

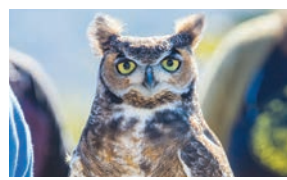
Sculpture garden gets facelift

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Wild Wonders goes virtual

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February 11, 2021

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Volume 25, Issue 6

Pandemic ebbs in SD County

The current wave of the coronavirus pandemic appears to be ebbing in San Diego County, with new infections down locally and countywide, and hospitalizations declining as well. A total of 926 new cases reported on Feb. 2 broke a 63-day streak of more than 1,000 cases, though the number edged back up above 1,000 to come in at 1,598 new cases two days later on Feb. 4. Another 1,230 new cases were reported on Feb. 7.

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O’Laughlin needs help to visit family

Fallbrook resident Joel O’Laughlin lost his brother last year in an accident in Oklahoma. Due to his cerebral palsy, he has not been able to go visit his sister-in-law and nieces there. He has a GoFundMe account to help raise funds to move all the equipment he needs to make the trip.

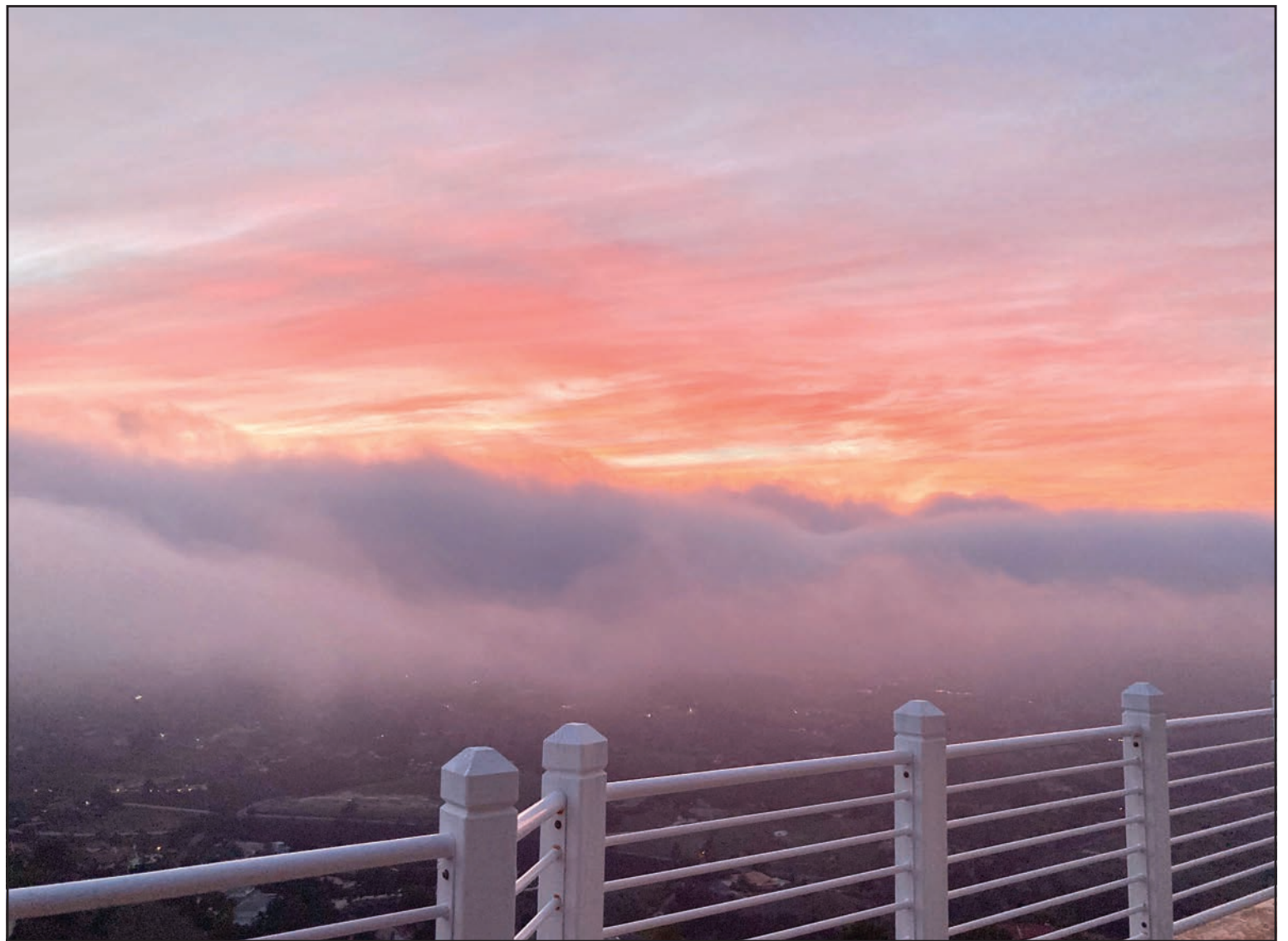
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SDG&E files wildfire mitigation plan update

SAN DIEGO – San Diego Gas & Electric has completed and filed its annual update to the 2020-2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plan, a strategic guide that describes SDG&E’s efforts to help reduce the potential for utility infrastructure-related fires and help protect the safety of SDG&E’s customers, employees and the communities it serves.

Page B-8

Fog creates a dramatic sunset



Fog rolls in as the sun starts to set as seen from the East Mission Road area of Fallbrook, Feb. 3.

Village News/Lori Atkins photo

STEM provides kindness for seniors during Kindness Challenge Week

Julie Reeder
Publisher

From Jan. 25 through 29, Fallbrook STEM Academy students in grades K-6 participated in The Great Kindness Challenge with “The Club” senior daycare clients at the Foundation For Senior Care.

According to Lauren Marsh, the Adult Day Care Administrator, the Great Kindness Challenge started in Carlsbad and is now worldwide.

Foundation for Senior Care Director Patty Sargent said, “It’s to create a culture of kindness in the classroom for K-6th grade. The Fallbrook STEM Academy called us to see if we would participate. They wanted to include our seniors and do something nice for them. Of course it was by Zoom to protect our clients.” She added, “It was such a sweet thing. They were so cute.”

see **STEM**, page A-10



Mrs. Rowley’s fourth grade class asked Foundation clients Madeline and Irene about where they were born, how school was different, how life is different, and what they were doing during quarantine/their thoughts about covid. They also asked about their hobbies, sports and challenges they have overcome in their lives.

Village News/Lauren Marsh photo

The soul of the Do Gooders Thrift Store

Christal Gaines-Emory
Intern

Last year was a challenging time for this community and everyone in the U.S. as we faced the coronavirus pandemic and all of the struggles that accompanied it. However, one of the organizations in Fallbrook that has worked to serve the community and assist families in any way possible during this time is the Welcome Back Foundation.

The Welcome Back Foundation is a nonprofit organization that was established in October 2019 by veteran and longtime Fallbrook resident Dawn Williams. It is dedicated to assisting people going through hard times, whether they may be facing economic problems, health issues, homelessness, or natural disasters.

After owning and running multiple thrift stores, Williams wanted to serve the community one step further with the Welcome Back Foundation, and she opened



The Do Gooders Thrift Store is located at 720 E. Mission Road.

Village News/Christal Gaines-Emory photo

USPS Residential Customer

VILLAGE NEWS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Learn all about the Herb of the Year – Past and Present



Village News/Courtesy photo

Karen England will talk about herbs during the Fallbrook Garden Club's February Zoom meeting.

FALLBROOK – The Fallbrook Garden Club's Zoom meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 23, will feature guest speaker Karen England, president of the San Diego Horticultural Society and editor-in-chief of its newsletter.

England is a longtime member of the International Herb Associations. Every year since 1995, the IHA has chosen an Herb of the Year. In 2021, the Herb of the Year is parsley Petroselinum. England has helped develop and coordinate national attention on herbs, herbal uses and herb businesses. She is a blogger, influencer and author.

Non-members who would like an invitation to this program can send their full name and email information to fallbrookgardenclub@gmail.com.

The meeting begins at 1 p.m. with a short business meeting followed by the guest speaker. Fallbrook Garden Club is offering special pricing to new members only, \$15 for an individual, \$25 for couple/family. Visit <http://www.fallbrookgardenclub.org>, click on "Membership" and download the form.

Submitted by Fallbrook Garden Club.

Grocery Outlet to host blood drive with San Diego Blood Bank

FALLBROOK – Grocery Outlet in Fallbrook is hosting a community blood drive in partnership with the San Diego Blood Bank, Monday, Feb. 22, from 1-6 p.m. The blood drive will take place in the parking lot at 1101 S. Main Ave. in Fallbrook.

The blood bank will conduct antibody testing of each donation, but it is not a diagnostic test. It

will not detect active COVID-19 infections or recent exposure.

For all COVID-19 blood donation restrictions related to symptoms and exposure, visit <http://www.sandiegobloodbank.org/COVID19>.

Anyone 17 and older, who weighs at least 114 pounds and is in good health, may be eligible to donate blood. A good meal and

plenty of fluids are recommended before donation.

Appointment and photo identification required. Call 800-469-7322 or visit <http://SanDiegoBloodBank.org> for more information.

Submitted by the San Diego Blood Bank.

Quilt guild offers scholarship

FALLBROOK – The Fallbrook Quilt Guild is delighted to offer a scholarship of \$1,500 to a graduating high school senior living in this geographic area. Applicants must be planning on attending an accredited university or college during the 2021-2022

school year. Disbursement to the funds will be made directly to the college/university after proof of enrollment has been submitted to a guild representative.

The short application can be found on the guild's website: <http://www.fallbrookquiltguild.com>

by clicking on the link labeled philanthropy, and then scholarship. Applications must be received by March 10 and must be submitted via electronic mail to nhill@cnw.com.

Submitted by Fallbrook Quilt Guild.

SHERIFF'S LOG

Feb. 1

- 900 block E. Mission Rd Arrest: Outstanding felony bench warrant
- 1200 block S. Vine St Arrest: Domestic abuse
- 1200 block E. Mission Rd Arrest: Commercial burglary
- 300 block E. Mission Rd Vandalism
- 5200 block S. Mission Rd Vandalism

Feb. 2

- 39000 block Harris Trail Domestic abuse
- 3900 block Reche Rd Arrest: Threats with intent to terrorize
- 1400 block S. Mission Rd Commercial burglary

Feb. 3

- 300 block E. Fallbrook St Domestic abuse with minor injury
- 800 block E. Alvarado St Arrest: Battery
- 4700 block Via Tala Petty theft
- 800 block Old Stage Rd Stolen vehicle

Feb. 4

- 1400 block N. Stage Coach Ln Arrest: Assault with a deadly weapon
- 2500 block Rainbow Glen Rd Animal cruelty
- 2500 block Rainbow Glen Rd Arrest: Possession of controlled substance, paraphernalia
- 1300 block S. Mission Rd Petty theft
- 1300 block S. Mission Rd Vehicle burglary
- 1100 block E. Mission Rd Grand theft
- 1700 block Reche Rd Disturbance/fight
- 1000 block S. Mission Rd Commercial burglary

Feb. 5

- Tecalote Dr @ Tecalote Ln Arrest: Public intoxication
- 700 block W. Fallbrook St Recovered stolen vehicle
- 3400 block S. Old Highway 395 Arrest: Possession of controlled substance, paraphernalia
- 2000 block Tecalote Dr Petty theft

Feb. 6

- 1500 block Rice Canyon Rd Assault with a deadly weapon
- 1200 block E. Alvarado St Death

Feb. 7

- 5500 block Mission Rd Battery

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OPINION

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Shutting down illegal pot shops



Supervisor Joel Anderson
2nd District

Sunday morning, Jan. 31, San Diego Sheriff Deputies raided an illegal pot shop in Spring Valley near elementary schools, a park and around the corner from two churches. I am proud to say that with the support of three of my colleagues, I was able to direct \$500,000 for the immediate and aggressive enforcement to close down illegal pot shops just days prior to this action. Over 400 pounds of illegal marijuana, as well as an illegal firearm were seized from a known felon.

When I served in the State Legislature, I consistently voted against the legalization and the growing use of marijuana, but we are past that debate. The decision has been made by the voters; cannabis dispensaries are legal and are operating in the county today. The challenge we have now is keeping our communities as safe as possible knowing this is a part of our current environment.

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors recently directed county staff to develop and establish updated parameters for future cannabis ordinances. I have discussed this issue extensively with my constituents, from private citizens concerned about the impact on their kids, to Chambers

of Commerce concerned with the impact on their business community. There are strong feelings on this issue, but one thing is clear: we need enforcement.

Let me give you an example from Lakeside. We actually had a sign-spinner highlighting an illegal dispensary right next door to a school. This is an establishment that should not by any means be there. At the same time, the unincorporated areas of my district have limited law enforcement. Illegal pot shops and limited law enforcement resources are a terrible combination.

The \$500,000 to enable the recent raid is just a start. I am already working with the Sheriff and District Attorney to ensure law enforcement has the ongoing resources they need to continue vigorous enforcement. I will be proposing a significant increase in next year's budget.

I am also going to ensure that any changes include full transparency and community input.

We also need stronger buffer zones. The current state requirement is only limited to 600 feet for schools. I asked that we expand that to 1,000 feet and add churches and parks to the list which would be more effective in neighborhoods.

Moving forward, my intention is to prevent the operation of these cannabis dispensaries by violent felons and those associated with organized crime.

The chief administrative office of the county will report back to the board in 90 days with recommendations on a plan. I am committed to giving our law enforcement the support and resources they need to do their job well.

Please contact me with your thoughts or to report illegal pot shops at joel.anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov or 619-531-5522.

Vaccine shortages are frustrating



Supervisor Jim Desmond
5th District

The rollout for the COVID-19 vaccine has been frustrating, not just in San Diego County, but across the State of California. While there is some good news, with the opening of the Super Station at Cal State San Marcos, there is a growing disappointment with the way the vaccine is being allocated and I completely understand.

The County of San Diego has created the infrastructure to be able to administer the vaccines, the challenge is, there are simply not enough doses. The good news

is, as soon as we receive more, we will be able to act quickly and get people inoculated.

More good news, the County of San Diego has partnered with fire agencies around the County to allocate vaccines in the unincorporated areas. Valley Center, Fallbrook and other areas soon will have vaccinations coming to their communities.

This past week, I toured the Super Station in San Marcos as well as the Borrego Springs site and was amazed at the efficiency. I want to thank all of the healthcare workers, our firefighters and everyone who has jumped in during this time of need. We appreciate your amazing work.

I'm going to continue to push for the state and federal government to give us more doses and I believe strongly that the most vulnerable should be given the vaccine immediately, to save as many lives as possible.

Also, I'm advocating for the County of San Diego to allow both law enforcement and teachers to receive the vaccine right now. We must get our teachers vaccinated, so we can get our kids back in the classroom.

Preventing wildfires



Assemblymember Marie Waldron
AD-75 (R)

Wildfires are an ever-present threat in California. Last year was the worst on record with over 4.2 million acres burned. As we can all remember, local fires such as the Cedar, Witch, Cocos, Guejito, and Lilac fires have devastated this region as well.

We've been spending billions trying to prevent and fight wildfires, but the situation has worsened. What we've been doing simply hasn't worked.

We need a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach to preventing wildfires, which is why I am joining Assemblyman James Gallagher of Yuba City to co-author Assembly Bill 297, the Wildfire Prevention and Forest Resiliency Act of 2021.

The bill allocates \$500 million annually from the existing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to provide sustained resources for forest health, forest management and fire prevention programs, and

has gained support from legislators throughout California.

We need to remove dead and dying trees from our forests, along with bureaucratic hurdles that prevent good forest management and vegetation clearance.

In the Governor's state of emergency declaration last year, 35 forest management projects were exempted from CEQA requirements, eliminating years of bureaucratic delays.

AB 297 expands on those exemptions so that 500,000 acres can be treated annually. We have millions of dead or dying trees, a major wildfire fuel source, but nowhere to put them once they're removed.

By supporting biomass, biofuels and other wood products industries, removal will be encouraged. In addition, homeowners will be allowed exemptions to expand defensive space around their homes.

Wildfires pour billions of metric tons of CO2 into the atmosphere, easily wiping out progress we've made elsewhere to reduce carbon pollution. And the cost to fight them is enormous – \$1.3 billion just last year. Once enacted, AB 297 will save money and property, protect the environment, and most importantly, it will save lives.

Assembly Republican Leader Marie Waldron, R-Escondido, represents the 75th Assembly District in the California Legislature, which includes the communities of Bonsall, Escondido, Fallbrook, Hidden Meadows, Pala, Palomar Mountain, Pauma Valley, Rainbow, San Marcos, Temecula, Valley Center and Vista.

Regarding the Democratic Party's call for unity

For years we have been the brunt of your jokes with your endless parade of pejoratives demeaning us. You have misrepresented our policies and disparaged our character. For four years, you were dismissive of our beliefs and openly bullied and badgered us in front of our homes, in restaurants, and in other public places across the country.

Wishing now to set aside differences, you want to pretend that the last four years of your malicious behavior did not occur. Your present overtures for reconciliation do not amuse us, and your overdue appeals for "unity" seem disingenuous at best when you compare your rhetoric with your actions.

You ignored months of the real acts of insurrection as your Antifa and BLM militias occupied a police precinct, damaged 150 federal buildings, and burned and looted businesses at an estimated cost of over 2 billion dollars. Rioters murdered three police officers during the summer's insurrections, 700 police officers received injuries, and 30 civilians died during the BLM riots. And you now dare to call us the insurrectionists! Where were your calls for civility when these calamitous events of the "Summer of Peaceful Protests" were unfolding?

With the Presidential election dubiously won, an election shrouded in secrecy, embroiled in fraud, and engulfed in corruption, you now want us to become one?

This ongoing obsession of yours

with President Trump is neither flattering nor uplifting. Why are you pursuing the impeachment of the President when he is out of office? There is no virtue in your vindictiveness, no honor in your hatred for the President. It lacks the respect given and the benevolence extended to all previous Presidents.

Your conduct is unfaithful to the Constitution, and it is inconsistent with American jurisprudence and antithetical to American values.

Your superfluous appeals for "unity" play us as fools as you continue to bludgeon us mercifully with your "wokeness wackiness," the "white privilege kinard's," and the "cancel culture craziness?" Anyone who dares to disagree with your maniacal Marxist policies faces immediate suspension from all public forums compliments of the "social media moguls" and the "state media minstrels." Does this seem like the actions of a political party trying to reunite the country to you?


The new socialistic Democratic party does not desire unification; they seek retribution and absolute power. So, it should not surprise anyone that we conservatives will not forget or forgive your contemptuous acts.

For we are the proud brothers and sisters of the "American First" movement, and we do not intend to yield to your ruinous ideas. We are the descendants of the "Sons of Liberty," the rightful heirs of democracy, and we have little interest in uniting with a party hellbent on destroying America forever!

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Watch the impeachment political theater yourself – skip the nightly news



Julie Reeder
Publisher

So as of press time on Tuesday, we are starting the second impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump. My hope is that everyone will watch the proceedings in their entirety themselves and not watch one minute of nightly news.

You don't need anyone to interpret anything for you. Please just watch it yourself, despite what a waste of time it may seem. I understand that it is easier to be spoon fed someone's interpretation or narrative on what is happening for a few minutes each night, but we need to be more diligent and think for ourselves after seeing the whole picture.

Trump's lawyers are going to argue that the Senate has no jurisdiction to try a former official who is now a private citizen. In fact it will be the first time in history. They will argue that the charge against the 45th president is deficient, as was the first impeachment, and that his right to free speech was violated by the article of impeachment. They will also argue that the "incitement" accusation has been contradicted by the transcript of the Jan. 6 speech itself, as well as the fact that there is evidence the breach was preplanned.

Democrats allege that the Jan. 6 Capitol riot was incited by Trump using the words "fight like hell" in reference to his team's legal efforts with election integrity.

Trump's attorneys are reportedly planning on pointing out several Democrats who also used the word "fight" when talking about election security. In addition, they may use video of Democrats calling on constituents to actually bully Trump supporters and staff when they are in public with their families.

This political theater is doomed to fail because they don't have the votes as they didn't the first time around. The first impeachment failed because there was actually nothing inappropriate with the phone call Trump had with the Ukrainian president, but it didn't matter. It did what it was supposed to do. It provided ample political theater, soundbites and unbelievably biased news stories for months which brought more division and anger just like the Russia collusion conspiracy theory. Never mind that as vice president, Joe Biden actually did what they were accusing Trump of and it was caught on video. Biden actually threatened to withhold money from the Ukraine if they didn't fire the investigator that was looking into Barisma and Hunter Biden.

Never mind that the crooked FBI already had the laptop with all the evidence they needed showing Hunter's business deals with Ukraine, China, Russia, and Iran which peddled U.S. influence with his Vice President father.

Never mind that every major social media platform "fact checked" and censored legitimate news sources that had reported those stories to keep them from the American public until after the election. The complicit nightly news just needed to influence and win the election.

So, while Washington DC is playing "lookie lookie, listen, listen" with one hand in the air distracting the American public with political theater, look what is going on with the other hand. It is signing a historic number of executive orders pushing radical political agendas.

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

Re: 'Response to Fallbrook Democratic Club 'ad' and Maldonado/Stamos letter [Village News, Letter, 1/28/21]

Sue Jones' response (co-president, Republican Women of Fallbrook) clearly reveals the state of delirium that currently exists in the GOP. In her letter defending Rep. Issa's vote to overturn the results of this past November's presidential election, she states ...

"By voting to object to the 'certified' votes in several states, he was doing exactly what we, his constituents, elected him (Issa) to do and that was to support former President Donald Trump."

First I would hope, whether we voted for Mr. Issa or for Mr. Campa-Najjar, that each of us anticipated that the candidate we voted for would first and foremost represent the interests of this district in deference to all others. I would hope that none of us had expectations that our candidate would be one

who would interfere with the will of the voters of Georgia, or Pennsylvania, or Michigan; most certainly we wouldn't stand for it if representatives of other states acted to overturn our vote!

Second, Mr. Issa's oath of office, which he took just days before, was to defend (and I would add, to abide by) the Constitution and the laws of this nation. The vote to override the will of the voters in Georgia by Congress was a clear violation of the constitutionally protected principle of states' rights (the federal government is given authority over the states only as enumerated in the U.S. Constitution), a fundamental right the GOP was a staunch adherent to and promoter of in the not so distant past. With his vote to impose his will over the will of the voters of Georgia, Mr. Issa

participated in an outright attack on one of the primary principles of democracy, the sanctity of the ballot.

In summary, we did not elect Mr. Issa to make all other responsibilities of office subordinate to the defense of the former president, a man who urged his followers to lay siege on the Capital yet did not have the courage to even take one step with them. Former President Kennedy spoke of profiles in courage, yet the actions of the former president can only be best described as a profile in cowardice. And Mr. Issa's vote in favor of nullifying the will of the voters of Georgia, in defense of the indefensible, was clearly an abuse of the powers of his office and a violation of his freshly taken oath!

John van Doorn

Remember, you read it here first

While the physical damage to the U.S. Capitol building that occurred on Jan. 6 can be calculated in dollars, the damage done to our democracy is incalculable. The FBI has now charged more than 180 individuals involved in the insurrection. There seems to be a paucity of Antifa participants vs Trump supporters: or is that I can't get the image of the "QAnon Shaman" out of my mind?

More than 60 of Trump's election lawsuits lacked merit. Trump wasn't an official plaintiff in all of them; some were his allies or supporters echoing Trump's claims. The lawsuits failed for various reasons. Some had errors in the filings, others lacked standing. Mainly, the allegations lacked proof (i.e., evidence). To see the source, search on "In more than 60 cases, judges looked at the allegations that Trump was making and determined they were without any merit."

I've been an observer of the

Democratic Party for many years. As a result, I can assure you that it does not have the capability to commit massive voter fraud without being detected. Unlike the GOP, which has a rich history of coordinated vote-related manipulation, the Democratic Party remains largely uncoordinated: an aspect that appeals to many citizens.

While no hard evidence has been discovered to support widespread voter fraud claims in the 2020 election, plenty of people have signed their name to sworn testimony. Many of the affidavits in Trump lawsuits submitted affidavits alleging they heard someone say there was fraud, but didn't have a first-hand account. That's considered hearsay, and in most cases, hearsay is not admissible in court.

Michigan Circuit Judge Timothy M. Kenny described specific affidavits that Giuliani referenced Thursday as "generalized," "rife

with speculation and guess-work" and having "no evidentiary basis." And so it has gone.

Only one day in office and President Biden has been falsely accused of using an executive order to order schools to open the girls' bathrooms and sports to other-gendered individuals. Actually, it orders government agencies to ensure that they do not discriminate against other-gendered individuals. To see the actual text, search for "Executive Order on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation."

Another popular misrepresentation is that Biden called himself a dictator. Rather, after he rejected the idea of using an executive order to raise taxes on corporations and wealthy people, he said there are "things you can't do by executive order unless you're a dictator." (CNN Politics)

John H. Terrell

Help needed in locating woman responsible for accident

Can you help us? Friday morning, Feb. 5, a woman was speeding up Via Puerta Del Sol. Where the asphalt turns to dirt, she accelerated into my son's car that was coming from the opposite direction. If not for quick thinking and evasive action, it would have been a head on collision.

She took out my son's left side of the car and stopped on the berm about 3 inches from rolling over into the canyon. She admitted full responsibility and that she'd fallen asleep at the wheel. Upon reporting the information she gave him (name, vehicle details and insurance) to his insurance, the claims person told my son that everything she gave him is false. Please help us find her!

Description of the person involved – her hair is black, long, tight curls, mid-back length; she was wearing a grey zippered

hoodie with white ties, and mottled grey/black sweatpants. Her shoes were slip on black sandals with a Jaguar emblem. She is between 30 and 40 years old, normal build, approximately 5 foot 7 inches, and Hispanic or Mediterranean. She wore dark red lipstick and nail polish, possibly has a mole on her left cheek, large silver hoop earrings, many tattoos and one that said "forgiven" by her right ankle. She also mentioned that she'd gotten a settlement lately.

Description of vehicle involved – it was a black Honda Civic, a four door sedan, My son, a student, had just bought his car and taken out a loan to get the car running to the tune of \$1,400. He was able to use it for 24 hours before she demolished it. Please let me know if you can help, 760-518-2861.

Rudi Baca

How to destroy a country

The U.S. Population is 330,000,000 and in five months the number of COVID-19 deaths was 130,000. The number of deaths as a percent of the population is 0.03939%, compared to the number of cancer cases diagnosed in 2019 (1,762,450) and 607,000 deaths.

This doesn't seem far-fetched because it is happening before our eyes. A very well-orchestrated plan, or an unimaginable set of events that just fell into place... with the United States front and center. You tell me!

Scare people with a virus, force them to wear masks and place them in quarantine. Count the number of dead every second of every day, in every news headline.

By the way, 99 and 8/10 of the people who get the virus, recover. About 1 to 2/10 of 1% percent who get the virus, die. Most of them have other medical problems. Did you catch that? Less than 1/2 of 1% die.

Close businesses = 35,000,000+

instantly unemployed.

Remove entertainment and prohibit recreation; closing parks, gyms, bars, restaurants, sports.

No dating. No touching. Isolate people. Dehumanize them.

Close temples and churches; prohibit worship. Create a vacuum and let depression, anxiety, hopelessness and desperation set in. Then... ignite hatred and civil unrest, creating Civil War.

Empty the prisons because of the virus and fill the streets with criminals.

Send in Antifa to vandalize property, as if they are freedom fighters. Undermine the law, riot, loot and attack all law enforcement, but tell government to order a stand-down.

Then... defund law enforcement and abolish police.

We are all being played by those who want to destroy America! This is how you destroy a Nation from within, in very short order.

Christine Moosa

“Sourcebook Helped My New Business Grow Legs”



I began installing solar systems in my new homes in about 2012. I soon began to get referrals and started installing new systems for other clients besides my new houses. The word began to spread that my abilities went beyond just slapping up panels and wiring them in. I have the ability and the tradesmen to fully integrate the solar for the benefit of all the mechanical systems in the house, such as the furnaces, water heaters etc.

This business was crawling along until I decided to participate in the Sourcebook 2018 with a full page ad. Along with the ads, I ran a full length editorial in the Village News and the Temecula Valley News, which is owned by the Village News.

Suddenly my business “grew legs” and went from a crawl to a walk and is now jogging along at a fairly good pace. The ads and editorial got the word out that I could solve a number of other issues for homeowners while integrating the Solar in to their home. I started getting calls right away from the Fallbrook and Temecula areas for Solar quotes.

I have since installed several projects that were a direct result of the Sourcebook Ad. I have upped the size of my bi-weekly newspaper ads to a half page as a result of this great response. Using a combination of the Sourcebook and the informational ads, the public is beginning to realize and appreciate the difference between a company that simply knows how to stick solar panels on the roof and connect the wires from a company that is very conscientious about the aesthetics of the not very attractive addition to a property.



I plan to run three pages in next year's Sourcebook and am considering a fourth.

– Mark Kirk, MBK Solar - a division of Mark B. Kirk, Inc.



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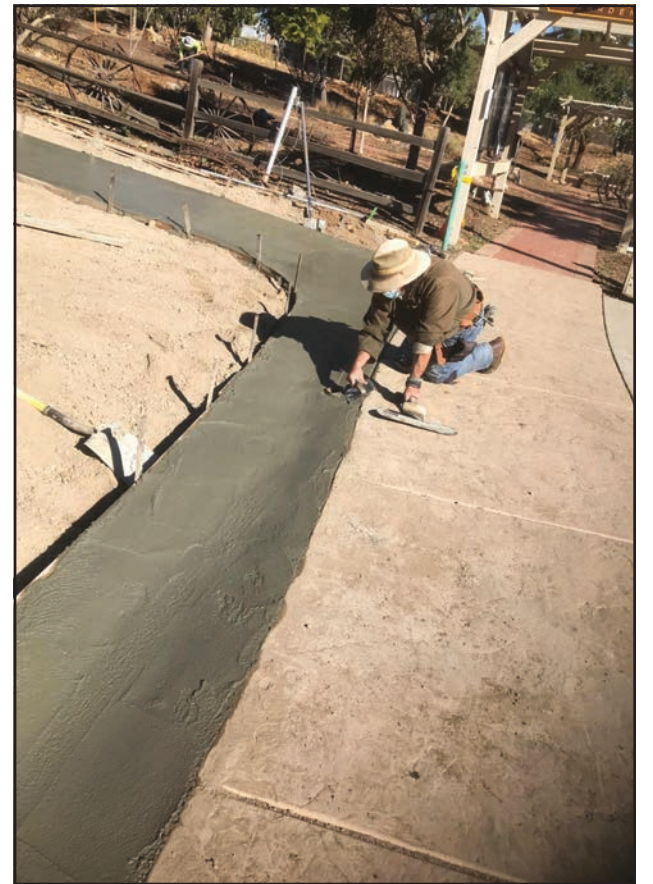
Newly renovated Wildlife Sculpture Garden is community effort



Cheryl Pizzo plants succulents around "Winged Companions," a driftwood sculpture of a pair of eagles.



Art and Arthur Baeza of A & A Concrete paved the garden's brick-lined path, constructed a berm to prevent runoff, and installed a new walkway.



The new concrete berm will help prevent runoff. Village News / Courtesy photos

FALLBROOK – The Wildlife Sculpture Garden in Fallbrook has been redesigned and replanted with the help of several local business owners, generous donors

and volunteers in the community. The effort was kicked off last summer under the direction of Beverly Tucker, a longtime Fallbrook Land Conservancy

volunteer and supporter, who recognized the need to refresh the garden, which is located on a corner of the 1.5-acre Palomares House and Park on Stage Coach

Lane. The unique garden is the site of seven wildlife-theme sculptures, which are featured on Fallbrook's Art in Public Places website.

In August, longtime volunteer Mark Lopez, Tucker and several volunteers began the task of weeding, raking and hauling away overgrown foliage and tree trimmings along the fences and pathways. Over the next few months, contributions from FLC supporters kick started major renovations, and two local businesses stepped up to help with renovation projects.

Landscape architect John Dahl donated his services to oversee the installation of an upgraded irrigation system in the garden. A & A Concrete, a local business owned and operated since 1978 by brothers Art and Arthur Baeza, donated four working days to paving the brick-lined path where honorary tiles are located and constructing a berm to prevent runoff from the gravel parking area. They also installed a new walkway in the upper pergola area. "We like doing community work," said Art about his contribution.

Another special volunteer was Ashley Schlumpberger, who became the 37th and first female Eagle Scout candidate to complete a project for the FLC by raising funds and supervising construction of a new pathway in the garden.

She was aided in her fundraising efforts by discounts on materials provided by Fallbrook Irrigation and Southwest Boulder. She also recruited up to 11 student volunteers to help with its installation throughout the month of November.

"The pathway that she created will allow greater connectivity

through the Sculpture Garden, as well as provide a much needed connection point to the grounds from Calavo Road," according to Karla Standridge, FLC executive director. "The pathway will be particularly helpful during the FLC's annual fundraiser, Stagecoach Sunday, by creating better defined traffic flow and providing additional space for exhibitors to set up."

Several members of the community have also volunteered to create new plantings around seven different wildlife sculptures in the garden. They include Cheryl Pizzo, who planted succulents in the areas around the "Winged Companions" driftwood sculpture of a pair of eagles, and "The Beacon," a bronze hawk. Jim and Lisa Stowers, new FLC members, cleared and planted the area around the sculpture of a roadrunner entitled "Crowned Prince."

According to Tucker, December was a busy month that included moving dirt mounds and rocks, as well as spreading mulch. Succulents were donated by Dave Veltman and Renee Ingold. Veltman also spread annual rye to prevent dirt from washing away during heavy rain.

"We have come a long way, thanks to the generous contributions of time, money and materials. But there is much more to come," Tucker said.

For more information on the Wildlife Sculpture Garden, volunteer opportunities and other ways to contribute, visit <https://fallbrooklandconservancy.org> or call the FLC office at 760-728-0889.

Submitted by Fallbrook Land Conservancy.



Ashley Schlumpberger, left, with Karla Standridge, FLC executive director, stand by the new path designed by Schlumpberger for her Eagle Scout project.

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Coordinator for 14 years, is passionate about our services and our clients. Shelia has visited other Adult Day Care centers all around the state, and emphatically says that "We're the best! We're loving, caring, and clean. When you visit other places and then you visit our Adult Day Care, you immediately see the difference. The difference is LOVE!"

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Call 760-723-7570

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FoundationForSeniorCare.org

Fallbrook Blanket Project donates blankets to Project Touch



Seen outside the men's transition house in Fallbrook are, from left, Bonnie and Blaine Vice, house managers, Mark Sterrett, Gail Cunningham, Danny, Cathy Wick, William, Manny, Brett and Waldo.



Displaying some of the donated blankets are, from left, Mark Sterrett, William Walmart, William Pruitt and Brad Fox, founder of the Fallbrook Homeless Advocacy which operates the men's transition house under the auspices of Project Touch in Temecula.

FALLBROOK – Last fall, the nonprofit Fallbrook Blanket Project responded to a request from Project Touch and donated 15 sets of hats, scarves and fingerless gloves to them. Fallbrook Blanket Project also recently donated seven twin sized blankets to Project Touch.

Project Touch in Fallbrook provides formerly homeless men with a home and some independence in its mission to transform lives. Bonnie and Blaine Vice provide management, support and guidance for Project Touch and can be reached at blainevice@roadrunner.com.

Brad Fox, founder of the Fallbrook Homeless Advocacy which operates the men's transition house under the auspices of Project Touch in Temecula, wrote, "Men of the Fallbrook Homeless Advocacy transition house received handmade blankets and caps donated by the Fallbrook Blanket Project during the days leading up to Christmas. Aside from the comfort and warmth provided by the items, the men were especially appreciative that the project and community support them in their efforts to become productive, confident and healthy members of society. Thank you Fallbrook Blanket Project for continuing the holistic work to restore those who



Bonnie and Blaine Vice, managers of the men's transition house, show off one of the handmade sets of hats, scarves and fingerless gloves donated, worn by Blaine.

are less fortunate and less able."

A second house, called the Refuge, will soon be opening and is in need of financial assistance. Fox can be reached at bradfox1949@gmail.com.

The free Fallbrook Blanket Project is composed of women

who knit and crochet all sizes of blankets and other useful items to be given to the less fortunate or to fundraisers for charities.

Fallbrook Blanket Project meets Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the downtown square at Main and Alvarado, or they work from



Sherry McFarland, secretary of the Fallbrook Blanket Project, and Brad Fox show off one of the donated blankets from the Blanket Project.

home and give their creations to Carmen Willard, 314-803-0986 to be donated. Anyone is welcome to come to the square gatherings where yarn is provided, and one can learn free to knit or crochet.

To contribute completed items or donate yarn to the

Fallbrook Blanket Project, email fallbrookblanketproject@gmail.com. For more information about the Fallbrook Blanket Project, visit <https://fallbrookblanketproject.org/>

Submitted by the Fallbrook Blanket Project

Village News/Carmen Willard photos

Detachment committee consultant to receive supply reliability data this month, review in March

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

The Advisory Committee on the Fallbrook/Rainbow Detachment convened by San Diego's Local Agency Formation Commission met Feb. 1, and by the next advisory committee meeting scheduled for April 5, consultant Michael Hanemann will have a recommendation on the supply reliability issue associated with the Fallbrook Public Utility District and the Rainbow Municipal Water District plans to detach from the San Diego County Water Authority and annex into the Eastern Municipal Water District.

Hanemann will receive supply reliability information from affected districts by Feb. 22, and the agencies will have until March 1 to rebut data in the reports submitted. No input will be allowed in March while Hanemann works on his recommendation.

"I want to complete my analysis by the beginning of April," Hanemann said. "What I want to do at that time is report on the conclusions I'm leaning toward."

The California Water Code requires all urban water suppliers in the state to prepare and submit an Urban Water Management Plan which must include a detailed evaluation of the supplies necessary to meet expected demand over at least a 20-year period in both normal years and dry years.

An urban water supplier is defined as an agency which provides water for municipal purposes to more than 3,000 customers or provides more than 3,000 acre-feet of non-agricultural water annually. The Urban Water Management Plan must be updated every five years.

The SDCWA most recently updated its Urban Water Management Plan in 2015, and that plan was prepared during a drought. During the Dec. 7 advisory

committee meeting, at which Hanemann was introduced, he expressed his desire to incorporate more recent experience in his supply reliability analysis.

The CWA is in the process of updating its Urban Water Management Plan and provided a draft updated plan to LAFCO – information is to be submitted through LAFCO rather than to Hanemann directly – in January.

Hanemann said that the updated plan submitted by the CWA doesn't address finance, rates or decision-making procedures, and he asked for that information. He also asked for updated urban water management plans from the other three agencies involved.

"I think it's materials we've already provided," Nick Kanetis, deputy general manager of Eastern Municipal Water District, said. "A lot of what he's asking for is already in the material."

Because the CWA is currently the primary supplier for FPU and Rainbow those two agencies will incorporate the CWA updates into their own urban water management plans, but Jack Bebee, general manager of FPU, and Tom Kennedy, general manager of Rainbow Municipal Water District, will provide updated supply and demand information to LAFCO.

FPU and U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton are partnering on the Santa Margarita Conjunctive Use Project which will increase available water supplies for FPU and Camp Pendleton and is expected to be complete in early 2022.

The procedure of the documents being supplied by the agencies rather than having Hanemann find information from websites will limit Hanemann's work to actual information along with rebuttals.

"I want to make sure, given the importance of this, that I'm looking at the right documents," he said. "It's better that I'm not

going on a fishing expedition of my own."

After Hanemann addresses water supply reliability, he will then focus on water rate impacts, and his final topic will be potential departure payments.

"We're just anxious to keep it moving," Bebee said.

An update on the status of the detachment applications was provided by LAFCO chief policy analyst Robert Barry. The FPU and Rainbow reorganization proposals are being processed concurrently but are considered separate applications.

"Both of these are going on in parallel," Barry said.

The prerequisites before the application can be brought to the LAFCO board include a property tax exchange in which property tax revenue would be transferred from the agency losing the territory to the agency acquiring the territory.

The research functions from the County Assessor's office and the Office of the Auditor and Controller have been completed. A determination has yet to be made whether a preexisting master property tax exchange resolution applies or whether separate action is needed.

The staff report will also include information from the detachment advisory committee.

"We're waiting for the property tax exchange and then continuation of our discussions with this group," Barry said.

An updated municipal service review and sphere of influence are required for any jurisdictional change other than an annexation of land within the existing sphere of influence. A municipal service review evaluates an area's services and anticipated needs, and a sphere of influence study determines the boundaries best served by a particular agency. Barry expects administrative drafts of updated municipal service reviews to be

available by the April 5 meeting.

LAFCO staff will process information, but the detachment committee meetings are now chaired by Adam Wilson, who previously worked for the office of county supervisor Dianne Jacob. LAFCO executive officer

Keene Simonds will continue to participate in the meetings.

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



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Real Estate Round-Up: Buyers, write your best offer



Kim Murphy
Murphy & Murphy Southern
California Realty

Being a buyer in this low inventory marketplace can be frustrating to say the least. Unless you are a buyer shopping above the price range, you will be competing against many other hopeful buyers who want the same homes as you.

Homes that are priced correctly, are sold within a few days, often

for over the list price. Currently we have less than a half month's supply of homes under \$1,000,000. Otherwise, we only have a three months' supply. There are only 6 detached homes for sale in all price ranges. Historically, our normal is between 10 and 15.

The current situation is like looking for a pair of red shoes and finding that there's only one pair available. That pair will be sold to the highest bidder in a matter of seconds. Welcome to "bidding a home."

So, what's a buyer to do to "win" the prize? Here's a few helpful tips:

First, hire an experienced Realtor who understands all the documents you will need to execute so your offer is complete. I'm not self-promoting here, but rather pointing out what should be the obvious first step. You can have the best of intentions, but if it is not executed correctly and

completely, the message will be lost in the delivery.

I bristle when I receive offers that are incomplete. I have received offers where the Realtor drafting the documents doesn't acknowledge the agency relationships that exist or doesn't complete the names of the sellers.

When buyers use a Realtor out of the area, they often forget to ask for a septic inspection, which is a key component to the negotiation of an offer. Missing or incomplete documents do not make a strong first impression, so if you are competing to "win" a property, I wouldn't want to start out this way.

Second, write a strong offer. What is that? Knowing that there is less than a half month's supply of homes for sale under \$1,000,000 means that a strong offer will be at the list price, and possibly over the list price. The offer should have a solid earnest money deposit, which is generally between 1% and 3%

of the purchase price.

Have your Realtor find out in advance what kind of close of escrow date the sellers would prefer and write that date. Let the sellers choose escrow, title, and any other service providers. Provide a lender approval letter and proof of funds when you submit your offer.

Then there are subtle details that can set your offer apart. Shorten up the day you have to perform your inspections and remove the contingency. The boiler plate is 17 days; make it seven. Shorten up the loan approval date. The boiler plate is 7 days for the appraisal and 14 days for loan approval.

If you're approved before you write your offer, then the only thing the lender needs to do is order the appraisal which can be done well before the 17 days. Once you have performed all the buyer's obligations, you can remove your contingencies. The sellers can then be confident that your escrow will close.

Imagine how much stronger your offer is if you can remove all your contingencies in 14 days, compared to a competing buyer who sticks with the boiler plate timelines?

Occupancy is another way to make your offer stronger than your competition. Give the seller extra time to vacate their home. Give it to them at no cost. Sounds crazy but think about the value to the seller of knowing they don't have to move out the day you close escrow, but rather have extra time to vacate. It's not only a peace-making tool, but it also saves the seller some money too. That simple tool makes your offer not only friendlier but financially better for the seller.

A word to the many buyers who must sell their current home first, so they can qualify to purchase their new home. Sell it. Get it in escrow and make sure that your Listing Broker protects you from being homeless.

An experienced Realtor knows the document to use to protect you on this. Shorten up your buyers timelines, so their contingencies are satisfied. Experienced Realtors also know how to get you additional moving time. If you can negotiate a long rent back on the home you're selling, that's extended occupancy and close escrow, sooner rather than later.

It all gets down to risk and reward. The less a seller has to risk, the more the seller can profit, and the more streamlined the process, all contribute to your chances of "winning" your new home.

If you need help navigating this labyrinth of a process, contact Murphy and Murphy to help you strategize so you can "win" the prize. It's a great time to buy.

Kim Murphy can be reached at kim@murphy-realty.com or 760-455-9922 or at 10 N Main Avenue, in Fallbrook. Her broker license is #992, and she is on the board of directors for the California Association of Realtors.

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Things We're Doing to Try to Reduce Your Bill

- 1 Refinancing debt, saving sewer customers \$1.6 million**

In January, we took advantage of low interest rates and refinanced a loan, saving ratepayers \$115,000 a year for the next 15 years. This was made possible by our strong credit rating. Our focus on enhancing financial management and transparency the past two years has paid off.
- 2 New, local water project will ease imported water costs**

We are more than halfway through building a project to use water from the Santa Margarita River. It will provide about 50% of our water, reducing our need to purchase expensive imported water. Currently, all our water is imported. Santa Margarita River water will be coming to Fallbrook taps by early 2022.
- 3 Detaching from our water wholesaler**

We are pursuing buying water from the Eastern Municipal Water District instead of the San Diego County Water Authority for about \$500 less per acre-foot of water. This would save the District an estimated \$3 million to \$4 million each year, supplying equally reliable water at a lower cost. This process is called "detachment."
- 4 Controlling costs through staff reductions**

We have fewer employees now than 10 years ago due to investments in technology. This allows us to reduce staffing and associated costs, whenever possible. Labor costs have remained flat the past three years, and labor is only about 14% of the total budget.
- 5 Keeping operating costs flat for 2 years**

We have kept our costs of operating the District flat the past two years. We understand the pandemic has added additional financial burden to our ratepayers. Though the cost of imported water has continued to rise, we've taken additional steps to hold costs flat by optimizing our operations. We continue to pursue our long-term objective of stabilizing or reducing the cost of water to our customers.

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Majestic Views

I can see for miles and miles and miles. The moment you step inside this grand estate, you will never want to leave. The views are unparalleled. The grand entry opens into a massive living room with a wall of doors to the outside patio and the majestic hills of De Luz, with Rock Mountain as the centerpiece. The main floor boasts an equally impressive formal DR, cook's kitchen with adjoining family room, a perfect home office, sewing or hobby room, and the spacious master and ensuite bath. The downstairs has 2 additional bedrooms and shared bathroom. There are 5 fireplaces. Cherry wood cabinetry is throughout. Marble floors gleam. 5299 sf sited on 1.78 acres at the end of a privately gated enclave of homes. No HOA.

Scan the QR code to view video of this property!



LAND!



FALLBROOK ST & GOLDEN RD, FALLBROOK

Seller will entertain offers between \$799,000 & \$899,000

3.97 Acre Lot

3.97 acre lot Zoned Village 7.3 is at the corner of Fallbrook St and Golden Rd is currently the Fallbrook Garden Center. Seller will sell property including current inventory or will negotiate to customize transaction for your needs. Directly across Golden is the location for Fallbrooks newest county park. Plans have been drawn up for this property to divide it into 15 residential lots. The lot split hasn't been completed and is only a concept drawn up by an engineer for future 15 lot housing project.

INCOME PROPERTY!



339 S. MAIN AVE, FALLBROOK

Seller will entertain offers between \$429,000 & \$499,000

Village Live/ Work Zoning

This country cutie is zoned Village-4, which means it is both commercial and residential use. The original structure faces Main Avenue and is a prime location to promote your local business or retail store. Behind this structure are two additional buildings that can be used for residential or additional small business ventures.

COMING SOON!



3915 PALOMAR DR, FALLBROOK

Seller will entertain offers between \$695,000 & \$775,000

Fantastic Views

Beautifully updated 3BD home with fantastic views. Home has solar, concrete tile roof, recirculating hot water and updated kitchen. There is also the "bonus" of a walkout basement that is completely separate from the main home. It has been converted into an apt. Perfect for vacation rental, extended family.

COMING SOON!



1143 MORRO RD, FALLBROOK

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

California Bungalow

Charming 3BD red tile roof California bungalow with hardwood floors, fireplace and walk out basement that could be a family hangout retreat, Vacation Rental or extended family dwelling. Big westerly views from deck off of the kitchen bonus/dining room. Enjoy our famous Fallbrook sunsets. Big fenced front yard.

COMING SOON!



38160 DE LUZ RD, FALLBROOK

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

Amazing 11+ View Acres!

7 minutes from town with 3 operating wells and is perfect for farming or horses. New 10,000 gal. irrigation storage tank. Owner uses well water for irrigation & both dwellings. 5 electric meters on property - 1 to each dwelling, 1 to laundry house, 1 to barn & 1 to well station. 2 detached dwellings, each w/ 1 BR/1BA.

COMING SOON!



29075 NAVIGATOR WAY, MENIFEE

Seller will entertain offers between \$435,000 & \$500,000

Heritage Lakes

Come and explore what the master planned community of Heritage Lakes has to offer. This home has 4BD with 2.5BA, 3 car garage, gourmet kitchen including granite counter tops, beautiful maple cabinets, stainless appliances and new stunning laminate floors on the lower level. Modern master planned development.

WE CAN SELL YOURS TOO!



1016 N. STAGE COACH LN, FALLBROOK

Seller will entertain offers between \$725,000 & \$800,000

Opportunity Knocks

Opportunity Knocks! This property features two complete homes sited on 1.65 acres. Panoramic Views to the Santa Rosa plateau and Santa Margarita River Valley. Both homes combined provide 3659 sf of living space. The original home has 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. The attached second home features 2 bedrooms and 2 baths.

WE CAN SELL YOURS TOO!



416 WOODCREST LANE, FALLBROOK

Seller will entertain offers between \$475,000 & \$550,000

Spacious Backyard

California Bungalow nicely sited on .24 acre lot on a quiet street. Well maintained and upgraded over time, this 2BD, 2BA home with a 1 car garage is that perfect little starter home or perfect charming cottage, for downsizing or perfect for a family. The large family room features a massive wood burning fireplace.

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO SELL!

Buyers who need to remain in California for business are moving from congested cities to communities like Fallbrook for a spacious country lifestyle. Out of area agents with absolutely no Fallbrook experience are bringing buyers to Fallbrook in search of a simpler peaceful life to raise their families. Local experience has never been more important. Now more than ever, the unique Murphy & Murphy marketing and concierge service is our strength. Our personal attention to your specific needs gives you peace of mind. Health and safety is paramount. The change in the market is opening up buying power at all levels. Our many years of experience can achieve results for you at the highest possible sale price. We also enjoy relationships with brokerages across the nation. If you are considering relocating to another state, we can help you find the right broker in the state where you wish to move. Give us a call. We want to show you how we will accomplish success for you and your family. We care about Fallbrook and have been community minded Realtors in the N San Diego County since 1997. In times like these you need specific market place knowledge and experience representing you.

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STEM

from page A-1

Marsh said there were different classes and grades each day and different activities. "I was surprised by how curious they were about the seniors' lives."

The first day, Mrs. Rowley's fourth grade class asked Foundation clients Madeline and Irene about where they were born, how school was different, how life is different, and what they were doing during quarantine, their thoughts about COVID. They also asked about their hobbies, sports and challenges they have overcome in their lives.

Marsh said both of the ladies teared up a little (the teacher said at the beginning that they could skip any questions they didn't feel comfortable answering). "The kids were so excited and thoughtful. It was so cute seeing them at their desks raising their hands and excited to ask their questions. Madeline and Irene really enjoyed it too."

Mrs. Reilly's first grade class led a kindness art activity "first grade drawing class 1, 2, 3." This class presented an art project and showed the clients how to draw a peacock. They walked the clients through each step and everyone shared their art at the end.

Mrs. Jarvis' first grade class led a reading to seniors activity. Marsh said, "The students read a book to our clients and we asked them questions about the story. They then asked our clients what their favorite books were. In all the activities the students loved to ask questions."

Sargent said, "These types of experiences are so special for clients that they continue to talk about them for days." Marsh and Sargent both said the organizer of the event, Zorayda Hernandez, did a great job organizing the event and getting all the teachers involved.

Marsh said that on the last day they worked with the Student Lighthouse Team, which consisted of different grades combined and was led by school counselor Mrs. Hernandez. They introduced an art and music activity.

She said, "The last activity was a self-care activity led by the students. They asked the clients to draw a picture of their favorite food. Our clients were asked to draw a picture of their favorite



Mrs. Reilly's first grade class led a kindness art activity where they showed the clients how to draw a peacock and everyone showed their art at the end.

Village News/Lauren Marsh photos



The last day STEM students asked clients to draw a picture of their favorite food or their favorite place and asked to describe it. Client Maria said The Club was one of her favorite places because she could hang out with her friends and craft!

Announcement

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 64 foot monopole Communications Tower (Ref. EBI #6120006642). Anticipated lighting application is a medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is west of Sparrow Road, Fallbrook, San Diego County, CA 92028 (33 22 52.7 N / 117 15 41.1 W). The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1169661. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554.

place and asked to describe it. Our client Maria said The Club was one of her favorite places because she could hang out with her friends and craft! The students played music while everyone was drawing their pictures."

Sargent said, "The Foundation for Senior Care is hoping to make this a long term partnership."

The Club at the Foundation for Senior Care provides socialization and activities for adults who have cognitive impairment or

for those who would just enjoy companionship and hanging out with friends for a day.

For information about Foundation for Senior Care, call 760-723-7570.

THRIFT

from page A-1

the Do Gooders Thrift Store thrift store in May of 2020 before relocating to its current location in September 2020.

Julie Miller, the press liaison for the Do Gooders Thrift Store thrift store, said that one of the most unique aspects of Do Gooders is the involvement within the community and the "no-shame shopping" policy.

"Do Gooders is all about helping those in need, no matter what the circumstance," said Miller. "Dawn's no-shame shopping system allows people in need to pick out up to 15 items of clothing for free without being singled out. Other shoppers don't know if you're there to spend \$200 or if you're getting items for free."

"That's the magic of Do Gooders, it's nobody's business but yours. There's no shame."

Do Gooders has helped all types of people with different circumstances in the community, but one situation that stood out to Williams and Miller was when a man walked into the store,

obviously in distress. His pants were too large and didn't fit right, so they had been falling down in public and he was worried that he was scaring her residents.

"He asked the employees for one thing. A belt," Miller said. "We immediately found him a belt and helped him for free, he just wanted people to respect him and that belt made a huge difference for him."

Another case that stood out was when an employee met a homeless man in Vista. It had been a cold day, and the man had no blankets, no coat, and nothing to keep him warm. The employee came back to Fallbrook and put together a care package for him. The package included a blanket, a jacket, and shoes. Then, he drove all the way back to Vista to deliver the package. This employee went out of his way to help someone in need, no one asked him to. That is the spirit of Do Gooders.

The employees at the Do Gooders Thrift Store have all been inspired by Williams and her determination to help people.

"She sees a need and fills it," said Miller. "She has a drive to help everyone, no matter what their emergency because every

emergency is different."

In the future, Williams said she hopes to expand the Do Gooders Thrift Store nationwide. She has seen high need communities all over California and the U.S., and her goal is to serve these communities through Do Gooders. The store in Fallbrook is serving as the pilot, and this allows Williams to experiment and see what works for the organization. Then, she would like to expand her business and help people nationwide.

Do Gooders Thrift Store has given back to the community in many different ways, including a Christmas "Giving tree" where they gave free gifts to children in need, donating to families that have lost loved ones, partnering with charities, and much more.

"For the staff, Do Gooder's isn't just a name; it isn't just a slogan, it's in their souls" said Miller. "They live and breathe the business name. They are all Do Gooders."

To learn more about the Welcome Back Foundation and the Do Gooders Thrift Store, visit <https://welcomebackfoundation.org/>.

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ENTERTAINMENT

'Saturday Mornings at the Zoo' offered by Wild Wonders

Christal Gaines-Emory
Intern

Wild Wonders is a wildlife education and conservation center in Bonsall where kids and adults can connect with animals from all over the world. Wildlife Wonders offers different types of interactive experiences including live tours, school visits, birthday celebrations, and now they're even offering virtual experiences.

The "Saturday Mornings at the Zoo" program was developed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this event takes place virtually every third Saturday of the month.

This virtual wildlife safari has a different focus each month. On Feb. 20, the focus of the lesson will be "The Emerald Forest" which involves animals from the rainforest. The animals that will be highlighted during this lesson are a boa constrictor, a kinkajou, their baby paca named Poquito, and a few other surprise guests.

Jackie Navarro, the director of Wild Wonders, said she is excited to be able to offer this unique opportunity virtually.

"Even though it's a virtual experience, it is still very interactive," she said. "We are able to bring the camera right up to the animal's eye, and you feel like you're right there with us!"

Each wildlife safari lasts around 40 minutes, and you learn about all the featured "animal

ambassadors." Not only that, but the program only costs \$20.

Wild Wonders is dedicated to giving their animals a forever home. About 65-70% of these animals were abandoned, then rescued by Wild Wonders. All the proceeds from the "Saturday morning at the Zoo" go back to the animals, keeping them healthy, well fed, and well cared for.

"We take them in and they become 'creature teachers,'" said Navarro. "We have 120 animals at Wild Wonders, including bearcats, wallabies, owl monkeys, a Siberian lynx, and even an African cheetah."

Wild Wonders is one of the many organizations that has been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the staff are still eager to help the wildlife and educate the public. They have continued to support other organizations with a mission to preserve wildlife.

"We've faced so much," said Navarro. "We've had to completely reinvent ourselves and become even more creative. We're doing it all for you, the public; we wanted to continue educating even during these uncertain times."

The "Saturday Mornings at the Zoo" program is open to children, teens, adults, so everyone can learn something new and enjoy seeing the animals. This program allows people of all ages to continue learning in a safe, socially



An African pygmy hedgehog teaches a lesson as an animal ambassador at Wild Wonders in Bonsall.

Village News/Courtesy photos

distanced environment, while supporting a local organization.

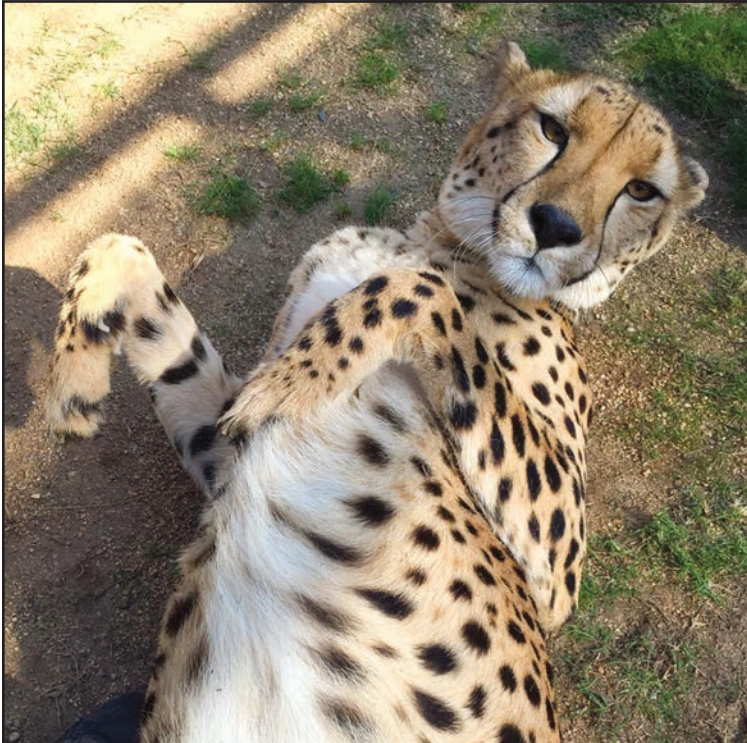
Registration is required for

this experience, visit <https://wildwonders.org/saturday-morning-at-the-zoo/> to register

and to learn more about the program and future virtual safari adventures.



This Great Horned Owl is an experienced "creature teacher" and assists the hosts at Wild Wonders in educating eager students.



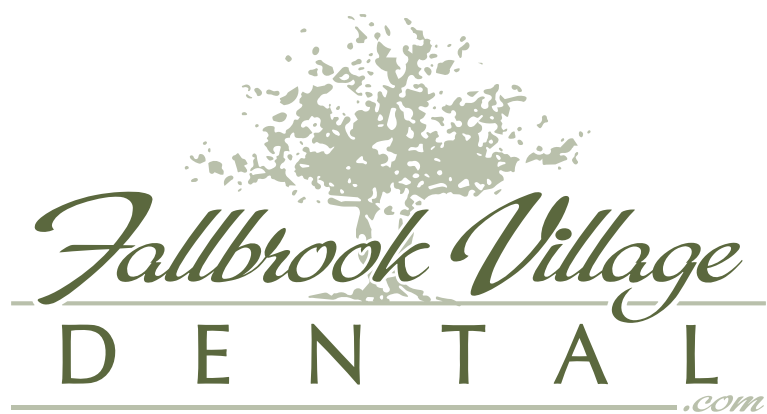
Masika is the African cheetah that lives at Wild Wonders.



Lou, the owl monkey, is excited to meet the public at "Saturday Mornings at the Zoo."



Kopje is a rescued rock hyrax living at Wild Wonders.



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EDUCATION

Bonsall High named Honor Roll High School

BONSALL – Bonsall High School was named an Honor Roll High School by Educational Results Partnership, a data science organization that recognizes schools with high performance in Math and Science and schools that are making significant progress in closing the Achievement Gap.

Sponsored by the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence, the ERP Honor Roll is the only school recognition program in the state that uses student achievement outcome data and is a valuable resource for all schools to identify successful peers and learn about best practices that improve student success.

For more information on @edresults and the ERP Honor Roll program, visit <http://www.edresults.org>.

Bonsall High School is currently offering both in-person hybrid and online coursework. The school offers Advanced Placement and both Dual and Concurrent Enrollment college options through Palomar College. Basketball, soccer, and other sports start in February and March. The BHS drama performance of “Artificially” will open Friday, March 26.

Parents and students wanting more information about Bonsall High School can email jason.fowler@bonsallusd.com and/or attend an in-person, socially distanced parent information meeting at the BHS campus Wednesday, Feb. 24, or Tuesday,



Bonsall High School, currently offering both in-person hybrid and online coursework, has been named an Honor Roll High School by Educational Results Partnership.

Village News/Shane Gibson photo

March 9, at 5 p.m.

For those interested in a virtual meeting option, a Zoom meeting will be offered Wednesday, March 24, at 5 p.m. The meeting link

will be posted at <http://www.bonsallusd.com> under the “Upcoming Events” calendar.

These meetings will include information on academic offerings

such as the Dual and Concurrent Enrollment courses with Palomar College, Advance Placement, Career Technical Education offerings, electives, CIF sports,

clubs and student leadership.

Submitted by Bonsall Unified School District.

San Diego Oasis invites older adults to attend virtual classes

SAN DIEGO – From politics to COVID-19 vaccines, there are many things happening in the world that can disturb people’s peace of mind. If anyone finds they are in need of a positive distraction, the nonprofit San Diego Oasis encourages older adults 50 and up to attend its online classes happening nearly every day of the week year-round. Online classes and events are either free or low-cost. A list of San Diego Oasis’ February and March classes and events can be viewed at <http://sandiegooasis.org>.

“It’s more important than ever to keep our older adult community engaged physically and mentally,” Simona Valanciute, president and

CEO of San Diego Oasis, said. “The COVID-19 pandemic has not only changed our way of living, but also our bodies and minds. Older adults are experiencing these changes, but when coupled with prolonged social isolation it can cause the aging process to happen much faster than expected. Our online classes are the remedy to battle the challenges the pandemic has thrown their way. We provide exercise and flexibility classes, technology workshops and so much more, giving our students an array of classes that will keep them active and independent to help stop the aging clock.”

Adults ages 50 and over are not only in the highest risk category

of contracting the coronavirus, but also for social isolation and loneliness. One study said that prolonged isolation and loneliness is equivalent and as lethal to smoking 15 cigarettes a day. But when older adults live their life with purpose and actively engage, they are less likely to develop Alzheimer’s disease and more likely to retain strong hand grips and walking speeds, as well as have a positive attitude and feel more connected and curious to explore the world.

Ways to get involved with San Diego Oasis

Whether it be a fitness class, an art class or a history class, San Diego Oasis has a topic of interest

for anyone anywhere in the world. The nonprofit strives to make its classes, workshops and events accessible to older adults not just across the region, but also around the globe.

Due to the pandemic the organization’s recent annual Fitness-Palooza event went virtual, making the videos attainable internationally at any time. It is an on demand option that provides older adults anywhere the opportunity to stay on top of their fitness and wellness goals in the new year.

In collaboration with Cox Communications, San Diego Oasis also hosts multiple free technology-focused classes, including tips on how to use smartphones, social media and Zoom, as well as buying and selling online, computer basics and more. “Cox Presents” classes in February, March and April are now available on San Diego Oasis’ website.

If you have a parent or grandparent who is isolated and alone during the pandemic, then you understand the need for brain stimulation and socialization for older adults. San Diego Oasis works to change the way people experience aging and encourages them to pursue meaningful lives through education and service, as well as strives to provide engagement, learning and peer communication to the older adult population to keep them active,

healthy and involved in the world. To support the nonprofit’s efforts, consider making a donation to the organization at <http://sandiegooasis.org>.

Why online classes for older adults are important

While other recreation programs for older adults went on hiatus or closed their doors, the pandemic has not slowed San Diego Oasis down. The nonprofit moved all of its classes online successfully becoming a “senior center without walls,” offering hundreds of workshops to combat social isolation among older adults and to encourage community, connection and conversation. And by shifting their classes online, they are attracting an audience from all over the U.S., not just San Diego, and are also hosting instructors from world-class institutions.

San Diego Oasis has been the pioneer of engagement for nearly 40 years, and is the best at it. The organization welcomes seniors who may have had their favorite older adults or community center shut down, and they can get involved now with programs designed just for them.

To take a class, visit <http://www.sandiegooasis.org> for more information. Let San Diego Oasis provide relief and solace from the current state of our nation, to create a true “oasis” for older adults anywhere.

Submitted by San Diego Oasis.

Zion Christian

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As a child care business (essential business) we are open Monday-Friday from 7:00am - 5:30pm.

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Fall enrollment for Preschool and Kindergarten begins March 15th!

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zionfallbrookpreschool.org





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.

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- 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!

If you are interested in helping, please go to FALLBROOKFOODPANTRY.ORG, for volunteering or to make a donation. Thank you all so very much for your support and concern for our community in-need...your generosity and compassion is beyond philanthropic – it is pure LOVE! – In good health, Shae Gawlak, Executive Director



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Don Diego offers \$73,500 in 2021 college scholarships

DEL MAR – The Don Diego Scholarship Foundation is kicking off its 35th anniversary year by offering \$73,500 in 2021 college scholarships to 26 students who reside in the San Diego area and have participated in the San Diego County Fair and/or other activities associated with the Del Mar Fairgrounds in previous years.

The deadline to apply is midnight Monday, March 29. Eligibility/selection details and applications are at <http://www.dondiegoscholarship.org>.

Scholarships are offered in six categories. Individual awards range from \$1,000 to \$20,000.

Scholarships of \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 will be awarded in each of four categories: Zable Foundation 4-H Club, National FFA Organization, Employee and Exhibitor/Participant.

A one-time Liss Family Scholarship renewable for three additional years of college will be awarded to an outstanding \$5,000 recipient from one of the above categories. The \$20,000, four-year scholarship is funded by Don Diego Board member Jon Liss.

A \$5,000 Spanjian Family Scholarship will be awarded to a recipient from one of the above categories for a \$10,000 award.

One \$3,500, one \$2,500 and six \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to 4-H Club or FFA participants in the fair's Junior Livestock Auction.

Two \$2,500 Vocational Education scholarships will be awarded to qualifying students who wish to pursue an associate degree or certificate at a community college or accredited trade school.

"Each year, hard-working students emanating from throughout the region have won Don Diego scholarships in a highly competitive selection process," Juanita Hayes, Don Diego chair, said. "They have gone on to excel

at college and forge worthwhile careers in agriculture, education, health care and other fields. I feel confident that the class of 2021 will continue that tradition and do us all proud.

"Even amid last-year's pandemic-related challenges, Don Diego strengthened core programs, expanded outreach efforts and innovated new opportunities such as Endowed Named Matching Scholarships. We encourage people to learn more and get involved in our exciting 35th year of building a better San Diego, one scholarship at a time," she said.

The Don Diego Scholarship

Foundation was named for Don Diego, AKA Tom Hernandez, who served as the fair's welcoming goodwill ambassador from 1947-1984.

To date since its inception in 1986, the foundation has awarded \$1,116,500 in scholarships to 279 students and in agriculture education grants. More information is at <http://www.dondiegoscholarship.org> and <http://www.facebook.com/DonDiegoScholarship>.

Submitted by The Don Diego Scholarship Foundation.

RSU announces fall 2020 honor roll recipients

CLAREMORE, Okla. – Rogers State University announced its students who were named to its president's and dean's honor

rolls for the fall 2020 semester, including Jonathan Soto of Fallbrook who made the dean's honor roll.

To qualify for the president's honor roll, students must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours with a 4.0 GPA with no grades lower

than an "A." To qualify for the dean's honor roll, students must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours with a 3.5 GPA with no

grades lower than a "B."

Submitted by Rogers State University.

OBITUARIES



Patricia Louise (McDonald) Baker died Jan. 21, 2021. Pat was a dedicated and beloved wife, mother, sister, grandma, aunt, teacher, and friend. She was born April 14, 1944 in Long Beach, California, a few doors down from her husband-to-be, Robert (Bob) Andrew Baker.

She attended Utah State University, where she was an active member of Sigma Kappa sorority and an outspoken human rights activist. Pat graduated with her bachelor's degree in Social Work, returned home, married her childhood sweetheart, Bob, and began a remarkable, selfless career in public service as a social worker in impoverished East Los Angeles neighborhoods (often getting chased back into to her small VW Bug by giant, barking dogs.)

In 1971, Pat and Bob adopted their first child, Jackson Hugh. Soon after, the family moved to Hacienda Heights, California, their home for the next three decades. In 1977, they adopted a daughter, Andrea (Andi) Marie. In the early 1980s, Pat returned to school and earned her teaching credential from Cal Poly Pomona. She soon discovered her true passion, teaching sixth grade!

Pat taught in the Whittier City School District for 20 years at Jackson, Lincoln, and Dexter schools. A very active advocate in the teacher's union, Pat was one of the district's most loved teachers and even earned the 2004 WHO ("We Honor Ours") Award, a prestigious honor given annually to one teacher who embodies service and support of public schools and public education.

Pat touched hundreds of lives during her tenure, and likely even saved a few as well: in one particularly brave instance, she even removed a handgun from a student's possession without incident. Back then, this wasn't newsworthy, but she may have saved a lot of lives that day—especially the life of the poor child who made the decision to bring a loaded handgun to school.

Night owl, Pat was nevertheless so dedicated to her calling that she got up by 5 a.m. each day to go to work and routinely stayed behind to visit, counsel, and mentor current and returning students before arriving home just in time to make dinner. Students would often return to catch up, even telling her bad news or of times when they were not living up to their potential, because they knew that Mrs. Baker would hold them

accountable, show them she truly cared, and would always give them a Jolly Rancher candy.

Pat also delighted in spending hours visiting with the school's night cleaning crew and seemed to know the family history of everyone she cared about – even her car mechanic!

Pat was sought out as someone who would listen and truly care; she exhausted most of her free time just being there for others. In her remaining free time, Pat loved to read... and read, and read! It was her favorite pastime; she especially enjoyed murder mysteries and John Grisham novels.

Though not overly fond of travel by plane, train, or automobile, Pat loved to cruise, and was able to go on many ship adventures, including to Europe, Hawaii, the South Pacific, Mexico, and Alaska, before Alzheimer's took hold.

After Pat and Bob retired, they moved to the small and lovely retirement community of East Ridge in Fallbrook, California, where they have been active residents for over a decade. Pat became a grandmother to Alice Siegmund in 2012 and again to Roland Siegmund in 2013. The love and delight they brought each other was true and unbreakable – even after Alzheimer's cruelly took their names from her tongue, it couldn't extinguish the light in her eyes and the joy on her face whenever she saw them.

Pat was a selfless mother and devoted wife. Despite working full time, she was always home for dinner and never missed her kids' school events, recitals, sporting events, or volunteer opportunities. Pat was also an advocate for causes close to her heart, and always fought for and defended others who did not have a voice. She doted on her children, their spouses (Sandra Baker and David Siegmund) and her two grandchildren.

She also loved her dogs over the years and treated them like family. Pat especially loved her husband, who brightened her life from the moment they met as young neighbors and cared for her lovingly until the day she went to be with our Lord.

Bob and Pat's marriage has been an example to others as a union wherein both parties worked hard and made the daily choice and effort to achieve a successful and strong partnership. Bob and Pat were married just shy of 54 incredible years!

Pat leaves behind a loving family. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Robert Baker; her sister, Cheryl Simmen; her children and their spouses, Jackson and Sandra Baker, and Andrea and David Siegmund; her grandchildren, Alice and Roland Siegmund; and her nephew, Sean Simmen. She also leaves a legacy of conviction, compassion, and service that inspire all who knew her well.

Services are pending, but in lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made in Pat's name to Alzheimer's Association at <https://www.alz.org/>.



Joyce Ann Van Voorst passed away in her sleep on Jan. 31, 2021 at the age of 84.

She is survived by her son Mark; daughter-in-law Michelle; daughter Joy; daughter Amy; son-in-law Mitch; Don and Donna Kramer and grandchildren Caitlin, Cassidy, Ivan and Casey.

She was a fierce advocate for all things family. She married her high school sweetheart in 1958 and they moved in 1971 to raise their family in the rolling hills of Fallbrook, California. After raising their children, the empty nesters would often be found near their beloved grandchildren attending memorable events in their lives, outings of all kind and the semi humiliating photo shoots with Joyce as the costume designer and Marv as the photographer.

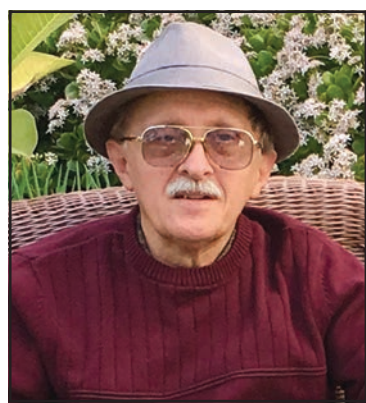
Upon retirement, Joyce and Marv were always on the go. Travel and RV'ing became a passion for them. Don and Donna would be seen waving goodbye from their driveway and their children were often left wondering where their parents were.

Joyce's circle of friends

were very important to her. Her friendships dated back decades to her classmates in Inwood, Iowa; Diane her stylist and confidant of close to 50 years; Darryl and Carolyn, former bosses that became life-long friends with may laughs shared over a glass of wine, and many former co-workers and community members.

Upon Marv's passing, Joyce's life got a little quieter and she was always excited about visits and phone calls about her grandchildren's accomplishments and milestones. Slowly, her light dimmed due to the impact of Dementia and she left this world to join Marv in heaven.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in her name to the following Dementia/Alzheimer's organization: www.alz.org.



William "Bill" Frederick Brooks, 71, of Fallbrook, passed away on Jan. 26, after a brave five-year battle with a brain tumor. He was the son of the late Clyde and Vivian Brooks.

Bill was an antique dealer for nearly 50 years, specializing in Asian antiquities and fine arts. He was a treasure hunter, who loved history, writing, travel, gardening, animals, and his family.

Bill is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Judy Benedetti

Brooks; his daughters, Kristin and Jillian; his grandson, Alexander William, and his sisters, Carol and Linda.

A Celebration of Life will be held for family and friends this summer. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the San Diego Rescue Mission. Bill will be deeply missed by everyone who had the honor of knowing and loving him.

Leave your kids the house, the jewelry, the photos...



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What would you like your children to inherit when you are gone? Many items come to mind, but worry about funeral arrangements isn't one of them. That's why preplanning is so important. By making decisions about the funeral service ahead of time, you allow your children to focus on grieving and healing during the difficult days after you are gone.

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HEALTH

O’Laughlin needs help to get to Oklahoma

Lexington Howe
Staff Writer

Fallbrook resident Joel O’Laughlin lost his brother last year in an accident.

Last February, O’Laughlin’s younger brother, Shawn O’Laughlin, died in a vehicle accident, and left behind the love of his life and three young daughters in Oklahoma.

O’Laughlin was devastated by the news.

“I was shocked when my mom got the phone call,” O’Laughlin said. “I could tell by her face; I was like, what the hell happened, and mom didn’t want to tell me.”

O’Laughlin had called his brother the night before he died.

“The last couple words were ‘I love you and I’ll see you soon,’ and then boom, this happens,” O’Laughlin said.

He wanted to get on a plane right then.

“The crazy part is, before the corona stuff, I could fly out there,” O’Laughlin said. His mom, Susan Cowgill, told her son she’d make sure he was able to go out and see his family.

O’Laughlin has cerebral palsy and needs a mobility van to help him get there.

“MobilityWorks is going to give us a discount on the van,” Cowgill said. “I’ve got a little house called the little house on the prairie that’s 15 minutes away from Billings, (Oklahoma). Their town has got 500 people in it.”

Cowgill has it planned out. “So, what I’m going to have to do is him and his electric chair



Joel O’Laughlin poses with his dog, Scooter, who has been O’Laughlin’s faithful companion for six years.

will ride in this ability van and then in the truck we have to carry the hoyer – it’s the transfer to put you in the electric chair,” she said. “Then we have to take his recliner, he can’t lay flat.”

Cowgill is planning on having help from her sister and Joel’s caretaker.

“I’m excited,” O’Laughlin

said. “I don’t know whose more excited cause my sister’s excited, my nieces and nephews are excited, that I’m coming back.

“I’m just shocked that I can finally go back, have a good time and help other people out, and it’s just amazing,” O’Laughlin added.

Cowgill added that the trip is



Joel O’Laughlin is looking forward to going back to Oklahoma to see family.

Village News/Courtesy photos

about having a good time after grieving for so long.

“That’s what our trip is all about, getting back there and making everyone happy and that’s what we’re going to do,” Cowgill said.

The family hopes to leave soon, but needs help raising funds to get there. To help, donate

at <https://gofund.me/22ac2eb7>.

“It’s really just for him to get there and get him in a good situation,” Cowgill said. “It’s just really important to Joel.”

Lexington Howe can be reached by email at lhowe@reedermedia.com.

Local hospitals showing across-the-board drops in COVID-19 hospitalizations

Will Fritz
Associate Editor

Local hospitals are finally starting to show clear, consistent declines in COVID-19 hospitalizations in the latest data released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, though coronavirus patients still make up a significant percentage of those hospitalized in Riverside and San Diego counties.

While some local hospitals showed declines in coronavirus hospitalizations in data from two weeks ago, others showed slight increases. The data released by federal health officials Feb. 1 is the first time coronavirus hospitalization declined at all hospitals in areas adjacent to Fallbrook that Village News has been monitoring.

The percentages of patients who were confirmed to be positive for COVID-19 were in the 30s and 40s at Southwest Healthcare System (which includes Inland Valley and Rancho Springs medical centers in Wildomar and Murrieta, respectively), Loma Linda University Medical Center Murrieta, and the nearest San Diego County hospital to Fallbrook, Palomar Medical Center Escondido, in the week preceding Feb. 1; COVID-19 patients were only a majority at one local medical facility, Temecula Valley Hospital, where they made up an average of 52% of patients.

The three Southwest Riverside County hospitals’ counts of coronavirus hospitalizations dropped by about 10-15 between

the Jan. 24 and Feb. 1 data dumps. Palomar Medical Center Escondido saw its coronavirus hospitalizations drop by about 17 patients.

Hospitals are still pushing the limits of ICU space, however, with all local hospitals except Loma Linda University Medical Center Murrieta being within 2-4 patients of ICU capacity in the week before Feb. 1. Temecula Valley Hospital and Palomar Medical Center Escondido did see slight increases in ICU patients, while the other two hospitals saw slight decreases.

The state is officially reporting the 11-county Southern California region’s available ICU capacity at 0%; while the recent data show ICUs not quite at full capacity, state officials and healthcare professionals have said over the course of the pandemic that available staff also play a role in determining ICU space.

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

Temecula Valley Hospital
Total beds (7-day average): 162.3 (161.9 last week)
Total inpatient beds used (7-day average): 143.6 (144.1 last week)
Total adults hospitalized, confirmed COVID-19 positive (7-day average): 73.3 (82 last week)
ICU beds (7-day average): 31.4 (28 last week)
ICU beds used (7-day average): 30.1 (26.3 last week)

Southwest Healthcare System (Inland Valley and Rancho Springs medical centers)
Total beds (7-day average):

250.4 (same as last week)
Total inpatient beds used (7-day average): 245.6 (244.9 last week)
Total adults hospitalized, confirmed COVID-19 positive (7-day average): 111.4 (126 last week)
ICU beds (7-day average): 33.6 (36.6 last week)
ICU beds used (7-day average): 32 (36.6 last week)

Loma Linda University Medical Center Murrieta
Total beds (7-day average): 163.7 (174.7 last week)
Total inpatient beds used (7-day average): 147.6 (156.1 last week)
Total adults hospitalized, confirmed COVID-19 positive (7-day average): 64.1 (78.6 last week)
ICU beds (7-day average): 25 (27 last week)
ICU beds used (7-day average): 17.9 (19.4 last week)

Palomar Medical Center Escondido
Total beds (7-day average): 404 (398.1 last week)
Total inpatient beds used (7-day average): 299.1 (293.1 last week)
Total adults hospitalized, confirmed COVID-19 positive (7-day average): 138.9 (155.6 last week)
ICU beds (7-day average): 48 (42.1 last week)
ICU beds used (7-day average): 48 (38.4 last week)

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

Parkinson’s Support Group to learn about Foundation for Senior Care

FALLBROOK – The Fallbrook Parkinson’s Support Group is holding its monthly meeting via zoom Friday, Feb. 26, at 10 a.m. The meeting will start with a short presentation by Aishee Das, research assistant from the Neurocognition and Movement Lab of Veteran’s Affairs San Diego Health Care system. She will share research opportunities in which people with Parkinson’s disease can participate.

The principal speakers will be Patty Sargent, executive director of the Foundation for Senior Care, and Julie Andrews, a senior care advocate, talking about “The Foundation for Senior Care – What’s in it for You?”

Sargent received her bachelor’s degree in mathematics at California State Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo and earned her Project Management Professional certification in 2007. She spent over 20 years of her career at Palomar Health, leading clinical, business and organizational projects across the health district, ultimately leading the organization as a director of projects and process improvement.

Sargent is the new executive director of the Foundation for Senior Care and is thrilled about this new opportunity to put her skills to good use, seeking to enhance the services provided to older adults in the community so that they have the options and

resources they need to thrive independently at home.

Andrews is a “third culture individual” and works to interact with older adults from across the globe. Her upbringing and love for the older population shaped her education and goals. She has a bachelor’s degree in human services and previously worked and volunteered in skilled-nursing and hospital-hospitality.

As a senior care advocate, Andrews employs a cross-cultural and client-based approach to empower older adults and enhance independence. She is grateful for the older adults in the Fallbrook community and loves to hear their stories.

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 or NCPSGF@gmail.com or Caryl at cbonnell@ucsd.edu with any questions or concerns about joining a zoom meeting. Any new attendees can email Irene to request a Zoom invite.

Fallbrook Parkinson’s Support group is an affiliate group of North County Parkinson’s Support Group. For more information, visit <https://ncpsg.org/>.

Submitted by Fallbrook Parkinson’s Support group.

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Healthy Habits for Bonsall & Fallbrook Folks: Cortisone is the anti-agent

Megan Johnson McCullough
Special to the Village News

The number of people receiving cortisone injections is on the rise. This hormone is produced in the adrenal gland and is also synthetically produced and readily used in the medical field.

It's not just taken by injection but also in hydrocortisone cream. There are so many conditions this potent steroid treats.

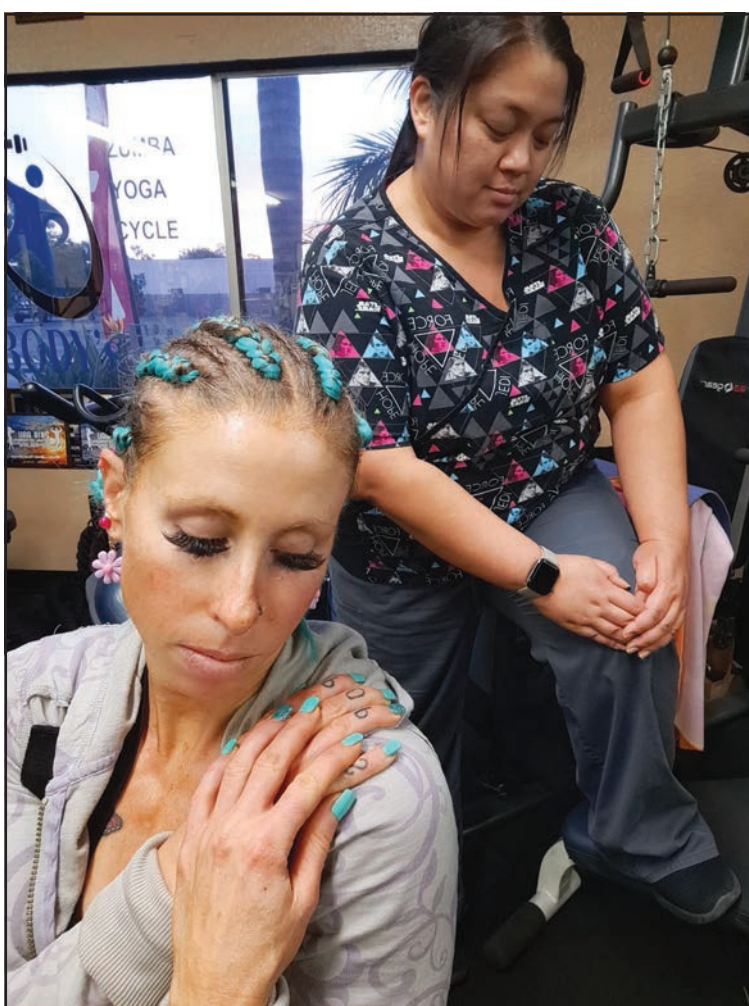
Here are the most common uses for its injection: inflammation of specific joints or tendons, plantar fasciitis, tendinitis, rheumatoid arthritis and asthma. Here are the most common topical uses: skin conditions like insect bites, eczema, poison ivy and different types of allergies.

For shoulders, knees, aches, pains, itches, rashes and more, cortisone is the anti-agent that reduces pain by preventing the release of substances in the body that cause inflammation.

The body naturally releases cortisone when under stress; however, inflamed areas may need an extra dose. But it isn't to say that this product is freely up for grabs and the answer to all life's pains. Most doctors limit their use to every six weeks at most, but ideally no more than three to four times per year. Possible side effects include deterioration of cartilage at the joints or nerve damage, so it is a quick fix and not a permanent solution.

Over time, the shots don't have the same impact, not because a tolerance is built in the body, but rather because the joint has been worn down. It can be an alternative that puts off surgery in many cases, however. Physical therapy and lifestyle changes such as exercise and nutrition, are quality long-term approaches to avoiding surgery as well.

Topical uses suppress the body's



Village News/Courtesy photo

immune response to the type of skin condition. They are classified by potency level, which influences their availability over the counter or by prescription.

Typically, within three to five days, the positive effects kick in, but results vary person to person. This steroid stays potent in the body anywhere from six weeks to six months. The debate lies in the "cover-up" effect. If a shoulder injury is causing chronic pain, does having a cortisone shot and going right back to activity, create a cycle of shot taking instead of addressing the real problem. It does avoid the shoulder being immobile for some

time following surgery; there are risks and benefits to the decision to use cortisone or having surgery. Steroid use is not meant to be a solution.

Patients should go back to the original definition in which cortisone is a hormone naturally produced in the body. If the body is not naturally performing its functions, then it is a red flag.

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.

Kicking It for Valentine's Day



Elizabeth Youngman-Westphal
Special to The Village News

In the past, Valentine's Day has always been celebrated with a funny card and a bottle of champagne. However, this year it's game on.

Even though we are cloistered 24 hours a day, apparently, it is still possible to miscommunicate. Here is what happened.

My husband usually takes the casual stroll to the mailbox for our daily delivery. Ostensibly, one day I beat him to it and retrieved, along with the weekly grocery store ads, a Valentine's Day sales flyer from Victoria's Secret.

As a side note; maybe I am getting old but not so long-ago catalogs like this, with lurid dioramas of naked women, were once considered pornography? One has to wonder when these flyers became acceptable coffee table photography.

Anyway, after blithely leafing through said flyer and as sort of a tease to tickle his imagination, I left it on the kitchen counter. My husband, after casually paging through the pamphlet, thinking it to be a not-so-subtle hint, gave it back to me, extracting a promise to allow him the privilege "to remove anything I selected" for my Valentine's Day gift.

Humph. I know. Really? Now my worries went to another level. Is his fantasy wife that far different from the woman he professes to love? Should I worry, knowing up front, I won't measure up to any of these pictures? Because, just so you know, he has never handed me an LL Bean catalog and said, "do your worst."

Hats off to Victoria's Secret. Their real marketing-magic is how they inspire a viewer to believe any

woman can wear their crisscrossed-satin ribbons and miraculously be transformed into a waif-like prepubescent Barbie doll touting a bald-nude body while baring a pristine-melon-shaped buttocks. Their marketing is pure genius. Yet, the cold reality on the other hand is enough to make a real woman cringe.

Now you understand how a simple loving act can become one woman's nightmare. And there you have it.

Naturally, after a year of being locked indoors, my accumulation of the dreaded COVID-10 has become a certainty. While real beauty may well be within, I was caught off guard until that dreaded V.S.V.D sales flier arrived, albeit an inconsequential coincidence, I was forced to take action.

My solution has two phases. Now, after a midday meal of meat and greens I retire with a book to begin the first phase of my new eating program. It's called a nap.

The beauty of a nap is it fills a big gap of hours in my afternoons. Since our living area is more or less an open concept with a full view of the refrigerator and pantry from almost anywhere in the living area, a nap is my escape from the purgatory of being too close to the kitchen while trying to achieve ketosis.

Phase two, ketosis. It happens when one eliminates sugars, carbohydrates, processed foods, and diet sodas to name a few from your diet. Stevia seems the only thing one can use from a packet.

In other words, I am to eat real, whole food. If it doesn't look like what it is, I cannot eat it. Food like beef, pork, lamb, and chicken interspersed with fish or shellfish. Add cheese, eggs, avocados to that, along with lots of hearty-leafy greens such as kale, spinach, and raw broccoli and there ya have it. All the while not eating more than 5 carbs a day.

It's hard because even though mayonnaise and ice cream are made from many of the same ingredients, only one of them is sugar and carb free. While I ponder the answer - I've finished my lunch and am ready for my nap.

Meanwhile, my husband is waiting in a dreamy state of anticipation for my Valentine's Day gift to arrive.

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

Fallbrook resident receives vaccine shot from Scripps CEO



Chris Van Gorder, president and CEO of Scripps Health, administers a COVID-19 vaccine to Michael Hendrix of Fallbrook at a clinic for Scripps patients in La Jolla. Van Gorder is a certified emergency medical technician and was recently certified to administer COVID-19 vaccines, the latest example of his hands-on approach to health care. He also is a volunteer with the Red Cross and has taken part in emergency response missions to provide medical care in the aftermath of natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and the catastrophic Haiti earthquake.

Village News/Courtesy photo

National Burn Awareness Week promotes electrical safety

SAN DIEGO - Burns from electrical accidents are one of the primary causes of burn related injury along with fire-flame, scalds, contact with hot objects and chemicals. More than 73% of these burn injuries occur at home.

As the pandemic continues to alter the way people live, many people in the communities are spending more time at home which can increase the risk of these electrical burns. Vulnerable populations such as children under five are two times as likely to be seen at a hospital emergency department for burn injuries.

In conjunction with Burn Awareness Week, Feb. 7-13, the American Burn Association and the Burn Institute are providing information relating to electrical safety for the community.

Burn injuries may result in lifelong scarring and in some extreme cases, even death. Many burn survivors sustain serious scarring, life-long physical disabilities, trauma and adjustment difficulties. Prevention of electrical burns is always preferable to treatment and can be accomplished through simple changes in behavior and small adjustments in the home environment.

Each year, over 400,000 injuries occur in the United States due to severe skin burns, with young children, older adults and disabled individuals most at-risk. Common risk of electrical burn and injury include unprotected electrical outlets, improperly used extension cords, lightning and workplace electrical injuries.

Electrical burn can be reduced by following home safety guidelines. Disconnect appliances by pulling on the plug, not the cord.

If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it or remove

a prong to make it fit a two-slot outlet.

Check electrical tools regularly for signs of wear. If a cord is frayed or cracked, replace it. Replace any tool if it causes even small electrical shocks, overheats, shorts out or gives off smoke or sparks.

Never use electrical appliances near water.

Before attempting any appliance repair, unplug it.

Attach extension cords to appliances before outlets.

Keep clothes, curtains and other potentially combustible items at least 3 feet away from all heaters, whether electric, gas or kerosene-fueled.

If an electric power line is down on or near your home, keep everyone out of the area and call 911 or the local electric utility.

The American Burn Association also provides guidelines for parents to help further reduce the risk of electrical burns for young children.

Don't allow children to play with or near and keep them away from electrical appliances

such as space heaters, irons and hair dryers.

Use plug covers on any electrical outlets accessible to small children. Outlet caps that

attach to the outlet plate with screws give better protection than those that plug in.

Make sure plug-in caps are a similar color to the outlet.

Make sure such caps are not big enough to be a choking hazard.

Make sure any night lights used in a child's room do not resemble toys.

Teach children to respect electricity as soon as they are old enough, usually about age 3.

Two-thirds of electrical burn injuries occur to children aged 12 and under.

Submitted by The Burn Institute.

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Fire damages De Luz home overnight Feb. 4

Will Fritz
Staff Writer

A fire that tore through a house in De Luz late Thursday night, Feb. 4, left one person without a home to safely go back to, a North County Fire Protection District spokesperson said Friday, Feb. 5.

The blaze was reported a little after 10:45 p.m. at a two-story house in the 41000 block of Gavilan Road, North County Fire Capt. John Choi said.

Firefighters arrived about 15

minutes later to find “extensive fire conditions,” and while they were able to contain the fire to the home’s second floor, some fire crews were still cleaning up hotspots in the home as of 7:30 a.m. Friday.

Choi said one adult, as well as two dogs, were displaced by the fire.

Camp Pendleton firefighters assisted North County crews with the blaze, Choi said.

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



A fire at a De Luz home late Thursday night, Feb. 4, left an adult and two dogs displaced, North County Fire Capt. John Choi said.

Village News/North County Fire Protection District courtesy photo

Pandemic ebbs in SD County; infections, hospitalizations down locally

Will Fritz
Staff Writer

The current wave of the coronavirus pandemic appears to be ebbing in San Diego County, with new infections down locally and countywide, and hospitalizations declining as well.

A total of 926 new cases reported on Feb. 2 broke a 63-day streak with more than 1,000 cases, though the number edged back up above 1,000 to come in at 1,598 new cases two days later on Feb. 4. Another 1,230 new cases were reported on Feb. 7.

Feb. 7’s report pushed the aggregate coronavirus numbers in the county to 246,564 cases and 2,821 deaths from the disease since the pandemic started.

Of the 19,919 tests reported Feb. 7, 6% returned positive,

nudging the 14-day rolling average up slightly to 7.7% from Thursday’s 7.5%. As recently as Jan. 22, the percentage was more than 10%.

In the 92028 ZIP code, which includes Rainbow and De Luz, county data shows a case rate of 50.4 coronavirus cases per 100,000 during the week of Jan. 17 to Jan. 23, the most recent week for which data was available. That is down from 59.8 per 100,000 the week prior. County data is still showing 3,188 all-time coronavirus cases in the 92028 ZIP code as of Feb. 8 and has not been updated since last week.

The county combines Bonsall’s 92003 ZIP code with neighboring Vista, given Bonsall’s low population; that combined area showed a case rate of 67.6 per

100,000 as of Jan. 17-23, down from 101.5 per 100,000 the week before, and was showing 4,453 total cases as of Feb. 8.

The county Health and Human Services Agency reported 1,109 patients with COVID-19 in county hospitals as of Feb. 8, 336 of whom were in intensive care units, a decrease of nearly 400 hospitalized people from two weeks ago and 621 fewer than the record 1,804 patients set Jan. 12.

ICU patients with COVID-19 decreased by 95 in that two-week window.

There are 42 available, staffed ICU beds in the county.

The county health agency reported 10 new community outbreaks Saturday, Feb. 6, bringing the total in the past week to 73, tied to 285 cases.

As an increasing number of

San Diegans gets vaccinated against COVID-19, the HHS is reminding the public that it is too soon to stop using face coverings and social distancing.

While the two FDA-approved vaccines have shown promising results in clinical trials, it takes several weeks for the immunizations to become fully effective. It is unknown whether a vaccinated person could potentially catch and spread COVID-19 to someone who has not been vaccinated.

Nearly 12% of San Diegans age 16 and over have received at least one of the two shots required to develop antibody protection against the virus.

Around 2.2% of the population over the age of 16 is fully vaccinated.

San Diego County coronavirus

inoculation sites have received 586,225 doses of vaccine and administered 411,565 doses, according to the HHS.

The “vaccination superstation” at Petco Park administered its 100,000th dose of the COVID-19 vaccine Thursday, Feb. 4, San Diego County Board of Supervisors Chairman Nathan Fletcher announced.

San Diego County has the capacity to administer more than 20,000 vaccines daily and expects to raise that to 30,000 next week, Fletcher said, but currently only has the supplies to administer around 10,000 vaccines a day.

City News Service contributed to this report.

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



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Three Fallbrook teens to be honored among nation's first female Eagle Scouts

Jennifer Anderson
Special to Village News

Three Fallbrook teens are looking forward to joining the hundreds of young women around the nation who will be honored this year as members of the inaugural class of Female Eagle Scouts.

Ashley Schlumpberger, Becca Seefried and Muriel "Mimi" Meacham are members of Troop 700, the only all-female Scouts BSA troop in North County San Diego, headquartered at the Elks Lodge in Oceanside. On Jan. 28, each girl passed a "board of review," completing all requirements for Eagle Rank "pending National Scouts BSA endorsement," confirmed Karen Roberson, Scoutmaster of Troop 700. "I am beyond proud of these girls and how hard they worked."

According to Roberson, only 4% of all scouts achieve the rank of Eagle, the highest and most prestigious award in the Scouts BSA program. All three girls were also nominated for "The Order of the Arrow," a scouting national honor society.

The roads to success for Fallbrook's first female Eagle Scouts were as individual as they are inspiring. They were also not without a few challenges along the way. They are "three amazing young women," Roberson said.

Ashley Schlumpberger

As a younger sibling, Schlumpberger often watched her twin brothers with a mix of admiration and envy as they'd pack their bags for one weekend "camp out" after another. She was intrigued with "the adventure of it all," she recalled. "They would go away on the weekends and, when they came back, they would have huge smiles on their faces. I wanted to do what they were doing."

In February 2019, she finally got her chance when the Boy Scouts of America welcomed girls to Scouts BSA, a program for youths age 11 to 17, previously known as Boy Scouts. Like her brothers before her, both now 21 and also Eagle Scouts, she was soon planning camp outs and earning merit badges.

An Eagle Scout candidate must earn a minimum of 21 badges covering a range of topics including first aid and safety, civics, business and environment, before they can embark on a final requirement to research, organize and complete a large community service project.

In search of an idea for a project that would benefit the Fallbrook community, Schlumpberger visited the Palomares House and

Park on Stage Coach Lane, where the administrative offices of the Fallbrook Land Conservancy, a local nonprofit, are also located. There she introduced herself to Beverly Tucker, a longtime FLC member who was busy overseeing renovation of the park's Wildlife Sculpture Garden. Coincidentally, Tucker was seeking someone to help design and implement a new pathway in the garden and Schlumpberger immediately volunteered for the job.

"I love nature and I really love to do things outdoors. I knew this was the project for me," she said, and she began her research by watching how-to videos on YouTube, eventually learning how to calculate the cost for required materials so she could complete a cost estimate.

Next she needed to raise funds, but with the onset of COVID-19, she was forced to abandon her initial plan for a garage sale. Instead, she held a one-person jog-a-thon, signing up sponsors over the phone. In just one week, she ran 3 miles a day for a total of 15 miles. "It wasn't until the end of the week that I really started feeling the effects," she joked about her sore muscles.

Her efforts raised \$711 toward supplies – about \$70 short of her goal. So she borrowed the balance from her parents, Steve and Rhonda Schlumpberger, both retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonels who moved to Fallbrook 14 years ago. The couple encouraged their children to participate in scouting "to learn everything they can about leadership, being part of the community, standing on your own two feet. We feel scouting really helps children do that," Rhonda Schlumpberger said.

"They totally encouraged it, but I wanted it too," added Ashley Schlumpberger, who intends to reimburse them with proceeds from a rummage sale to be held "when it is safe to do so." She is also grateful for discounts on materials provided by locally-owned businesses, Fallbrook Irrigation and Southwest Boulder.

Ashley Schlumpberger solicited the help of as many as 11 volunteers of both genders to help with creating the path. One young man from Troop 731 was indispensable at breaking ground on the project, especially when "the dirt was really hard." All of her volunteers were required to wear masks and socially distance. "COVID-friendly" individually wrapped snacks and bottled water were provided during their six work days, which spanned a period of three weekends starting

see **SCOUTS**, page B-12



Ashley Schlumpberger stands on the pathway she designed at Palomares House for its Wildlife Sculpture Garden, her Eagle Scout project.

Village News/Courtesy photos



Becca Seefried poses with the shelving unit she created for the ASPCA Center in Erie County, New York, where she lived before moving to Fallbrook last summer; She earned the Eagle Scout rank with this project.



Ashley Schlumpberger wears her BSA sash with the 21 merit badges she has earned as a requirement for the Eagle Scout rank.



These masks are see-through to allow the hard of hearing to read people's lips.

REGIONAL

NCTD celebrates service roll out for new COASTER locomotive and overhauled passenger cars

New equipment is part of a strategic plan to increase transit ridership over the next five years

OCEANSIDE – The North County Transit District, with the support of regional transportation partners, celebrated the service roll out of five new, state-of-the-art Siemens locomotives and several renovated COASTER passenger cars, Monday Feb. 8.

Tony Kranz, NCTD Board Chair and City of Encinitas Deputy Mayor, U.S. Congressman Mike Levin, Catherine Blakespear, San Diego Association of Governments Board Chair and City of Encinitas Mayor, and Nathan Fletcher, Chair of the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District Board, commemorated this milestone with a virtual audience of local elected officials, key stakeholders, and leaders in regional transportation.

“Today’s launch of the new COASTER locomotives and overhauled passenger cars underscores NCTD’s commitment to its mission to deliver safe, convenient, reliable, and user-friendly public transportation services. This roll out is a huge step in improving COASTER services,” said Board Chair Kranz. “The new COASTER locomotives will increase service reliability, improve the rider experience, and are more environmentally friendly.”

The overhauled COASTER coach and cab cars will be painted with a new color scheme, and will be equipped with new seating upholstery, new carpet, upgraded LED lighting, and charging amenities at some seats.

Funding for the five new replacement locomotives launched today came from a \$10 million grant from the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District Carl Moyer Program, along with approximately \$46.6 million from the State of California Senate Bill 1. NCTD appreciates the collaboration and funding received from the APCD and the California State Transportation Agency to support the purchase of the new locomotives. Funding for the overhaul of the COASTER cars is provided from federal, state, and local sources.

In addition to the five replacement locomotives and overhaul of COASTER coach and cab cars, NCTD will be receiving two replacement locomotives, two expansion locomotives, ten



The COASTER passenger cars are getting an overhaul to match the new state-of-the-art locomotives acquired by NCTD. Village News/Courtesy photos



The overhauled COASTER passenger cars feature new upholstery, carpet and upgraded lighting.

expansion bi-level passenger coaches, and one replacement rail cab to support state of good repair needs and regional plans to

increase train frequencies from 22 to 42 trains per average weekday over the next three to five years. The funding for the expansion equipment is being provided by SANDAG.

“SANDAG has been looking forward to celebrating this day alongside NCTD and other key stakeholders,” said SANDAG Chair Blakespear. “This event starts the clock on implementing new and improved COASTER services, consistent with SANDAG’s 5 Big Moves vision to provide high quality public

transportation. SANDAG is proud to have helped NCTD leverage their investment into the COASTER by providing \$58.8 million toward an additional two new trainsets, supporting the region’s complete corridors strategy to provide competitive travel choices to support regional mobility and meet our state-mandated greenhouse gas emissions goals.”

NCTD is advancing a strategic five-year plan to implement low- and zero-emissions technologies, introduce new and improved services and technologies, foster

economic growth, support regional housing needs, and modernize infrastructure. This plan includes purchasing new vehicles for the rail and bus fleets, executing agreements to support the redevelopment of property owned by NCTD, and enhancing the customer experience by leveraging new technology, such as a new fare system and improved real-time information, and striving for zero operating delays.

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Seyarto introduces bill to support spouses and children of deceased service members

SACRAMENTO – Assemblymember Kelly Seyarto (R-Murrieta) has introduced AB 291, a bill that will make the payments from Survivor Benefit Plans tax free in California.

California is one of the few states that fully taxes SBP which allow retired service members to allocate a portion of their retired pay to a spouse, child, or other eligible beneficiary after their death. Currently there are just over 28,700 military survivors receiving this benefit within California, with over 92% of them being 65 years old and older.

“It is incredibly sad and almost

insulting that we give so little as a thank you to our service members and their families. They sacrifice so much for our country to defend our freedoms,” said Seyarto. “I was astonished to learn that while California and the IRS do not tax Life Insurance Payments, California does tax this form of life insurance for our service members and veterans. Surely one of the simplest ways we can express our gratitude to these families that have sacrificed for all of us is to not tax the very compensation we give them for that loss.”

Assemblymember Kelly Seyarto served the State of California as a

firefighter for 35 years, retiring at the rank of Battalion Chief. During his time in service, he connected and served with many service members and veterans.

Assemblyman Kelly Seyarto, R-Murrieta, represents California’s 67th Assembly District, which includes the cities and communities of Canyon Lake, East Hemet, El Sobrante, French Valley, Good Hope, Hemet, Homeland, La Cresta, Lake Elsinore, Lake Mathews, Lakeland Village, Menifee, Murrieta, Nuevo, Temescal Valley, Wildomar, Winchester, and Woodcrest

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REGIONAL

California joins Biden with special enrollment to help people get insurance

SACRAMENTO – Covered California announced recently that effective Monday, Feb. 1, anyone uninsured and eligible to enroll in health care coverage through Covered California can sign up through May 15.

The move follows President Biden’s executive order to declare a special enrollment period from Feb. 15 through May 15 for the 36 states served by the federally facilitated marketplace, reopening the doors to coverage for millions of Americans.

An estimated 2.7 million Californians are uninsured, including 1.2 million who are eligible for financial help from Covered California or through Medi-Cal.

Covered California’s current open-enrollment period runs through Jan. 31, and consumers must sign up by that deadline to have coverage that starts Feb. 1.

“The pandemic and recession continue to be a painful reality, and Covered California is doing whatever it can to make sure people have every opportunity to sign up for health care coverage,” Peter V. Lee, executive director of Covered California, said. “There are millions of Californians out there without the peace of mind and protection of health care coverage, and now is not the time to be uninsured.”

Similar to the steps Covered California took last year, the new special-enrollment period will allow uninsured individuals to sign up for coverage without needing to meet the normal qualifying life events, such as recent loss of coverage or moving. Anyone who meets Covered California’s eligibility requirements, which are similar to those in place during the annual open-enrollment period, can sign up for coverage through May 15 and have their coverage begin on the first of the following month.

“With this executive order, the

Biden-Harris Administration has demonstrated their commitment to getting as many Americans needed health care,” Lee said. “This marks a sea-change after four years of inaction and Americans across the country will benefit from this leadership.”

The executive order issued by Biden will strengthen the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid so they can continue to provide access to live-saving care. The order directs federal agencies to reconsider policies that limit access, undermine protections for people with preexisting conditions – including complications related to COVID-19 – make it more difficult to enroll or reduce affordability.

“Keeping the doors open at Covered California – and reopening them for millions of Americans across the country – is the right thing to do,” Dr. Mark Ghaly, the California Health and Human Services secretary and chair of the Covered California board of directors, said. “California applauds the Biden-Harris administration and looks forward to working with the federal government to not only respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, but to also get as many Californians covered as possible.”

An estimated 2.7 million Californians are uninsured, including a projected 1.2 million who are eligible for financial help through Covered California or for low-cost or no-cost coverage through Medi-Cal. The largest portion of these uninsured who are eligible for help are in Southern California, with an estimated 718,000 people living in the Los Angeles, Inland Empire, Orange and San Diego metro areas.

In 2020, Covered California established a COVID-19 special-enrollment period from March 20 to Aug. 31, which allowed any eligible uninsured individual to enroll. In addition, the exchange

spent \$9 million on an ad campaign to spread the word to those who needed coverage during the crisis. More than 289,000 people signed up for health care coverage during that time, which is more than twice the number who signed up during the same period in 2019.

“While vaccines are being distributed to Californians across the state, it will still be several months before enough people are inoculated to provide the kind of protection we need,” Lee said. “We are still in the grips of this pandemic, and now is the time to make sure you and your family have health care coverage in case you get sick or injured.”

Financial help lowers the cost of coverage.

The most recent data shows that 1.4 million people, or nearly 90% of Covered California’s enrollees, are receiving some level of financial help that lowers the cost of their monthly premium by an average of nearly 80%. Of those receiving financial help, almost half – over 640,000 – are benefiting from the state subsidy program launched in 2020 to make coverage more affordable, including 44,500 middle-income consumers who were previously ineligible for assistance because they exceeded the federal income requirements. Under the landmark state program, Californians earning up to \$76,560 – or a family of four with a household income of up to \$157,200 – may be eligible for financial help to lower the cost of their coverage.

“Most of the people who are uninsured who can get help do not know they are eligible for financial assistance, or they have not checked recently to see how affordable quality coverage can be,” Lee said. “No one should wait to sign up. Enroll now and tell your family and friends so we can make sure everyone possible has health insurance during this pandemic.”

Learn more about Medi-Cal and off-exchange coverage.

In addition, consumers who sign up through <http://CoveredCA.com> may find out that they are eligible for no-cost or low-cost coverage through Medi-Cal, which they can enroll in online. It is important to note that those who are eligible for Medi-Cal can enroll year-round and have coverage that is effective immediately.

The Department of Insurance has also extended the special-enrollment period through May 15, which applies to all health plans in the individual market, including off-exchange health plans.

“The impact of this pandemic continues to be felt throughout California, and the DMHC is committed to helping those affected by the COVID-19 emergency,” Mary Watanabe, director of DMHC, said. “Once again we will be providing continued access to comprehensive and affordable health care coverage options for those who need it through the creation of this special-enrollment period.”

New ad campaigns begin nationally and in California.

The executive order also announced that the federal government will resume investing in marketing and outreach which will help inform and enroll Americans across the nation. In addition, Covered California will be investing at least \$6 million over the next few months to raise public awareness about the new special-enrollment period. Digital ads began appearing Monday, Feb. 1, and new television ads will start airing statewide Monday, Feb. 15.

“Today marks a new day for healthcare in America,” Lee said. “We are seeing an administration that is aggressively investing in

marketing and outreach, and one that is committed to getting more Americans covered.”

Stay safe while getting help enrolling.

Covered California also continues to support COVID-19 safety precautions – including wearing a mask, washing your hands and watching your distance – as well as contact-free enrollment over the phone or online.

Consumers can safely find out if they are eligible for financial help through Covered California, or low-cost or no-cost Medi-Cal, and see which plans are available in their area by using the shop and compare tool at <http://CoveredCA.com>. All they need to do is enter their ZIP code, household income and the ages of those who need coverage and they will see the options available in their area.

Covered California is also working with more than 10,000 licensed insurance agents who help Californians sign up and understand their coverage options through phone-based service models.

Another important reason to sign up is that California’s individual mandate penalty remains in place for 2021. Consumers who can afford health care coverage, but choose to go without, could pay a penalty when filing their state income taxes in 2022. The penalty is administered by California’s Franchise Tax Board and could be as much as \$2,250 for a family of four.

Those interested in learning more about their coverage options can visit <http://www.CoveredCA.com> and get free and confidential assistance over the phone, in a variety of languages, from a certified enroller. Or they can have a certified enroller call them and help them for free by calling Covered California at 800-300-1506.

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NATIONAL

Widespread family prosperity must be our mandate in 2021

How will our children remember 2021?

Anne Mosle and Trene Hawkins
American Forum

It will soon be the anniversary of a global pandemic many predicted, but for which the nation was woefully unprepared. It will be the first year of the Biden-Harris presidential administration. And it will be a symbolic moment for policymakers to start fresh and get it right – on health, the economy and crucially, on supporting the nation’s families. It can be the year to scale up solutions that embrace a culture of health and expand family prosperity. Access to a good job, education, health and whole-family well-being are the foundations of family prosperity – as is an inclusive and expansive definition of family that honors the multitude of ways in which people live and care for one another.

Well before the pandemic hit, the nation needed to do better for all families. The nation continues to perpetuate systemic disparities in health and wealth along race and gender lines, intensifying at their intersections. It can be seen in the devastating – and disproportionate

– blow COVID-19 has dealt to working women forced to leave the workforce at record rates, often due to the child care crisis – with mothers of color most affected.

One of the greatest barriers to family prosperity is the false narrative of “rugged individualism” and meritocracy. As a nation, people must come to the realization that the well-being of families depends on people’s capacity to stop judging them and instead listen and learn from them. Working parents with a child at home make up 41% of the workforce. With many schools only open virtually and dwindling child care options, people must assert that breadwinning and caregiving go hand in hand and finally make them compatible responsibilities. The leaders in state houses, in Congress and in the White House can change this narrative by embracing data-driven solutions that change outcomes for families, economies and communities.

One way to put this shift in motion is by focusing on one of the greatest gaps in support for families across the nation: the

– blow COVID-19 has dealt to working women forced to leave the workforce at record rates, often due to the child care crisis – with mothers of color most affected. The solution: follow the lead of All Our Kin, which partners with family child care businesses. These small, home-based child cares are run by and serve families facing the greatest barriers to accessing child care. All Our Kin offers bilingual, English and Spanish, services including business and education training, peer-networking, zero-interest loans and grants and marketing and referral opportunities. The result is a triple win: family child care providers succeed and contribute to the economy; parents go to work knowing their children are safe and learning and children receive the foundation for success. Families and small businesses know what they need. Scaling up funding for and solutions to the child care crisis cannot only drive up rates of family prosperity, but it can do so in a way that dismantles White supremacist systems and uses public resources responsibly, equitably and effectively.

The nation also needs to expand the policies that keep families physically and economically safe right now: specifically, paid family

and medical leave policies. In California, an additional 6 million workers can take paid family leave and know their jobs will be waiting for them when they return. California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a new bill into law that enforces job-protected paid leave for workers, including adoptive or foster parents, to bond with a new child or care for their own or a family member’s serious health condition – a vital need as COVID-19 infections surge in the state. Without this protection, parents of color, particularly Black mothers, and low-wage workers were most likely to be fired after taking needed leave. In San Francisco, only 58% of non-Hispanic Black parents and 54% of Hispanic parents could be assured their jobs would be there when they returned – the new law will increase job protection to 73% for non-Hispanic Black parents and 71% for Hispanic parents. It is progress – but health, prosperity and opportunity should be accessible to all families, everywhere.

The mandate is clear: scale up family-centered innovations that

put their health and economic well-being first. Make them a part of new systems and structures that lift families up instead of holding them back. As the nation moves into the new year, people must learn from the past and reimagine better. The nation has the resources – public and private – but it comes down to a matter of choice, and the responsibility of policy leaders and the private sector to act in families’ best interests.

Let’s make 2021 the year to set an ambitious vision for family prosperity and a bold agenda to achieve it. Let’s make it the year that righted the wrongs that unfairly kept too many families from health and economic security. And let’s make it the year that rejected old narratives and put real policies that create the conditions for families to thrive in their place.

Anne Mosle serves as a vice president of the Aspen Institute, executive director of Ascend at the Aspen Institute and as co-chair of the Aspen Institute Forum on Women and Girls. Trene Hawkins is a program officer with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Biden quietly nixes Trump-era rule combating Chinese Communist-funded ‘propaganda’ centers

Benjamin Zeisloft
Campus Reform

The Trump administration attempted to enact a policy that would force American universities to reveal cooperation with chapters of the Confucius Institute. President Joe Biden quietly revoked the policy a few days after his inauguration.

Axios reported that in the final days of his presidency, Trump enacted a policy that would compel primary, secondary and postsecondary institutions to disclose all contracts and transactions with the Confucius Institute. Under the policy, schools that do not report information would lose certification for the Student and Exchange Visitor Program.

Records from the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs showed that Biden nixed the policy Tuesday, Jan. 26. A representative for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement confirmed to Campus Reform that the policy was rescinded.

Seth Cropsey – director of the Center for American Seapower at the Hudson Institute – told Campus Reform that the policy could be part of the Biden administration recalibrating on Sino-American relations. However, he said hopes that the new administration is not trying to “placate China.”

He expressed hope that the Biden administration is not trying to “make overtures... that make it sound as though

the United States is unaware or uninterested in their military buildup, their aggression against neighbors, their militarization of the South China Sea and their successful efforts to steal intellectual property.”

In terms of Confucius Institutes, Cropsey said that it is “not normal practice, and for good reason – namely, academic independence and freedom – to allow an outside organization... to say nothing of a country that is a strategic competitor to the United States, to be able to choose professors in a program... within a university.”

Campus Reform reported extensively on the growing influence of the Chinese government on American college campuses.

In August, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo officially declared Confucius Institutes a “foreign mission” of the People’s Republic of China.

Pompeo explained that the Confucius Institute is “an entity advancing Beijing’s global propaganda and malign influence campaign on U.S. campuses and K-12 classrooms.” The organization is “funded by the PRC and part of the Chinese Communist Party’s global influence and propaganda apparatus,” he said.

Earlier in the Trump administration, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, added a provision to the National Defense Authorization Act that prohibited the funding of Confucius Institutes. Former President Donald Trump signed

the act.

Campus Reform reported that American universities accepted more than \$24 million from Chinese Communist Party sources since 2015. Much of this funding was directed toward resources for schools’ Confucius Institute chapters.

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Benjamin Zeisloft is a Pennsylvania Senior Campus Correspondent. He is studying finance and marketing at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Zeisloft also writes for The UPenn Statesman and the Wharton International Business Review.



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501 deaths, 10,748 other injuries reported following COVID-19 vaccine, latest CDC data show

Children's Health Defense
Special to Village News

As of Jan. 29, 501 deaths – a subset of 11,249 total adverse events – had been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System following COVID-19 vaccinations. The numbers reflect reports filed between Dec. 14, 2020, and Jan. 29, 2021.

VAERS is the primary mechanism for reporting adverse vaccine reactions in the U.S. Reports submitted to VAERS require further investigation before confirmation can be made that an adverse event was linked to a vaccine.

As of Jan. 29, about 35 million people in the U.S. had received one or both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. So far, only the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been granted emergency use authorization in the U.S. by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. By the FDA's own definition, the vaccines are still considered experimental until fully licensed.

According to the latest data, 453 of the 501 reported deaths were in the U.S. Fifty-three percent of those who died were male, 43% were female, the remaining death reports did not include the gender of the deceased. The average age of those who died was 77, the youngest reported death was of a 23-year-old. The Pfizer vaccine was taken by 59% of those who died, while the Moderna vaccine was taken by 41%.

The latest data also included 690 reports of anaphylactic reactions to either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. Of those, the Pfizer vaccine accounted for 76% of the reactions, and the Moderna vaccine for 24%.

As The Defender reported recently, a 56-year-old woman in Virginia died Jan. 30, hours after receiving her first dose of the Pfizer vaccine. Doctors told Drene Keyes' daughter that her mother died of flash pulmonary edema likely caused by anaphylaxis. The death is under investigation by Virginia's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and the CDC.

Last week, the CDC told USA Today that based on "early safety data from the first month" of COVID-19 vaccination the vaccines are "as safe as the studies suggested they'd be" and that "everyone who had experienced



The latest data from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention also includes 690 reports of anaphylactic reactions to the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

Village News/Courtesy photo

an allergic response has been treated successfully, and no other serious problems have turned up among the first 22 million people vaccinated.

Other vaccine injury reports updated this week on VAERS include 139 cases of facial asymmetry, or Bell's palsy type symptoms, and 13 miscarriages.

States reporting the most deaths were: California (45), Florida (22), Ohio (25), New York (22) and Kentucky (22).

The Moderna vaccine lot numbers associated with the highest number of deaths were: 025L20A (20 deaths), 037K20A (21 deaths) and 011J2A (16 deaths), 025J20A (16 deaths).

For Pfizer, the lot numbers associated with the most reports of deaths were: EK5730 (10 deaths), EJ1685 (23 deaths), EL0140 (19 deaths), EK 9231 (17 deaths) and EL1284 (13 deaths).

For 135 of the reported deaths, the lot numbers were unknown.

The clinical trials suggested that almost all the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination and the vast majority of injuries were

associated with the second dose.

While the VAERS database numbers are sobering, according to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study, the actual number of adverse events is likely significantly higher. VAERS is a passive surveillance system that relies on the willingness of individuals to submit reports voluntarily.

According to the VAERS website, health care providers are required by law to report to VAERS: any adverse event listed in the VAERS Table of Reportable Events Following Vaccination that occurs within the specified time period after vaccination and an adverse event listed by the vaccine manufacturer as a contraindication to further doses of the vaccine.

The CDC said health care providers are encouraged to report any adverse event that occurs after the administration of a vaccine licensed in the United States, whether or not it is clear that a vaccine caused the adverse event.

Vaccine administration errors

However, "within the specified time" means that reactions occurring outside that timeframe may not be reported, in addition to reactions suffered hours or days later by people who don't report those reactions to their health care provider.

Vaccine manufacturers are required to report to VAERS "all adverse events that come to their attention."

Historically, fewer than fewer than 1% of adverse events have ever been reported to VAERS, a system that Children's Health Defense has previously referred to as an "abject failure," including in a December 2020 letter to Dr. David Kessler, former FDA director and now co-chair of the COVID-19 Advisory Board and President Joe Biden's version of Operation Warp Speed.

A critic familiar with VAERS' shortcomings condemned VAERS in The BMJ as "nothing more than window dressing and a part of U.S. authorities' systematic effort to reassure/deceive us about vaccine safety."

CHD is calling for complete

transparency. The children's health organization is asking Kessler and the federal government to release all of the data from the clinical trials and suspend COVID-19 vaccine use in any group not adequately represented in the clinical trials, including the elderly, frail and anyone with comorbidities.

CHD is also asking for full transparency in post-marketing data that reports all health outcomes, including new diagnoses of autoimmune disorders, adverse events and deaths from COVID vaccines.

Children's Health Defense asks anyone who has experienced an adverse reaction, to any vaccine, to file a report following these three steps: file a report on the U.S. government's VAERS website, (<https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>), report the injury on VaxxTracker.com and also on the CHD website, <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/>.

Coordinated deplatforming of Parler under question as arrest numbers highlight Facebook's role in Capitol Hill riot

Michael Ginsberg
Daily Caller News Foundation

Facebook was the social media network most used to organize the Jan. 6 Capitol riot, an analysis of Department of Justice charging documents showed.

The Program on Extremism at George Washington University has collected the indictments of 223 people who have been charged for participating in the Jan. 6 Capitol riot, which caused five deaths and temporarily

delayed the certification of President Joe Biden's Electoral College victory. Facebook was used by 73 of the people charged with crimes, more than all other social media sites combined, according to a Forbes analysis.

Alternative social media site Parler was banned from using Amazon's online infrastructure in the wake of the riot due to its alleged connection to the violence, but it was only used by eight people charged, Forbes reported. Both Apple and Google

removed Parler from their app stores.

Parler did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer of Facebook, previously assigned culpability for the riot to Parler and Gab, another smaller platform.

"I think these events were largely organized on platforms that don't have our abilities to stop hate, don't have our standards and don't have our transparency," she said Jan. 11, according to The

Washington Post. Facebook did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Facebook has struggled in the past to moderate content from extremist groups on both the left and the right. A New Zealand man who killed 49 worshippers at a mosque in 2019 used the Facebook Live feature to film the mass shooting.

Facebook announced in August 2020 that it would limit the ability of far-left groups under the Antifa umbrella to

organize on the platform. The social media giant removed over 900 groups and 500 individual pages associated with Antifa at the time.

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Lisa Stadille, left, and Lynn Stadille-James pose with their Top Producer awards as the top agents for REMAX United of Fallbrook.

Village News/Michele Howard photo

FALLBROOK – REMAX United of Fallbrook is once again proud to announce that its winners of the Award of Excellence, and Top Producer is the dynamic mother-daughter duo of Lisa Stadille and Lynn Stadille-James. These two hard working professionals have always maintained a presence of high achievement for sales and listings throughout a decades

long career here in the Fallbrook/Bonsall area, and all of North San Diego County.

These ladies pride themselves in completing multi-million dollar transactions with success for all parties, both buyers and sellers. This is evidenced by the many testimonials from clients everywhere.

Stadille-James and Stadille

enjoy the challenges of an ever-changing market, striving for perfection, with safety for all, in these current times. They work tirelessly all the while enjoying new friendships through their lifetime work.

As quoted by their brokers, Keny and Cheyanne Terraciano, “Congratulations on an incredible 2020. We celebrate you, your dedication to your clients, and your successful year. We are honored to be your Brokers!”

Stadille-James can be reached at 760-845-3059, and Stadille can be reached at 760-535-2330. They are never too busy for clients or their families and friends.

Submitted by REMAX United of Fallbrook.

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Water Authority helps farmers boost water efficiency

San Diego – Agriculture is a rich part of San Diego County’s heritage and a foundational piece of the region’s economy, but it’s not easy to make a go of farming here given the hilly terrain, uneven soils and limited natural water supplies.

That’s where the San Diego County Water Authority comes in. The region’s wholesale water agency has funded more than 2,300 free irrigation system evaluations for farmers on more than 35,000 acres of avocados, citrus, field flowers, and other fruits and ornamentals since 1991. The Water Authority has achieved this by partnering with the Fallbrook-based Mission Resource Conservation District. Their combined efforts can save farmers hundreds or even thousands of dollars each year, while stretching the region’s most valuable natural resource and improving crop performance.

Farmers in the Fallbrook and Rainbow water district service areas can and have taken advantage of those programs because those districts are member agencies of the Water Authority. In fact, since 2010, more than 346 farmers on almost 10,000 acres in those areas have participated in the programs.

And in 2018, the Water Authority took its agricultural assistance program to a new level by leveraging more than \$1.5 million from a variety of sources to help improve irrigation efficiency at local farms with an enhanced package of services. By sharing costs with farmers, those funds will be stretched through 2021 to offer additional site evaluations and testing, soil mapping, water conservation planning, soil moisture sensors and technical assistance.

Many partners enhance efficiency efforts

These dual benefits explain why the Water Authority helped to secure funding for expanded agricultural water efficiency efforts over the last seven years.



Mission Resource Conservation District’s Lance Andersen gathers irrigation data to help farmers boost their water use efficiency.

In addition to the Water Authority, the program partners are USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Mission Resource Conservation District, San Diego County Farm Bureau, and 10 Water Authority member agencies – Carlsbad, Escondido, Fallbrook, Oceanside, Rainbow, Rincon del Diablo, San Dieguito, Vallecitos, Valley Center and Yuima.

“The purpose of the funding is to address three related natural resource issues – water quantity, water quality and soil health,” said Elizabeth Lovsted, a water resources manager at the Water Authority who oversees development and implementation of conservation and water use efficiency programs at the agency. “Making the most of our water supplies, reducing runoff and enhancing crop productivity benefit farmers and the region at large.”

San Diego County is home to approximately 5,700 farms – more than any other county in the nation – and they benefit from the region’s nearly perfect weather. But they also must contend with intermittent rain, hilly terrain and bedrock that can sit just a few feet below the surface – all of which makes irrigation efficiency both challenging and critical.

Irrigation evaluations typically

begin with a conversation about current practices – when farmers irrigate, for how long and how many zones are in the irrigation system. Lance Andersen, who performs farm water-use evaluations as deputy district manager for the conservation district, then measures flow rates at sprinklers and water pressure at the risers. He produces a written report with recommendations for improving irrigation efficiency and offers a follow-up evaluation.

Simple changes can yield big results

Easy fixes typically include adjusting water pressure throughout irrigation systems and replacing faulty pressure regulators. Regulating pressure on hilly terrain can be tricky, and Andersen often finds that water pressure in flat areas is too high, which results in overwatering. Ensuring that all emitters are of the same size and type is another easy adjustment for farmers.

It can be more challenging to adjust irrigation rates to account for soil type and depth. “Everybody kind of knows that we don’t irrigate deep soil, but they don’t irrigate that way,” Andersen said.

Submitted by the San Diego County Water Authority.

February is time to prune rose bushes

Frank Brines
Master Consulting Rosarian

In Southern California, winter is usually short and sometimes confusing. Winter for some plant life is a time of withdrawal that precedes renewal. For roses, it is necessary to help them in that process. Now is the time to perform a few procedures to help reset the hormonal clock and get them ready for a great year of rose blooms. That's the main purpose for pruning.

According to all accounts and experienced rosarians, the proper time is "late winter." This designation has many meanings in an area like Southern California which has numerous weather zones. The important thing is to prune late enough to avoid risking frost damage to the tender growth that will emerge as a result of pruning.

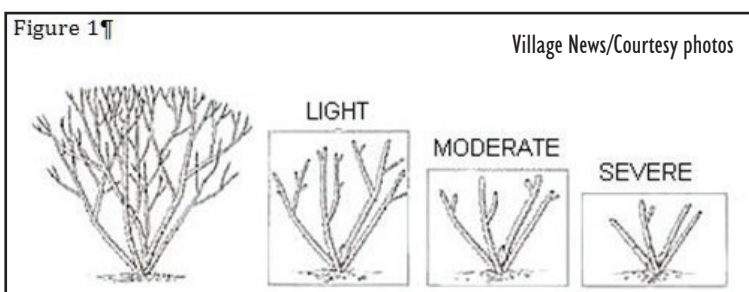
In most of the region my column is read, the last average frost date is mid-March, so that means it's probably safe pruning in mid-to-late February. It is always a gamble, and the best advice is to watch the weather. If there is winter rain during January or February, pruning can be held off awhile since these rains are cold making the ground colder and wetter than usual.

This year the weather hasn't been severe enough to prevent new growth. I have observed that pruned or not, new growth is appearing and buds are forming on very short canes. I've seen roses still blooming this year. Different parts of a yard may have other conditions affecting gardening. A south facing wall backing the plants will be warmer than a shadier area. Soil composition will have differing effects. A layer of remaining mulch will improve soil conditions.

For those who haven't begun or finished pruning, there is still plenty of time to have blooms for rose shows or special spring events. The recent rainy periods have created an environment for fungi diseases. Gardeners should examine their roses and, if they find any rust, remove all the leaves from the plant at once and discard into a green waste bin. I do it anyway on every bush before pruning because it helps me see the structure clearly.

As I said before, the major late-winter pruning reset the plants' hormonal clock; it is a wake-up call to begin a new life cycle – like restarting a factory. After this pruning, gardeners can expect a flush of blooms eight to 12 weeks later, depending on the temperatures during that period – the warmer it is, the shorter the time to blooms.

But all things being equal, if the pruning is completed in the latter half of February, there will likely be blooms in mid-to-late April. If blooms are wanted for a specific date, count backward approximately 10 weeks from that date. Pruning should be complete on this date.



There are multiple styles when it comes to pruning rose bushes.

The following procedures mostly apply to hybrid teas and floribundas, but they are reasonably serviceable for minis. They are not really applicable to climbers, ground cover roses, trailers or shrub roses – all those types have their own pruning methods.

Before pruning, be sure to have good pruning tools and gloves with arm protectors, long handle loppers and sharp clean "bypass" hand pruners ready. What does "bypass" mean? Take a look at the pruners: Bypass pruners have a sharp cutting blade which slices through the cane and a dull curved non-cutting blade which holds the cane in place during the cut. The sharp blade "by passes" or over shoots the dull curved blade.

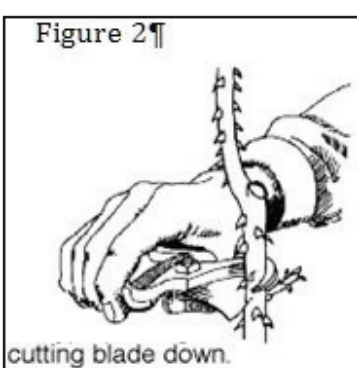
It's a good idea to have a range of pruner sizes handy. Each size has a limit to the diameter thickness for which it is most efficiently used; using too small a pruner on too large a cane can damage both. At minimum, have a pair of loppers and a standard-sized pair of hand pruners that fit comfortably in hand. A saw can be used for older plants with large canes that may need to be removed. The standard hand pruner works for 1/2-inch diameter canes.

All tools should be kept clean, sharp and in good repair. Use rubbing alcohol for cleaning cutting blades, before and during the job. It helps prevent transmitting diseases from plant to plant, and gardeners can use it as first aid for punctures and scratches to their skin. A good pair of leather gloves with long sleeves or a separate pair of sleeves will protect arms.

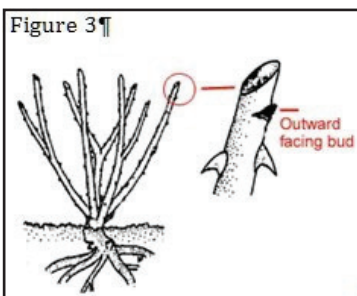
Before starting the job, lubricate the moving parts with a little light oil, such as 3-in-1 oil, and make sure they operate without resistance. Sharpen each blade with a small diamond file available at garden centers, trying as much as possible to match the original bevel of the blade. Every 100 cuts or so, swipe the file over the blade a few times to keep it sharp.

If the pruners begin crushing the stems or leaving a tail, it's past time to sharpen them. To minimize damage to the cane, keep this rule in mind: The sharp blade should always face the part that will be left. It will minimize the crushing of the cane or stem as it will be the part that is discarded. This rule also works for preparing stems for arranging or putting into a vase.

Next, decide what style of pruning to do. I find it works well with the way buds are distributed along the cane. Buds are found in the "axil" where a leaf meets



Make sure to position your pruners, so the non-cutting blade is in contact with the portion of the cane that will be removed.



When pruning roses, make sure to give the stem an angled cut.

the cane; leaves spiral around the cane at about 1.5-inch intervals. It places outward-facing buds about 4-inch apart. If you prune lightly to moderately, and if frost damages the tender young growth, then you can still re-prune to the next bud down.

In Southern California, rose bushes can grow quite large, so start with some gross pruning to bring the project down to size. I use loppers to cut every bush down to about 3-4 feet high. It lets gardeners examine the structure of the bush and to use their hand pruners to more easily remove canes that are twiggy, dead, crossing other canes or passing through the center of the plant. Also remove old leaves to better see the structure of the plant. After removing all that stuff from the interior of the bush, do the final pruning.

Attempt to leave a domed top to the degree possible so the plant will bush out in a pleasing, balanced manner.

The pruning will require two kinds of cuts. Some cuts remove an entire branch; make these flush with the surface of the parent cane. Other cuts simply shorten a cane. It is important to position the pruners to minimize damage to the plant. Position the pruners so the non-cutting blade is in contact with the portion of the cane that will be removed, and the cutting blade is on the side of the cut that will remain on the plant. It will make more sense while holding

the pruners and getting ready to cut. Also, always prune above an outward facing bud with an angled cut.

For shrub roses, cut them back to conform to the space they should fill, inspect and clean out dead and diseased material from the center, shorten canes and remove about one-third of the growth.

A word of caution when pruning: Look for the small nests of hummingbirds, as it is the nesting period for two varieties in the area. Also, praying mantis egg cases are discovered on any removed branches, find a place to put them where they will be undisturbed and hatch out so the garden can benefit from the offspring.

Clean the ground thoroughly of all rose debris and dispose of all cuttings and other materials in the green waste bin and put it on the

street: Do not compost it. Apply a dormant spray to the plants and the soil surface to ward off diseases.

Then apply 2-4 inches of composted mulch to cover the entire garden area. The first fertilizing will be when new growth is about 2 inches long. I recommend lower values of the three elements (Nitrogen [3], Phosphate [4], K Potassium [3]) with slightly higher value for phosphate. In two weeks begin with heavier feedings every two weeks for great blooms or at least monthly. February would be the best time to assess the irrigation system for any needed repairs while there is no new growth and mulch has not been spread.

Be sure to visit Rose Haven, 30592 Jedediah Smith Road, in Temecula. For more information, visit <http://www.TemeculaValleyRoseSociety.org>.

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SDG&E files 2021 wildfire mitigation plan update, advancing commitment to fire safety and resiliency

Update highlights fire preparedness progress and outlines path for additional reductions in wildfire risk and customer impacts

SAN DIEGO – San Diego Gas & Electric has completed and filed its annual update to the 2020-2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plan, a strategic guide that describes SDG&E's efforts to help reduce the potential for utility infrastructure-related fires and help protect the safety of SDG&E's customers, employees and the communities it serves.

Submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission on Feb. 5, the Update builds upon SDG&E's decades-long commitment to wildfire safety, addressing plan progress, regulatory and stakeholder feedback, and advancements in infrastructure-related wildfire mitigation and resiliency programs planned for the coming year.

Last year, SDG&E was able to further its 2020 wildfire mitigation initiatives and achieve a roughly 30% reduction in the number of customers impacted by Public Safety Power Shutoffs, when compared to similar 2019 events. Initiatives completed last year included the development of a new circuit segment risk assessment model; strategic undergrounding of critical facilities in the backcountry; construction of multiple microgrids; a variety of customer generator programs; and the inclusion of covered conductors.

"We recognize that our wildfire preparedness efforts are not without significant impacts to our customers, who have shown incredible patience

and understanding as we advance our collective goal to protect public safety," said Caroline Winn, chief executive officer of SDG&E. "The pandemic and last year's extreme weather events not only magnified our responsibility to bring forth solutions that help reduce those impacts, which we will work every day to do, but they also reinforced our commitment to build a more resilient electric system to safeguard our region."

In 2021, SDG&E will continue to advance many of the initiatives that began in 2020 such as PSPS mitigation efforts and expanded outreach to vulnerable communities and make additional enhancements to data collection and analysis.

These enhancements will allow for more granular risk assessments and help prioritize infrastructure hardening projects and resource allocation in the future.

Since 2007, SDG&E has invested more than \$2 billion in a variety of safety measures to prevent catastrophic wildfires. The company's commitment to community safety and resiliency has made it a recognized leader in utility wildfire mitigation. To learn more about SDG&E's commitment to wildfire preparedness and safety, visit <https://www.sdge.com/our-commitment-wildfire-safety>.

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SDG&E is a subsidiary of Sempra Energy. For more information, visit SDGNews.com.

Submitted by San Diego Gas & Electric.

Bonsall Sponsor Group defers recommendation on TK-8 school

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

An entity called "Friends of Willow Tree" has submitted an application to the county for a major use permit to build a school in the 6800 block of West Lilac Road, but a lack of information provided caused the Bonsall Sponsor Group to postpone a recommendation.

The sponsor group voted 6-0, Tuesday, Feb. 2, to defer a recommendation pending receipt of additional information.

"There are shortcomings relative to the project description," sponsor group chair Steve Norris said.

The school would be located on a 6.41-acre site just west of

Sullivan Middle School. The campus would educate students from transitional kindergarten through eighth grade, although the application did not specify whether it would be a charter school or a private school.

The application specified a maximum of 216 students, and nine buildings covering 41,000 square feet would be constructed. The school grounds would also have 85 parking stalls.

"We don't have a concept grading plan. We have a concept site plan," Norris said.

One topographical element is known, he said.

"We've got a drainage that flanks the south side of the site," Norris said.

The San Diego County's Planning Commission can approve a major use permit in the absence of a rezone or general plan amendment. A major use permit decision can be appealed to the county Board of Supervisors. A review by county staff along with the sponsor group recommendation will determine the Department of Planning and Development Services staff recommendation for the school.

County staff will make a decision before the recommendation.

"The county will determine the level of environmental study necessary," Norris said.

In addition to whether an environmental impact report or a mitigated negative declaration

is required, the county will also determine what is included in the environmental study. Traffic, biological and geological impacts are likely to be considered.

"We don't have any of that information. The application was put in in January," Norris said.

The sponsor group was asked to review the application for completeness and adequacy of the project description.

"We're lacking information on how the facility is going to function on a day-to-day perspective," Norris said.

The application did not provide information on hours of operation, manner of operation or lights.

"The project description should describe hours of operation, so

we can address things like traffic congestion, noise, et cetera," Norris said.

The concept site plan was sufficient for the sponsor group to identify one flaw, he said.

"The architecture is not generally consistent with the Bonsall design guidelines," Norris said.

A design review committee meeting preceded the sponsor group meeting, and the committee also voted to defer a recommendation pending receipt of additional information.

"We didn't have enough information," Norris said.

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



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3999 Burma Court, Fallbrook **\$1,150,000**



PENDING

2831 Nuestra Lane, Fallbrook **\$987,500**



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PENDING

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903 Vanita, Fallbrook **\$515,000**

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Rainbow MWD approves lift station replacement MND

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

The work which includes the replacement of the Rainbow Municipal Water District's Lift Station No. 1 will have an environmental Mitigated Negative Declaration along with a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Rainbow's board voted 5-0, Tuesday, Jan. 26, to approve the environmental analysis prepared by Kennedy/Jenks. The motion also formally approved the project, which is already in the district's five-year capital plan, although the approval of the project does not include the approval of any designs or other plans nor does it authorize a construction contract or appropriate any funding.

The environmental documentation also covers a force main from the Thoroughbred Lift Station to Old River Road, upsizing the existing sewer line along Highway 76, and a gravity main from Olive Hill Road to the Thoroughbred Lift Station.

"This is part of the project to increase the capacity of our wastewater system to handle the flow from the new development," Tom Kennedy, Rainbow general manager, said.

He is not related to the principal with the Kennedy/Jenks consulting firm.

Lift Station No. 1 is off of Old River Road and delivers sewage effluent to the city of Oceanside, which has an ocean outfall. The package lift station has three 5-horsepower wet well/dry well pumps and a 750-gallon working volume wet well. The pump station was built in 1974, and the pumps

were replaced in 1994.

The lift station's firm capacity is 1,250 gallons per minute. During wet weather flows, the station pumps an average of 1,400 gallons per minute by running pumps up to 13 times per hour. Additional development is expected to increase the necessary lift station volume, and the ultimate required capacity is more than 2,600 gallons per minute.

The lift station is also in need of structural, electrical, and mechanical repair. Rainbow's master plan in 2000 identified the need for the eventual replacement of Lift Station No. 1 and adjacent pipelines.

In March 2014, Rainbow's board approved a contract with Kennedy/Jenks to provide design, environmental permitting and construction oversight services for the replacement of Lift Station No. 1. Kennedy/Jenks submitted a pre-design report which summarized the required improvements.

According to the report, upsizing the existing sewer siphon to accommodate the predicted ultimate flows would require a new siphon to be drilled horizontally under the San Luis Rey River with a depth of approximately 80 feet to avoid bedrock. A new lift station on the north side of the river would avoid the need for a deep siphon, and after a 1.36-acre site on Thoroughbred Lane adjacent to Bonsall Village Center became available, Rainbow's board approved the purchase of the property in February 2017.

The initial design was reevaluated, and it was determined that upsizing a stretch of sewer main along state Route 76 and placing an equalization basin upstream of the existing siphon could level out the flows through the siphon to meet

existing capacity requirements for Lift Station No. 1.

Moving the flow equalization upstream would also allow the new Schoolhouse Lift Station at Old River Road and Calle De Las Estrellas to replace Lift Station No. 1 without upsizing the line to the Old River Lift Station. The equalization basin will be constructed near Thoroughbred Road and Route 76.

Rainbow now has an out-of-agency service agreement between Rainbow and the Valley Center Municipal Water District for Rainbow to serve Pardee Homes' planned Meadowood development. Rainbow is also working with San Diego County's Local Agency Formation Commission to annex the Meadowood area and detach that area from the Valley Center district.

Dexter Wilson analyzed Rainbow's existing wastewater conveyance system to determine what facilities would be needed to accommodate Meadowood's sewer discharge requirements. The needs included the Thoroughbred Lift Station and appurtenant pipeline modifications, a force main from the Thoroughbred Lift Station to Old River Road, upsizing the existing sewer line along Route 76 and a gravity main from Olive Hill Road to the Thoroughbred Lift Station.

The analysis also projected needed improvements to wastewater facilities along North River Road and to gravity sewer mains along Old River Road.

Some of the improvements recommended by Dexter Wilson were included in draft scenarios prepared by Kennedy/Jenks but never completed. On Dec. 8, the Rainbow board approved a change

order to the Kennedy/Jenks contract for the design of the Thoroughbred Lift Station, the force main, the upsized sewer line along Route 76 and the gravity main along with the necessary documentation for California Department of Transportation permitting and a mitigated negative declaration.

Helix Environmental was a subconsultant to Kennedy/Jenks and conducted California Environmental Quality Act analysis before preparing the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Rainbow board's adoption.

The initial study determined that no significant environmental impacts would occur if mitigation measures were taken. Rainbow released the draft initial study for a public review period, Nov. 6.

Before releasing the draft for public review, meetings were held with the Pala Band of Mission Indians, Oct. 28, and the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians, Nov. 5. The Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians was also notified.

"We are removing some facilities that are very near to some cultural resources," Kennedy said.

The notice of the public review was also mailed to nearby residents, municipalities, regulatory agencies and other stakeholders. Comments during the public review period were received from Caltrans and from a resident. The comments and responses are included in the final environmental document, and the responses were also mailed to Caltrans and to the resident.

A qualified archaeologist and Native American monitor will be present during ground disturbance

activity. The final monitoring report will include daily logs and, if cultural resources are found, the work will cease, and all parties will assess the finds. If fossils are found, a qualified paleontologist will ensure their preservation.

A sewer system management plan for the lift station with safety features will be implemented prior to construction. The safety features include an emergency generator and basin and monitoring protocol along with contingency plans for any leaks or spills. The preconstruction mitigation also includes fire prevention best management practices to minimize the fire threat from foliage.

The lift station will be designed to have a maximum operational one-hour noise level of 55 average decibels during daytime and 45 average decibels during nighttime. The construction will be limited to an eight-hour average of 75 average decibels, and residences within 300 feet will be notified one week before the construction activities.

A sensitive bird survey and a noise attenuation plan will be required if any construction between Jan. 14 and Sept. 15 is near sensitive bird habitat. A nesting bird survey will be required if any vegetation is removed between Feb. 15 and Aug. 31.

The final design of the lift station, force main, upsized sewer line and gravity main is expected to be complete by June 2021. Rainbow and Kennedy/Jenks expect the construction contract to be advertised for bid in summer 2021.

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

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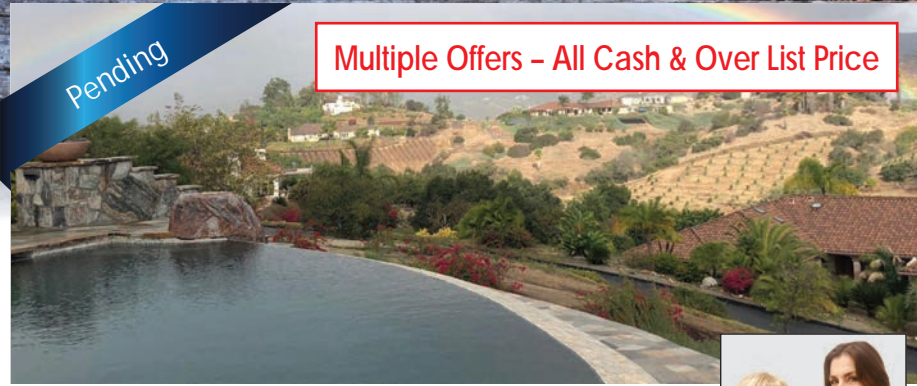
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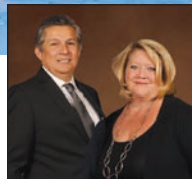
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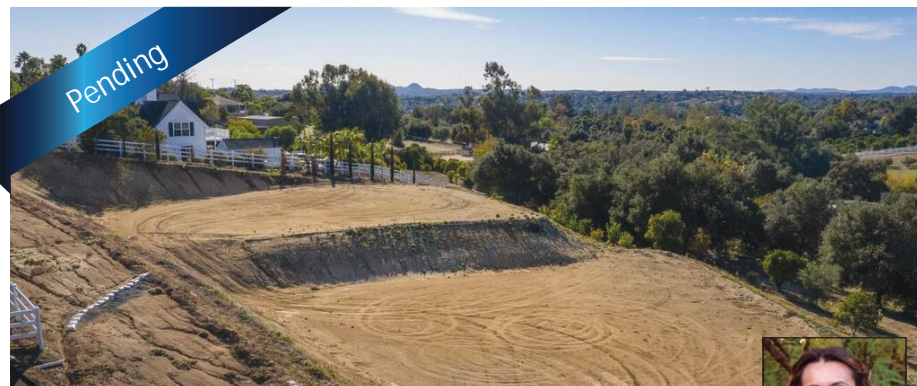
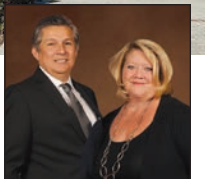
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3214 sq.ft., 4BD, 3BA custom beauty on 1.48 acres located in a highly sought out neighborhood! Newly remodeled kitchen featuring gorgeous quartzite counters, ss farm sink, ss oven and subzero frig. Enjoy the lovely views from the outdoor entertainment area and hot tub. 3 car garage, solar and circular driveway.

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Site plan permit exemption granted for former McDonald's

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

San Diego County granted a site plan permit design review checklist exemption for the Main Avenue building, which had been a McDonald's restaurant, in Fallbrook.

Kathleen Flannery is the acting director of the county's Department of Planning and Development Services, as previous director Mark Wardlaw recently took position as the director of Walnut Creek's

Community Development Department. Flannery approved the exemption Friday, Jan. 29, although she said that any proposed signage would require subsequent community review and the granting of a minor deviation for the exemption.

The site plan consisted of 11 sheets of plans to expand the building to approximately 4,000 square feet and convert it into a two-level structure. The former McDonald's would have both a main floor and a basement. The proposed changes would add

1,638 square feet to the building, including converting the patio and the drive-thru area into interior space along with adding 1,047 square feet to the structure.

The building is in the 1000 block of S. Main Avenue. Ross Rose owns both the building and the property where a laundromat is under construction. Although the laundromat is a separate project, the architecture and aesthetics for the former McDonald's building will be coordinated with that facility, and the elevations of the two buildings will match.

The site plan permit design review checklist exemption is a discretionary action. Building permits are required to construct or alter a structure, and a building permit for the former McDonald's will be granted upon application and compliance with a checklist. Permits will also be required for plumbing, electrical and mechanical work.

Construction must begin by Jan. 29, 2023, for the site plan permit design review checklist exemption to remain valid, as the exemption will expire on that day.

A request to extend the time may be filed before that expiration date if needed.

The proposed exemption was reviewed by the Fallbrook Community Planning Group, Dec. 21, 2020, and a 14-0 vote recommended approval. The planning group will be given the opportunity to make a recommendation on the future signage.

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

SCOUTS

from page B-1

Saturday, Nov. 7.

"It was raining on our first day of work and actually hailed on us as we were leaving," Ashley Schlumpberger recalled. Despite the rough start, she completed her project on time, taking a total of 134 hours, including 40 hours of research, planning and fundraising.

Ashley Schlumpberger is the 37th and first female Eagle Scout candidate to successfully

complete a project for the FLC, according to Karla Standridge, executive director. "Ashley did an outstanding job designing and implementing the pathway. We are excited to incorporate her design into the revitalization of the Wildlife Sculpture Garden," she said.

Ashley Schlumpberger turned 17 in January and is now a junior at Fallbrook Union High School. She hopes her achievement will inspire other girls to join Scouts BSA.

"I would just really love to encourage other girls my age to join, because it teaches you so



Mimi Meacham donates her custom-designed masks to the staff at Deaf Community Services of San Diego, from left, Meacham, Rosina Garcia, Holly Sharer and Tina Smith.



Mimi Meacham displays a box of the special masks she designed and had made for Deaf Community Services of San Diego as her Eagle Scout project.

much," she said. "It teaches you about leadership. You're going to make amazing friendships. I'm really grateful for the impact scouting has had."

Becka Seefried

If the road to becoming an Eagle Scout wasn't difficult enough, Seefried's life was uprooted when her family made the decision to move to Fallbrook last August from her longtime home in Buffalo, New York. She had been a dual member of Troops 824 and Troop 261G in Buffalo, and nearing completion of her community service project for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The move cross-country during the middle of a pandemic to "a small town where she didn't know anyone" proved to be her biggest challenge, said Seefried, 17 and a senior at FUHS, who lives with her parents Edward and Amy Seefried. She also has two brothers, Joshua, 21, and Anthony, 19, who are also Eagle Scouts.

Eventually, her transition was helped by "friendly neighbors," she recalled. "Our neighbors said hello right away and were very kind - everyone I've met has been very nice."

In choosing her community service project, she knew she wanted "to do something for the ASPCA," she said. "I have three little rescues myself," she said, describing her dogs. "The oldest is Lady, a schnauzer-terrier mix. The second oldest is Mitzie, a Boston terrier-beagle mix. And the youngest is Sky. We're not sure what breed she is, but if you looked at her from far away you would think she was a coy dog!"

Seefried is also an artist with an interest in "character design." She hoped to incorporate in her project not only her "love for animals," but also her "love for artwork."

During her initial visit to the ASPCA center, which serves Erie County in New York, she observed only two tables with chairs to accommodate younger children who participated in summer camp and other activities. "There was no place for them to store their coats and backpacks," she recalled.

She subsequently set up a meeting with staff to discuss her idea for new shelving, presenting a blueprint of her proposal. Her project provided for two shelving units, each containing 20 "cubbies"

for storage, 20 hooks for coats, two handles that double as towel racks and four wheels that lock. The shelves were painted red and decorated with artwork of various animals.

Once her plan was approved by the ASPCA, she raised funds over a period of three weeks by selling candy bars, which she purchased from Gertrude Hawk Chocolates, a fundraising program.

The estimated cost of the project was \$972.97. Because most of her supplies were donated by Lowe's, actual costs amounted to just \$31.98. From conception and design to construction and installation, the new shelving required 226 hours and 52 minutes to complete over a period of four months.

In addition to her online classes, Seefried also works part-time up to 15 hours a week at Michael's in Oceanside. Aspiring for a future career in animation character design, she plans to attend college in California, where she hopes to study art.

To be recognized among the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts is "such a special and high honor," Seefried said. "I am making history, and hopefully making life easier for women in the country by showing them that anything is possible, that gender does not determine who you are and what you are supposed to act and be like."

Muriel "Mimi" Meacham

An early understanding of the challenges of the hearing-impaired was the inspiration for Meacham's Eagle Scout project for Deaf Community Services of San Diego. "My longtime friend who has always been there and looked out for me is hard of hearing," said Meacham, 18, who is a graduate of Guajome Park Academy in Vista and is currently enrolled at Western Oregon University.

While a student at Guajome Park, she studied American Sign Language at Palomar College. Her older sister, Grace Meacham, is currently studying for a career as an ASL interpreter.

Meacham explained that the pandemic has been especially difficult for individuals who rely on ASL to communicate with others. "A lot of ASL is facial expressions and mouth morphemes. So it is important to try to see the

face," she explained. "The deaf community has had a harder time with understanding, because their main form of communicating is lip reading and that is not possible when people wear a mask."

For her project, Meacham recruited five volunteers and devoted some 100 hours to creating a special mask for the hearing impaired with fabric donated to her project by family friends. Masks were sewn from two layers of fabric, with a clear, plastic window inserted between the layers so that the wearer's mouth is visible. A single mask required an estimated 45 minutes to make from start to finish.

The project was complicated when Meacham discovered her original pattern was too small. Her mother, Claire Meacham, helped enlarge it. A few of her volunteers who offered to sew masks "didn't have the highest skills and not everyone could complete the project on time," she said. Some of her volunteers made more masks than others, while a few moved away before completing their assigned number of masks. "But they really tried to let me know if they were not able to do it," she said.

Ultimately, Meacham delivered a total of 75 masks to DCS staff. "I am happy with the help I could give," she said. "People working there didn't have the proper masks and were really appreciative."

Reflecting on her Eagle Scout achievement, Meacham said she is "proud of it," noting that she first thought it would be easy "but it was a lot more work than I imagined," she said. Her biggest challenges were "the little things that you don't necessarily think of," she said. "It really taught me perseverance and you need a gung-ho attitude."

In addition to Scoutmaster Roberson, she credits the "huge support" of adult leaders David Creamer and Jeff Tesluk. Her father, Jeff Meacham, a self-described "One Proud Dad," also commended her "wonder troop and troop leaders."

"It meant a lot to me to be a part of this first group of female Eagle Scouts," Meacham said. "It was important for me to be a part of it, because it signifies more opportunities for us."

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BUSINESS

Women are nearly half of U.S. Workforce but only 27% of STEM workers

WASHINGTON – Making up nearly half of the U.S. workforce, women are underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering and math workforce.

Women made gains – from 8% of STEM workers in 1970 to 27% in 2019 – but men still dominated the field. Men made up 52% of all U.S. workers but 73% of all STEM workers.

STEM occupations account for nearly 7% of all U.S. occupations and STEM workers play an important role in America's innovative capacity and global competitiveness. They are our engineers, medical scientists, sociologists and informational security analysts.

National STEM/STEAM Day is celebrated every year on Nov. 8 to encourage children to explore their interests in the fields of science, technology, engineering, art and math.

In 2019, there were nearly 10.8 million workers in STEM occupations, according to the Census Bureau estimates.

In 1970, women made up 38% of all U.S. workers and 8% of STEM workers. By 2019, the STEM proportion had increased to 27% and women made up 48% of all workers.

Since 1970, the representation

of women has increased across all STEM occupations and they made significant gains in social science occupations in particular – from 19% in 1970 to 64% in 2019.

Women in 2019 also made up nearly half of those in all math (47%) and life and physical science (45%) occupations.

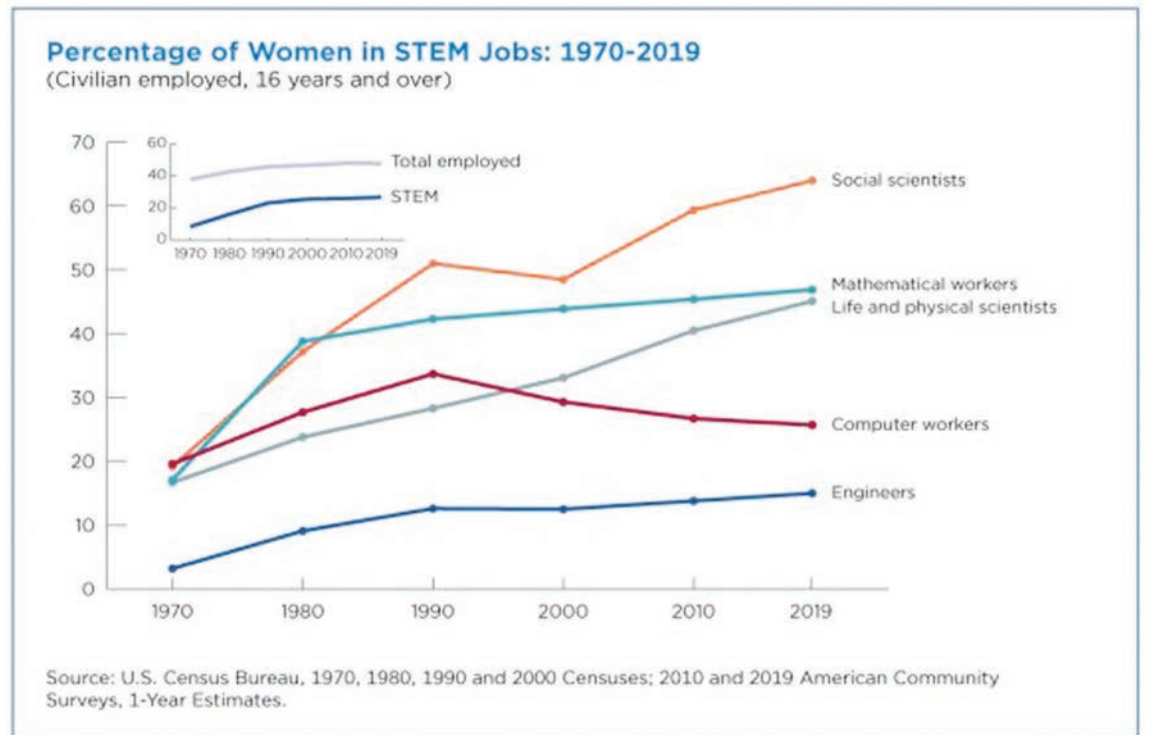
However, women did not make as big gains in computer and engineering occupations, which made up the largest portion (80%) of the STEM workforce.

Women represented only about a quarter of computer workers and 15% of those in engineering occupations. They were, however, a majority of the nation's social scientists. But social science accounted for only 3% of STEM occupations.

Women working in engineering occupations increased from 3% in 1970 to 15% in 2019. And while the percentage of women in computer occupations is higher than in 1970, it actually decreased between 1990 and 2019.

Women employed full-time, year-round in STEM occupations earned more than their non-STEM counterparts but the gender earnings gap persisted within STEM occupations.

In STEM occupations that are majority women and have enough



This graph from the U.S. Census Bureau details the types of science, technology, engineering and math careers women have held from 1970 to 2019.

Village News/Courtesy photo

of a sample to meet statistical standards for reliability, other psychologists, natural sciences managers and medical scientists employed full-time year-round earned less or about the same as men.

Among the 70 detailed STEM

occupations the Census Bureau reported on, women earned more than men in only one STEM occupation: computer network architects. But women represented only 8% of those in this occupation.

Much of the data highlighted above come from a recently

released detailed table from the American Community Survey and provide information on specific STEM occupations and earnings for women and men.

Submitted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Hamilton chosen as Rainbow MWD board president



Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

The Rainbow Municipal Water District board selected Hayden Hamilton to be the board president for 2021 and 2022 meetings.

The board's 5-0 vote, Jan. 26, designated Hamilton as the board president, Miguel Gasca as the vice-chair and Pam Moss as the board secretary. Moss, who replaced Helene Brazier as the Division 1 board member, also replaced Brazier as the chair of the district's Engineering and Operations Committee.

"I'm interested in seeing this district be able to get affordable water at a reasonable cost without sacrificing quality or deliverability," Hamilton said.

Hamilton defeated appointed incumbent Rich Bigley in the November 2016 election and ran unopposed for reelection in 2020. He was the board secretary for 2017 and 2018 and the board vice-chair for 2019 and 2020.

"It's kind of a natural progression to move on up to the chair's position," he said.

Brazier was the board president for 2019 and 2020.

Hamilton has not previously been a board chair.

"I'll learn. It's not that tough," he said. "I'm fully up to doing it."

Although Hamilton did not have the other duties of a board chair in 2020, Brazier was unable to participate in the district's virtual meetings and Hamilton chaired those board meetings. "Hayden's done a great job filling in for about the last six months or so and he's an extremely capable person, able to take the board leadership," Tom Kennedy, general manager of Rainbow Municipal Water District, said.

Professionally Hamilton was involved in engineering software and structural analysis before retiring.

"I've never really chaired anything. I've been in startup operations," he said. "I've been in senior management positions."

Hamilton is still involved in some consulting, and he also runs an equine rehabilitation facility in Olive Hill where he now lives.

His leadership activity includes the position of managing editor of the American Aviation Historical Society quarterly journal.

"My hobby is aviation," Hamilton said.

Before he moved to California in 1982, Hamilton often flew for business travel. He is currently making trips to Warner Springs to reinstate his glider pilot's license.

Hamilton is now 71. He grew up in the southern Texas town of Harlingen and studied engineering at the University of Texas.

"My water experience before being on the board was almost nil," Hamilton said.

He has a sister who has been involved in groundwater and who also served as a county commissioner, which is the Texas equivalent of a county supervisor.

"Much of what the board is responsible for isn't as much water

issues as the management of the activity. That doesn't change from business to business," Hamilton said.

Hamilton moved from Carlsbad to the Olive Hill area in 1999 and has been a Rainbow Municipal Water District resident and ratepayer since then.

"I've seen the ups and downs of how the district has been run," he said.

Kennedy has been Rainbow's general manager since he was hired in August 2014.

"I'm glad that we hired Tom Kennedy. He has done wonders," Hamilton said. "We brought a lot of controls and checks and balances into the system. We can almost predict where the next pipe break is going to be."

The ability to identify faulty pipes doesn't result in fixing all of them.

"We don't have a lot of money to work with to do capital improvement projects," Hamilton said.

Rainbow purchases water from the San Diego County Authority, so the SDCWA rates limit the ability of Rainbow to fund maintenance and capital improvements. Rainbow and the Fallbrook Public Utility District have filed an application with San Diego County's Local Agency Formation Commission to detach from the CWA and annex into the Eastern Municipal Water District, which would provide for lower wholesale rates.

"I'm a major proponent of the detachment," Hamilton said.

The CWA has a weighted vote. In November, a vote to spend \$1.3 million on a study for a Regional Conveyance System which would provide a direct connection for Colorado River supply rather than using the Metropolitan Water

District of Southern California aqueduct system was passed by a narrow margin due to the weighted vote, even though most agencies opposed spending money on the study.

The Regional Conveyance System itself has a construction cost estimate of nearly \$5 billion and annual maintenance costs estimated at between \$140 million and \$150 million.

Hamilton fears that the Regional Conveyance System would increase the cost for FPUD and Rainbow ratepayers.

"That just rubs me the wrong way to pay for something we can't use," he said.

In April 1995, Rainbow's board adopted Ordinance 95-1 which required a public vote for the district to incur additional debt if Rainbow's existing debt exceeded \$1 million. Ordinance 95-1 was repealed in October 2018.

"Repealing 95-1 has allowed us to get a very low interest rate loan," Hamilton said.

Rainbow's projects since eliminating Ordinance 95-1 include the replacement of the district's water meters. A water audit and subsequent meter accuracy testing determined that approximately 6.4% of water delivery was not recorded due to meter inaccuracy.

"We have aging inaccurate meters," Hamilton said.

Approximately 40% of the district's meters have been replaced.

"We already are beginning to see shrinkage of that loss," Hamilton said.

The district has more than 300 miles of pipe, and about 60% of that pipe is approaching being 50 years old.

"It's not cheap to go replace water main pipes," Hamilton said.

High-pressure areas are more at risk of pipeline failures.

"We have some pressure regulating projects we're working on to try to mitigate some of those issues," Hamilton said. "We have some water mains that have 400 psi (pounds per square inch) in them."

The pressure in flat areas is typically between 100 and 120 psi. That includes Hamilton's property.

"Our area is much more level," he said. "We don't have as many of those problems as the people who live out in Rainbow."

The district had some problems involving water pressure when hoses were connected to fire hydrants during the December 2017 Lilac Fire. That fire approached about 200 yards away from Hamilton's property.

The virtual meetings and work being performed outside of the district office were implemented to protect against the spread of coronavirus but have resulted in other benefits.

"It's much better time management, much more efficiency," Hamilton said. "We're getting more efficient use of staff."

Rainbow staff returned to the district office for the Jan. 26 meeting, although four of the board members still utilized the distance option. Due to internet problems at his home, Michael Mack used the internet from the district building.

The virtual meetings eliminate the need to travel to the district office. Hamilton would like to continue Zoom or other remote meetings after full occupancy of the facility is once again allowed.

"It's just more convenient," he said.

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

Hoch to design Rainbow's Hutton and Turner pump stations

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

Hoch Consulting has been given the Rainbow Municipal Water District contract to design the Hutton and Turner pump stations.

A 5-0 Rainbow board vote Jan. 26 awarded Hoch Consulting a professional services contract for \$166,149 while also making a finding that the design portion of the project is not subject to California Environmental Quality Act review.

Both pump stations are along the San Diego County Water Authority's Second Aqueduct route just west of Interstate 15. The Hutton pump station is near the Old Highway 395 bridge north of West Lilac and the Turner pump station is south of Camino Del Rey.

The SDCWA annually shuts down portions of the Second Aqueduct for inspection and maintenance as does the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The CWA takes over operation of the aqueduct from MWD approximately six miles south of the Riverside County border. During those shutdowns Rainbow rents, installs, and operates temporary pump stations in up to four locations to supply water to the Hutton, Turner, and Gopher Canyon tanks.

"Whenever the Water Authority does a shutdown, we have to put up temporary pumps. These are noisy and expensive," said Rainbow general manager Tom Kennedy.

The Robert A. Weese Filtration Plant is owned by the City of Oceanside and operated by Oceanside's Water Utilities

Department but is physically located in the Rainbow service area off of Silverleaf Lane in the Gopher Canyon area. In August 2017, the Rainbow board authorized district staff to proceed with the design for an interconnection to the Weese Filtration Plant. The eventual design contract included the replacement of the pumps which supply the Hutton and Turner tanks.

Four of Rainbow's eight connections to the aqueduct are from MWD rather than from the CWA, and during the design of the interconnection project Rainbow decided that regular use of the pumps to move water from the Morro Zone to the south zones would allow Rainbow to save approximately \$132 per acre-foot by using the MWD connections even when the CWA portion of the aqueduct is operational.

The water purchase savings along with the elimination of rental and labor costs for the temporary pumps would create estimated savings of up to \$200,000 annually for Rainbow. "These things have a fantastic ROI (return on investment)," Kennedy said.

The temporary pumps also require fueling, so permanent pump stations will also reduce the risk of a fuel leak or spill.

The analysis also determined a more appropriate location for the pump stations. "We're moving it up the hill," Kennedy said.

The design will include general site layout, structural foundation, connection details, integration with Rainbow's supervisory control and data acquisition system, and site valving.

Rainbow is working with property owners on possible easements. Kennedy does not

expect a significant above-ground footprint. "It will be built in the side of the hillside," he said.

A request for proposals for the design services was issued Sept. 25. Six firms responded by the Oct. 29 deadline. The proposals were evaluated based on the executive summary, the project description, the company's ability to meet Rainbow's schedule, the identification of consultants, past experience, the firm's local experience, and creative alternatives. Hoch Consulting, which is headquartered in San Diego, had the highest-ranked proposal.

"This is to get the design going," said acting district engineer Chad Williams. "Nothing will be purchased until we get much more down the road."



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LEGALS

Fictitious Business Name

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File Number: 2021-9001274
Name of Business
NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY REALTORS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File Number: 2021-9000461
Name of Business
CAFE DES ARTISTES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File Number: 2021-9000050
Name of Business
a. THE ENGINEERING DESIGN GROUP
b. ENGINEERING DESIGN GROUP

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File Number: 2021-9001164
Name of Business
TWIN CREEKS FARM

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File Number: 2021-9001059
Name of Business
CHANNEL Z MEDIA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File Number: 2021-9001457
Name of Business
3N1 MOLDING CONCEPTS, LLC

Petition to Confirm

PETITION TO CONFIRM CONTRACTUAL ARBITRATION
FILE DATE: 12/19/2019
CASE NUMBER: 37-2019-00068509-CUPA-NC

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF SWIFT FINANCIAL, LLC IN THE SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT, NORTH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT NO HEARING ON THE PETITION TO CONFIRM ARBITRATION AWARD HAS BEEN SET.

Please take notice that on January 11, 2021 the San Diego Superior Court granted Petitioner's Application for Publication to serve the Petition to Confirm Arbitration Award by publication.

Legal: 5371
Published: January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 2021

Change of Name

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case Number: 37-2021-00001812-CU-PT-NC
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS
Petitioner: BERTHA ADRIANA AVILA LEIJA

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: 3/2/21 Time: 8:30 am Dept: 23
The address of the court is 325 South Melrose Dr., Vista, CA, 92081

A RESPONDENT OBJECTING TO THE NAME CHANGE MUST FILE A WRITTEN OBJECTION AT LEAST TWO COURT DAYS (excluding weekends and holidays) BEFORE THE DATE SPECIFIED.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case Number: 37-2021-00002820-CU-PT-CTL
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS
Petitioner: JORDAN PANAYOTTI ROSENFELD

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: 3/8/2021 Time: 8:30 am Dept: C-61
The address of the court is 330 W Broadway, San Diego, 92101, Hall of Justice

A RESPONDENT OBJECTING TO THE NAME CHANGE MUST FILE A WRITTEN OBJECTION AT LEAST TWO COURT DAYS (excluding weekends and holidays) BEFORE THE DATE SPECIFIED.

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which poses a substantial risk to the health and welfare of court personnel and the public, rendering presence in, or access to, the court's facilities unsafe, and pursuant to the emergency orders of the Chief Justice of the State of California and General Orders of the Presiding Department of the San Diego Superior court, the following Order is made:

PETITION TO CONFIRM CONTRACTUAL ARBITRATION
FILE DATE: 12/19/2019
CASE NUMBER: 37-2019-00068509-CUPA-NC

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF SWIFT FINANCIAL, LLC IN THE SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT, NORTH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT NO HEARING ON THE PETITION TO CONFIRM ARBITRATION AWARD HAS BEEN SET.

Please take notice that on January 11, 2021 the San Diego Superior Court granted Petitioner's Application for Publication to serve the Petition to Confirm Arbitration Award by publication.

Legal: 5371
Published: January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 2021

TSG No.: 191172501-CA-MSI TS No.: CA1900285900 APN: 104-056-14-00 Property Address: 323 EAST COLLEGE STREET FALLBROOK, CA 92028 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 02/08/2007.

Change of Name

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case Number: 37-2021-00003733-CU-PT-NC
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS
Petitioner: CRYSTAL FELICITY MURILLO

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: 3/16/2021 Time: 8:30 am Dept: 25
The address of the court is 325 South Melrose, Vista, Ca 92081, North County Regional Center

A RESPONDENT OBJECTING TO THE NAME CHANGE MUST FILE A WRITTEN OBJECTION AT LEAST TWO COURT DAYS (excluding weekends and holidays) BEFORE THE DATE SPECIFIED.

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which poses a substantial risk to the health and welfare of court personnel and the public, rendering presence in, or access to, the court's facilities unsafe, and pursuant to the emergency orders of the Chief Justice of the State of California and General Orders of the Presiding Department of the San Diego Superior court, the following Order is made:

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FALLBROOK PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
POTENTIAL INCREASE IN COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Withdrawal from Partnership

STATEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM PARTNERSHIP OPERATING UNDER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File Number: 2020-9020220
Fictitious Business Name(s) To Be Abandoned: WEST COAST GLASS

Published February 4, 11, 2021

FALLBROOK COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

And DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 15, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3981698290?pwd=RkFMc1N0wWVjY2F5TSNkOG9Jdz09

AGENDA

- 1. Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held January 18, 2021. Voting Item.
4. 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.

Request by some Planning Group members to send the following letter to the Board of Supervisors.

Informational presentation regarding a proposed amendment to The Campus Park Passerelle project (project). This proposed amendment would allow for the development of two single-family residential lots (Parcel 1 and Parcel 2).

Request by some Planning Group members to send the following letter to the Board of Supervisors.

Published February 11, 2021

Summons

SUMMONS FILED 01/27/2021
CASE NUMBER: 19FL014405N
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: REGINA ANN RICE SMOOT

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PETITIONER: JEFFREY SMOOT

NOTICE! You have been sued. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner.

The name and address of the court: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, NORTH COUNTY

THE NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY, OR PLAINTIFF WITHOUT AN ATTORNEY IS: JEFFREY SMOOT (in Propria Persona)

DATE: 01/27/2021
JUDICIAL OFFICER: HARRY L. POWAZEK
LEGAL #: 5379
Published: February 11, 18, 25 March 4, 2021

Members of the public who wish to address the Board of Directors regarding Ordinance No. 349 may submit written testimony for receipt no later than 3:00 pm on February 22, 2021.

Upon conclusion of the hearing, the Board will consider adoption of proposed Ordinance No. 349, which would increase the amount of compensation for members of the Board of Directors.

Published February 4, 11, 2021



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LAUREN HENNING-EMORY
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KIM SELZNICK
DRE# 02066292



ERICA WILLIAMS
DRE# 02037408



JUDY & PATRICK BRESNAHAN
DRE# 00949710, DRE# 00582591



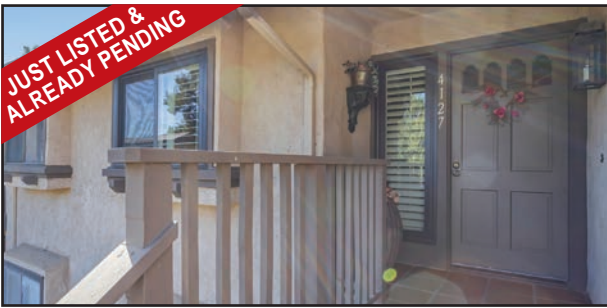
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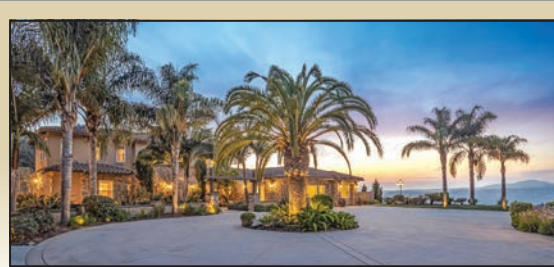
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