs, assistance to individuals with special access and functional requirements and backup power for traffic signals and other road infrastructure.

The process will involve collaboration with stakeholders including SDG&E, county representatives and other public agencies and organizations. The chief administrative officer was also directed to work with state of California representatives to pursue public funding to address the gaps and to pursue private funding which might be available, and the CAO will return to the board within 180 days with a report and recommendations to reduce power safety power shut-off impacts in the county.

A separate 5-0 vote, Tuesday, March 2, approved the acceptance of a \$607,238 Community Power Resiliency grant from the state Office of Emergency Services which will provide \$303,664 for an emergency generator for the county's Health Services Complex in San Diego, \$151,832 for emergency backup generators at the Lake Morena, San Pasqual and Sunshine Summit fire stations, and \$151,832 to replace traffic signal backup batteries at 54 intersections throughout the unincorporated area.

"I really appreciate it," county supervisor Joel Anderson said.

Downed power lines have been responsible for numerous wildfires in San Diego County this century including the October 2007 Rice Fire which began in Rainbow and, after the October 2007 fires, SDG&E identified high fire risk areas.

If high winds create the risk of both a downed power line and a fast spread of a wildfire, power is shut off to the specific areas with high risk. SDG&E began using public safety power shut-offs in 2013 and has since refined the program to target specific areas and provide notification to area residents and businesses.

"Power safety shut-offs are important to keep people safe. We do not take this responsibility lightly and only use shut-offs

as a last resort," Joe Galbadon, SDG&E public affairs manager, said.

Public safety power shut-offs during 2019 impacted 48,740 customer meters, and the outages ranged from one hour to 24 hours. During 2020, power was shut off to 100,725 meters and the shut-offs lasted between seven and 35 hours. County supervisor Jim Desmond said that power in parts of Fallbrook was shut off on Christmas Eve.

"It can really disrupt your life, especially in unincorporated areas," Desmond said.

The 2019 outages impacted 66 communities including Indian reservations and portions of the city of San Diego. The 2020 shut-offs impacted 44 communities including Indian reservations and seven incorporated cities.

"It's not just the rural areas that are impacted," Desmond said.

San Diego County maintains traffic signals at approximately 200 intersections in the unincorporated area, and the California Department of Transportation maintains signals at any unincorporated intersection involving at least one interstate freeway or state highway.

All traffic signals default to flashing red lights if power is lost or if the signal malfunctions, and the flashing red lights can be maintained for four to eight hours before the signal loses energy. If power is not restored after that time the light functions of the signal can be lost.

"I'm grateful that this includes battery backup," Desmond said of the funding approved March 2.

Desmond said that the extended loss of power to signals has resulted in a total lack of lighting during darkness hours.

"We need to address that," he said.

The Community Power Resiliency program was called the Local Government Public Safety Power shut-off Resiliency Program in January 2020 when the Board of Supervisors accepted a \$1,214,656 grant, and that day the county supervisors also approved the purchase and installation of six emergency generators for County Library branches in Campo, Descanso, Jacumba, Julian, Pine Valley and Potrero.

The plan to be developed by county staff in conjunction with stakeholders over the 180-day period, if not shorter, will focus on increasing regional resiliency and will help prioritize the distribution of grant funding from the state as well as determine whether additional funding opportunities are available to mitigate public safety power shut-off events.

Joe Naiman can be reached by email at jnaiman@redermedia.com.

Successful sustainable landscaping is a click away for Fallbrook, Rainbow customers

SAN DIEGO – No matter whether their landscaping is just a few square feet alongside a front porch or estate acreage, thousands of San Diego County residents have learned to embrace sustainability as a central principle for creating and renovating their landscapes. The San Diego County Water Authority offers financial incentives and educational resources to customers in Fallbrook and Rainbow to improve their landscaping.

In fact, since 2010, the Water Authority has secured more than \$8 million in grants to deliver services at no cost to San Diego County residents, including those in the Fallbrook and Rainbow service areas, providing WaterSmart landscape makeover classes and incentivizing the purchase and installation of drought-tolerant plants that help beautify and sustain communities.

"After living for a while in Fallbrook, I realized the green grassy landscape would have to be replaced to conserve water," Fallbrook resident Adriana Monteiro said. "But after getting an irrigation checkup and participating in the landscape makeover classes, I would never have imagined the joy I get looking out over our front garden or when we drive up to the house. The energy and water savings, along with the Water Authority's classes and resources, are the gifts that keep on giving."

Landscape irrigation is among the highest uses of water for most homeowners and improvements can help them save money on their water bill in the long term.

Treating every garden, no matter its size, as its own mini-watershed allows it to capture and retain water to nurture a diverse habitat of plants and helpful insects.

Watersmart living saves money, but it also creates vibrant yards, reduces energy use, protects natural resources and reduces landscape maintenance. It may improve property values. It also creates a shared sense of purpose about how water supplies are used.

What elements should be considered when taking a watershed approach to one's landscape?

Healthy, living soils rich in organic content feed a complex soil food web. The soil holds water like a sponge and has nutrients for optimal plant health.

Many choices of beautiful groundcovers, shrubs and trees are compatible with San Diego's mild Mediterranean climate. These plants use less water and display diverse colors, textures and shaped with endless design options.

Sustainable landscapes make the most of rainfall. Slowing the flow of water off rooftops and hard surfaces allow it to be captured and sink into the soil or be stored



Fallbrook resident Adriana Monteiro was inspired to replace her grassy front yard, top photo, with sustainable, water-efficient landscaping, bottom, thanks to landscape makeover classes and resources offered by the San Diego County Water Authority.

for later use.

Your irrigation can maximize water-use efficiency through smart controllers to adjust water automatically to changing weather conditions, and high-performance distribution components to regulate pressure and tailor water delivery to the exact needs of your landscape plants.

The four principles of successful sustainable landscaping are on display at the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas. The garden is open to the public and includes informational signage introducing visitors to key sustainable landscaping principles and specific plant types that grow successfully

in the region's climate. Many are Southern California natives. Be sure to visit the garden's website at <http://www.sdbgarden.org> for the latest on hours of operation and safety measures before you plan your trip to the garden.

For additional resources, such as the Sustainable Landscapes Program guidebook, visit <http://www.SustainableLandscapesSD.org>. Information and resources for landscaping upgrades, including WaterSmart landscape makeover classes, can be found by visiting <http://www.WaterSmartSD.org>.

Submitted by San Diego County Water Authority.

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The friendship of Parkie and Aunt Bessie grows

Rebecca Marshall Farnbach
Special to Village News

In April 1879, a weary doctor delivered Ysabel Grace Gonzalez, the first non-Native female born in Temecula. Her new life and the blossoming of spring infused him with much needed hope. He had just passed through a worrisome winter recovering from tuberculosis and had just buried his precious 1-year-old daughter on a hillside overlooking Temecula. Attending the birth of the healthy baby Ysabel encouraged him. He wrote euphorically to relatives in New York State, saying he had just made it in time to deliver the “very pretty and plump girl.”

The name of the doctor and the site of his child’s grave are long forgotten, but the legacy of the healthy baby lives. And, because of Ysabel and her friendship with a lonely boy named Horace, residents can understand what Temecula was like during her lifetime.

Ysabel joined her family which consisted of her mother, father and her 2-year-old brother Ormiston. Her mother, Grace Street Gonzalez, was an English governess for a rancher’s children in Lake Elsinore when Ysabel’s father Jose Maria Gonzalez met her. Jose was a businessman and accountant from Spain who came to the area with Juan Murrieta, a fellow Spaniard, in the early 1870s.

The Gonzalez’ Temecula home was made from adobe and was surrounded by open land of the Temecula Rancho. Ysabel, or “Bessie,” attended the one-room school in Temecula, before going to live with relatives in Mexico for high school where she was taught in what her father called the “old Spanish way.” Ysabel became an accomplished pianist and a teacher. She returned to Temecula, and in 1905 she married her Temecula neighbor Ben Barnett, who became the local judge. Their home doubled as a courthouse for Judge Barnett.

Horace “Parkie” Parker came to town in 1924 when his father was assigned to the post of stationmaster for the Temecula train depot. Horace Parker loved going to Ben and “Aunt Bessie” Barnett’s ranch to play with their boys Chester and Francis. The boys enjoyed their freedom and built tree houses, dammed the creek and did the fun and messy things that boys liked to do. Parkie savored the beans Bessie kept at a simmer on her stove for the ravenous boys. He later said Bessie welcomed him into their home when he was the “lonely, only child” of the stationmaster.

In time, Horace opened a successful veterinary practice in Costa Mesa, but his heart never left Temecula. In 1960, the middle-aged veterinarian started to visit the aging Bessie. Horace’s parents had died and when he returned to the town of his boyhood, it was therapeutic to talk to Aunt Bessie about old times and old-timers of Temecula.

“Before I could open the door, I’d hear her cheery hail, ‘Come in Horace...well, how’s my boy today?’” he said.

Their visits provided a welcome distraction from the consuming responsibilities of his veterinary practice. Bessie regaled him for hours as he took copious notes from which he eventually published several booklets. Horace eventually quit his veterinary practice to write and research full time. Horace credited Bessie with being “a historical bridge between present day events and those that happened almost a century ago” and said she was the inspiration for his interest in Temecula history.

During their long talks, Bessie told Parker about her early memories of Old Town Temecula, when Front Street was a dirt road and there were only a few stores, a livery stable and a hotel. She told him about the granite quarry south of town that supplied stone for important buildings in Riverside, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Her stories would have entailed

transportation of livestock and goods by rail and about Parkie’s father, the station agent.

Bessie remembered when the Temecula Bank was built in 1914 and when it was robbed in 1930. She knew Louis and Ramona Wolf, Mac and Alice Machado, Juan and Adele Murrieta, the Weltys who owned the hotel, author Erle Stanley Gardner, his sidekick Sam Hicks and Joe Winkles who ran the bootleg bar.

She remembered when the Vails bought four Mexican ranchos in 1905 and how the Vail Ranch cattle dominated the area. Bessie’s told stories about cowboys, businessmen and Hollywood friends who visited the Vail Ranch and hunted game throughout the area, while others vacationed at the Guenther’s Murrieta Hot Springs Resort where Juan Murrieta once washed his sheep.

As Bessie talked, Parker passed through time and saw Temecula through her eyes. “... (The) plump baby girl was my old friend ... and it was she who inspired my research on the Temecula country ...”

Horace and his wife Leverne decided to move to Temecula. They bought the old Welty Hotel in 1960, a rundown, dirty, mouse-infested place that once catered to people who came to Temecula by train. It connected Parkie to his past. The Parkers and their two teen daughters renovated the circa 1890 building and its 24 rooms, making it into their home.

He wrote the Brush Country Journal syndicated newspaper column and several little books from the 1950s through 1970s, sharing Bessie’s memories and his research. By the time Bessie’s days in Temecula ended, the lonely little stationmaster’s son had made her proud. And now, the Barnetts and Parkers all reside near each other in the Temecula Cemetery.

The Parker’s Hotel Temecula home is now a bed & breakfast. Ysabel’s childhood home is the Molly Maids business in the center of the Adobe Plaza on Jefferson Avenue. Temecula’s Ysabel Barnett Elementary School is named in honor of Bessie. The one-room school she attended has been lovingly restored and is located on Santiago Road.

Rebecca Marshall Farnbach is



Horace “Parkie” Parker, right, with his mother Augusta Parker and wife Leverne Parker, middle, stand near the ruins of the Magee adobe in 1938. Valley News/Courtesy photos



Hotel Temecula is seen as it looked in 1960 when the Parkers purchased it.



The Gonzalez family pose for a photo on their land with their house in the background.

an author and co-author of several history books about the Temecula area. The books are available for purchase at the Little Temecula History Center or online from booksellers and at <http://www.temeculahistoricalociety.org>.

Horace Parker’s books are also available online. Visit Rebecca’s Amazon author page at <http://www.amazon.com/-/e/B01JQZV05E>. For more information, contact Rebecca Marshall Farnbach at RFarnbach@gmail.com.

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March is National Pet Poison Prevention Month

LOS ANGELES – Watching your dog or cat get sick from toxic items or poison is a nightmare for any pet owner. Symptoms of poisoning can be especially traumatic, ranging from seizures and vomiting to nosebleeds and diarrhea.

“Nobody wants to see their pets suffer in such a painful way or, worst-case scenario, have a fatal incident. That’s why it’s important to make sure your home environment keeps dogs and cats as safe as possible,” Dr. Erin Katribe, veterinarian and medical director for Best Friends Animal Society, said.

As March is Pet Poison Prevention Month, Best Friends Animal Society encouraged pet owners to protect their pets from potential ingestion of any of the following: antifreeze, bait for rodents, batteries, car care products, such as cleaners or oils, fertilizer, adhesives, glues, household cleaners, ice-melting products, medications – prescribed and over-the-counter, nicotine products, pesticides for insects and pool or pond products.

“Pets can be very inquisitive, so it’s always best to keep these items in a sealed cabinet area that your pets cannot have access to, whether that’s in the home, in

a shed or in a garage,” Katribe said. “If you use any of these products, always make sure to clean up any spillage immediately and thoroughly so ingestion can’t happen that way, either.”

Food can be toxic to pets, so it’s always important to remember to never give or allow your pets to have access to any of the following: alcoholic beverages, substances containing caffeine, such as coffee, chocolate, fatty foods, especially drippings and grease from cooking, chicken and turkey bones, grapes and raisins, onions and garlic, macadamia nuts, salt and sugar and yeast or bread dough.

“Plants can also be toxic and poisonous to pets,” Katribe said. “These plants include English ivy or holly, lilies, Chinaberry, iris, poinsettia, pokeweed and daphne. For cats, even contact with the pollen of some lilies can be severely toxic.”

Should your pet show any signs of poisoning, which include vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, blood in stool, paralysis, loss of appetite, bruising, nosebleeds, irregular heartbeat or inability to urinate, a veterinary consult is in immediate order.

“Call your veterinary office or an emergency clinic as soon as

possible to let them know of your pet’s symptoms and what they could have possibly ingested. The veterinary staff may be able to provide instructions on how to help decrease the severity of the situation before coming in or they may advise that you come in immediately,” Katribe said. “Time is of the essence when it comes to minimizing the dangerous effects of any poison, so every second counts.”

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading animal welfare organization working to end the killing of dogs and cats in America’s shelters by 2025. Founded in 1984, Best Friends is a pioneer in the no-kill movement and has helped reduce the number of animals killed in shelters from an estimated 17 million per year to around 625,000. Best Friends runs lifesaving programs all across the country, as well as the nation’s largest no-kill animal sanctuary. Working collaboratively with a network of more than 3,200 animal welfare and shelter partners, and community members nationwide, Best Friends is working to “Save Them All.” For more information, visit <http://bestfriends.org>.

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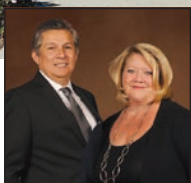
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County residents graduate from first Spanish Language Sheriff's Academy

Donnie Ryan
San Diego County Communications Office

A group of 36 residents of San Diego County graduated Feb. 17 from the "Academia de Alguacil," the first-of-its-kind Spanish language sheriff's academy sponsored by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

Delivered virtually via Zoom and entirely in Spanish, the five-week program was designed as a relationship-building program to help provide equity in educating one of the county's most vulnerable populations about law enforcement procedures and available resources in San Diego County.

Nadia Moshirian Binderup, director of community inclusion for San Diego Sheriff's Department, said the program started with a coordinated effort involving the San Diego County Office of Education – Migrant Education Program. Participants were parents of children who participated in the migrant education program.

"The migrant community is part of the diverse fabric of our region, and one's citizenship status or language preference shouldn't be a barrier or a reason for the community to feel like they can't be safe or have access to public safety services," Binderup said. "Knowing our migrant youth often serve as family spokespersons due to language barriers faced by parents, we wanted to make sure we equipped parents with helpful resources and information."

Binderup said in the past the sheriff's department has worked with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office to offer the joint Citizens' Academy, which helps residents understand how law enforcement and the justice system intersect. However, she said this program is different.

"Academia de Alguacil differs in that it was designed with cultural needs at the forefront; we designed the curriculum and presentations entirely in Spanish and approached the curriculum based on reoccurring themes and needs we see and hear based on what our deputies experience in the communities," Binderup said. "The program hosts were Hispanic deputy sheriffs from various rankings and assignments in the department to bring different expertise to the conversation."

According to Lt. Ricardo Lopez, director of media relations for the San Diego Sheriff's Department, who served as lead facilitator for the program, some of the topics covered during the course included immigration laws, what to expect at traffic stops, domestic violence, drug addiction, human trafficking, hate crimes, gangs and how to become a deputy sheriff.

"There were questions and concerns on immigration enforcement every week," Lopez said. "I believe we definitely cleared up some questions and concerns they had for what we do and more importantly what we don't do. In the end, they left with a much better understanding of our role when it comes to immigration enforcement."



The San Diego Sheriff's Department used virtual technology to host "Academia de Alguacil," a first of its kind Spanish language outreach program in the County.

Village News/Courtesy photo

Lopez said one of the greatest benefits of the program was allowing the sheriff's department to develop a relationship that built trust and made it a comfortable environment in which to ask some very important questions. Several of the participants said they had been waiting a long time to ask specific questions and were relieved to finally be able to do so.

"At first they were very quiet and asked a couple of questions, but by the end of our fifth week the questions they

asked became the main focus and source of conversation of the presentations," Lopez said. "They became more comfortable with us and saw us as being just like them; being able to break the barriers of communication adds a lot to having meaningful conversations."

Lopez said those who attended the program were not only able to receive information in their native language but to also see that local law enforcement share similar family backgrounds, struggles and values.

"There was a participant who said that before the Spanish Academy she was afraid to call the police, but after meeting us and hearing our presentations, she said she would never be afraid to call again," Lopez said. "That was great to hear and really what this academy is all about."

The sheriff's department said it hopes to offer the class at least twice a year, either virtually or in person, as future COVID-19 restrictions dictate.



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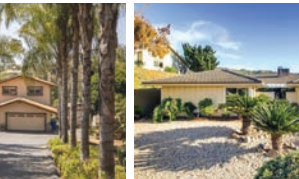
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Our Class Schedule

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- Monday** 6:00 p.m. Group Therapy w/Cindy
- Tuesday** 12:00 p.m. Yoga w/Jenny and Sonia
- Wednesday** 12:00 p.m. Yoga w/ Melissa
- Wednesday** 7:00 p.m. Restorative Yoga w/Jessica
- Wednesday** 7:00 p.m. Bilingual Yoga w/Patricia
- Thursday** 12:00 p.m. Yoga w/Mary or Deb
- Friday** 9:30 a.m. Yoga w/Mary
- Saturday** 9:30 a.m. Young Survivor Yoga w/Jamie
- Sunday** 3:30 p.m. Yoga w/Heidi or Kendra
- Sunday** 5:30 p.m. Bro-ga w/David



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As violence surges, some question Portland axing police unit

Sara Cline

The Associated Press/Report for America

Elmer Yarborough got a terrifying call from his sister: She wept as she told him two of his nephews may have been shot in broad daylight as they left a bar in Portland, Oregon.

He drove there as fast as he could. An officer told him one of his nephews was heading to the hospital and the other, Tyrell Penney, hadn't survived.

"My sister, Tyrell's mom, was on the phone; I just said, 'He's gone.' And I just heard the most horrific scream that you could ever imagine," Yarborough said.

When Penney was killed last summer, unrest was roiling liberal Portland as protesters took to the streets nightly to demand racial justice and defunding police. At the same time, one of the whitest major cities in America was experiencing its deadliest year in more than a quarter-century – a trend seen nationwide in large cities like Chicago and Minneapolis – with shootings that overwhelmingly affected the Black community.

Responding to the calls for change in policing, the mayor and city council cut several police programs from the budget, including one Yarborough believes could have saved his nephew. A specialized unit focused on curbing gun violence, which had long faced criticism for disproportionately targeting people of color, was disbanded a month before Penney, a 27-year-old Black man visiting from Sacramento, California, was killed July 25.



In this Aug. 30, 2020, file photo Portland police Chief Chuck Lovell calls for an end to violence in the city during a news conference a day after a demonstrator was shot and killed in downtown Portland. The Oregonian via AP/Sean Meagher file photo

Yarborough and some other families wonder if ending the unit is partly to blame for Portland's dramatic spike in shootings, but officials and experts attribute increased gun violence in cities nationwide to the hardships of the coronavirus pandemic, unemployment, economic anxiety and stress on mental health.

"Without a doubt, I think it is a possibility that my nephew could still be alive if (the Gun Violence Reduction Team) was not dissolved," Yarborough, a crisis response volunteer for Portland police who responds to shootings to support victims' families, said. "I cannot say for sure if he would, but what I will tell you is

had it not been my nephew that was saved, it probably could have saved the life of someone else," he said.

More people died of gunfire last year in Portland – 40 – than the entire tally of homicides the previous year. The number of shootings – 900 – was nearly 2 1/2 times higher than the year before.

The spike has continued this year, with more than 150 shootings, including 45 people wounded and 12 killed so far.

Police had warned of possible repercussions of ending the unit, pointing out cautionary tales in other cities that had made a similar

see **PORTLAND**, page D-3

Emails: FBI was looking for gold at Pennsylvania dig site

Michael Rubinkam

Associated Press

Go for the gold? The U.S. government went for it.

FBI agents were looking for an extremely valuable cache of fabled Civil War-era gold – possibly tons of it – when they excavated a remote woodland site in Pennsylvania three years ago this month, according to government emails and other recently released documents in the case.

On March 13, 2018, treasure hunters led the FBI to Dent's Run, about 135 miles (220 kilometers) northeast of Pittsburgh, where legend has it an 1863 shipment of Union gold was either lost or stolen on its way to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia.

The FBI has long refused to confirm why exactly it went digging, saying only in written statements over the years that agents were there for a court-authorized excavation of "what evidence suggested may have been a cultural heritage site."

In any event, the FBI says, the dig came up empty.

But the father-son duo who brought a small army of federal agents to the site remain convinced the FBI uncovered something there – and their lawyer, Bill Cluck, is still pressing the case, successfully suing for access to government emails about the dig.

Those documents, which Cluck provided to The Associated Press, show that federal law enforcement was indeed after buried treasure.

"We believe the cache itself is in the neighborhood of 3x5x8 (feet) to 5x5x8," wrote K.T. Newton, an assistant U.S. attorney in Philadelphia, in a 2018 email marked "Confidential."

Since the Elk County site was on state-owned land, the FBI had to secure a federal court order to gain access. The legal maneuvering



In this Sept. 20, 2018 file photo, Dennis Parada, right, and his son Kem Parada stand at the site of the FBI's dig for Civil War-era gold in Dents Run, Pennsylvania. Government emails released under court order show that FBI agents were looking for gold when they excavated Dent's Run in 2018, though the FBI says that nothing was found. (AP Photo/Michael Rubinkam, File)

generated emails between Newton and Audrey Miner, chief lawyer for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

On March 13, as FBI agents clambered up a hill to the target, Miner bluntly asked Newton: "Can you please provide the basis upon which the Office of the United

States Attorney asserts that the gold, if found, belongs to the federal government?"

Newton replied that a federal affidavit in the case was sealed. She instead offered to "discuss this generally with you on the phone," according to email records released by the state under court order.

The federal government followed a well-worn path to the woods of northwestern Pennsylvania, where legendary tales of buried Civil War gold had inspired generations of treasure hunters – including Dennis and Kem Parada.

The Paradas, who co-own the treasure-hunting outfit Finders

Keepers, had spent years looking for the long-lost booty before going to the FBI with their evidence in January 2018, saying their sophisticated detector had registered a hunk of metal they suspected was the gold of lore.

see **GOLD**, page D-3

REGIONAL

California leads with public health and vaccine equity to safely and sustainably reopen

SACRAMENTO—The Newsom Administration announced March 4 that California will lead with safety protocols and vaccine equity to end the pandemic and reopen the economy. To that end, the state has set aside 40% of vaccine doses for the hardest-hit communities and established a vaccine equity metric – which seeks to increase vaccinations in those communities – as a prelude to adjusting the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, which governs the conditions under which California’s economy can safely operate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

California’s approach will continue to focus on masking and effective use of testing, contact tracing, quarantine and isolation. Today the state is also updating its recommendations about the most effective use of masks and when to consider double masking.

“With more vaccines online and administered, California is now in a position to take steps toward ending this pandemic by keeping our guard up and by vaccinating those Californians most at risk and most exposed,” said Governor Newsom. “Vaccinating our most impacted communities, across our state, is the right thing to do and the fastest way to end this pandemic.”

With three vaccines online and nearly 10 million doses administered statewide, vaccines have made a difference and overall disease trends have improved dramatically over the past six weeks. Case rates, test positivity, transmission rate, hospitalizations and ICU admissions are all on a steady decline since the winter surge.

This approach recognizes that the pandemic did not affect

California communities equally. Forty percent of COVID cases and deaths have occurred in the lowest quartile of the Healthy Places Index, which provides overall scores and data that predict life expectancy and compares community conditions that shape health across the state.

The rate of infections for households making less than \$40,000 per year (11.3) is more than double that of households with an income of \$120,000 or more (5.2). At the same time, California’s wealthiest populations are being vaccinated at nearly twice the rate of our most vulnerable populations. The state is committed to doing better.

Consistent with the disproportionate impact of the virus, the state is modifying the Blueprint for a Safer Economy to lead with opening activities when vaccines have been deployed to the hardest-hit communities.

This modification will shift Blueprint tier thresholds to allow slightly higher case rates per 100,000 population once more inoculations have occurred in the communities suffering the most, allowing counties to move to less restrictive tiers.

The initial goal of the vaccine equity metric is to deliver a minimum of 2 million doses to the hardest-hit quarter of the state as measured by the Healthy Places Index. The state has currently delivered 1.6 million doses to this quarter of the state. It is estimated that 2 million doses will be delivered in the vaccine equity quartile sometime in the next two weeks.

Once that threshold is reached, the Blueprint for a Safer Economy

will be updated to allow for somewhat higher case rates in each tier, with an overall effect of allowing counties to loosen health restrictions at a somewhat accelerated, but still responsible, pace. The Blueprint will be updated again when 4 million doses have been administered in the vaccine equity quartile.

Using data to inform vaccine allocations, California will strategically increase the proportion of vaccines distributed to regions hardest hit by COVID-19 to help lower the rate of community infection, hospitalizations and deaths; reduce potential new variants that might emerge with each additional case; and, perhaps most importantly, ensure equitable distribution of the state’s still limited vaccine supply.

The state will accomplish these goals by doubling the allocation for disproportionately-impacted communities (allotting 40% to them) as compared to the rest of the state; reserving appointments for

members of communities severely impacted by the pandemic; and increasing funding for safety net providers to cover startup costs and for navigation assistance.

“Increasing vaccinations in our hardest-hit communities is both morally right, and good for public health, because it will slow the spread of disease,” said Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency. “Even with these changes, California will retain some of the most robust public health protections in the nation.”

“By vaccinating more people, and those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19, science tells us that the disease should spread more slowly, giving variants fewer opportunities to take hold, and the healthcare system should be preserved,” continued Dr. Ghaly.

“Businesses large and small across California have taken extraordinary steps to protect their employees and their customers,” said Dee Dee Myers, senior

advisor to Governor Newsom and Director of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). “Their hard work, along with the efforts of Californians to abide by ongoing guidance, has allowed us to lower infection rates, facilitate equitable vaccine distribution and create an accelerated path toward reopening.”

“Our goal is to get to the day when the Blueprint is no longer needed. As more people are vaccinated and more vaccines are available, especially in our most impacted communities, we can envision a day when California can enter the ‘green tier’ – in which strict public health measures will no longer be needed,” continued Newsom.

“Until then, we will continue to evaluate, update and disclose public health and vaccine data to move at a steady and responsible pace.”

For more information, visit covid19.ca.gov.

Governor announces over 200,000 education workers have been vaccinated in the past week, surpassing goal

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin Newsom announced March 8 that, since the state began dedicating 10% of vaccine supply for education workers on March 1, over 200,000 education workers have been vaccinated, far exceeding the state’s goal of 75,000 vaccines per week.

“This is welcome news for teachers, students and parents as more and more schools reopen safely across the state,” said Governor Newsom. “We will continue working with our local partners to accelerate this effort in communities across the state so that all school staff have access to a vaccine within weeks.”

California was among the first states to authorize vaccines for education workers, with vaccine prioritization a core component of

the Safe Schools for All Plan since December. Prior to the Governor’s 10-percent commitment, 35 counties were actively vaccinating education workers. Last week, through accelerated county-led efforts and supplemental state efforts, over 200,000 education workers in all 58 counties were vaccinated.

This news comes on the heels of continued success in California’s vaccination effort – 10.5 million vaccinations have been administered in the state. More than one in 10 Californians over the age of 16 (3.35 million) are fully vaccinated and more than one in four (1.7 million) people 65 and over are fully vaccinated.

The Governor last week signed a \$6.6 billion package to safely get students back in school, which

provides additional funding to support safety measures for in-person instruction and expanded learning opportunities.

The package also codifies several successful state initiatives, including the Governor’s commitment, beginning March 1, to dedicate 10% of the state’s vaccine supply to education workers – such as teachers, paraprofessionals, school bus drivers, child care workers and site-based administrators. The state outlined its plan to execute on the Governor’s commitment last month.

For more information about safe returns to in-person instruction, please visit schools.covid19.ca.gov.

Citizens’ Law Enforcement Review Board formally releases annual report

Tracy DeFore

County of San Diego
Communications Office

The County Board of Supervisors received the 2020 Annual Report from the Citizens’ Law Enforcement Review Board after a presentation from its executive officer March 2.

CLERB was established in 1990 to investigate citizen complaints against San Diego County Sheriff’s deputies and probation officers. CLERB also has the authority to review all deaths that occur in custody or in connection with the two departments without a complaint.

The review board makes advisory findings on complaints, and recommends policy and procedure changes to the Sheriff, Chief Probation Officer and the Board of Supervisors.

The annual report shows CLERB received 116 complaints in 2020, for a total of 330 allegations. CLERB closed 139 cases in 2020,

some dating back to 2017.

The review board closed 23 fully investigated death cases in 2020, one more than 2019. CLERB opened 15 death cases in 2020 versus 18 in 2019.

CLERB made 12 policy recommendations, 11 to the Sheriff’s Department and one to the Probation Department. Five recommendations to the Sheriff’s Department were implemented, while the remaining six are still under consideration. The policy recommendation to the Probation Department is also still being considered.

This past year, the Board of Supervisors increased CLERB’s independence by moving it from the County’s Public Safety Group to the Finance and General Government Group, strengthened its oversight, and authorized added funding and staffing.

CLERB now has the authority to investigate, without public

see *LAW*, page B-4

NCTD provides free shuttle to Del Mar Fairgrounds Vaccination Super Station

Shuttle to run 7 days a week from the Solana Beach Station

SOLANA BEACH—Beginning Monday, March 8, the North County Transit District, in coordination with Scripps Health, started providing a free, direct shuttle service between the Solana Beach Station and the Scripps Del Mar Fairgrounds Vaccination Super Station.

This shuttle expands upon last month’s partnership between NCTD and MTS to provide free transit rides for people going to and from their COVID-19 vaccination appointments. Free transit rides will continue for

all County residents traveling to other County vaccination stations, hospitals, and other community immunization locations.

“NCTD is committed, using every tool within our means, to remove as many barriers as possible to getting the COVID-19 vaccine. We brainstorm daily with our partners on how to support and move our community forward,” said Tony Kranz, NCTD Board Chair and City of Encinitas Deputy Mayor. “This additional shuttle is another step toward helping our community get past the pandemic

and look forward to a brighter future on the horizon.”

The free shuttle will depart from the Solana Beach Station (N. Cedros Avenue side) and take passengers directly to the Super Station entrance located on Jimmy Durante Boulevard. Riders will be dropped off to access the Super Station walk-through services and permitted to reboard a departing shuttle according to the schedule below. There will be no other stops along the route. The Solana Beach Station serves the COASTER, Amtrak Pacific Surfliner, and BREEZE Routes 101 and 308.

In order to board the shuttle, riders will be required to show that day’s confirmation of their vaccine appointment, in the form of a print-out or on their smartphone. Riders will board on a first-come, first serve basis. Advance reservations are not available. NCTD, in accordance with the federal directive, requires passengers to wear a mask and will not allow riders to board if they are sick. All riders are encouraged to arrive to the Solana Beach Station with enough time to board and travel on the shuttle to the Super Station to arrive on-time for their appointment.

The shuttle will operate seven days per week, aligning with the current Super Station service hours (8 a.m. – 12 p.m.), per the schedule as shown at <https://gonctd.com/free-rides-vaccines/>. Shuttle service may be extended in the future if the Super Station hours expand.

For those needing assistance reaching the Solana Beach Station, consult the NCTD Trip Planner, <https://gonctd.com/maps-schedules/trip-planner/>, or call Customer Service at 760-966-6500.

For those who wish to be notified when they become eligible for the vaccine and schedule their appointment, they may sign up on <https://myturn.ca.gov/>.

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– James C. Alvord, Attorney at Law

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Monday, March 15, 2021 7:00 p.m.

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AGENDA

- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of the minutes for the meeting held February 15, 2021. **Voting Item.**
- Open Forum. Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Planning Group on any subject matter within the Group’s jurisdiction but not on today’s agenda. Three-minute limitation. **Non-discussion and Non-voting item.**
- Request for a Site Plan Waiver. Bank of America Lighting Project, 1125 S. Main, Fallbrook. Contact: William Hackley, whackley@lrogersselectric.com, County Planner Aleena Benedetto, Aleena.Beneditto@sdcounty.ca.gov. **Design Review Committee. Community input. Voting item.**
- Request for Site Plan Waiver. Signage at Children’s Primary Care Clinic, 1103 So. Mission Rd. Fallbrook. Contact: Tim Seaman, Tim@championpermits.com. County Planner: AJ Azizi (Morales) AJ.Aziz@sdcounty.ca.gov. **Design Review Committee. Community input. Voting item.**
- Request for Site Plan Waiver. Signage at Circle K Store, 4730 Hwy 76, Fallbrook. Contact: Sorin Enache, Sorin@promotionplusinc.com. County Planner: Rachael Lindebekke, Rachael.Lindebekke@sdcounty.ca.gov. **Design Review Committee. Community input. Voting item.**
- Request for a Site Plan Minor Deviation for signage at Shell Gas Station 1205 S. Main Fallbrook. Tim Seaman, Tim@championpermits.com. County Planner: AJ Azizi (Morales) AJ.Aziz@sdcounty.ca.gov. **Design Review Committee. Community input. Voting item.**
- There is a request to have DWP look at the speed limit and possible stop sign at the intersection of Gird and Laketree. Ms. Gibbs observes that increased traffic in that area will be impacted by the opening of the winery. **Circulation Committee. Community Input. Voting Item.**
- Item to consider for referral to DWP: The left hand turn from Ammunition to Mission going south (by the McDonalds). There were previously two left turn lanes at this light. The center lane has been changed to a straight through only, crossing Mission. The result is traffic congestion in the left turn lane that spills out and blocks the intersection. Request consideration of converting the center lane to a through or left lane. Both would be controlled by the same traffic signal so no one would be disadvantaged. **Circulation Committee. Community Input. Voting item.**
- Item to consider for referral to DWP: No right hand turn pocket from Stagecoach onto Reche. The right lane turn pocket of this intersection was removed when the intersection was redone. This creates congestion with many cars wishing to turn right either going on the shoulder to do so or being stuck at the light. Request consideration of putting the right turn pocket back. **Circulation Committee. Community Input. Voting Item.**
- Appointment of Victoria Stover as representative of the Fallbrook Planning Group to the I-15 design review board.

Adjournment

NOTE: The Planning Group occasionally has openings on its **Land Use**, (Eileen Delaney eileendelaneymail@gmail.com), **Circulation** (Roy Moosa 760-723-1181), **Parks & Recreation Public Facilities** (Chair TBD) and **Design Review** (Eileen Delaney eileendelaneymail@gmail.com) committees for non-elected citizens. Interested persons please contact the Chair. This is a preliminary agenda. If any changes are made, a final agenda will be posted at the North County Fire District, 315 E. Ivy Street, Fallbrook, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. **Jack Wood, Chair, 760-715-3359**

Published March 11, 2021

PORTLAND

from page D-1

choice.

Portland police quoted former Salinas police Chief Kelly McMillin: "Not to be overly dramatic, but if you lose the unit which focuses on removing firearms from the hand of violent offenders, people will die. It's really just that simple."

Stockton began disbanding and defunding police units dedicated to gun violence in 2010. In 2011 and 2012, the city's homicide rates reached record highs. After the city restored the units, homicides significantly declined, according to data reported by police.

While policing has been refocused in Portland, experts and officials said it's unlikely

those changes caused spikes in gun violence.

"I believe if (the Gun Violence Reduction Team) were (around) today, we would still see a substantial, if not identical increase, in shootings in Portland," Mayor Ted Wheeler said in January. "This is clearly part of a larger national trend."

Wheeler, who is also police commissioner, announced the unit's disbanding in June and reassigned its 34 officers to patrol. He described it as an opportunity to reimagine policing and redirected \$7 million in police funds toward communities of color.

The push was led by Jo Ann Hardesty, the first Black woman elected to the city council. She cited a 2018 audit showing nearly 60% of people stopped by the gun violence team were Black – though

they make up less than 6% of the city's population.

Nearly half of the 55 total homicide victims in 2020 were people of color, many of them from Portland's historically Black neighborhoods, according to city statistics.

So far this year, there have been 17 homicides – a concerning number considering there had only been one homicide in the same period in 2020.

Among the people of color shot to death in 2020 were a 23-year-old Iraqi refugee stopping to pick up an Uber fare; an 18-year-old recent high school graduate; and a 53-year-old woman caught in gang crossfire and killed in front of her husband.

The violence has left leaders and community members scrambling

for solutions. Some say the loss of the unit's seasoned detectives has hurt the city, while others push for new approaches.

In February, police launched a squad of 15 officers and six detectives focusing on gun violence investigations. Officials said it's only part of the solution, as leaders partner with community groups, work to increase transparency and use proactive approaches that don't rely on the stop-and-frisk tactic.

That's little solace to Penney's three children, the friends he was visiting in Portland or his family, who moved to California when he was child to avoid the exact reason he died – gun violence.

Yarborough, Penney's uncle, was a gang member in the 1990s and had been arrested by officers

with Portland's gun violence team. Despite that, he described the unit as "the CIA" of the police department and said they often stopped shootings before they happened because of their deep community knowledge.

"They built relationships with gang members and knew who the perpetrators were," Yarborough said. "They ... were able to band together to stop it, or at least refer people impacted to programs to help change their lives."

Cline is a corps member for The Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercover issues.

GOLD

from page D-1

Within weeks, the FBI hired geophysical consulting firm Enviroscan to survey the hilltop site. Enviroscan's gravimeter also indicated a large metallic mass with the density of gold, according to Warren Getler, who worked closely with the Paradas and the FBI.

An FBI agent told them the location of the mass was "one or two feet off Denny's sweet spot," recalled Getler, author of "Rebel Gold," a book exploring the possibility of buried Civil War-era caches of gold and silver. "Then I went to ask how big is it. And he said, '7 to 9 tons.' And I literally said, 'You've got to be kidding!'"

That much gold would be worth hundreds of millions of dollars today – and, assuming it was there, would almost certainly touch off a legal fight over how to divvy up the spoils.

In her reply, Newton told Miner: "For your knowledge only ... we have no other scientific evidence, other than what the excavation had been based on, that any gold is hidden in that area."

Miner emailed back: "I guess you can't come right out and state there is no gold to be found at Dent's Run?"

"Unfortunately, we cannot," the prosecutor replied.

Through a spokesperson, Miner declined comment.

Three years later, the Dent's Run story is not likely to go away, government denials notwithstanding. The Paradas and Getler are planning a news conference on Wednesday to keep the spotlight on their claims. Residents have told of hearing a backhoe and jackhammer overnight – when the excavation was supposed to have been paused – and seeing a convoy of FBI vehicles, including large armored trucks.

"I gotta find out what happened to all that gold," Dennis Parada said in a phone interview last week.

The FBI assertion of an empty hole is "insulting all the credible people who did this kind of work," he said. "It was a slap in the face, really, to think all these people could make that kind of mistake."

Cluck, meanwhile, is still pursuing government material on the case – nearly 2,400 pages, as well as video files, that the FBI has promised to turn over in response to his Freedom of Information Act request.

All documents in the federal court case about the dig remain sealed. For that reason, a state appeals judge recently declined to order the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to give Cluck the federal writ of entry and seizure warrant that the FBI agents relied on to gain access to the site.

In rejecting Cluck's petition, though, state Commonwealth Court Judge Kevin Brobson left a tantalizing clue. In a footnote of his Jan. 28 opinion, Brobson revealed, for the first time, the name of the sealed federal case:

"In the Matter of: Seizure of One or More Tons of United States Gold."

Enviroscan co-founder Timothy Bechtel declined comment to the AP about what his instruments detected, citing client confidentiality. Bechtel said the FBI has asked him to keep quiet about his findings.

John Louie, a geophysics professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, unconnected to the dig, said the gravimeter is a powerful tool that can yield important clues about what's underground.

"But it doesn't prove it," he said. "It doesn't make any elemental analysis. It's indicative, it's suggestive, but it can't prove it."

To prove it, the FBI needed to dig.

The Paradas and Getler have previously said they had an agreement with the FBI to watch the excavation. Officers instead confined them to their car for most of the dig, then, at the end of the second and final day, escorted them to the site – by that time a large, empty hole.

The FBI has long been adamant that whatever the agents were looking for, they didn't find it.

"The FBI unequivocally rejects any claims or speculation to the contrary," a spokesperson said last week.

On March 16, 2018, two days after the dig ended, Newton emailed Miner that "we are all disappointed and scratching our heads over the several scientific test results."

It's unclear what she meant, but the U.S. Attorney's Office in Philadelphia said last week it considers the matter to be closed.

The dig drew plenty of media attention at the time. On March 28, Miner asked Newton for an update on the federal investigation, telling her "the gold story still has legs, and the DCNR is now getting a lot of 'gold-diggers' interested in Dent's Run."



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ENTERTAINMENT

Pelicans provide hope



Jack Ragland paints pelicans by a harbor to represent a symbol of a refuge in the storms of life. He said, "The seabirds seem to represent freedom to go in new directions."



Natasha Ragland's painting features pelicans both resting and circling the harbor. She aims to create a hopeful uplifted feeling in this very challenging time. Village News/Courtesy photos

Pala Casino Spa Resort announces spring concert lineup

PALA – Pala Casino Spa Resort is excited to announce its upcoming spring concert schedule. The lineup features a variety of tribute shows, as well as award-winning Latin bands Los Cadetes de Linares, Los Rieleros Del Norte, and more.

All events will be held at the Events Center, with reduced capacity, increased cleaning, and additional safety measures.

Upcoming schedule of Shows

- Chicago Tribute Experience – Tribute to Chicago, Friday, March 12, 8 p.m.
- Los Cadetes de Linares de Lupe Tizerina, Sunday, March 14, 6 p.m.
- Cash'd Out – The Premier Johnny Cash Show, Friday, March 19, 8 p.m.
- The Police Experience – Tribute to The Police, Saturday, March 20, 8 p.m.
- Grupo Control, Sunday, March 21, 6 p.m.
- The Long Run – Experience the Eagles, Friday, March 26, 8 p.m.
- Kenny Metcalf – Tribute to Elton John, Friday, April 2, 8 p.m.
- Yesterday – Tribute to The Beatles, Friday, April 9, 8 p.m.
- Los Rieleros Del Norte, Sunday, April 11, 6 p.m.
- Elmer Armstrong's Tribute to The Platters, Friday, April 16, 8 p.m.
- The Garth Guy Show – Tribute to Garth Brooks, Saturday, April 17, 8 p.m.
- Yachtley Crew – The Titans of Soft Rock, Friday, April 23, 8 p.m.
- Enigma Norteno – Sunday, April 25, 6 p.m.
- Sinatra Big Band – Tribute to

Frank Sinatra, Friday, April 30, 8 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now, with no service charge, at the Pala Box Office, www.palacasinocom.com and 1-877-WIN-PALA (1-877-946-7252). Tickets are also available at www.etix.com and 1-800-514-3849.

All events and promotions are subject to cancellation without notice. Learn more about the upcoming events at Pala Casino Spa Resort by visiting: <https://www.palacasinocom.com/entertainment/all-entertainment/>.

Play n'g t safe

The health and safety of the valued guests and team members is paramount to Pala Casino Spa Resort. Pala Casino is committed to following the guidelines and recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control for businesses. Safety measures include:

- All seating is sanitized prior to each show
- Seating is pre-placed to ensure safe social distancing
- Air sanitizing filters and ionizers are used to eliminate dust, allergens and viruses including COVID-19 from the air
- Face masks and temperature scans are mandatory at all entrances for all guests and team members
- Hand sanitizer stations are located throughout the concert venue and the casino floor

For a full list of the property updates and safety protocols at Pala Casino, visit <https://www.palacasinocom/>.

Submitted by Pala Casino Spa Resort.

LAW

from page B-2

complaints, any incidents that involve County custodial, Sheriff's or Probation officers and the discharge of a firearm, use of force resulting in great bodily injury, or use of force in protests or other events protected by the First Amendment.

The CLERB board itself includes 11 members, two from each of the five supervisorial districts and one at-large member. Applications for a pending vacancy in District I are being accepted now.

The board is supported by an office staff. Employees include an executive officer, an administrative assistant and three investigators. The number of investigators is

expected to double to six next month.

CLERB meetings are scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month. The public can watch or listen to it virtually and make comments after filling out a request to speak form.

For more information, visit <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/clerb.html>.

Fallbrook and Bonsall residents named to the dean's list at Biola University

LAMIRADA – More than 1,800 students were named to the Biola University dean's list in fall 2020. Students are placed on the dean's list to honor those with a GPA of 3.6 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credits and whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.2.

Noah Bedard, Zachariah Schroeder and Hannah Stregre from Fallbrook as well as Lily McGill from Bonsall were named to the dean's list.

"Inclusion in Biola University's dean's list is reserved for students who demonstrate exceptional

performance in their academic studies. This honor signifies hard work, engagement and investment in scholarship," Tamara Anderson, associate provost of academic effectiveness and administration at Biola University, said. "These attributes are the building blocks of continued success, not only in the classroom, but in the workplace and in the student's personal lives. We celebrate these students and their achievement, looking forward to their future accomplishments."

Submitted by Biola University.

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EDUCATION

Do, Hernandez, Yanez and Vera named Students of the Month



Fallbrook High School senior Danyelle Do receives February Student of the Month honors.



Fallbrook High School Youth Advocacy Club president Mario Hernandez is celebrated as a February Student of the Month.



Oasis High School senior Sarai Vera wins February Student of the Month.

FALLBROOK – Fallbrook Union High School District Students of the Month for February are Fallbrook High School seniors Danyelle Do, Mario Hernandez and David Yanez, and Oasis High School senior Sarai Vera.

The students were celebrated with the Student of the Month monthly Friday afternoon caravan to their homes and honored with balloons, yard signs, recognition speeches and custom-made T-shirts worn by one student's family members. Teachers, school administrators, business community, family and Student of the Month Committee members participated in the warm receptions.

Do, nominated by science teacher Marin Pinnell, balanced an active schedule of wide interests during the past four years with an Advanced Placement schedule and diverse extracurricular and community service activities.

With a GPA of 4.0, Do's class schedule this year includes AP English literature, AP physics, AP calculus AB and American Sign Language 4. Her favorite classes through the years have been ASL and dance. Not having ever taken dance lessons before her sophomore year, she took a dance class and loved it so much, she continued with advance dance in her junior year. As an independent learner, she has found that she prefers distance learning, although she misses the interaction and productivity of her extracurricular activities. As president of Operation Smile, Do resurrected the club at FHS during her sophomore year so that she and her friends could raise awareness and fundraise to support the national nonprofit organization that helps children worldwide with cleft lips or palates.

Additionally, Do appreciated her time as a member of the Environmental Club and ASL Club, gaining an even deeper understanding of the life of the Deaf/ASL community and improving her ASL skills. She also participated in Academic Decathlon this school year with the FHS team's Zoom competitions against other schools' teams. Two of her favorite local community service activities have been volunteering at the Fallbrook Animal Sanctuary and the Fallbrook Library, where she organized and reshelved books and led community activities.

Because of her love of animals, she plans to serve at an animal shelter while attending college. Do looks forward to entering a pre-med program and studying dermatology at University of California Los Angeles, University of California San Diego or University of California Irvine.

Hernandez is described by school counselor Damaris Ahumada as not only having an "amazing work ethic," but also "being very kind-hearted, continuously helping others," which is reflected by the community service he does on and off campus. As president of Fallbrook Youth Advocacy, Hernandez worked diligently to talk with teens through Zoom during the past year about the dangers of opioid overdose and suicide prevention.

Additionally, Hernandez has been trained to be a teen ambassador with Fallbrook

Health Community Clinic to help youth maintain mentally and physically healthy lifestyles. He has also found rewarding the time he has spent volunteering during his high school years at the Fallbrook Food Pantry and serving as a representative of Voces de Fallbrook. In this role, he has been advocating for a soccer field to be included in the future plans for a park in Fallbrook.

Earning Most Valuable Player honors in 2019, Hernandez was captain of both his school and club soccer teams. He plays guitar and dances. He said dancing broke him out of his quiet shell and has given him opportunities to become more outgoing.

Hernandez said he is grateful for his Transportation and Tech 2 class for giving him hands-on experience and knowledge during this time of remote-learning because his teacher, Mr. Johnson, sets up kits that the students periodically pick up from school to learn interactively at home.

With AP physics and AP Spanish literature in his course schedule this year, Hernandez is looking forward to attending California State University San Marcos and studying electrical engineering next year.

Finally, Hernandez said he is most thankful for the loving support and encouragement to lead a positive and moral lifestyle that his parents have always given him and his sisters.

Yanez, also nominated by Pinnell, works to do his best in the classroom, on his lacrosse team, and with volunteering. Having taken AP Spanish and AP English language, as well as physics, machine and tool technology, and trans technology courses, he said he is excited about attending college next year and earning a bachelor's degree in welding engineering.

Having been a member of the Fallbrook boys lacrosse team since his sophomore year, he earned the JV Offensive Player of the Year award that year and was moved up to play varsity in some CIF games. As a junior, he was promoted to the varsity team, but because of COVID-19, the season was cut short. As a senior, when not working part-time or studying, Yanez has been working out and practicing on his own to be ready to play when the season opens.

Additionally, before the closure of in-person learning, he volunteered more than 200 hours at Vallecitos Elementary School, where he helped the eighth grade class two days per week, serving as a role model and assisting the teacher with tasks.

In describing Yanez as personable and hard-working, Pinnell said, "I enjoyed having David in class as he brought a lot of life to the classroom, but at the same time, worked well and completed his assignments in a timely manner."

Vera, who was nominated by Bennielyn Sampayan-Verrett at Oasis High School, worked diligently during her high school years at Oasis High School. Three of her four siblings have also attended the school, and her fourth sibling will be a ninth grader next year.

Verrett described Vera as being meticulously organized, prepared, conscientious and thoughtful.



Fallbrook High lacrosse player David Yanez receives a February Student of the Month award.

Village News/Courtesy photos

Verrett said that Vera often goes beyond what is required, citing the example of her science notebooks that not only include the required vocabulary, concepts and lab write-ups but also drawings and diagrammed words, concepts, systems in color so that the science lessons are illustrated and truly learned. Vera incorporates her creative talents, especially with art, in her assignments. Because she thrives with independent learning, after graduation, she plans to study accounting online with a trade school.

Because she found her photography class enjoyable, Vera studied a variety of subjects by textbook, with the guidance of her teacher.

She started a business with her younger sister, making earrings from resin. The sisters taught themselves the craft through a YouTube video and developed it into an online entrepreneurship.

Vera said she enjoyed her community service work at the Angel Society's thrift shop in Fallbrook as well as with the Auxiliary Pioneer group of her church.

Verrett said, "Sarai is one of those exceptional, rare students who makes a teacher's life enjoyable. She always reflects a pleasant smile, respectful attitude and positivism. I met Sarai as a shy young ninth grader, and now, she is a remarkably well-balanced, creative and assured young woman."

The Student of the Month committee honors these four FUHSD seniors who are full of hope and reflect a strong ambition to be productive citizens in society.

Submitted by the Student of the Month Committee.

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WINE & DINE

South Coast Winery Resort & Spa plans for spring celebrations at The Vineyard Rose Restaurant

TEMECULA – Amid Southern California vines, The Vineyard Rose Restaurant at South Coast Winery Resort & Spa, cited as a “best winery restaurant in America,” will be serving California-inspired cuisine and award-winning wines for a celebratory à la carte brunch and dinner on Easter, Sunday, April 4, and for Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 9. The Easter Bunny will be available for socially distanced photo opportunities Easter Sunday, and mothers will receive a

flower on Mother’s Day. The À La Carte Easter Brunch will be served April 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at The Vineyard Rose Restaurant. The Easter Bunny will hop in to greet guests and present Easter baskets to each child 12 and under. The Bunny will be available for photo ops with guests, socially distanced and mask safe. Early fare of Rolling Hills bananas Foster pancakes, applewood smoked bacon omelet and other choices are on the menu, along with light fare such

as margherita flatbread and avocado toast. There are delectable Salads and classic sandwiches being offered. Entrées tempt with various selections: seared Skuna Bay salmon with herb rice pilaf, roasted Brussels sprouts, crispy leeks, brown butter sauce; Mediterranean chicken with roasted potatoes, artichokes, sun-dried tomatoes, olives, capers, house butter and grilled lemon and more. For festive thirst-quenching, guests can enjoy a wide range of beverages from cocktails, mimosas, bellinis, Bloody Marys and bubbles to a 25% off a bottle of 2017 Rosé de Tempranillo at \$22.50. There’s a wide selection of craft beers on tap, in bottles and cans. Or Easter toasting might be with Carter Estate Chardonnay or Wild Horse Peak Merlot or Meritage.

A Special Easter Dinner will be offered at The Vineyard Rose Restaurant Sunday, April 4, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. This celebratory à la carte meal could begin with a specialty cocktail such as a lavender lemonade with Wheatley Vodka or a spicy avocado margarita with Mi Campo Blanco Tequila – maybe to be enjoyed with 4X Golden Bear charcuterie for two or four, the chef’s choice of assorted meats, imported and domestic cheese and dried fruit and nuts. Mains include award-winning South Coast Winery and Carter Estate pairing suggestions like South Coast Winery Pinot Grigio to accompany striped sea bass with corn succotash, grilled lemon, spiced pistachio crumble and micro cilantro, or Wild Horse Peak Meritage paired with the grilled filet mignon with smashed fingerlings, wild mushroom, asparagus and red wine reduction. The menu’s other main choices include Salmon Creek Farms pork chop, seared day boat scallops, slow braised short ribs and more – all with accompaniments and wine pairing suggestions.

The Mother’s Day À La Carte Brunch is served on the Veranda at The Vineyard Rose Restaurant Sunday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. When mothers arrive with their families, she will be cordially presented with a lovely flower. For brunch, early fare suggestions are the Vineyard breakfast with two eggs any style and a choice of applewood smoked bacon or chicken apple sausage; chilaquiles with drunken pinto beans, two eggs,



South Coast Winery Resort & Spa’s The Vineyard Rose Restaurant will host specials for brunch and dinner for Easter, Sunday, April 4, and for Mother’s Day, May 9. Valley News/Courtesy photo

salsa verde and queso fresco and other temptations. Entrée salads are tossed turkey cobb, The Vineyard Rose Salad and Mediterranean salad. Sandwiches are French beef dip, house rubbed slow roasted tri tip and The Classic or Impossible Burger. For hearty appetites, there is penne pasta with seasonal garden vegetables and pesto, as well as seared Skuna Bay salmon and Mediterranean jidori chicken. Pleasing nonalcoholic beverages served are Alain Milliat with pear and peach nectar and lavender, strawberry or watermelon lemonade. Toasting mothers with bubbly drinks of brut, Vineyard Rosé Sparkling, pinot grigio, ruby cuvée or gewürztraminer would be a grand way to celebrate the lady of the day. Families are encouraged to roam the scenic grounds and post selfies of their experience on social media with the hashtags #southcoastwinery or #vineyardroserestaurant for a special drawing for overnight stays and breakfast and luncheon for two.

A Very Special Mother’s Day Dinner will be presented at The Vineyard Rose Restaurant Sunday, May 9, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. On The Vineyard Rose Restaurant’s outside veranda, mothers will receive a special flower when they start their holiday meal with their family and friends. A signature cocktail such as Beautiful Day created with Malfy Rosa Gin, Aperol, Ruby Cuvée Tranquile, hibiscus and lime, a bubbly quaff like the Vineyard Rosé Sparkling or a glass of Muscat Canelli or Pinot Noir “Santa Lucia Highlands” are all great ways to

start this dinner dedicated to mothers. Opener choices include spinach and artichoke dip, chilled shrimp cocktail and roasted cauliflower and tempura asparagus. Next, entrée selections offer prime steak & frites, pork osso bucco cacciatore, pan roasted salmon, grilled filet mignon and others – all with delicious seasonal accompaniments and house-selected wine pairings. Mothers and their families are encouraged to roam the scenic grounds and post selfies of their experience on social media with the hashtags #southcoastwinery and #vineyardroserestaurant for a special drawing for overnight stays and breakfast and luncheon for two.

All brunch and dinner service will be on the outside Veranda as per pandemic guidance (indoor capacity if allowed by then). Reservations can be made via the website and Open Table, <http://www.southcoastwinery.com/dining/dining-specials> or 951-719-8356.

Takeout and in room dining will be available with these menus and chef specials. To order takeout, guests can call 855-232-1557 or email scw2go@wineresort.com. Orders must be placed by 5 p.m. on the previous Saturday for pickup on that Sunday.

The Vineyard Rose Restaurant is located at South Coast Winery Resort & Spa, 34843 Rancho California Road, in Temecula. For more information, call 951-587-9463 or visit <http://www.southcoastwinery.com>.

Submitted by South Coast Winery Resort & Spa.

Wine Country Calendar of Events

FRIDAY, MARCH 5	
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Reserved Wine Tastings, Ponte Winery
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Wine Tastings, Wilson Creek Winery
Noon to 5 p.m.	Reserved Wine Tasting, Vineyard Rose, South Coast Winery
6-9 p.m.	Live Music, David Kopatz, Lorimar Winery
SATURDAY, MARCH 6	
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Reserved Wine Tastings, Ponte Winery
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Wine Tastings, Wilson Creek Winery
Noon to 4 p.m.	Live Music, Aleksander, Masia de la Vinya
SUNDAY, MARCH 7	
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Reserved Wine Tastings, Ponte Winery
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Wine Tastings, Wilson Creek Winery
1-4 p.m.	Live Music, Its Never 2L8, Lorimar Winery

UPCOMING:
 March 13 see Alex & Esther at Masia de la Vinya from noon to 4 p.m.
 March 19 is Smoke & Vine: an evening of cigars wine at Lorimar Winery from 7-9 p.m.

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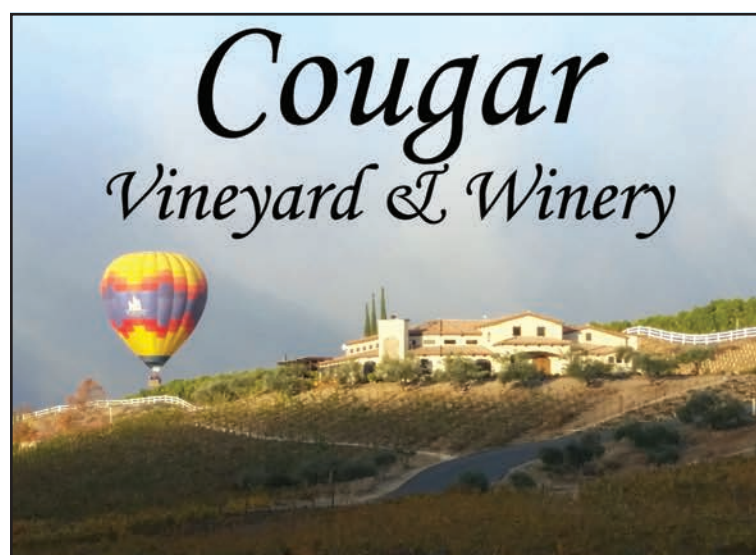
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Feast on Irish pub fare this St. Patrick’s Day

TEMECULA – St. Patrick’s Day celebrations were different in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many communities canceled their annual St. Patrick’s Day festivities. Full of lively, jovial gatherings of good-spirited revelers, St. Patrick’s Day celebrations are beloved by Irish and non-Irish people alike.

Though the COVID-19 vaccines figure to help people across the globe return to a semblance of normalcy at some point in 2021, that return to life is unlikely to occur before mid-March, which means St. Patrick’s Day celebrations in 2021 will likely take place at home, much as they did a year ago.

With no parade to attend and limited seating at the local Irish pub, would-be Patty’s Day revelers may have to cook at home, Wednesday, March 17. Cooking up some traditional Irish fare, such as this recipe for “Bacon and Cabbage” from Margaret M. Johnson’s “The Irish Pub Cookbook,” published by Chronicle Books, can bring a taste of your favorite Irish pub into your home this St. Patrick’s Day.



Cooking up some traditional Irish fare, such as this recipe for “Bacon and Cabbage” from Margaret M. Johnson’s “The Irish Pub Cookbook,” published by Chronicle Books, brings a taste of your favorite Irish pub into your home for St. Patrick’s Day. Valley News/Courtesy photo

Bacon and Cabbage
 Start to finish: 1 hour, 30 minutes
 Serves: 4-6
Ingredients:

- 3 pounds Irish boiling bacon
- 1 small head cabbage, cored and quartered
- Parsley Sauce or Whole-Grain Mustard Sauce for serving (see below)
- Boiled potatoes for serving

Directions:
 Put the bacon in a large saucepan and cover with cold water. Bring the water slowly to a boil, then cover and reduce the heat to medium-low. Simmer, skimming the water occasionally to remove the foam, for 1 1/2 hours or about 30

minutes per pound, until the meat is tender when pierced with a fork. About 20 minutes before the bacon is cooked, add the cabbage. Cook for 15-20 minutes, or until the cabbage is tender, but not soggy. Transfer the bacon to a serving dish, and let cool for 10 minutes before slicing. Drain the cabbage, reserving 1/4 cup of the cooking liquid for the Parsley sauce or 1 1/2 cups for the Whole-Grain Mustard Sauce, and transfer to a serving dish.

To serve, slice the meat and serve it with the cabbage, potatoes and sauce.

Parsley Sauce
Ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons unsalted Kerrygold Irish butter
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup bacon cooking liquid

- 1 1/4 cups hot milk
- 1/2 cup minced fresh flat-leaf parsley
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Directions:
 In a small saucepan over medium heat, melt the butter. Gradually stir in the flour. Cook for 1-2 minutes, or until blended. Slowly stir in the cooking liquid, then the milk. Bring to a boil and cook, whisking constantly, for 3-5 minutes, or until slightly thickened. Add the salt, pepper and parsley and cook, whisking constantly, for 3-5 minutes more, or until the sauce is smooth. Serve warm.

Whole-Grain Mustard Sauce
 Makes About 2 Cups
Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons unsalted Kerrygold Irish butter
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons whole-grain mustard
- 2/3 cup dry white wine
- 1 1/4 cups bacon cooking liquid, plus more as needed
- 1 1/4 cups half-and-half, plus more as needed
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Directions:
 In a saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and cook for 5 minutes, or until soft. Stir in the mustard and wine and cook for 2 minutes. Add the cooking liquid and half-and-half and cook, whisking constantly, for 5-7 minutes, or until reduced by half. Add the salt and pepper and cook for 5 minutes, or until the mixture has a creamy consistency. Add more boiling liquid or half-and-half, if needed, to make a smooth sauce. Serve warm.

NATIONAL

Senate passes President Biden's 1.9 trillion dollar bill

Josh Boak and Lisa Mascaro Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden wants America to know that he's from the government and he's here to help.

The massive bill could be approved by Congress this week, possibly as early as Tuesday, March 9.

"When I was elected, I said we were going to get the government out of the business of battling on Twitter and back in the business of delivering for the American people," Biden said after the huge bill passed the Senate on Saturday.

Taken together, provisions in the 628-page bill push the country into uncharted territory.

Republicans complain that while the bill is supposed to be for COVID relief, 91% of the money has nothing to do with COVID-19.

Besides stopping the pandemic and jumpstarting hiring, money in the rescue package — now awaiting final approval in the House — is supposed to start fixing income inequality, halve child poverty, feed the hungry, save pensions, sustain public transit, let schools reopen with confidence and help repair state and local government finances.

And Biden is betting that the government can do all of this with the speed of a nation mobilizing for war without touching a tripwire of inflation.

"People have lost faith [in what the] government can do good for them," says Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, who spoke daily with Biden while ushering the bill through the Senate last weekend.

Republicans say Americans have plenty of reason to be skeptical, calling the American Rescue Plan excessive and wasteful. They warn the sweeping package will run up the national debt to precarious new heights after \$4 trillion in aid has already been provided and \$1 trillion is yet to be spent.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell argues against the package as missing the moment — too big at a time when the virus is showing signs of easing and the economy is poised to come "roaring" back.

Instead of working across the aisle toward unity, as Biden has promised, McConnell says Democrats are "ramming through what they call 'the most progressive domestic legislation in a generation,'" quoting the White House chief of staff.

"They explained their intent very clearly: to exploit this crisis as 'a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision,'" McConnell says. This is the first COVID-19 bill that had zero support from Republicans in the House or Senate.

According to Citizens Against Government Waste, "more than \$1 trillion — is a combination of bailouts for Democratic constituencies, expansions of progressive programs, pork, and unrelated policy changes." For example, the states have already received more than \$360 billion from the prior COVID-19 relief bills, but they are getting \$350 billion more in the stimulus bill.

There is \$135 million each for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, along with \$200 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, as well as \$100 million for an underground transit system in Silicon Valley and \$1.5 million for the Seaway International Bridge, a pet project of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.).

"In addition to spending frivolously on items that have nothing to do with COVID-19, the plan significantly increases federal government control over healthcare plans. Taxpayers will be on the hook for another \$53 billion from these healthcare provisions alone. The

following provisions are included in the final bill."

Biden's bet, more than others in modern politics and economics, is full of questions.

Can the federal money push economic growth above 6% for the first time since Reagan in 1984? Will the 9.5 million lost jobs quickly return? Will inflation surge? Will the national debt spook voters in next year's midterm elections? Biden has placed the biggest of markers on the theories of the 20th Century British economist John Maynard Keynes that the government can stimulate a dormant economy back to health.

Sweeping in scope, Biden's plan largely relies on existing health care and tax credits, rather than new programs, but it expands that standard fare in ambitious new ways that are designed to reach more people who are suffering in an unprecedented time.

"We haven't done this before," said Syracuse University economics professor Len Burman, a co-founder of the Tax Policy Center. "If it actually does work the way it does in theory and the economy is back at full employment in a year, that would be amazing. It would save a lot of hardship and suffering."

But Burman also has misgivings about the design of Biden's package because it distributes direct payments and other benefits to almost every household in the United States,

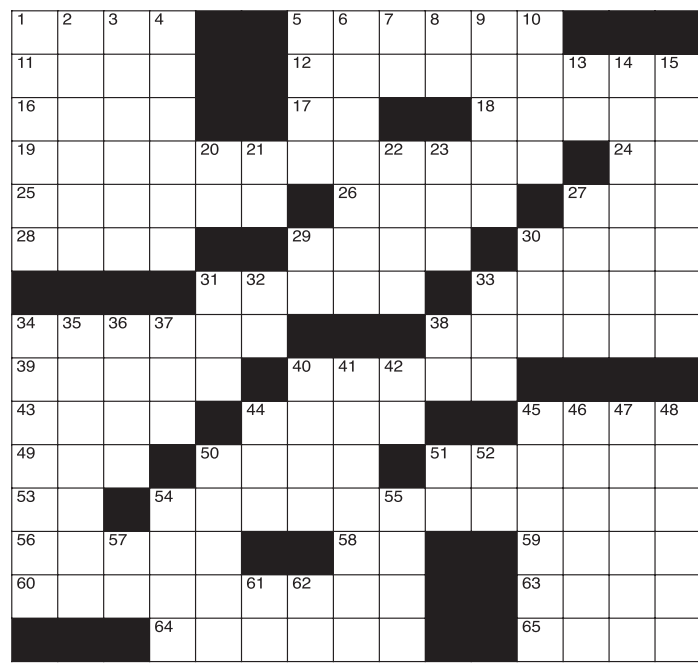
rather than directing the money to the poor and to businesses and organizations most damaged by the pandemic and ensuing shutdowns.

"It kind of reminded me of this idea when I was in grad school of helicopter money — which was basically dropping money from the air and seeing if it raised incomes," he said. "The money could have been better targeted."

Final passage of the bill is expected this week — before expanded unemployment benefits are set to expire mid-March. But Biden's signing celebration will just be the start. His administration will have to show that the funds can be spent effectively and efficiently, helping those in need while giving the broader public enough confidence to awaken growth through hiring and spending.

Felicia Wong, CEO of the liberal Roosevelt Institute, sees parallels to the Great Depression, when Franklin Delano Roosevelt brought about an unprecedented series of government interventions that realigned U.S. politics. Wong said she is monitoring the process by which the money from the COVID-19 relief package gets distributed.

"That's going to matter as much as the scale of the package because it's going to build trust," Wong said. Associated Press writer Kevin Freking contributed to this report.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Ancient Persian city
5. Spindles
11. Stake
12. Retrain
16. Close by
17. Commercial
18. One who publicly announces
19. American ballplayer
24. Junior's father
25. Go up or climb
26. Concern
27. When you hope to get there
28. Iacocca and Oswald are two
29. Plant of the lily family
30. Male college organization
31. National capital
33. Raccoonlike animal
34. Symbols of fertility
38. Astronomy unit
39. Series of ridges in anatomy
40. Hebrew leader
43. A portent of good or evil
44. Supreme goddess
45. Gelatinous substance
49. Engage in a contest
50. Famed ballplayer Ruth
51. Pledge
53. -, denotes past
54. Revival
56. Spanish surname
58. Gold
59. Elsa's sister
60. Workplace
63. Large quantity of something
64. Engraved
65. Discount

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Shoe
2. Disquiet
3. Posture
4. Large nests
5. Soviet "Second Symphony" composer
6. Joins two pipes of different diameter
7. Exist
8. Overdose
9. Pleat of fabric
10. Predict the future
13. Burgeoning technology
14. Having made a valid will
15. Having no fixed course
20. ___ route
21. Lethal dose
22. Indian musical pattern of notes
23. Athlete
27. Geological times
29. Atomic #21
30. In support of
31. Brew
32. Certificate of insurance
33. Taxi
34. Type of saying
35. For cigars
36. Phil __, former CIA
37. Local area network
38. Gym class
40. Philippine Island
41. Not great or bad
42. Eastern part of NY state
44. Gov't lawyers
45. Constructions
46. Former British gold coin
47. Unkeyed
48. Rechristen
50. Threaten persistently
51. Southeast
52. Cools your home
54. Removes the leaves
55. Regretted
57. Thus
61. Relief organization (abbr.)
62. Exclamation of surprise



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Table with columns for date, address, and incident details. Includes entries for Feb. 21, Feb. 22, Feb. 23, Feb. 24, Feb. 25, and March 1-2.

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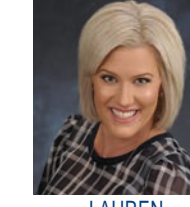
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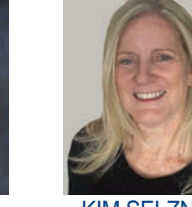
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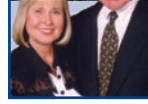


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