

Diving into the season

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Reduce water use

D-2



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March 4, 2021

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Volume 25, Issue 9

SD County coronavirus cases at lowest point

San Diego County is at a four-month low in new coronavirus cases, with just 262 new cases reported on Sunday, Feb. 28. In the 92028 ZIP code, which includes Rainbow and De Luz, county data shows a case rate of 15.4 coronavirus cases per 100,000 during the week of Feb. 7-13, the most recent week for which data is available – down from 24.5 the prior week.

Page A-7

FUESD announces phase 4 reopening plan

Beginning March 8, Fallbrook Union Elementary School District will allow the return of the remaining fourth and sixth grade students to five days a week with the latest reopening plan. Once the latest reopening plan, Phase 4, is put in place, this will mean that all TK-sixth grade students will be back for in-person instruction, with all students remaining on the current daily, modified schedule.

Page A-6

FPUD approves directors' per diem increase

Board members of the Fallbrook Public Utility District will receive an increase in the per diem they are paid for attending board or other meetings on behalf of FPUD. The board voted 5-0, Monday, Feb. 22, to approve a per diem increase from \$110.25 to \$115.76. "We get a tiny raise," Jennifer DeMeo, board president of FPUD, said. FPUD's administrative code stipulated that per diem pay is to be reviewed annually, and any increase is limited to 5%.

Page C-8

Vallecitos honors 20 students



Ken Taylor watches from the car as his first grade son, Mayson, receives his Student of the Month award during a drive-thru ceremony. See story and more photos on A-8.

Village News/Shane Gibson photo

Still no local vaccination event dates as of March 1

FRHD expects to announce dates later in the week after press time

Will Fritz
 Staff Writer

Dates for local vaccination events have still not been announced by the Fallbrook Regional Health District as the county continues to feel the effects of vaccine shortages, CEO Rachel Mason said in an email update at the end of last week.

It wasn't clear as of press time March 1 exactly when the health district will be able to coordinate vaccine events in the Fallbrook area, but Mason said in her Feb. 26 update that events should be announced sometime the week of March 1.

"The (v)accination events that were either postponed or cancelled have started being rescheduled," Mason said in her update. "There will be another delay as the county seeks to get caught up on second

shots. Meaning that we are still awaiting county notice before our vaccination events can be rescheduled."

The vaccine shortage also resulted in the closure of San Diego County's largest vaccination site, the Petco Park COVID-19 vaccination superstation, as of press time March 1. The closure was expected to last through March 2.

According to UC San Diego Health, which runs the Petco Park site, all appointments for Feb. 27 through March 2 will be rescheduled.

It is the third time in as many weeks that the site has had to close due to vaccine shortages.

The closure comes at an inopportune time, as more than 500,000 emergency services, child care and education and food and agriculture workers were

scheduled to be eligible to receive vaccines beginning this week.

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

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

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

FRHD said Rite Aid is currently

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

Palomar Health also opened up a vaccination clinic in downtown Escondido, which will be open between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, though due to shortages Palomar only makes appointments available two days in advance.

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

see FRHD, page A-5

Great China Restaurant closes its doors after 35 years

Christal Gaines-Emory
 Intern

Jeff and Nancy Dai, owners of the Great China Restaurant, said they are excited to announce their retirement after 35 years of owning and running their restaurant in Fallbrook. The restaurant officially closed on Sunday, Feb. 28.

The Great China Restaurant has been serving Fallbrook residents seven days a week year-round, so the Dais are looking forward to a calming retirement, filled with free time that will be spent gardening and creating more memories with their children and grandchildren.

They have raised their two sons, Jake and Mike, and their grandchildren while running the family business, and the entire family has loved being a part of the restaurant.

"The best memory I have from the Great China Restaurant has been being able to spend time together as a family," said Jake Dai. "It's been inspirational to see first-hand how hard my parents have worked for so many years."

The Dais said they have loved being a part of Fallbrook and its close-knit community and they



Jeff and Nancy Dai spend quality time with their children and grandchildren at their Great China restaurant before its closing.

Village News / Courtesy photo

see CHINA, page A-8

USPS Residential Customer

VILLAGE NEWS



OPINION

Fans in the stands



Supervisor Jim Desmond
5th District

Last week, I wrote a letter to our governor asking him to allow fans into Petco Park for Opening Day. My argument for this is based on science and data. Numerous professional and collegiate sporting events have been taking place across our nation for many months.

College football and the National Football League both had successful seasons without any major COVID-19 incidents. The Superbowl was able to allow 22,000 fans into the stadium and cases continue to drop since the

day of the game in Tampa Bay.

A recent study published by medRxiv looked at the impact of having fans in the stadiums for NFL and college football games. The purpose was to identify whether or not limited in-person attendance had an effect on COVID-19 cases.

The study came to the following conclusion, “(We) did not find an increase in COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents in the counties where NFL and NCAA games were held with in-person attendance. Our study suggests that NFL and NCAA football games hosted with limited in-person attendance do not cause a significant increase in local COVID-19 cases.”

Allowing fans back into Petco Park isn’t just for entertainment purposes either. Thousands of part-time jobs have been put on hold, restaurants surrounding the stadium have been decimated and San Diegans have been stuck at home for over a year.

With a 25% capacity, 10,611 San Diegans would be able to enjoy Opening Day on April 1, socially distanced and safely.

Allowing a small percentage of San Diegans to attend Padres games would be a major step in getting back to normal.

COVID-19 relief for Californians



Assemblymember Marie Waldron
AD-75 (R)

Last week I supported bipartisan legislation signed by the Governor to mitigate the economic and social damage done by the long, state-imposed COVID-19 shutdowns.

This legislative package, funded without new taxes from

existing General Fund revenues, included a bill I co-authored to provide assistance for small businesses and nonprofits, many right here in our region.

Thousands of businesses throughout California have seen their revenues plummet, with many forced into bankruptcy. \$2.1 billion will be appropriated for the California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program.

Grants up to \$25,000 will be available to support small businesses and nonprofits. Other legislation will waive license and renewal fees for two years for more than 600,000 barbering and cosmetology individuals and businesses, along with about 50,000 restaurants and bars that were forced to close.

Similar to earlier federal COVID-19-relief efforts, California will provide one-time direct relief payments of \$600 to low income individuals.

To prevent recipients of federal pandemic relief payments from being penalized for receiving

the assistance, state laws will conform to federal laws by exempting the federal relief payments from consideration under CalWORKs eligibility requirements.

Working parents struggling to stay at work while caring for their children will see funding increased for emergency vouchers, stipends and other childcare costs through additional funding appropriated from the CARES Act. Still another bill will promote access to the state’s preschool program, encourage enrollment and retention of low-income community college students, and help college students maintain their food and nutrition benefits.

It is the responsibility of state government to step up and try to repair the damage done to the hard working men and women of California, who through no fault of their own, were forced from their businesses and their jobs. Last week we took a step in that direction.

Re: ‘All I really need to know about you’

[Letter, Village News, 2/25/21]

I think John Terrell should re-read Julie Reeder’s article, “An overview of last week’s post-election court cases, hearings, affidavits, testimony, press conferences and rallies” on Dec. 10, 2020. Then do your research. Like I said, a mountain of evidence. Did your news channels even show the videos of suitcases full of ballots?

This is just a sample of the fraud committed and the theft of our Presidential election. If you’ve got state and federal courts that won’t even look at the evidence then where the heck do we go from here?

If the U.S. Supreme Court pansies won’t stand for the rule of law for fear of the country being burned to the ground then where do we go from here? Justice Roberts was overheard saying he was so afraid of the country being burned to the ground.

Then bring in the 25,000 troops wasting away right now in our Capitol and protect us like they should have been doing the last 10 months of rioting around the country. I bet those business and home owners would love to have some protection instead of watching their livelihoods burn to the ground.

If people like John Terrell only watch the fake news channels, ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, MSNBC and NPR then how do they ever get the real news? The truth about what is really happening to our country.

I’ve watched all your channels to make sure I wasn’t missing something. Then I switched over to Fox News and Newsmax on the same night day after day. What a stark contrast to the truth. After some real investigation, I had to stop watching all the fake news channels. It turns my stomach.

You comment about we should all be equal under the law. Many laws already changed that. Does anyone remember Affirmative Action from the 1960s? It’s the heart that needs to change and 99.99% of the American people have changed their hearts over the last 100 years. The .01% that are known white supremacists are barely measurable these days.

I suppose you think we are this racist nation and need to adhere to the insane critical race theory? It’s all a smoke screen to divide the races and have a race war. Obama started this with his divisive speeches and it has been played out every day since!

Michael Brown did not have his hands up. He beat up the store manager where he was caught stealing. Then fought with a police officer for his gun and shot him!

George Floyd was high on fentanyl and overdosed. He said he couldn’t breathe before he was

put down on the ground. (I don’t agree with the knee to the neck), but he was fighting with the police. Why not just comply? Because he was high on drugs!

Breonna Taylor was killed because her criminal boyfriend was shooting at the police after announcing themselves several times. Need I go on?

All of my friends, White, Black, Brown, Asian and Gay do not use racial slurs to identify each of us or others. It is time Black people stop using the N word to describe each other. It’s time to stop calling White people honky, peckerwood, cracker, etc. That’s has been acceptable by the racist crowd for many years now but should no longer be accepted.

Stop blaming the man for your troubles and make your own way in life with all the wonderful opportunities this nation has to offer. My Asian friends are now discriminated against because they came here and found great success! Now we put them in the same “privileged” class as whites.

My white friends are afraid to say anything for fear of being labeled racist when I know they are not. My black and brown friends just laugh at what idiots the white media jerks are, Hollywood and what the race baiting politicians are doing in this country.

God made each and every one of us in his likeness and image, so do not apologize for being any color! Feeding into the hysteria of White privilege is all I need to know about you. Proud of how far we have come, so now we need to stop the hate against White and Asian people.

Shanika Benson

The Rush I knew and loved

Some say Rush Limbaugh was a radio talk show host extraordinaire, a champion of conservative ideals, an ardent protector of our founding documents, and a passionate advocate for the men who wrote them. Rush was all these things and more.

He was a defender of our traditions, a political storyteller, a purveyor of our uniquely American values, and a self-appointed arbiter of truth. No one enunciated the societal threats of liberalism better than Rush.

With unmatched wit, laced with humor, he exposed the hypocrisy of the Democratic Party’s policies. Rush was a creative genius unmasking the left’s systemic stupidity with his clever parodies and politically incorrect satire. Yes, Rush was the personification of the American Dream, the embodiment of America’s favorite conservative son, and so much more.

Only Rush could extoll the

virtues of conservatism and capitalism held by William Buckley and Ayn Rand in a way all Americans could understand. He entertained us with his prolific words of wisdom and his vast wealth of creativity. We were spellbound by his uncanny insights and heartened by his youthful humor. His words united us and guided us while reassuring us that our love for God, Country, and Family are noble purposes worthy of emulating and deserve everyone’s praise.

His admiration for working-class men and women was indisputably genuine, capturing the hearts and minds of 30 million listeners to his audience every day. His voice changing the body politic, bringing hope to the hopeless, strength to the weary, and giving voice to the voiceless.

I, for one, will miss Rush articulating the brilliance of American Exceptionalism. His

monologues taught us that the “American Dream” is there for all Americans who are bold enough to claim it, regardless of race, color, or creed. I will miss his commanding baritone voice welcoming his audience behind the golden microphone at the EIB network, his prescient predictions and proclamations with “Half his brain tied behind his back!” and I will dearly miss his immeasurable “talent on loan from God!”

Thank you, Rush, for making politics more palatable, radio more enjoyable, and life with you in it more meaningful. Your voice will reverberate in the hallways of our minds and resonate in the corners of our hearts forever. Thank you, and God Bless you, Rush, for helping us find our conservative voices and for teaching us and reminding us “The way things ought to be!”

Dave Maynard

When is enough, enough?

When I opened my emails this morning, what did I find that almost blew me out of my chair? A list of new, increased sales tax rates, averaging a bit more than an additional, full 1%, bringing the rate to over 10% in many districts!

I’m wondering what these voters were promised in the run-up to the election? First and foremost is anything that can be charged as being “for the children,” of course. The county officials (or other silver tongue devils) that sold these tax increases to the suckers that will now have to dig even deeper into the family treasury to pony up ever

more and more and on and on.

For those of you that didn’t do the math or simply don’t care, you’re loading more and more debt for “the children” to shell out in the years to come.

What do we tax paying slaves receive in turn for this tax largesse our “respected officials” have control over, like it or lump it? Start with outrageous pay in excess of any monthly salaries in the private sector for a comparable job description, plus handsome benefits including princely retirement largesse of course! The list of outrages would be much too

long for submitting to this, or most main stream media news.

Please, please, folks! When the big bad wolf is at your door with tales of “golden benefits,” remember who is first and foremost of the recipients in line when the “benny’s” are doled out.

Luckily, San Diego County voters weren’t included in the “sucker parade” this go-around, but as sure as you were born, the vampires will be back, again and again...

Thomas G Johnson

More opinion on page B-5

CORRECTION: In the Joe Naiman article about NCFPD Chief Abbott’s upcoming retirement, published Feb. 25, it said that all previous chiefs, except for Chief Thurber, were promoted from within. That was not correct. Bill Metcalf served as the Fire Chief from 2003 to 2015 and was recruited from the outside. He left the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District in 2003 to join NCFPD as Fire Chief. Village News regrets the error.

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villagenews.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grocery Outlet to host blood drive with San Diego Blood Bank

FALLBROOK – Grocery Outlet is hosting a community blood drive in partnership with the San Diego Blood Bank, Monday, March 15, 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.

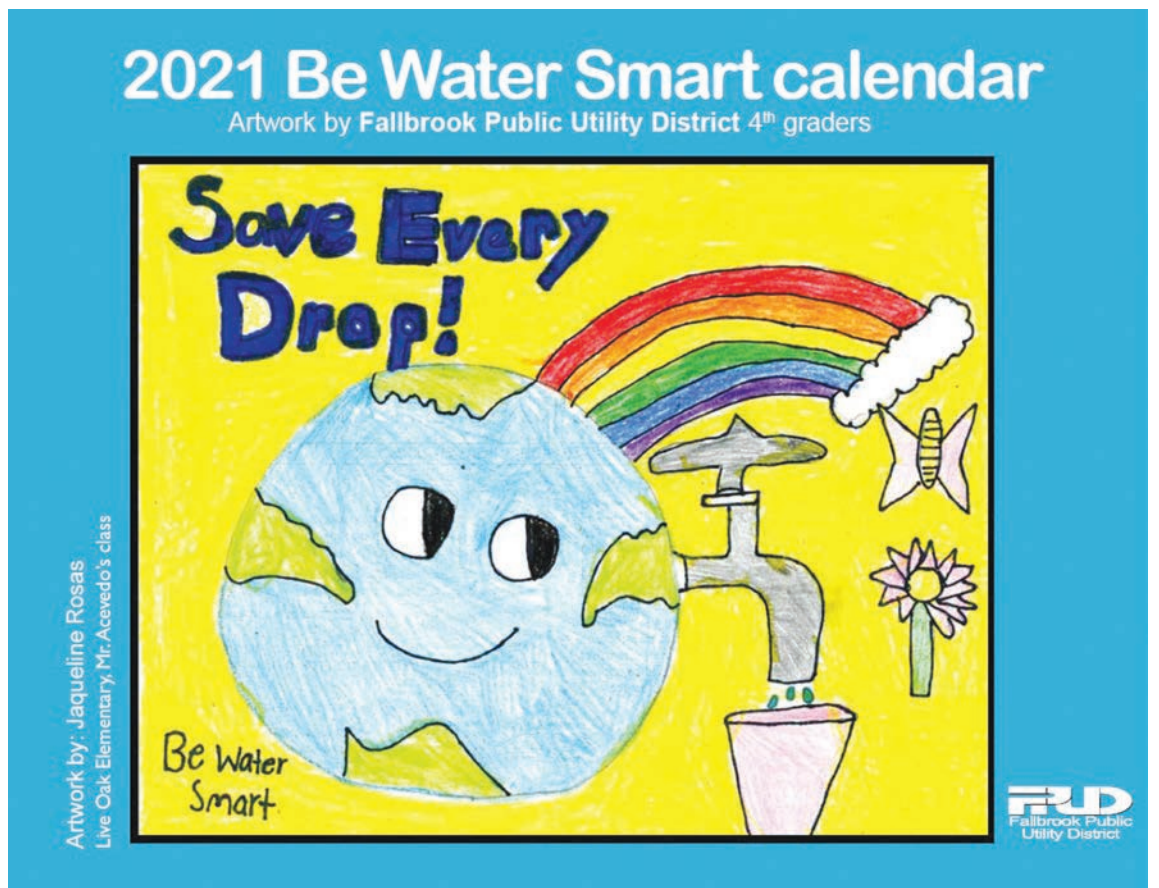
Free water calendar features Fallbrook students' colorful artwork

FALLBROOK – The Fallbrook Public Utility District's "Be Water Smart" calendars are now available at local stores in town. The free calendars can be picked up at Albertson's, Northgate Market, Major Market, Joe's Hardware, the Chamber of Commerce and Fallbrook Printing.

The eye-catching calendar features artwork done by Fallbrook fourth-graders and illustrates the contest theme, "Be Water Smart." The images vividly depict the need for saving water. This is the first time FPUD has produced an 18-month calendar.

Submitted by Fallbrook Public Utility District.

Village News/Courtesy photo



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FWC to learn about military baby showers

FALLBROOK – The next Fallbrook Woman's Club meeting will be held Tuesday, March 9, at 11 a.m. There is a business agenda and a guest speaker, Courtney Hilborn. She is vice president of "Operation Showers of Appreciation."

The organization hosts large scale baby showers for military families expecting a baby. It is a 100% volunteer, donation-based organization. OSOA has other programs to assist military families as well. Join us at the

general meeting to hear from Hilborn and OSOA's work.

FWC member meetings are monthly, on the second Tuesday of each month. FWC invites community members to join the meetings as a guest or new member. Those in the community who are not a member but are interested in attending this meeting, can email the club for logon information at fallbrookwomensclub@gmail.com.

For members, FWC president Roxanne Clouse will send an email

with login information. For those who are members and need to learn how to use Zoom, there are other members that can provide instruction. Contact the club for more information.

The Fallbrook Woman's Club is complying with the governor's mandate, as well as the California Federation of Women's Clubs, by not holding regular in-person meetings. Meetings are held via Zoom instead.

Submitted by Fallbrook Woman's Club.

All invited to attend FUESD board meeting

FALLBROOK – The Fallbrook Union Elementary School District governing board will meet Monday, March 8, at 6 p.m. Meeting agendas and login information can be found at <http://fuesd.org/board>.

All parents and community members are encouraged to attend the meeting virtually.

Submitted by Fallbrook Union Elementary School District.

Fallbrook VFW hosts the "Share a Pair" hygiene drive for veterans

FALLBROOK – The Fallbrook Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1924 will be hosting a "Share-A-Pair" drive for homeless veterans. The drive will take place Saturdays and Sundays, March 6-7 and March 20-21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are asking for new pairs of socks, underwear and hygiene gear to be dropped off at 1175 Old

Stage Road in Fallbrook. For more information, call the information line at 760-728-8784 or visit the Fallbrook VFW's website at <https://fallbrookvfw.org/>.

Submitted by the Fallbrook Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1924.

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Real Estate Round-Up: Extension of time

Kim Murphy
Murphy & Murphy Southern
California Realty

What exactly does extension of time mean? If I'm parking my car at a meter with a limited amount of time on it, and I see the meter attendant approaching, I sure would like an extension of time to avoid that costly fine. Or if I'm on vacation and finally feeling relaxed, I sure would like an extension of time, so I could stay a little longer. But, as we all know, time doesn't just extend. Time is finite. Time is exact.

In a real estate contract, there are exact times that are agreed to by both parties when the contract is fully executed. The California Association of Realtors Residential Purchase Agreement and Joint Escrow Instructions includes boiler plate dates, meant to provide a starting point as

clients decide what represents the timeframes that they are prepared to honor. Both parties mutually agree on the final times when they fully execute the contract.

Examples of some of the times stipulated to pertain to when the earnest money deposit must be into escrow, when the seller must deliver all their disclosures to the buyer, when the buyer must complete all their inspections, when the appraisal must be completed, and when the loan must be approved. When a seller reviews offers on their property, they compare many details beyond the purchase price, loan amount and close of escrow. The timeframes offered by the buyer may become an important component in the desirability of their offer versus competing offers.

Once a purchase agreement is fully executed, neither party can

unilaterally change any of the terms. If something needs to be adjusted, based on a new finding, an unanticipated repair, or an appraisal issue, both parties need to come back to the table and agree on the resolution of that issue. If the resolution requires additional time than what was originally agreed to, both parties need to agree to that additional time. Without mutual agreement, the party running behind the timelines is in default.

The "Extension of Time Addendum" comes into play when either party is not able to honor the original dates both parties agreed to. For example, if a buyer in good faith, does their home inspection within the timeframes agreed to, but that inspection calls out the roof for further inspection, they may find that they are butting up against the agreed date.

The correct thing to do is to write an extension of time, specifically for that activity.

Correctly notifying the seller of your need to get a few more days and having the seller agree to that extension keeps you "in contract." You're not in default once both parties sign the ETA agreeing to the additional time.

In practice, what occurs far too often is the Realtors communicate about the needed additional time and proceed without the fully executed ETA, with the intent of resolving the issue and continuing with the transaction. These kinds of understandings are commonplace and are great until they're not. What can make an unwritten understanding go bad?

In a market like we're in currently, where inventory is extremely low, imagine a seller receiving a back-up offer at a higher price. Without the written ETA, the seller could deliver a "Notice to the Buyer to Perform" on the defaulted action. Remember, without the fully executed ETA, any past due

activities constitute default.

I prefer to play nice in the sandbox, but not all Realtors or sellers may approach things the same way. Frankly, they aren't being unreasonable to expect the buyer to perform based on the agreed terms.

I don't want to make it sound like they're not playing nice in the sandbox if they expect the buyer to honor the original contract timelines. It's just that when it goes bad, it can go really bad without a written document expressing the understanding of both parties.

What's the lesson here? If you're in a real estate transaction, first of all, don't drag your feet. Upon acceptance, do what you've agreed to do and do it promptly. If you find yourself in a situation where you need more time, don't delay, ask for the additional time on an ETA. Things are always best approached through communication and documentation, as soon as you know you need it, and then both parties feel that their position is being respected by the other party.

After all, none of us like to operate in the dark; we like to feel empowered. Equal participation and commitment by both parties is required for that to occur. Here's to the ETA in real estate. I wish it existed in other parts of my life, especially vacations.

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

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

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

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

San Diego County's vaccination webpage can be found at Vaccinationsuperstationsd.com.

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

<https://vebavaccinates.com/site/vaccination>.

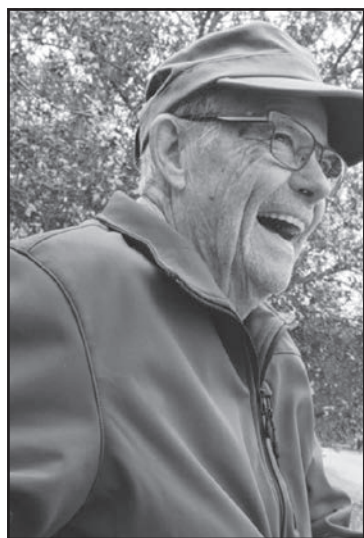
Vaccines for law enforcement personnel will be organized through Scripps Health, Mason said.

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

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

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

OBITUARIES



Robert Eugene Stevens, 93, of Fallbrook died Jan. 20, 2021, after a long fight with dementia and a short fight with COVID-19. Bob was born Dec. 19, 1927, in Battle Creek, Iowa, to Ida and Paul Stevens.

He studied forestry at Iowa State University, and after a summer as a fire lookout in Montana, he joined the Air Force. While in the Air Force, he became a photogrammetrist. He moved to Washington where he married Janet Kleefisch Oct. 3, 1953.

With the purchase of a convertible, the couple traded in their chilly life in the District of

Columbia for a home in Southern California and 60-odd years of sunshine.

Bob was licensed as a professional engineer, and after several years working for American Aerial Survey, he opened his own business, Robert E. Stevens, & Assoc. in Covina.

He loved running his own business, and he especially loved spending time outdoors and allowing time in the schedule for an afternoon nap.

Bob loved a good joke and a cold beer. He loved walking through the forest and sharing the scientific name of each tree. He loved going to the casino and traveling the world, filling his house with treasures from his travels. But mostly he loved his children, his grandchildren and his dogs.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Jan. He is survived by his children, Tamara Homnick of Hickory Corners, Michigan; Ronald Stevens of Concord; Marta Baker of Solana Beach, and Rebecca Solander of Fallbrook, as well as 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Donations can be made to the San Diego Zoo or Elizabeth Hospice.

NCFPD to consider eliminating invocation

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

The North County Fire Protection District board meeting Tuesday, March 23, will include a discussion whether or not to continue the invocation at the start of board meetings.

The Feb. 23 NCFPD meeting included a 5-0 board vote to replace the invocation with a moment of silence for the March 23 meeting and to discuss that day whether to discontinue the invocation.

Currently, an invocation follows the call to order and roll call at NCFPD board meetings.

"I am not quite sure why it needs to be an agenda item," Jeff Egkan, NCFPD board member, said.

After Egkan was elected to one of the NCFPD board seats in November 2020, he reviewed the district's policy manual.

"Inclusion of an invocation isn't listed," he said.

Egkan said that many residents attend church, engage in personal prayers and send their children to parochial school.

"They're always based on a personal decision," he said.

The North County Fire Protection District involves all residents and property owners who may have a need or desire to address the board.

"This is a public body and it's open to all, and constituents may have a need to attend," Egkan

said. "This is a religiously diverse community. It's impossible to have one prayer that would speak to all these faiths."

Egkan cited a study that one in four Americans have no religion.

"I think by definition there isn't a prayer that would satisfy them," he said.

"It does create issues for a lot of people," David Kennedy, NCFPD board member, said.

"Every constituent owns an equal share of their community regardless of their religious beliefs," Egkan said. "I am just really opposed to the kind of stance of approval from our board."

Egkan said he was supportive of a moment of silence.

"I think that's perfectly reasonable," he said.

Kennedy said he would also accept a moment of silence in place of an invocation.

"That would be something that I would appreciate," he said. "That way we can all reflect what's most comfortable for each of us."

None of the water districts or community planning groups within the NCFPD service area begin their meetings with an invocation.

"We're the only government body that does have a prayer at the start of their meetings," board member Ken Munson said.

Munson added that the United States Supreme Court has allowed the use of an opening prayer at public meetings other than school

district meetings where children are more likely to be present.

Board president John van Doorn noted that the district's firefighters put themselves at risk during calls.

"There are some who may be compelled to offer an invocation," he said.

Van Doorn noted that San Diego County Board of Supervisors meetings begin with an invocation. Munson referenced an Orange County agency which has an invocation.

"We need a policy here," van Doorn said. "I think what we want to do is continue this discussion."

The board of supervisors' invocation is given by a guest pastor rather than by a county supervisor. Van Doorn brought up the possibility of a member of the public offering to provide an invocation.

"We do need to have limits," he said.

The invocation would be as ecumenical as possible and would be limited to the needs of the community including health and safety.

"I'd be willing to serve on a committee to take a closer look at that," Munson said.

"Whatever we do, somebody out there is not going to be happy," van Doorn said.

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

FUESD announces phase 4 reopening plan starting March 8

Lexington Howe
Staff Writer

Beginning March 8, Fallbrook Union Elementary School District will allow the return of the remaining fourth and sixth grade students to five days a week with the latest reopening plan.

FUESD encompasses nine school sites, including two schools located on the United States Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton.

"I am grateful to share that the first three phases of our district reopening plan have been safe and successful for the students and staff of FUESD schools," Superintendent of Schools Dr.

Candace Singh said in a statement.

Once the latest reopening plan, Phase 4, is put in place, this will mean that all TK-sixth grade students will be back for in-person instruction, with all students remaining on the current daily, modified schedule.

Seventh and eighth grade students will remain on their hybrid schedule. San Onofre aboard Camp Pendleton will have a schedule unique to their campus only. San Onofre families will receive communication directly from their principal.

Seth Trench, director of communications at FUESD, added that with Phase 4, 90% of the student population will be back on

site in the classrooms.

"These successful phases of reopening have only been possible due to the hard work of our teachers, staff, and students, as well as our district's steadfast commitment to COVID-19 safety measures including mandatory face coverings, physical distancing, hand washing and advanced sanitation," Singh said in the statement. "The precautions and sacrifices we have made together have paved the way for a safe return to in-person instruction for more of our students."

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

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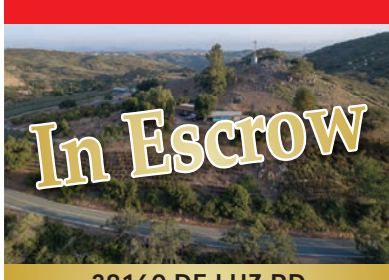
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3915 PALOMAR DR, FALLBROOK

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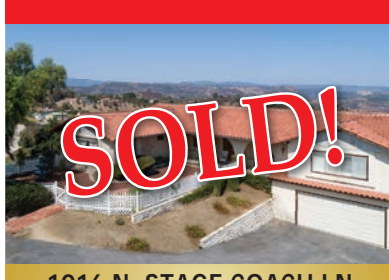
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38160 DE LUZ RD, FALLBROOK

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

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For former teacher, volunteering is easy as A-B-C

Jennifer Anderson
Special to Village News

At a recent small church gathering, held in a parking lot, Jean Dooley was asked to say a few words about volunteering. At age 80, and despite the pandemic, her days are filled with essential tasks for a wide range of local nonprofits.

In managing her busy schedule, Dooley told the group, she draws inspiration from her former career as a grade school teacher. “I simply remember the letters of the alphabet,” she explained.

The letter, A, for example, stands for the Angel Society, a local philanthropy. She has been a member of its board of directors for 16 years and is currently serving as president.

B is for the Fallbrook Beautification Alliance, where she has been an active member of its board of directors since 2003, when she was named Official Steward of Pico Promenade for her work to help clean up the downtown walkway.

C is for church, as in Fallbrook United Methodist Church, where her two-year term as chairman of its board of trustees was recently extended.

D is for “democracy,” which encompasses her involvement in local politics, meetings and various community causes.

E is for the environmental education program for local elementary schools, which she helps coordinate with Jackie Heyneman, chairman of the Save Our Forest committee of the Fallbrook Land Conservancy.

F is for the Fallbrook Food Pantry, where she is a member of its board of directors and was honored as Volunteer of the Year in 2011.

While Dooley’s alphabetical list stops there, she might have added the letter G for the “Gem of a Volunteer” award she received



Jean Dooley is the 2020 recipient of the Fallbrook Land Conservancy’s “Gem of a Volunteer” award.

in December from the FLC for her “dedicated volunteerism for many years.” Not only has she helped plan and lead the SOF environmental education program, but she also continues to volunteer for weekly cleanups of the Pico Promenade area, attends monthly tree maintenance work parties and more.

“She is a joy to have as part of our organization and we are grateful for her service and support,” said Karla Standridge, FLC executive director, in an email to the group’s members.

The accolades don’t stop there. Over the years, Dooley was honored with two awards from the Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce:

Citizen of the Year, in 2009, and Lifetime Achievement in 2018.

She was also the recipient of the North San Diego Business Chamber’s Philanthropy Award in 2012.

In addition to her work with local nonprofits, Jean and her husband, Jim, have hosted several foreign exchange students over the years. They were also volunteers with the “puppy raisers” program of Canine Companions, which is how they eventually adopted their lab/golden retriever mix, Durango. Jim has been known to bring him along on environmental education planting days at FLC preserves, where Durango is often surrounded by adoring fifth-graders.



Angel Society President, Jean Dooley, with members of her Angel Shop crew, Leticia Maldonado Stamos, left, and Linda Flynn, right.

Dooley became an active volunteer in the Fallbrook community when she officially retired at age 59 after a long career in education. After earning a B.A. in English and Spanish at Millersville State Teacher’s College in ‘62, she began teaching Spanish as a Second Language at Lenape Junior High School in Doylestown, Pennsylvania – the same town where she attended junior and senior high school. In ‘67, she earned an M.A. in Spanish from Middlebury College in Vermont.

She moved to California in 1970, when she was hired to coordinate the bilingual education program for the Sweetwater Union High School District in Chula Vista. Four years later, she married her husband, Jim, and the couple settled in Bonita.

When Jim, a manufacturing engineer, accepted a new position with Borg Warner Mechanical Seals in Temecula, the couple began their search for a new home. They found it in Fallbrook in August 1977, when they bought a house on North Main Street. “It was a fast move,” recalled Jean. “I quit my job and in two weeks I had a new house, new job and I found out I was pregnant.”

The couple’s first son, Jeffrey, was born in ‘78. Their second, Todd, was born two years later. “We loved the small village of Fallbrook. I would put Jeffrey in his stroller and push him down to Betty Jackson’s restaurant where the waitresses would spoil him,” Dooley recalled. The young couple also enjoyed watching movies at the Mission Theatre, where there was a convenient “cry room” for young families.

In September 1977, Dooley was hired as a “bilingual resource teacher” at Maie Ellis Elementary School, working with students in the fourth through sixth grades who were struggling with an all English program.

Later, the Fallbrook Elementary School District started a bilingual program, and she was assigned a second grade bilingual class with both English and Spanish speaking students. In 1991, she moved to La Paloma Elementary, where she taught fifth graders until 2000.

Dooley credits Vince Ross for igniting her passion for volunteering, even if at first it was only to help clean up the downtown area. Ross, a longtime Fallbrook businessman, developer and benefactor, suggested that she “pick up trash on Pico Promenade around the same time Jackie (Heyneman) started planting trees,” she recalled.

Dooley was soon recruited in 2003 to the newly-formed Fallbrook Beautification Alliance and has been a board member ever since. She has assisted over the years with various habitat restorations, trail cleanups and other projects along the Promenade. Under her direction, cigarette butt and dog waste stations were installed along the path in 2013 and 2014.

In 2001, Dooley was also recruited as a volunteer for the Fallbrook Food Pantry. “They didn’t have many bilingual volunteers and they needed me to help interview clients,” she said. “I enjoyed doing that for a long time.”

She was also instrumental in coordinating the group’s first “Crop Walk,” a run-walk organized through Church World Services that helped raise funds for the food pantry. In the mid-2000s, Dooley helped spearhead a move to separate from the church-run event, organizing a new fundraiser called “Thanksgiving Walk to Feed the Hungry.”

Throughout her busy “retirement,” Dooley still finds time to play tennis, a sport she took up in the late ‘70s. She is a longtime member of the Fallbrook Tennis Club where she is often seen playing doubles on Tuesday mornings. “Tuesday is for tennis,” says Dooley, who admits she hasn’t been playing as “consistently since COVID-19 began.”

It was through tennis that she met Lila Sandschulte, an avid tennis player who was also a member of the Angel Society. She invited Dooley to volunteer at the Angel Shop, a thrift store that raises philanthropic funds for the organization. Dooley subsequently became a member of its board of directors in 2005 and has held several positions on the board over the years. Currently serving as president, she will complete her two-year term in June.

“I have loved being president of the Angel Society for the past two years,” Dooley said. “I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish at the Angel Shop and in what we have been able to give back to the community. There were times, due to the COVID-19 virus, when we definitely needed to work harder to come together for the benefit of our mission to the community, and it was not always easy. But we have been able to face all the challenges with a positive attitude and continue to make life better for many in our community.”

With the onset of the pandemic, it’s been a challenging year for most nonprofits. But Dooley is no stranger to adversity. In 2014, she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, an incurable, but manageable blood cancer. She is receiving treatment and her present condition is stable.

Dooley turned 80 in November and counts her family among her blessings. Both Jeffrey and Todd, now in their 40s, have careers in engineering. The Dooleys also have three grandchildren, Melia, 13, and Ryan, 11, children of Jeffrey and Teala, of Oceanside; and Carmen Elizabeth, 8, daughter of Todd and Ana of Fair Oaks, California.

Dooley also has no plans to retire from her many civic duties, which she views less as an obligation than an “opportunity to expand your life,” she said.

For her, volunteering is a “world view,” which she describes as matter of “looking outside of yourself,” she said. “It makes you feel better about yourself, which is also good for your health. And you’re also making the community better, doing things that will help kids and young people.”

“Some people don’t know what to do with themselves after they retire,” she added. “I do what I want to do, and you can pretty much count on the fact that I’m enjoying it, or I wouldn’t be doing it.”

Newly reported SD County coronavirus cases at lowest point since November

Will Fritz
Staff Writer

San Diego County is at a four-month low in new coronavirus cases, with just 262 new cases reported on Sunday, Feb. 28.

In the 92028 ZIP code, which includes Rainbow and De Luz, county data shows a case rate of 15.4 coronavirus cases per 100,000 during the week of Feb. 7-13, the most recent week for which data is available – down from 24.5 the prior week. There were 53 new reported COVID-19 cases in 92028 between Feb. 7-13, a noticeable drop from the 84 new cases Jan. 31-Feb. 6, and there have been 3,515 total reported cases since the start of the pandemic.

The county combines Bonsall’s 92003 ZIP code with neighboring Vista, given Bonsall’s low population; that combined area showed a case rate of 18.6 per 100,000 as of Feb. 7-13, down substantially from 41.3 the week prior, and there were 70 new reported COVID-19 cases Feb. 7-13, also a sharp drop from the 155 reported Jan. 31-Feb. 6. The Bonsall-Vista area was showing 4,891 total cases as of March 1.

Feb. 28’s countywide coronavirus data increased the cumulative totals in the county to 260,356 cases and 3,303 deaths.

Of 13,819 tests reported by the county, 2% returned positive. The 14-day rolling average remained at 4.4%.

Hospitalizations decreased from 569 on Feb. 25 with 184 people

in intensive care beds to 538 hospitalized and 175 in ICU beds Friday. One month ago, there were 1,408 people hospitalized with COVID-19, 408 of whom were in the ICU. There are 53 available, staffed ICU beds in the county.

There were seven community outbreaks reported Sunday, part of 30 in the past week tied to 122 cases.

Meanwhile, a shortage of vaccines has closed San Diego County’s largest vaccination site, the Petco Park COVID-19 vaccination superstation, as of press time March 1. The closure was expected to last through March 2.

According to UC San Diego Health, which runs the county’s largest

vaccine site at Petco Park, all appointments for Feb. 27 through March 2 will be rescheduled.

It is the third time in as many weeks that the site has had to close due to vaccine shortages.

The closure comes at an inopportune time, as more than 500,000 emergency services, child care and education and food and agriculture workers were scheduled to be eligible to receive vaccines beginning this week.

On Feb. 24, San Diego County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher had a positive tone about the direction of the pandemic and vaccine rollout. Cases continue to decrease, as do hospitalizations and positive test results. Yet the demand for vaccines continues to far outpace supply.

The county’s existing doses

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

On Feb. 24, Fletcher did caution that appointments would not be immediately available to everyone who qualifies.

“We need folks to be patient,” Fletcher said Wednesday, adding that the county will prioritize K-12 schools in ZIP codes hardest hit by COVID-19.

As part of efforts to spur the reopening of schools, Fletcher said 20% of vaccine doses will be prioritized for teachers and school staff, as opposed to the 10% outlined by state leaders.

The county will set up appointments directly with K-12 school districts, Fletcher said, while all others who fall into phase 1B – including education and child care workers outside of K-12 campuses – can schedule appointments through typical public means such as the county’s website.

Of the county’s population over the age of 16, 20.5% – or 550,227 people – have received at least one dose and 9.4% – or 251,738 people – have been fully inoculated, the county reported Feb. 27.

City News Service contributed to this report.

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

Deputies find man shot after arriving at scene of reported car crash

Homicide detectives investigating

Will Fritz
Staff Writer

Sheriff’s deputies are investigating a shooting in Fallbrook that left a man dead Sunday night, Feb. 28.

The San Diego County Sheriff’s Department received a report at about 8:20 p.m. Sunday of a multi-vehicle car crash on Alta Vista Drive just north of Via Monserate, and deputies headed to the scene

to find a man who had been shot. Medics took the man to a local hospital, where the man was pronounced dead.

The victim was later identified as 62-year-old David Nathaniel Caballero, according to the sheriff’s department. An autopsy conducted by the San Diego County Medical Examiner’s Office confirmed the cause of death was a gunshot wound.

Homicide detectives were

continuing to investigate Caballero’s death, and anyone who may have information on the shooting was asked to call detectives at 858-285-6330 during the day or at 858-565-5200 after hours. Information can also be relayed to detectives anonymously through the Crime Stoppers tip line at 888-580-8477.

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

Vallecitos Student of the Month ceremony honors 20



Vallecitos Elementary School second grade student Victoria Alvarado exits her family's car to receive her Student of the Month award during the Rainbow school's drive-thru students of the month ceremony, Feb. 23.



Vallecitos Elementary School first grade student Matias Cruz gets back into his family's car after receiving his Student of the Month award and prizes.



Vallecitos preschool student Isabella Lopez receives prizes for being one of the Students of the Month at the Rainbow school. Village News/Shane Gibson photos

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

Twenty Vallecitos Elementary School students were recognized during the school's Student of the Month ceremony Feb. 23.

The drive-through ceremony honored pre-school students Jonathan Flores and Isabella Lopez, kindergarten students Isabella

Olvera and Saul Alvarez Reynoso, first-graders Matias Anaya, Jose Perez, and Mason Taylor, second-graders Aaron Duenas, Victoria Alvaro Mateo, and Leonel Zacarias and third-grader Madelyn Yanez.

Also honored were fourth-graders Candelario Francisco-Regino and Rochelle Hernandez, fifth-graders David Loera and Jesus Perez, sixth-graders Julyanna

Camacho and Stephanie Reyes, seventh-graders Isaac Castellanos and Daisy Robles, and eighth-grader Raul Duenas Jr.

"We're very proud that through the pandemic we're still able to celebrate our students in a drive-through fashion," said Vallecitos Elementary School Principal Maritza Koeppen, who is also the Vallecitos School District

Superintendent. "We're excited to continue celebrating our student achievement."

When a specific student was being honored, the car in which the student was being driven stopped and the student then left the car to have his or her photograph taken. The students also selected a book. "They get to receive a book as a reward," Koeppen said.

A Leer and Captain Books donated the books for the students.

Each teacher selects one or two students for the Student of the Month honor. The Feb. 23 ceremony honored the Student of the Month recipients for January 2021. "We're just proud of everyone, and we're excited to continue celebrating students each month," Koeppen said.

CHINA

from page A-1

have enjoyed the moments spent getting to know each and every customer over the years.

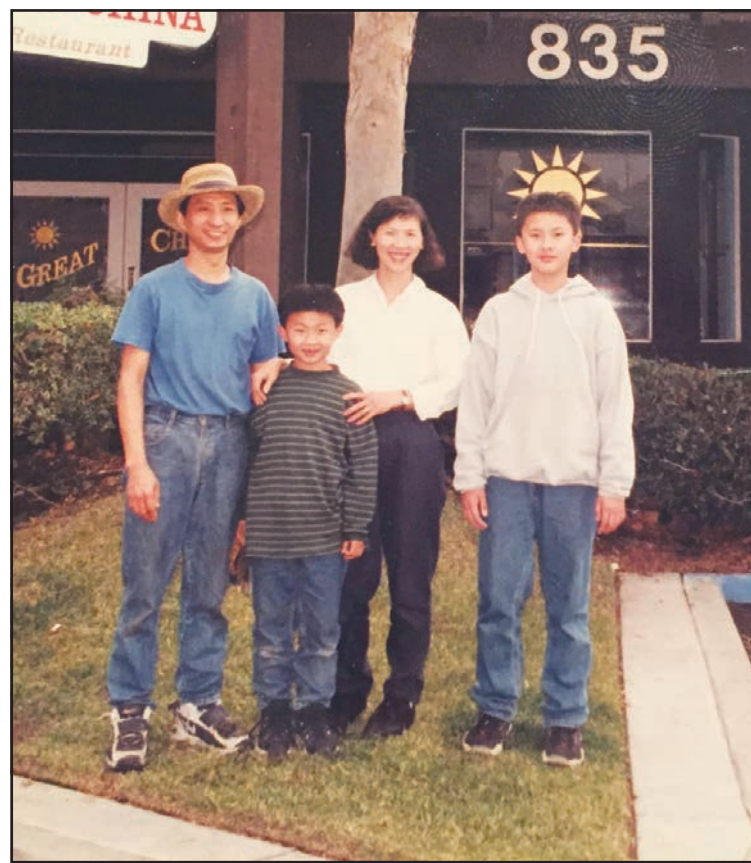
"Fallbrook really lives up to its reputation as the Friendly Village," said Dai. "We've seen different generations of families grow and continue supporting us over the years. We've been very fortunate to have this constant support. We're very thankful for everyone that has supported us over the years."

After 35 years serving the residents of Fallbrook, the Dais have made connections with hundreds of people, and they are very grateful to have had the opportunity to watch many of their customers grow to be their friends.

"My parents will miss seeing all of the customers they've gotten to know so well," said Dai, "We may not be seeing their faces as often, but we don't want to lose the connections made."

One hope the Dais have after spending all these years serving Fallbrook is that they have helped to inform the community about Chinese culture.

"We all hope that the Great China Restaurant has helped the



Owners Jeff and Nancy Dai raised their two sons, Mike and Jake, while running the Great China restaurant.

community become interested in the Chinese culture," he said. "We hope that by bonding with our customers over food, we have also helped them to gain an interest

in cultures that aren't their own." The Dais said they would like to thank this community for the support and love throughout the years.



Jeff Dai cooks traditional Chinese dishes.

"It has been an honor to serve you," Dai said. "Thank you for coming into our doors, creating friendships, and embracing us like your own family."

"When one door closes, another door opens, and my parents are looking forward to embracing the new opportunities as they come."

Sargent debuts as Foundation for Senior Care Executive Director



Village News/Shane Gibson photo

The new Foundation for Senior Care Executive Director is Patty Sargent.

Nathalie Taylor
Special to Village News

December 16, 2020, was an important day for Fallbrook resident Patty Sargent because it was her first day as the Foundation

for Senior Care Executive Director.

As an employee of Palomar Health for 26 years, and a consultant for two years, she was searching for a smaller company where she could "make more of a difference."

When the position at FFSC became available, her husband, Allen, was the first person to make her aware of the opportunity, suggesting that she take a tour of the facility to learn more about it.

FFSC Director of Operations Karen Geuy gave her a thorough and inspirational tour.

"Just hearing about what the foundation does, and hearing the passion of the people I met, sparked an interest in me," said Sargent. It didn't take long for her to apply for the role.

During the same week that she applied, three Fallbrook friends separately called to make her aware of the career opportunity. Sargent took it as a "sign" that she should become part of the organization.

"It just resonated with me – I wanted to be able to do something to help," she said. "What the

foundation does – helping seniors in so many different ways, is something that I wanted to be a part of. I think it is a good match, and I am happy to be here."

When Sargent worked for Palomar Health, she completed a variety of projects, including Information Technology, operational projects, and planning for the new hospital building. These projects helped prepare Sargent for her new position.

"I knew how to run a project where you had to plan, you had stakeholders, and you needed to make things happen to reach goals," Sargent noted.

In addition to managing three departments and staff at Palomar, she also supported finance, human resources, payroll, supply chain, and other business functions.

"I learned, through the years, how all of those functions operate," she explained.

When Sargent was looking for a small business to work with, she wanted to find a company where she could use the encounters and knowledge gained from her Palomar experience, as well as

from her consulting work. These experiences developed in Sargent the skills necessary to meet and tackle the opportunities at the foundation.

Sargent possesses a BS degree in mathematics from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. The university's motto is, "Learn by Doing."

"I think that, throughout my entire career, and certainly in this position, 'Learn by Doing' is exactly the right approach," she said.

"I am still learning. My staff is teaching me about our operations. I am learning a lot about the challenges of seniors, about fundraising, and community relationships. I am most definitely learning by doing," she said.

"I have always been passionate about process improvement, and at Palomar I managed a team of performance engineers. That is something I did naturally, and I loved doing," she related. "The foundation gives me an opportunity to work with the team, to make our processes more efficient, and to work on overcoming obstacles so

that we can serve more seniors."

"We are doing the work that makes a difference in the lives of people in our community. Before coming here, I did not know what the foundation did, and now that I do, it is my goal to make sure that Fallbrook area residents find out what we offer for seniors."

Serving Fallbrook and the surrounding communities since 1979, the Foundation for Senior Care's mission is to provide programs and resources enabling seniors to enhance their well-being and give them a more meaningful life.

The foundation provides a door-to-door transportation service for seniors and the disabled, a grocery delivery service during the COVID-19 pandemic, a non-medical Adult Day Care for those declining cognitively or physically, and a Senior Advocacy service designed to help seniors by answering questions and providing guidance, connecting seniors to resources, helping establish care plans, and many, many other services.

Finally, the Foundation also offers computer and cell phone classes for seniors, taught by seniors. The Foundation for Senior Care is a non-profit organization, operating on community donations, grants, and bequests. For more information, call 760-723-7570 or visit <https://foundationforseniorcare.org/>.



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Artists create meaningful art at **The Green Art House**

Diane A. Rhodes
Special to Village News

The Green Art House in Fallbrook was started with a twofold purpose in mind: to provide a teaching facility for artists of all levels and styles to create whatever they wanted and to be eco-friendly while doing it. Richard Stergulz and Leslie Sweetland co-founded the nonprofit about eight years ago with a vision to offer classes and events that promote art, art awareness and art education while encouraging and promoting public interest and understanding of art in its variety of forms.

Along with teaching art classes at the center, Stergulz is the Southern California host for an Australian-based YouTube art program called "Put Some Colour in Your Life!" that is hosted there by the program's CEO, Graeme Stevenson. The show has more than 100,000 subscribers and airs in more than 50 countries.

"We go to the artists' studios and film their process and a little bit of background about them," Stergulz said. "I was on Graeme's show about four years ago and got such a great return for it, I asked what I could do to be part of the team and get more involved."

He said he was floored when Stevenson asked him to become a host.

A Fallbrook resident, Stergulz met Sweetland when she took some of his classes. He helped her achieve her goal of having her work worthy of being shown in a gallery. After a year of effort and honing her craft, her work was in three galleries. During that time, they discussed opening an art school and shared a vision of having it be as green as possible.

"We incorporated our vision into the current center," Stergulz said. "We are leasing a (1,500-square-foot) building at Pala Mesa Resort and whatever we do over there, we are very conscious about it being eco-friendly."

Any harsh materials used at the school are picked up by a service that takes it away, including anything with paint on it. They use a product called turpenoid rather than turpentine because it is less harsh. Even the water that watercolorists use is put into buckets off to the side and an evaporative system is used to clean up everything, he said.

Stergulz said there is another art school in Fallbrook, but that he and Sweetland wanted to offer more of a place where people from all over the world could stay and take any class they want.

"I bring in professional artists from all over the world to teach some of our workshops," he said. "They come in and teach three- to four-day workshops. We've had some big names come in and that's something that's very popular. We did a lot of demonstrations and lectures and wanted to start hosting movie nights with the showing of an artist's movie out on the green at the Pala Mesa Golf Resort."

Although some of those plans and the school's workshops with master instructors have been on a hold since the COVID-19 pandemic shut things down in mid-March 2020, the center reopened with its local art classes June 1, due to student interest. Amid safety guidelines of mandatory mask wearing, frequent hand-washing and tables set 6-8 feet apart, Stergulz said the desire for students to return was so great that the changes that had to be made were readily accepted and adhered to by all.

He said during the closure, students were constantly contacting the school to find out when classes would resume and after a few months, it was decided that the approximately 80 students should vote on whether to return with precautions. About 95% decided to return.

"The safety of my students comes first so if they don't feel comfortable being there, I'm OK with that. I spray the room down before and after classes each day. I think of our school as a sanctuary – you just come in and create; there's



Richard Stergulz, co-founder of The Green Art House and painting fundamentals Village News/Shane Gibson photos instructor, teaches techniques in painting to student Linda Herzog at the Fallbrook art school.



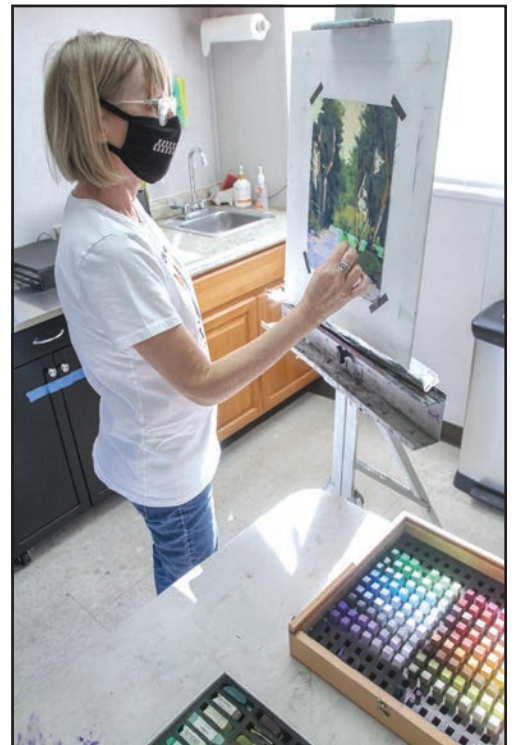
Vicki Pedersen, student of The Green Art House, works on her painting during a painting fundamentals workshop.



Art student Pat Hunter loads her palette with paint during a workshop at The Green Art House.



The Green Art House nonprofit school offers classes in painting, watercolor, drawing, pastel and sculpting to all skill levels.



Leslie Sweetland, co-founder of The Green Art House and pastel fundamentals instructor, demonstrates pastel techniques at the Fallbrook workshop.



Brian Bateman, left, drawing fundamentals instructor at The Green Art House, helps Howard Burdick during a workshop.

no judging," he said. "I have had students from 7 to 95 at all skill levels; no one is turned away. We are blessed with some incredible students that soak up everything and love to paint and love to be there."

Stergulz, who has been in the art business more than 35 years and teaching for more than 20, said good fundamentals is what they strive to teach most at the school.

"There's a certain order of fundamentals I always teach, and that's value, temperature and chroma (intensity or dullness of color). There are other compositional aspects, but I really dial in on those three to get everybody up and running. I start them with simple things like how to use a brush, how to mix paint, how to draw what they want to paint – basically, all they need to know from start to finish," he said. "I teach all my students as individuals; I'm not a paint-along type of teacher."

Sweetland, who is from Temecula, said she has always loved art and became a full-time professional artist after spending 30 years in the information technology field. Stergulz said they have a lot in common, but they also build on each other's strengths when it comes to operations as Sweetland handles more of the business end of things for the nonprofit.

"We help people paint whatever they want to paint from start to finish. It doesn't matter if they've never touched a brush before or already have their artwork in a gallery," Stergulz said. "I feel that the artist should get their hands wet and just dive in. If they make a mistake, fantastic – that's what they're there for. If they don't make any mistakes, they don't need me."

The Green Art House, 2001 Old Highway 295 in Fallbrook, can be reached by calling Stergulz at 951-526-8055 or online at <http://www.thegreenarthouse.org>.

NATIONAL

House passes Equality Act, adding sexual orientation and gender identification as protections

Kevin Freking
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – The Democratic-led House passed a bill Thursday, Feb. 25, that would enshrine LGBTQ protections in the nation’s labor and civil rights laws, a top priority of President Joe Biden, though the legislation faces an uphill battle in the Senate.

The bill passed by a vote of 224-206 with three Republicans joining Democrats in voting yes.

The Equality Act amends existing civil rights law to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identification as protected characteristics. The protections would extend to employment, housing, loan applications, education, sports, public accommodations and other areas. Supporters say the law before the House on Thursday is long overdue and would ensure that every person is treated equally under the law.

“The LGBT community has waited long enough,” said Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., who is gay and the bill’s lead sponsor. “The time has come to extend the blessings of liberty and equality to all of Americans regardless of who they are and who they love.”

Republicans cited an array of consequences they said could occur if the bill passed into law, from eliminating the existing ban

on the use of government funds for abortion, to allowing transgender people into women’s shelters and transgender youth into girls sports.

Leaders at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote lawmakers this week to say they had grave concerns about the bill.

Concerns with physicians have included the rights of surgeons to not do procedures as it relates to Gender Dysphoria and removing healthy parts of the body.

Democrats likened the effort to past civil rights battles in the nation’s history.

Cicilline challenged Republicans, “I hope you will bear in mind how your vote will be remembered years from now.”

In a speech during the Conservative Political Action Conference on Sunday evening, Feb. 28, President Trump said the policy will allow “biological males” to compete against women.

“Joe Biden and the Democrats are even pushing policies that would destroy women’s sports. A lot of new records are being broken in women’s sports. Hate to say that, ladies, but [they] got a lot of new records. They’re being shattered,” Trump began. “You know, for years, the weight lifting, every ounce is like a big deal for many years – all of a sudden somebody comes along and beats it by 100 pounds.”

Some state legislatures, including in South Dakota and Utah, have passed measures that would block transgender athletes from competing in women’s sports.

The Biden administration has withdrawn its support for a federal lawsuit in Connecticut that seeks to ban transgender athletes from participating in girls’ high school sports.

Connecticut allows high school athletes to compete in sports according to their gender identity. The lawsuit was filed a year ago by several female runners who argue they have been deprived of wins, state titles and athletic opportunities by being forced to compete against two transgender sprinters.

The female athletes stipulated that athletes who were born biologically male have an unfair advantage in women’s sports, arguing that males have significant physical advantages over women.

Republicans broadly opposed the legislation. They echoed concerns from religious groups and social conservatives who worry the bill would force people to take actions that contradict their religious beliefs. They warned that faith-based adoption agencies seeking to place children with a married mother and father could be forced to close, or that private schools would have to hire staff whose conduct violates tenets of the

school’s faith.

“This is unprecedented. It’s dangerous. It’s an attack on our first freedom, the first freedom listed in the Bill of Rights, religious liberty,” said Rep. Mike Johnson, R-La.

The House passed the Equality Act in the last Congress with unanimous Democratic support and the backing of eight Republicans, but Donald Trump’s White House opposed the measure and it was not considered in the Senate, where 60 votes will be needed to overcome procedural hurdles. Democrats are trying to revive it now that they have control of Congress and the White House, but passage still appears unlikely in the evenly divided Senate.

This time, Republican Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania and John Katko and Tom Reed of New York sided with Democrats in voting for the bill.

The Supreme Court provided the LGBTQ community with a resounding victory last year in a 6-3 ruling that said the Civil Rights Act of 1964 applied to LGBTQ workers when it comes to barring discrimination on the basis of sex. Civil rights groups have encouraged Congress to follow up that decision and ensure that anti-bias protections addressing such areas as housing, public accommodations and public services are applied in all 50 states.

Biden made clear his support for

the Equality Act in the lead-up to last year’s election, saying it would be one of his first priorities.

Democratic Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon, D-Penn., said the Equality Act is needed to end “the patchwork of state laws” around gay rights and create “uniform nationwide protection.” “It’s been personal since my baby sister came out to me almost 40 years ago,” Scanlon said. “For many people all across this country and across this House, that is when the fight hits home.”

Gay and lesbian members of Congress spoke about how meaningful the bill is for them.

“Look, we’re not asking for anything that any other American doesn’t already enjoy,” said Rep. Chris Pappas, D-N.H. “We just want to be treated the same. We just want politicians in Washington to catch up with the times and the Constitution.”

After the vote advocacy groups weighed in, with the Human Rights Campaign describing the vote as “bringing us closer to ensuring that every person is treated equally under the law.” Meanwhile, the conservative Alliance Defending Freedom called on the Senate to “reject this dangerous bill – for the good of all Americans.”

Minimum wage hike all but dead in big COVID relief bill

Alan Fram
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – Four days after the chamber’s parliamentarian said Senate rules forbid inclusion of a straight-out minimum wage increase in the relief measure, Democrats seemed to have exhausted their most realistic options for quickly salvaging the pay hike but chose to keep the provision in the bill.

“At this moment, we may not have a path, but I hope we can find one” for pushing the federal pay floor to \$15 an hour, said No. 2 Senate Democratic leader Richard Durbin of Illinois.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the \$15 minimum wage mandate would result in the loss of 1.3 million jobs.

Senate Democrats hope to unveil their version of the broad relief package and begin debate as early

as Wednesday. Congressional leaders want to send President Joe Biden the legislation combating the pandemic and bolstering the economy by March 14, the date emergency jobless benefits that lawmakers approved in December expire.

Some Republicans have called the Democrat-backed package “Pelosi’s payoff bill.”

“We ran the numbers – the amount of money that actually goes to defeating the virus is less than 9%. Less than 9%! So don’t call it a rescue bill. Don’t call it a relief bill. Call it the Pelosi payoff,” House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) said prior to the House vote.

Rep. Scalise (R-LA) in an email, alleged that Democrats have rushed to bring to the floor the relief package that “will keep schools closed, bail out blue states, pay people not to work, and raise the

minimum wage to \$15/hour.”

“Republicans insist that we must safely reopen schools, reopen the economy, speed up vaccine distribution, and effectively spend the remaining \$1 trillion from previous COVID-19 packages,” the email from Scalise reads. “However, Democrats rejected hundreds of Republican amendments and any efforts to advance bipartisan solutions that are targeted, temporary, and tied to COVID-19 relief.”

The bill is Biden’s biggest early legislative priority. It looms as an initial test of his ability to unite Democrats in the Senate – where the party has no votes to spare. Republicans are strongly against the legislation and could well oppose it unanimously, as House GOP lawmakers did when that chamber approved the bill early Saturday.

Biden discussed the relief bill

Monday in a virtual meeting with nine Senate Democrats, including Joe Manchin of West Virginia, an opponent of the \$15 hourly target. A White House statement said the group was “united in the goal of quickly passing a significant package that reflects the scope of the challenges our country is facing.”

The Senate is divided 50-50 between the parties, with Vice President Kamala Harris able to cast only tie-breaking votes. Under streamlined rules the Democrats are using, they can approve the legislation with just 51 votes.

The overall bill would provide \$1,400 payments to individuals plus hundreds of billions of dollars for schools and colleges, COVID-19 vaccines and testing, mass transit systems, renters and small businesses. It also has money for child care, tax breaks for families with children and states willing to expand Medicaid coverage for low-income residents.

The group Citizens Against Government Waste reported “the \$1.9 trillion dollar package is especially disturbing since \$1 trillion from prior COVID-19 relief authorization packages has not been spent yet. The bill is so hyper-partisan that Democrats accepted only two of 286 amendments offered by Republicans in the committees that considered the bill.”

Democrats are considering several changes in the House measure, however they seem modest compared to dropping the minimum wage increase. One top aide said the bill the Senate initially debates won’t have the minimum wage provision in it, saying the language would have pushed the bill over budget-mandated spending limits, violating Senate rules.

Senate Democrats may reshape the \$350 billion the bill provides for state and local governments. Republicans argue that the \$350 billion rewards blue states that irresponsibly closed businesses.

They also might extend its fresh round of emergency unemployment benefits, which would be \$400 weekly, through September instead of August, as the House approved.

The parliamentarian’s interpretation of Senate rules could force other changes as well. These might include dropping or altering provisions in the House bill providing billions of dollars to help some struggling pension plans and to help people who’ve lost jobs afford health insurance.

The House-approved minimum wage language would gradually raise the federal floor to \$15 an hour by 2025, more than double the \$7.25 in place since 2009.

After the parliamentarian said that provision would have to be deleted, Sens. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said they were working on plans to increase taxes on large corporations

that don’t meet certain levels for workers’ pay. Sanders is chief Senate sponsor of the \$15 plan, while Wyden is chair of the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee.

But three Senate aides, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe internal discussions, said Monday that party leaders were dropping those proposals.

It was always questionable whether pressuring companies with tax increases would win enough Democratic support to survive. The White House didn’t endorse the tax proposals, which would have affected only a fraction of workers paid the minimum wage.

Raising the minimum has broad support among Democrats. But while it’s embraced passionately by the party’s progressives, at least two Senate moderates – Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona – have voiced opposition to including it in the broader relief measure, wounding its prospects and fostering tensions within the party.

The tepid Democratic reaction to the tax plan has left the party looking at potentially pushing a minimum wage increase in future legislation, where it could well face enough GOP opposition to kill it.

Democrats must now decide “how we do minimum wage as part of another piece of legislation or on its own,” said Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut.

As an alternative, progressives want Senate Democrats to simply overrule the parliamentarian and include the pay raise anyway, or to eliminate Senate filibusters – procedural delays that let a minority party kill legislation that lacks at least 60 votes.

But those ideas seem to lack enough Democratic support to succeed. Senate moderates are wary of erasing procedures that the party has used in the past, and could use again, to protect its priorities when it is in the minority.

Among those who’ve long supported retaining the filibuster is Biden, who served nearly four decades in the Senate.

“The president’s view on the filibuster is well known. He has not changed that point of view,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said pointedly Monday.

Despite seeming White House opposition, nearly two dozen House progressives tried pressuring Biden to have Harris join Democratic senators and vote to override the parliamentarian and include the increase in the bill anyway.

“Outdated and complex” Senate rules “must not be an impediment to improving people’s lives,” the House members, led by Rep. Ro Khanna of California, wrote in a letter to Biden and Harris. “You have the authority to deliver a raise for millions of Americans.”

AP reporter Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

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REGIONAL

Deal reached to get California children back in classrooms



In this Feb. 25, 2021, file photo, Assistant Principal Janette Van Gelderen, left, welcomes students at Newhall Elementary in Santa Clarita, Calif. California's public schools could get \$6.6 billion from the state Legislature if they return to in-person instruction by the end of March, according to a new agreement announced Monday, March 1, 2021, between Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state's legislative leaders. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez, File)

Adam Beam
Associated Press

ELK GROVE, Calif. — The majority of California's 6.1 million public school students could be back in the classroom by April under new legislation announced Monday, March 1, by Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders. Critics panned the plan as inadequate.

Most students in the nation's most populous state have been learning from home for the past year during the pandemic. But with new coronavirus cases falling rapidly throughout the state, Newsom and lawmakers have been under increasing pressure to come up with a statewide plan aimed at returning students to schools in-person.

If approved by the Legislature, the plan announced Monday would not order districts to return students to the classroom and no parents would be compelled to send their kids back to school in-person. Instead, the state would set aside \$2 billion to pay districts that get select groups of students into classrooms by the end of the month.

Crucially, the legislation does not require districts to have an agreement with teachers' unions on a plan for in-person instruction. That's a barrier that many districts,

including the nation's second-largest district in Los Angeles, have not been able to overcome.

It also does not require all teachers be vaccinated, as teacher unions had urged and that could take months given the nation's limited supply of vaccine. The legislation would make it state law that 10% of the state's vaccine supply be set aside specifically for teachers and school staff.

"You can't reopen your economy unless you get your schools reopened for in-person instruction," said Newsom, who announced the deal with state Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon at an elementary school in the Elk Grove Unified School District just south of Sacramento. The district, one of the first in the country to halt in-person learning last year because of the coronavirus, plans to return to in-person instruction later this month.

The state's two largest teachers unions mostly praised the agreement, with California Federation of Teachers President Jeff Freitas calling the prioritization of vaccines for teachers "a huge victory." Kevin Gordon, a lobbyist representing many of the state's school districts, called the plan "a grand slam home run," saying it "dismantled every

impediment to reopening that we've had so far."

The announcement comes at a critical time for Newsom, who could face a recall election later this year fueled by anger over his response to the pandemic. Kevin Faulconer, the former Republican mayor of San Diego who already has announced his candidacy, said the plan Newsom announced "isn't even close to good enough for our kids and teachers."

"For months, Newsom has ignored science and left public schools across our state shuttered while private schools are open," Faulconer said. "For him to tout this as an accomplishment after months of inexcusable failures shows how out of touch he is, and why he should be recalled."

In addition to the \$2 billion, the legislation would give all school districts access to \$4.6 billion to help students who have struggled with learning from home. Districts could use this money to add another month to the school year or they could spend it on counseling and tutoring for students who need the most help.

To get their slice of the \$2 billion, districts in counties under the state's most restrictive set of coronavirus rules — known as the purple tier — must offer in-person learning for

transitional kindergarten through second grade, plus certain vulnerable students in all grades. This includes students who are disabled, homeless, in foster care, learning English, don't have access to technology or are at risk of abuse and neglect.

Counties in the next group, known as the red tier, must offer in-person instruction for all elementary school grades, plus at least one grade each in middle and high schools. With new coronavirus cases falling, Newsom said he expects most counties to be in the red tier by the end of the month.

Districts that meet the March 31 deadline get full compensation based on a complicated formula, while those that meet the standards after April 1 get less money. Districts that fail to have children back in classrooms before May 15 won't get any money.

The bill does not say how long students must be in the classroom each week. That concerns Jonathan Zachreson, founder of the parent group Reopen California Schools, who says districts could offer classroom instruction for a few hours one day per week and still get the money. He predicted many parents will get excited reading headlines from Monday's announcement, only to end up frustrated.

"It does not compel any school district to open other than just bribing them with extra money," he said. "We need to have higher standards for what in-person learning means."

Newsom dismissed those concerns, saying he is "confident people won't be gaming the system that way."

Cecily Myart-Cruz, head of United Teachers Los Angeles, said she worries the state plan would benefit schools in wealthier neighborhoods where the coronavirus is less prevalent.

"This would send extra dollars to affluent areas that are able to reopen because of low infection rates, leaving students from low-income communities of color behind," she said.

Megan Bacigalupi, a parent advocate with Open Schools California, said she worried there was no urgency to get middle and high school students back to classrooms, noting the agreement does not require all of those students to return for in-person learning.

"Framing this as a reopening deal is blind to the fact that there will be kids that will not be back in school this year," she said.

California Teachers Association President E. Toby Boyd praised the legislation for recognizing the union's safety concerns, which were broadcast to state residents in television ads that started running last month. But he criticized the plan for only requiring coronavirus testing in schools located in counties where the coronavirus is the most widespread.

This story has been corrected to say the state has set aside \$2 billion, not \$6.6 billion, that districts can tap if they return to in-person learning. The remaining \$4.6 billion is not contingent on a return to classrooms.

Associated Press writers Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento and Amy Taxin in Orange County contributed reporting.

California to spend \$28M to help arriving asylum-seekers

Elliot Spagat
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — California is freeing up as much as \$28 million to help immigrants arriving from Mexico and being released in the U.S. until their court dates, a sharp contrast from other border states that have emerged as foes of President Joe Biden's immigration policies.

The funding, expected to last through June, comes as Biden unwinds former President Donald Trump's policy to make asylum-seekers wait in Mexico until their court hearings. It will pay for hotel rooms for immigrants to quarantine during the coronavirus pandemic before going to their final destinations throughout the U.S.

Money also will go to Jewish Family Service of San Diego to provide food, transportation and help with travel logistics. The state will fund health services for the short stays, including COVID-19 testing.

Last week, the Biden administration began allowing people into the United States who had been forced to wait south of the border under Trump's "Remain in Mexico" policy. On his first day, Biden suspended the program for new arrivals.

An estimated 26,000 people with active cases will be allowed into the U.S., with about 25 people released a day in San Diego.

"This is what happens when California and Washington are talking with each other instead of at each other," said H.D. Palmer, spokesman for the California Department of Finance.

The first asylum-seekers waiting in the Mexican border city of Matamoros, home to a migrant camp with squalid conditions, were processed for entry Thursday, Feb. 25 in Brownsville, Texas. Processing began Friday, Feb. 26 in El Paso, Texas.

At the same time, the U.S. is releasing more asylum-seekers who are not enrolled in "Remain in Mexico" into the country, as it did for hundreds of thousands of people before Trump foisted the responsibility of hosting asylum-seekers on Mexico in 2019.

While most people are quickly expelled without an opportunity to seek asylum under pandemic powers that Trump instituted and Biden kept in place, limited releases in the U.S. have raised financial and humanitarian concerns in some border cities.

"There's no plan of action once Border Patrol releases migrants in city centers from being detained," Bruno Lozano, mayor of the South Texas city of Del Rio, said in an interview.

Lozano posted a YouTube video last week calling on the Biden administration to stop releasing migrants during a winter storm that ravaged Texas, knocking out power and water for several days in many cities. The Border Patrol resumed releasing migrants in Del Rio on Feb. 20 after the cold passed.

Lozano said Friday that border agents have resumed releasing people in Del Rio and nearby cities. He noted that nonprofit groups provide cellphones, food and clothing to people leaving border custody and called on federal authorities to ramp up vaccinations in border communities or provide hotel rooms where migrants who test positive can quarantine.

In Yuma, Arizona, Mayor Douglas Nicholls estimated that by the end of Thursday, Feb. 25, some 230 migrants, including many families with children, had been released since Feb. 15. Many are dropped at a Greyhound bus stop outside a discount store in a rural area.

Nicholls wants state and federal officials to transport migrants to larger cities with more infrastructure and resources, as the federal government did during Trump's presidency.

Texas has sent 10,000 rapid COVID-19 tests to Brownsville for arriving migrants. City spokesman Felipe Romero says the tests are administered at the local bus station and anyone who tests positive is told to isolate.

In El Paso, the Annunciation House shelter is receiving 25 immigrants daily from the Remain in Mexico program. The shelter expects releases to double in the coming weeks and perhaps reach 75 a day by the end of March, director Ruben Garcia said.

California has so far been the most generous with aid. Besides the new funding, it's already spent nearly \$12 million to help about 30,000 asylum-seekers at the border since Trump's presidency.

With Biden in the White House, Arizona and Texas have emerged as chief critics of immigration policy, a position that California proudly took during the Trump years. Texas successfully sued to block Biden's 100-day moratorium on deportations.

Texas and Arizona signed agreements with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Trump's final days that could delay any changes to immigration policy. The Biden administration has rejected them.

Associated Press writers Nomaan Merchant in Houston and Anita Snow in Phoenix contributed to this report.

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OPINION, CONT.

Are we living in a culture of fear?

Julie Reeder
Publisher

Are we living in a culture of fear? What has happened to our American exceptionalism, our attitudes built on the wild west, rugged individualism, the culture of “we can do anything we put our minds to?” The society that courageously fought Communism, fascism and created a prosperous freedom-loving country to which people clammer to enter and bring their families?

According to psychiatrist and medical-legal expert Dr. Mark McDonald, MD, we have become victims of a “delusional psychosis” because of COVID-19. While there is a real virus, he said Americans are suffering because there has been so much misinformation and exaggeration about the lethality of COVID -19, which has been broadcast by government officials and the ratings-loving media.

McDonald explained that Americans are fearful of the virus which, up until age 70, is over 99% recoverable. If we are over age 70, its recovery rate is still 95%.

But yet we are fearful of going to work. We are afraid to go to church. We are fearful of singing. We are afraid to go outside without a mask which has holes in the fabric 400 to 1000x larger than the virus itself.

We are afraid to celebrate, hug and get too close to our friends and loved ones.

We are afraid to get the vaccine. We are afraid to not get the experimental vaccine, for a virus that is 95 to 99% recoverable and for which we are now told will not keep us from getting COVID-19. We are afraid that if we don't get the vaccine, life will not get back to “normal” and we won't be able to work, vacation, or visit with family.

We are afraid to speak our mind. We are afraid to have questioning or dissenting views or we will be shunned or banned by social media. We are afraid the authoritarian unconstitutional practices (as have been ruled by the courts) of our governor will continue and we will lose our God-given civil liberties as well as the right to work and feed our families and not have our businesses shut down.

We have to be careful because a culture of fear (or climate of fear) is the concept that people may incite fear in the general public to achieve political or workplace goals through emotional bias (An emotional bias is a distortion in cognition and decision making due to emotional factors). It was developed as a sociological framework by Frank Furedi [1] and has been more recently popularized by the American sociologist Barry Glassner (Gustave Gilbert (1947) Nuremberg Diary.)

I know this will incite letters next week calling me a conspiracy theorist. That's ok. Even if it wasn't by design, I think we need to consider how much fear we are willing to continue to live with and if the cost is worth the outcome.

There are different types of fear, including: primal, irrational, and rational. Fear is important for survival, but we have to be able to distinguish between rational and irrational fear.

People who are afraid are very easy to control. Politicians love a crisis, which they will never allow to go to waste. Communist cultures and countries depend on keeping people in fear in order to control them.

We are not being controlled by our government as much as we are starting to be controlled by each other. It's virtue signaling and may have little to do with reality. Businesses and corporations may require us to be vaccinated before we travel, or to wear a mask before we enter a store. If we don't comply, it's not against any law, we just won't get service.

Let's face it. When the virus was first discovered, we didn't know what we were dealing with, but now we've had a year's worth of data and experiences. (Reference my editorial last week)

McDonald encouraged people to reject fear as unhelpful, unnecessary and, most importantly, not virtuous.

He further encouraged people to protect those who are at risk with rational evidence-based prophylaxis and treatment like Vitamin D, zinc, exercise, sunlight and even possibly hydroxychloroquine. He said it's not risky; it's cheap, reduces risk of infection and doesn't require an IV or hospitalization and is over 90% effective. It reduces risk of infection and risk of complications if one is infected by over 90%. He made the point that it's more rational to trust a medication that has been proven safe and effective worldwide for 65 years rather than a new medication that has only been around for six months.

He further said healthy people shouldn't wear masks and isolate themselves. He says kids absolutely shouldn't be wearing masks, especially during exercise and sports.

He said we need to practice courage, honesty and freedom in our actions as a society and fight against irrational fear. Sometimes we don't have our freedoms taken from us as much as we just give them away.

President Ronald Reagan said, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.”

Even in the Bible, the phrase “fear not” is used at least 80 times. In Phillipians 4:8 it says “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.”

While fear is necessary, it also can decrease our hope and limit our happiness and wellbeing.

Dr. Caroline Leaf is a cognitive neuroscientist with a PhD in communication pathology specializing in neuropsychology. She is an author who, since the early 1980s, has studied and researched the mind-brain

connection. She explained how important it is that we are in the right mind to encourage our mental health rather than mental illness.

She encouraged people to start first thing in the morning thinking about what they are thankful for and the blessings they have instead of their fears, bitterness and disappointments. She is an expert in neuroplasticity and explained that the chemical reactions from your positive thoughts actually change the chemicals in your brain to help create mental health.

I can't help but think how all this fear we are being encouraged to feel because of a reaction to a virus that is over 95% curable is crippling our culture, our youth and

educational system, our economy, our spiritual life, our relationships and our mental health.

Let's be smart, and then be careful, considerate and not take part in what Dr. McDonald said is “delusional psychosis that has taken over where people are impervious to rational thinking.” Let's encourage physical health as well as mental health and not reject all fear, but all irrational fear. I pray you are blessed with physical and emotional health this week.

1. Furedi, Frank (1997). The Culture of Fear: Risk-taking and the Morality of Low Expectation. Continuum International Publishing Group.



CUSTOM HOME ON 4.96 ACRES IN NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Custom built to feature the owner's unique collection of architectural elements throughout this 2,179 square foot residence that has been meticulously maintained. This elegant property offers 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 3 car garage on 4.96 fenced acres with lighted entry gate. This home offers a grand open floor plan accented with a 16' floor to ceiling river rock gas start fireplace, with a granite hearth and birch wood mantle. A wet bar with refrigerator and wine rack. The master suite features a second fireplace, walk-in closet, jet garden tub with exterior glass doors to private patio. Additional features throughout this magnificent home includes exquisite birch wood cabinetry, granite countertops, solid golden oak wood floors and ceiling fans in every room. Slightly tinted oversized Pella double pane windows with metal framed canvas awnings, 10' ceiling and an oak double door entry. The kitchen is made for a chief with all stainless-steel appliances, double door refrigerator, built-in microwave, double electric oven. Island gas stove top with griddle and BBQ grill with an electric downdraft, a trash compactor, spice draws and more. Front porch and 3 back patios with ceiling fans. The walls of this house were constructed with 2x6 framing and “additional” exterior insulation. This property also includes a 60x40 barn with a 32.5x16.5 loft and a 40x17.5 attached workshop, 8x28 garden shed, 7' deep Koi pond with filtration system and a gazebo. Apple and pear tree orchard.



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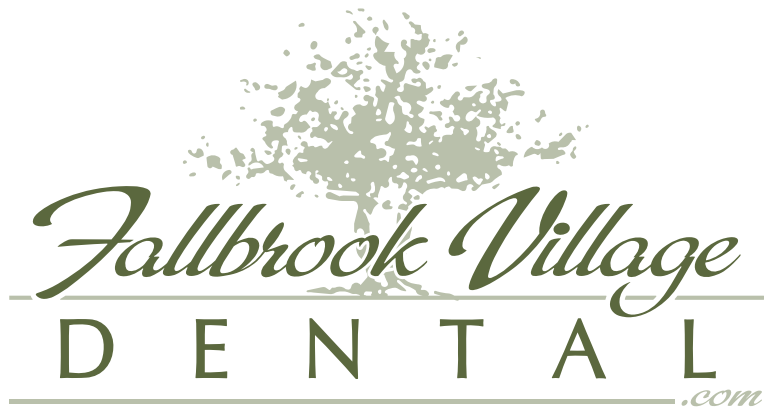
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SHERIFF'S LOG

Feb. 11	3200 block Alta Verde Ave	Arrest: Possession of controlled substance for sale, sale of controlled substance
Feb. 12	E. Mission Rd @ Industrial Wy	Stolen vehicle
Feb. 14	31900 block Del Cielo Este	Arrest: Domestic battery
Feb. 15	400 block Ammunition Rd	Arrest: Domestic abuse with minor injury
Feb. 16	1300 block S. Mission Rd	Arrest: Possession of controlled substance, criminal conspiracy, vehicle burglary, illegal possession of firearm
	400 block N. Pico Ave	Robbery
	5200 block S. Mission Rd	Vandalism
Feb. 17	700 block Inverloch Dr	Violation of court order
	200 block Royal Glen Dr	Elder abuse/neglect
	1300 block S. Mission Rd	Vehicle burglary
	1300 block S. Mission Rd	Vandalism
	5500 block Mission Rd	Robbery
Feb. 18	700 block Stewart Canyon Rd	Stolen vehicle
	39000 block Daily Rd	Fraud
	1000 block S. Mission Rd	Burglary
	1500 block S. Mission Rd	Domestic abuse
Feb. 19	5500 block Mission Rd	Arrest: Battery
Feb. 20	200 block W. Kalmia St	Indecent exposure
	1100 block Nicola Ranch Rd	Battery
	800 block E. Alvarado St	Arrest: Domestic abuse with minor injury
	1000 block Iowa St	Death
	Stewart Canyon Rd @ S. Old Highway 395	Vehicle burglary
	900 block Alturas Rd	Vehicle burglary
	700 block N. Orange Ave	Arrest: Domestic abuse with minor injury
	5500 block Mission Rd	Arrest: Felony bench warrant
Feb. 21	900 block Alturas Rd	Vehicle vandalism
	300 block W. Alvarado St	Vehicle vandalism

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Deputies shut down illegal Rainbow-area pot dispensary

Rainbow—Sheriff’s personnel raided and shuttered an illegal marijuana shop in the far northern reaches of San Diego County Friday, Feb. 26, seizing hundreds of pounds of cannabis products and arresting three people. A SWAT team served a warrant at the illicit dispensary in the 3100 block of Rainbow Valley

Boulevard in Rainbow about 7 a.m., sheriff’s Sgt. Mark Knierim said. During an ensuing search of the premises, deputies impounded 117 pounds of marijuana; 528 pounds of cannabis-infused products, including edibles and vape materials; about 250 tetrahydrocannabinol-infused

drinks; \$24,155 in cash; three guns; and a ballistic vest. Arrested during the operation on suspicion of narcotics crimes were Abdulwahab Ahmed 30, Demetrius Charlot, 28, and Marquest Jackson, 27. “The warrant (stemmed from) an investigation by the Sheriff’s Marijuana Enforcement Team

... and the Fallbrook Sheriff’s Substation Crime Suppression Team in connection with two shooting incidents at the location that happened in January and October of last year,” the sergeant said. County code-compliance officers who took part in the raid determined that the building

housing the dispensary “posed an extreme hazard to anyone who entered” due to structural deficiencies and exposed wiring. They asked Southern California Edison to cut off power to the property immediately, Knierim said. Copyright 2021 City News Service, Inc.

CLASSIFIEDS

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



DeMeo makes history as first female president of FPUD board

Jennifer DeMeo was unanimously elected as the Fallbrook Public Utility District’s first-ever female board president during the Dec. 7, 2020 board of directors meeting. She presided over her first meeting on Feb. 22.

FPUD will be 100 years old in June 2022 and to date, has had only two other women serve on the board.

“I am excited to serve our ratepayers in this new role and to be the first woman to lead our board,” said DeMeo. “It’s an honor. And I want to enhance community outreach.”

Since DeMeo was first elected to the board in 2016, FPUD made great strides on resolving a 70-year-old legal fight to use local, cheaper water from the Santa Margarita River.

FPUD had lost rights to that water during the fight and had to buy expensive, imported water instead. But now, local water will be flowing from Fallbrook taps by early 2022, giving rate relief from escalating imported water costs.

Also under DeMeo’s tenure, the board permanently preserved the 1,384 acres of hiking trails along the Santa Margarita River, and ensured public access and the use of the trails in perpetuity.

She was first elected in Nov. 2016 and was reelected to her second term in November 2020. She has also served as FPUD’s representative on the Association of California Water Agencies JPIA insurance board, and has since 2018.



Employee of the year



His is a complex job. He serves as a technical resource, district-wide. He reads and interprets blueprints, performs specialized work in the design and construction of electrical and instrumentation equipment, and performs complex installation on remote electronic equipment.

He is always willing to help find a solution to any problem and has been called “insanely easy to work with” by his coworkers.

“He has a great work ethic and a very good attitude,” said Jack Bebee, general manager, who selected Hamilton for the honor.

“I am so grateful for being recognized for my six years of work,” Hamilton said about being selected. “Everyone here at FPUD works extremely hard, day in and day out, to keep everything running, so it is truly an honor.”

Chris Hamilton was chosen as the employee of the year for 2020. He is the Instrumentation & Controls specialist and has been with the district for six years.

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2021 Avocado Open
Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce

Friday, May 7, 2021

Join us for a full day of golf, prizes and fun!

- Bring your foursome or we'll add you to one!
- Sponsorships available
- Prizes for top golfers
- Includes green fees, range balls, boxed lunch, Mulligans, Magic Puff, Goodie and entry into Cash Opportunity Drawing
- Putting Contest benefitting the Fallbrook Land Conservancy

A portion of the proceeds will benefit Fallbrook Land Conservancy

For more information call the Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce (760) 728-5845
www.fallbrookchamberofcommerce.org

We have added a new event to the calendar for 2021 – the Avocado Open Golf Tournament, scheduled for Friday, May 7 at Pala Mesa Resort. To be clear, this tournament is in addition to the Annual Charity Golf Tournament held in the Fall. A portion of the proceeds from the tournament and the putting contest will benefit the Fallbrook Land Conservancy (FLC), a local nonprofit which protects more than 3,000 acres of open space in our community through land ownership and conservation easements. FLC provides more than 13 miles of trails on 8 preserves in Fallbrook, which are open for our community, thanks to the generosity of its donors, members, and volunteers.

Avocado Open

Many plans are in the works for continued trail improvement, additional land and education as well as current renovations to the historic Palomares House and its Wildlife Sculpture Garden. Another bonus will be the opening of the Gird Valley Preserve to the public. The Chamber hopes to support its efforts through this event! The Avocado Open will also include lunch, contests on the course and entry into a cash opportunity drawing for 3 separate prizes. Each golfer will receive a souvenir Avocado Open cap, courtesy of our Goodie Sponsor, Martin Quiroz of Essex Mortgage. Top golfer awards will be sponsored by our local Fallbrook Masonic Lodge No. 317.

Several sponsorships are being offered, including the opportunity to sponsor a Veteran to play. For more information regarding the tournament, to make a donation or sign up to play, please contact the Fallbrook Chamber office at 760/728-5845 or online at www.fallbrookchamberofcommerce.org.

Got Membership?

Want to join? Stop in for a membership packet!

This Month's SunUpper
Thursday, March 11th ~ 9:00 am

Sponsored by:

Via Zoom

Fallbrook Farmers Market
Saturdays 9:30 - 2pm

Main Avenue, Downtown Fallbrook

Come grow with us!

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WEDNESDAY MARCH 24TH
5:30 PM VIA ZOOM

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A non-profit cheer club for high school students in Fallbrook, participating in community activities by invitation. Please contact Zoe Caro for more information.

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4:30 - 7:30 pm
Bottle/glass wine purchases available.

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February Fun

Grand ReOpening of Pressed & Blessed

WIN Women in Networking
Saturday, March 20th

COOKING CLASS via Zoom

Presented by Chef Shannan Wages

STARTS 5:00 PM
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Menu
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Friday, March 26th ~ Noon

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Business Seminars

Monday, April 12th & Monday, May 10th
10:00 am

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Presented by Sue Oliver of SCORE San Diego

FREE Seminar for Chamber Members
\$10 for non-members
Via Zoom

Call us to reserve your spot and obtain Zoom link for these seminars!

Information on this page is provided by the Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce.

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Warriors get set for track season

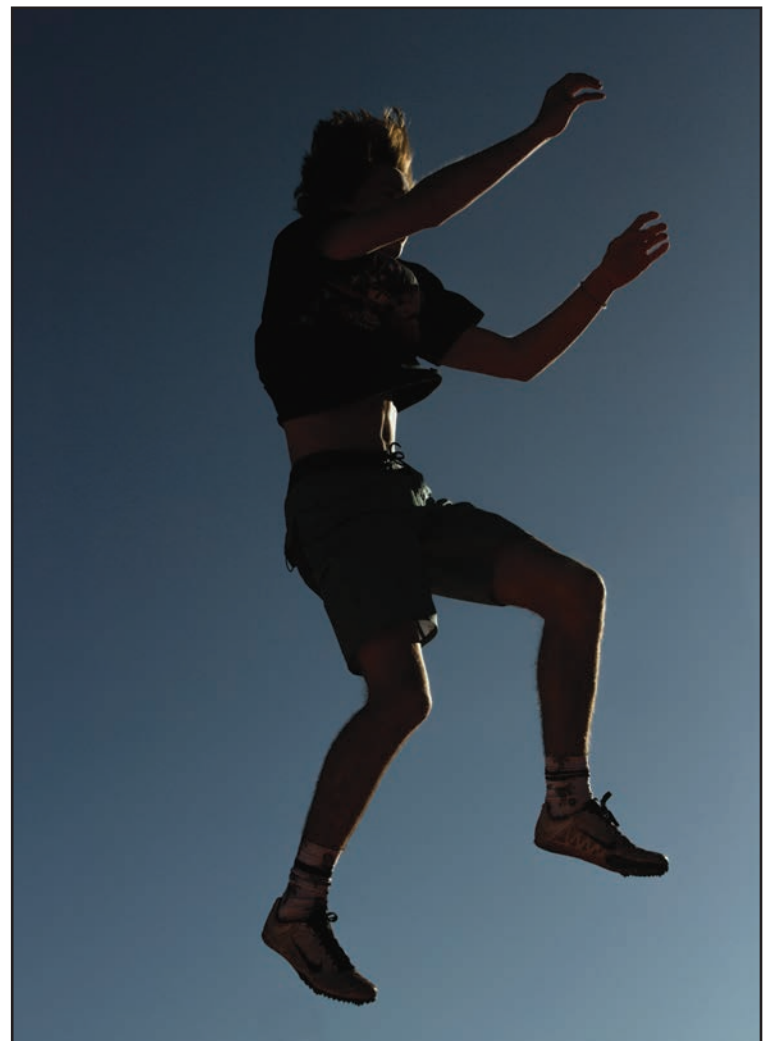


Lady Warrior Lacey Fabry sprints down the track as Fallbrook High School's track team begins training for the season, Feb. 24.

Village News/Shane Gibson photos



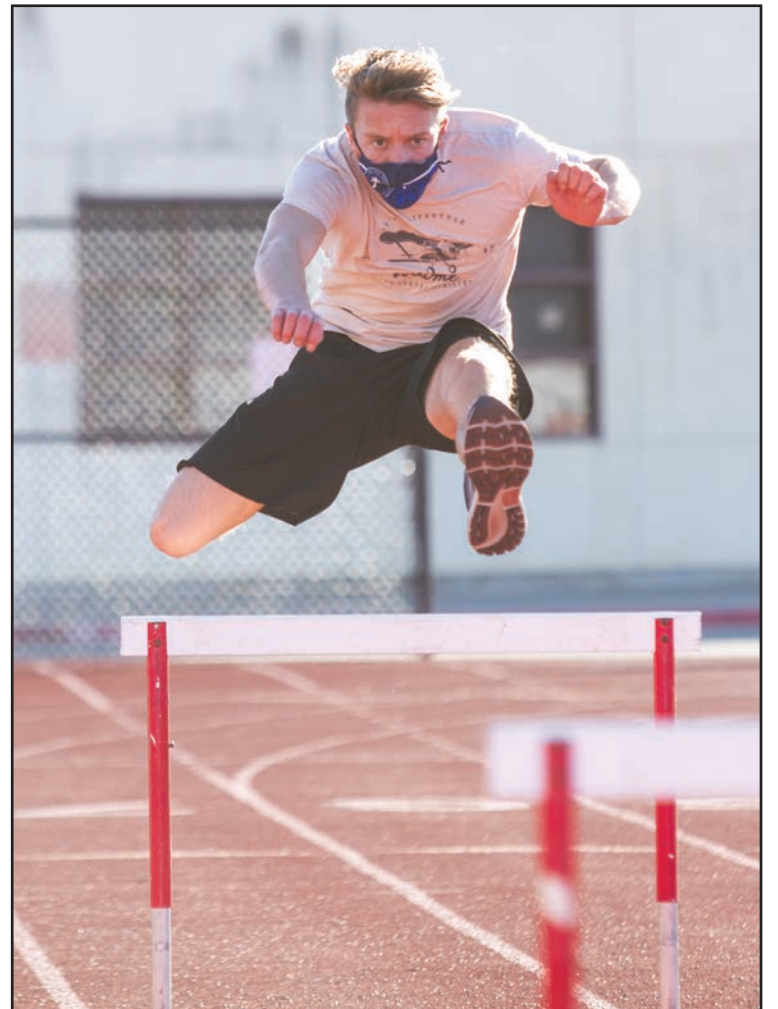
Fallbrook track athletes practice in preparation for the 2021 season.



Fallbrook's Gavin Weber executes the fly-away and falls to the mat while practicing pole vaulting for the 2021 track season.



Warrior runners train with jump ropes during a practice at the high school stadium.



Warrior Sam Grantham practices clearing hurdles during a practice at the Fallbrook High stadium.



Fallbrook sprinters run the 400-meter dash during the first week of practice of the track season.

EDUCATION

Palomar distributes hundreds of laptops, electronic resources to students

Funded by the federal CARES Act, college staff handed out more than \$315,000 in resources to support the ongoing distance learning effort.



Palomar College distributed laptop computers, printing cards, internet hotspots and webcams to hundreds of students on Thursday, Feb. 25.



Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Jack Kahn helps hand out computers to students at Palomar College.

Village News/Courtesy photos

SAN MARCOS – As students across the nation continue to learn remotely during the COVID-19 health crisis, Palomar College distributed laptop computers, printing cards, internet hotspots and webcams to hundreds of students on Thursday, Feb. 25.

The effort was funded by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, and involved a drive-through distribution in Parking Lot 12

of the San Marcos campus that continued for most of the day.

“We have been so humbled and inspired by the ability of our students to meet this health crisis and learn remotely, but we also recognize that many still do not have access to these resources,” said Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Jack Kahn.

Dr. Kahn was on site Thursday morning to greet students and help in the distribution effort. More than

a dozen other Palomar College staff volunteered throughout the day to make sure students received the resources they had requested during their registration.

“We want to congratulate these students on their hard work, and cheer them on any way we can,” he said.

To receive resources, students were required to be registered in the current semester at Palomar College and sign up ahead of the

event.

Around 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Valarie Yakuta of San Marcos pulled up to the shade canopies where laptops were stacked and staff checked names on student rosters.

Working at a local Starbucks, Yakuta said, “Sometimes I want to do homework on my break, but I have no internet. But now I can pull out my laptop and use my hotspot to get homework done.”

“This computer and this hotspot are going to help me finish college and have a stable life,” said Yakuta, who is pursuing her associate degree for transfer at Palomar with an emphasis in English and hopes to get into law school. “Now I’ll be able to do my papers efficiently, and it won’t be as hard to finish assignments. This stuff will allow me to get the A in my classes.”

Submitted by Palomar College.

Deming earns honor roll distinction from the University of Kansas

LAWRENCE, Kan. – More than 7,100 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2020 semester, including Julia Deming from Fallbrook in

the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who meet requirements in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and in the

schools of architecture and design, business, education, engineering, health professions, journalism and mass communications, music, nursing, pharmacy and social welfare. Honor roll criteria vary

among the university’s academic units. Some schools honor the top 10% of students enrolled, some establish a minimum GPA and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in

school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Submitted by the University of Kansas.

Quilt guild offers scholarship

FALLBROOK – The Fallbrook Quilt Guild is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to a graduating high school senior living in this 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.

Sierra Club Santa Margarita Group hosts 2021 photo contest

TEMECULA – The Sierra Club’s motto is to “Explore, Enjoy and Protect” planet Earth. Help the Sierra Club Santa Margarita Group celebrate 2021 Earth Day by attending the Earth Day virtual fair Thursday, April 22, with photos that express the motto.

The photo submissions will be divided by age group/grade bracket with elementary school submissions for kindergarten through fifth grade, middle/high school submissions for grades 6-12

and the adult category for people 18 or older.

Categories include “Landscape” with mountain ranges, sunsets and more; “Creatures of the Wilderness” for animals, reptiles, insects and such, and “Plants” with flowers, bushes, trees and more.

Guidelines for submissions

Contestants may submit two photos for each category. Photos must be submitted electronically. Each photo should be in JPEG

format with at least 1 megabyte file size.

First and second place winners will be chosen for each category; “Best of Show” can be any category. Photos will be judged on composition and how they represent the club’s motto. Priority will be given to photos taken in the Southern California area.

Submit all photo entries by Thursday, April 1, to carenhansonb17@gmail.com.

When emailing, use the subject

line “YOUR NAME and 2021 Earth Day Photo Contest.” Each photo should include in the email: Photographer’s name, age group, email address, phone number, physical address and category.

Winners will be announced at the 2021 Earth Day virtual fair. Winners will also be notified by email. Judges will be Sierra Club members Caren Hanson and Keri King, plus professional photographer Mark Gervase.

Prizes will be as follows for each of the three categories:

Best of show (any category) – \$100
Elementary School – First place, \$20 and Second place, \$10
Middle/High School – First place, \$40 and Second place, \$25
Adults – First place, \$50 and Second place, \$35

Submitted by The Sierra Club Santa Margarita Group.

FALLBROOK COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP AGENDAS FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FALLBROOK COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP will meet online using Zoom. 7 PM, Monday, March 15, 2021

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3981698290?pwd=RkFMc1lCN0wvWVlaY2FTSENkOG9Udz09>
 Meeting ID: 398 169 8290 Passcode: 694812
 Dial by your location: +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
 Meeting ID: 398 169 8290 Passcode: 694812
 Jack Wood, Chair 760-715-3359

Circulation Committee will meet Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 2 PM using Zoom.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3981698290?pwd=RkFMc1lCN0wvWVlaY2FTSENkOG9Udz09>
 Meeting ID: 398 169 8290 Passcode: 694812
 Dial by your location: +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
 Meeting ID: 398 169 8290 Passcode: 694812

AGENDA

1. Open Forum. Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Circulation Committee on any subject matter within the committee’s jurisdiction but not on today’s agenda. **Three-minute limitation. Non-voting item. No discussion.**
2. Approval of the minutes for the last meeting.
3. There is a request to have DWP look at the speed limit and possible stop sign at the intersection of Gird and Laketree. Ms. Gibbs observes that increased traffic in that area will be impacted by the opening of the winery. **Circulation Committee. Community Input. Voting item.**
4. Item to consider for referral to DWP: The left hand turn from Ammunition to Mission going south (by the McDonalds). There were previously two left turn lanes at this light. The center lane has been changed to a straight through only, crossing Mission. The result is traffic congestion in the left turn lane that spills out and blocks the intersection. Request consideration of converting the center lane to a through or left lane. Both would be controlled by the same traffic signal so no one would be disadvantaged. **Circulation Committee. Community Input. Voting item.**
5. Item to consider for referral to DWP: No right hand turn pocket from Stagecoach onto Reche. The right lane turn pocket of this intersection was removed when the intersection was redone. This creates congestion with many cars wishing to turn right either going on the shoulder to do so or being stuck at the light. Request consideration of putting the right turn

pocket back. **Circulation Committee. Community Input. Voting item.**
 Roy Moosa, Chair 760-723-1181

Design Review Committee will meet Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. online using Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3981698290?pwd=RkFMc1lCN0wvWVlaY2FTSENkOG9Udz09>
 Meeting ID: 398 169 8290 Passcode: 694812
 Dial by your location: +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
 Meeting ID: 398 169 8290 Passcode: 694812

AGENDA

1. Open Forum. Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Committee on any subject matter within the committee’s jurisdiction but not on today’s agenda. **Three-minute limitation. Non-voting item. No discussion.**
2. Approval of the minutes for the last meeting.
3. Request for a Site Plan Waiver. Bank of America Lighting Project, 1125 S. Main, Fallbrook. Contact: William Hackley, whackley@rogerelectric.com. County Planner Aleena Benedito, Aleena.Benedito@sdcounty.ca.gov. **Design Review Committee. Community input. Voting item.**
4. Request for Site Plan Waiver. Signage at Children’s Primary Care Clinic, 1103 So. Mission Rd. Fallbrook. Contact: Tim Seaman, Tim@championpermits.com. County Planner: AJ Aziz(AJ.Aziz@sdcounty.ca.gov). **Design Review Committee. Community input. Voting item.**
5. Request for Site Plan Waiver. Signage at Circle K Store, 4730 Hwy 76, Fallbrook. Contact: Sorin Enache, Sorin@promotionplusinc.com. County Planner: Rachael Lindebrekke, Rachael.Lindebrekke@sdcounty.ca.gov. **Design Review Committee. Community input. Voting item.**
6. Request for a Site Plan Minor Deviation for signage at Shell Gas Station 1205 S. Main Fallbrook. Tim Seaman, Tim@championpermits.com. County Planner: AJ Aziz(AJ.Aziz@sdcounty.ca.gov). **Design Review Committee. Community input. Voting item.**
 Eileen Delany, Chair eileendelaneymail@gmail.com

Published March 4, 2021

LEGALS

APN: 265-451-26-00 OTHER: 5942701 TS-201102 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 11/02/2018 UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NOTICE is hereby given that C.N.A. FORECLOSURE SERVICES, INC. A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, as trustee, or successor trustee, or substituted trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by David Chelf and Bridgette Chelf, Husband and Wife as Community Property Recorded on 11/02/2018 as Instrument No. 2018-0461136, of Official records in the office of the County Recorder of San Diego County, California, and pursuant to the Notice of Default and Election to Sell thereunder recorded 11/09/2020 as Instrument No. 2020-0699193 of said Official Records, WILL SELL on 3/17/2021 At the entrance to the East County Regional Center by the statue, 250 E. Main St., El Cajon, CA 92020at 10:00 a.m. AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States), all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State hereinafter described. The property address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purposed to be: 7929 Camino De La Dora, Rancho Santa Fe, CA The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$1,731,183.75 (estimated). In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier’s check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. In the event tender other than cash is accepted the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee’s Deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed, advances thereunder, with interest as provided therein, and the unpaid principal balance of the Note secured by said Deed with interest thereon as provided in said Note, fees, charges and expenses of the trustee and the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder’s office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 800-990-7678 or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 201102. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction, pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an “eligible tenant buyer,” you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an “eligible bidder,” you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 800-990-7678, or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 201102 to find the date on which the trustee’s sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee’s sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee’s sale. If you think you may qualify as an “eligible tenant buyer” or eligible bidder,” you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding potential right to purchase.” FOR SALES INFORMATION CALL : 800-990-7678 C/O C.N.A. FORECLOSURE SERVICES, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION as said Trustee. 2020 CAMINO DEL RIO N. #230 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92108 (619) 297-6740 DATE: 2/10/2021 KIMBERLY CURRAN TRUSTEE SALE OFFICER NPP0373060 To: VILLAGE NEWS INC 02/25/2021, 03/04/2021, 03/11/2021

SPORTS

Warrior mermen win 10 of 11 events in season opener



Senior Donovan Taylor earns an automatic qualifying score of 216.55 points for his six dives at the Feb. 25 swim meet.

Junior Tegan Cannon competes in the butterfly portion of the medley relay in the meet against El Camino. *Village News/Annika Petersen photos*

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

Fallbrook High School's boys swim team opened its season Feb. 25 at home against El Camino, and the Warriors took first-place points in 10 of 11 events during the 97-72 victory over the Wildcats.

"It was fun to have all the kids back and competing and enjoying themselves and trying to do it as safely as we could," said Fallbrook coach Bill Richardson.

The coronavirus outbreak ended the 2020 season early, so the Warriors only had three meets last year and the 2021 season opener was Fallbrook's first meet since hosting Rancho Buena Vista on March 10, 2020. Competing in a chlorinated swimming pool with minimal if any spectator presence has little risk of spreading coronavirus, so swimming was one of the first sports the CIF allowed for 2020-21.

Because the compressed 2020-21 season combines the normal fall, winter, and spring seasons into two seasons some athletes must choose between sports. Fallbrook opened the 2021 swim

season with 14 swimmers and two divers. "Much fewer than normal," Richardson said.

Normally the Fallbrook program has between 25 and 30 boys swimmers. Richardson added that some boys who plan to swim have not yet received clearance.

The 2020 Fallbrook swim team included seven seniors, one exchange student from Denmark, and two underclassmen who have transferred to other schools. This year the only senior is diver Donovan Taylor. Two Fallbrook freshmen competed at the varsity level Feb. 25. "There's some good potential in some of the younger kids," Richardson said.

The Valley League for swimming this year consists of Fallbrook, Escondido, Mission Hills, Mission Vista, Ramona, and Valley Center. The non-league match against El Camino will have no impact on the league championship.

One goal the Fallbrook squad had Feb. 25 was to defeat the Wildcats. "We were going to compete. We were going to try to win," Richardson said.

In addition to the opportunity to post qualifying marks, a non-

league meet also allows coaches to evaluate the swimmers and divers. "I didn't know where a lot of the newer guys would be. It was a good chance to see where we're starting," Richardson said.

Fallbrook High School in normal times has a sixth-period aquatics class. "Definitely didn't have that advantage," Richardson said.

If only one team in a dual meet has a diver the diving is not included in the team score but the diver's score may be used for CIF qualifying purposes. El Camino didn't have any divers. Taylor had an automatic qualifying score of 216.55 points for his six dives. Fallbrook also had a junior varsity diver at the meet.

Each school is allowed up to three swimmers in each of the eight individual events with six team points being awarded for first place, four points for second, three points for third, two points for fourth, and one point for fifth. A school can have up to two quartets in each relay race which gives eight points for first, four for second, and two for third. "They did a little bit better than we did as far as their second, third

swimmers," Richardson said.

A swimmer can participate in up to four events and in up to two individual events. Fallbrook's first-place sweep of the eight individual events included two wins apiece by junior Brock Bushnell, junior Kai Maestas, junior Doug Pearce, and sophomore Ian Ritchie. "We have four very strong swimmers," Richardson said.

In terms of team points contributed, Bushnell, Maestas, and Pearce were the top freshman trio at the 2019 CIF San Diego Section meet. "They definitely showed a long time ago that they were going to be really strong swimmers for us for a lot of years," Richardson said.

Ritchie, Maestas, Pearce, and Bushnell opened the 2021 season by winning the 200-yard medley relay in 2:16.55, which is an automatic qualifying time for the CIF meet. Bushnell, Pearce, Ritchie, and Maestas closed the meet by winning the 400-yard freestyle relay and posting an automatic qualifying time of 3:31.76.

The Wildcats' sole win was in the 200-yard freestyle relay. The

Fallbrook quartet of sophomore Jonathan Nelson, junior Tegan Cannon, sophomore Kenneth Fukunaga, and sophomore John Norman finished second, and their time of 1:50.72 provided CIF meet consideration status.

Pearce won the 100-yard butterfly with an automatic time of 22.57 seconds for automatic qualification as well as first place, and his winning time of 50.10 seconds in the 100-yard freestyle is a consideration standard.

Maestas won the 100-yard breaststroke with a consideration time of 1:06.04, and he had a consideration time of 2:10.15 in the 200-yard individual medley in which Fallbrook freshman Sam Goode finished second at 2:39.91. Both of Ritchie's wins produced consideration times; he completed the 500-yard freestyle race in 5:19.55 and the 100-yard backstroke event in 1:02.21.

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

Warriors open girls swim season with 91-75 win



Sophomore Payton Wilson achieves a consideration score with 182.60 points on six dives, Feb. 25.

Ava Dowden swims the breast stroke in one of her races against El Camino High. *Village News/Annika Petersen photos*

Senior Cassidy Ewig scores a total of 139.35 points in the Feb. 25 meet.

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

Fallbrook High School's girls swim team opened the 2021 season Feb. 25 at home against El Camino and won the meet by a 91-75 score.

"It went well, especially for the first meet and having to deal with all the COVID-19 stuff," said Fallbrook coach Sean Redmond. "They responded very well."

Three swimmers from each school are allowed in each individual event, and position points are given for the top five finishes. Position points are given for the top three relay finishes with each team being allowed two quartets. If at least five lanes are filled for all individual events and at least three lanes are filled in each relay race the team scores would total 170 points in the absence of disqualifications.

"A lot of empty lanes compared to what we have normally seen," Redmond said.

Redmond added that some swimmers were disqualified, which is usually due to leaving the starting block before the starting gun is fired or before the previous relay swimmer touches the wall.

If only one team has a diver the diving is not included in the team scores although the individual divers are scored for CIF qualifying purposes. Fallbrook had three varsity divers and two junior varsity divers Feb. 25, including two freshmen and two sophomores. "That looks good," Redmond said.

The CIF has not yet made a determination whether a CIF meet will be held and thus has not determined whether CIF meet automatic and consideration times and diving scores will be

updated. Last year a six-dive score of 190 points automatically qualified a diver for the CIF meet while a score of 175 provided consideration status.

If the qualifying scores remain unchanged, sophomore Payton Wilson achieved a consideration score Feb. 25 with 182.60 points on six dives. Fallbrook's only senior girl diver, Cassidy Ewig, totaled 139.35 points. The high school diving debut of freshman Ava Papoulias produced a score of 101.95 points.

Fallbrook won the 200-yard medley relay race, and the Warriors' time of 2:02.98 was an automatic qualifying mark last year. The winning medley relay team consisted of senior Paris Dowden, freshman Ava Dowden, junior Jocelyn Jones, and junior Grace Goode.

Jones won both of her individual

updates, completing the 50-yard freestyle in an automatic time of 25.92 seconds and achieving a consideration time of 1:07.73 in the 100-yard butterfly.

The three Warriors in the 200-yard freestyle individual race swept the top positions with sophomore Stephanie Hanlon posting a time of 2:18.09, Papoulias completing her laps in 2:21.91, and freshman Marissa Pearce finishing in 2:21.94.

Fallbrook's 200-yard freestyle relay team of freshman Kela Kendall, junior Erin Burnett, Ava Dowden, and Pearce won the race with a consideration time of 1:58.38. Fallbrook also took first-place points in the 500-yard freestyle when sophomore Samantha Hanlon touched the final wall 6:33.77 after the race began.

Although El Camino took the first-place points for the 200-yard individual medley event, Ava

Dowden had the second-place time of 2:33.06, which met 2020 consideration standards. "Pretty cool for her first high school race," Redmond said.

Paris Dowden had two second-place finishes in events El Camino won but posted consideration times in both. She finished the 100-yard freestyle in 57.18 seconds and the 100-yard backstroke in 1:06.50.

The Wildcats also relegated Fallbrook to second place in the 400-yard freestyle relay although Jones, Papoulias, Stephanie Hanlon, and Paris Dowden had a consideration time of 4:05.03.

El Camino also took first place in the 100-yard breaststroke.

"We have a few things to work on," Redmond said.

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

HEALTH

D'Vine Path students learn how to lead a healthy lifestyle



D'Vine Path students, front to back, Nate Baer, Jennifer DiMuzio and Kaylee Hard practice exercising using TRX bands.



Michelle Verdugo, Lenila Batali, and D'Vine Path staff and students enjoy their healthy smoothies on a hot day.

FALLBROOK – With the challenges faced during 2020, self-care has not been a priority for everyone. Many people had to put their own needs on hold in order to take care of loved ones suffering from COVID-19, run errands for at risk family members and friends, help children conduct online school, adjust to working from home, and there was little to no time for exercise or healthy eating.

According to the Center for Disease Control, the stress associated with COVID-19 has caused a spike in mental health problems, substance abuse, and suicidal thoughts. However, these can be combated through healthy eating and exercising regularly.

D'Vine Path, a vocational training program for disabled adults, has been actively combatting the health issues caused by COVID-19 by teaching its students how to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Executive director of D'Vine Path, Lenila Batali is passionate about helping the students with not only vocational skills to help them find a job, but also teaching the students life skills so they can be healthy and successfully adapt to new situations.

“Here at D'Vine Path, we're committed to helping students, beyond teaching vocational skills,” Batali said. “We also teach them how to lead healthy lifestyles, because without a healthy lifestyle you will not be as successful in a job or career. We teach our students about how important it is to take care of themselves and

stay healthy so they can succeed in leading healthy and happy lives.”

To teach the students different exercises and stretches, retired fireman, certified TRX trainer, EMT, and wellness trainer Derek Wilson has started teaching lessons to D'Vine Path students once a month. He has been teaching students how to exercise using TRX bands, which help with upper body strength, core strengthening and endurance.

Wilson is highly experienced in this field, and his lessons have been beneficial to the students and their health.

As the students are eager to learn how to take better care of themselves, they are all attentive and enthusiastic during Wilson's lessons. Along with TRX band exercises, Wilson has also been teaching the students breathing exercises for each different activity and fire safety in kitchens to go along with their culinary training.

D'Vine Path is also working to teach its students about healthy eating with the help of Michelle Verdugo, the owner of Organic Suites.

Verdugo has been working with D'Vine Path since 2020, and she has been teaching lessons about the benefits of healthy eating, how to make healthy snacks, and smoothie making. Last year, Verdugo was able to get blenders donated from Target to help students at D'Vine Path. Now, the students are using their blenders often and using recipes taught by Verdugo.

Recently, Verdugo taught the students about replacement foods

in smoothies. Instead of adding chocolate to their smoothies, they added coconut flakes, raisins, and walnuts. These are healthy alternatives that will add texture to the smoothie as well as flavor. The students were very receptive, and they were excited to learn a new healthy recipe. They plan to continue working on replacing unhealthy foods in their smoothies with healthier alternatives.

Verdugo has also been teaching the students about sugar intake and how sugar can negatively affect them. For example, she has encouraged the students to drink coconut water instead of Gatorade or soda because of the amount of sugar in the drinks. This type of encouragement has helped the students learn about the effects of sugar and how much sugar is healthy.

Along with exercise and healthy eating lessons, D'Vine Path students participate in daily yoga and meditation classes, as well as their morning vineyard walk. These activities motivate the students to stay active and continue working towards a healthier lifestyle. Calming activities like meditation and yoga are used at D'Vine Path to help with mental health and stability.

Learning about healthy eating and healthy living has been beneficial to the students, it has helped to reduce stress and negative thoughts, and they are feeling more confident in their ability to maintain their health.

After learning about healthy lifestyles through D'Vine Path's lessons and experienced guest



Derek Wilson teaches D'Vine Path students how to use TRX bands.

speakers, the students are all highly motivated and excited to learn more about how they can take care of themselves and their health.

By offering these students the opportunity to learn more about leading a healthy lifestyle, D'Vine Path has established a foundation for the students to continue being conscious about their health throughout their lives.future.

The Fallbrook Regional Health District provided the grant that funds the healthy lifestyle curriculum and makes these opportunities possible for D'Vine Path students.

To learn more about D'Vine Path, visit <https://www.dvinepath.org/>.

Submitted by D'Vine Path.

Learn to cope with your emotions about cancer

Jessica Young, RN, CBCN
Patient Navigator at Michelle's Place

Each person's response to breast cancer is different. It is hard to hear the words, “you have cancer,” “your biopsy report came back positive.”

You may not believe it or accept it. You may think “they” got it wrong. You might feel numb, frightened, sad or worried.

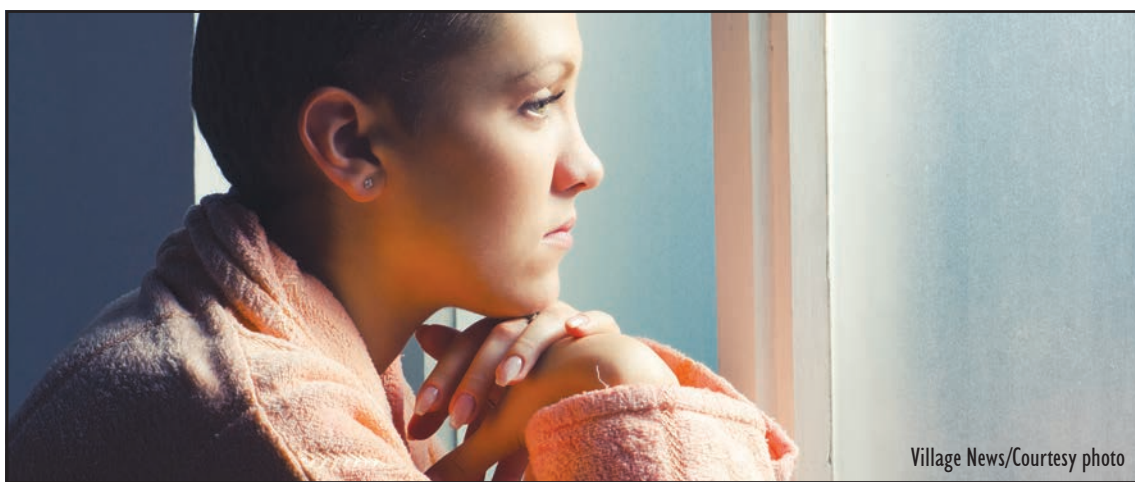
As you learn more about your cancer and treatment options, this numbness may lessen. You may find yourself in a confusion mode and trying to cope with all different emotions. Initially, it is common to feel overwhelmed, shock, anger, sadness, fear, denial and in a few cases, hopeful.

You may feel all of them or some of them at different times. All of these responses to diagnosis are normal and reasonable. Be patient with yourself.

This gentleness is an important part of coping. There is no right or wrong way to respond emotionally. Finding ways to address your feelings and get the support you need is important.

Don't always believe what you think. Get the facts. Share your thoughts with your healthcare team. They can answer your questions and address your concerns.

Feelings of sadness and worry are normal. Everyone copes differently. But if you have intense feelings of depression or anxiety, sleep disorders or memory



Village News/Courtesy photo

changes, seek help from a provider as soon as possible.

Ask questions while going through each step of treatment. Have your provider go through your pathology report with you as it will determine your treatment plan. Find a support team. Bring someone with you to each doctor appointment. You may need a second pair of ears. Write down your questions and the answers or have someone else do that for you. Getting the information you need when you need it may help you feel stronger and more confident.

Every woman has her own thoughts and feelings about what her breasts means to her. Your treatment decisions may not be easy ones. So many unknowns and thoughts can be scary. You have choices. Believe in yourself, and you will make the right decision for you based on the information

you have right now. It will take time to adjust to changes in your body and how you feel about yourself. Be gentle and kind to yourself.

Find ways to help yourself cope and improve your mood. Create time for yourself. You may want to write your thoughts down. Write about what's happening now and what you see for your future. You may want to talk or express your feelings to a loved one, a friend or a healthcare provider.

Going to a support group or self-help group may be helpful. They are many breast cancer helplines available that may be specific to your cancer or needs. Explore these options. Music, art, cooking, crafts and outside activities such as gardening or going for a walk can also help manage and express your feelings.

Learn ways to quiet your body

and mind. Meditation, guided imagery, reiki, qigong, tai chi or yoga may be just what your body and mind may need. Your spiritual or religious practice may aid in your comfort and guidance.

Take care of your physical health. Make dietary changes if you feel it may help. Eat nutritious foods. Get enough sleep. Take a short rest during the day if possible. Exercise to improve your mood, decrease anxiety and depression, help maintain a healthy weight, strengthen bones and help you feel physically strong.

Your feelings about breast cancer are your own; how you choose to move forward is also personal. It is reasonable for breast cancer to continue to impact your emotions on occasion. How you deal with it is up to you. Find what works best for you.

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Public defender and probation department celebrate 10 years of Veterans Treatment Court

Donnie Ryan
San Diego County Communications Office

In February, the San Diego County public defender and probation department celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Veterans Treatment Court, a program that has helped more than 140 veterans and active-duty service members get specialized treatment instead of time in jail.

Established in February 2011, Veterans Treatment Court is a specialty court that considers treatment in place of incarceration when sentencing a defendant who has served in the military and shows symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, depression, anxiety disorder or other mental health conditions.

According to information provided by the San Diego Superior Court, Veterans Court participants take part in a three-phase treatment program that lasts between 15 and 60 months. Each phase consists of a set of requirements, including treatment specific to the individual's needs and a project that gives back to the community.

After a participant successfully completes the program, a judge can waive fees, commute felonies or expunge the charges.

Angela Bartosik, the chief deputy public defender for San Diego County, said that since

its inception Veterans Treatment Court has been a major asset to local veterans, many of whom have service-connected trauma and have found themselves involved in the criminal justice system.

"For the past 10 years, eligible clients have been provided much needed therapeutic treatment in lieu of lengthy incarceration," Bartosik, a retired Navy commander who served more than 20 years in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve, said. "This rigorous recovery milieu includes treatment, mentorship by veterans and accountability to the court."

Bartosik said each graduate has been provided support for post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, physical trauma and other health issues through program partnerships with the Veterans Affairs and nonprofits that specialize in care for former service members.

"This program has truly been a miracle in action, returning countless veterans to productive citizenship," Bartosik said. "We are grateful for the support of our justice partners – the district attorney, superior court and probation department – in this amazing and transformative program."

Denise Huffhines, deputy chief of San Diego County Probation Department, said she agrees that it is the collaborative effort between all the local partner agencies that makes the program so successful.



Veterans Treatment Court is a collaborative effort between the San Diego County public defender, probation department and district attorney that has been helping veterans and active-duty service members get specialized treatment instead of jail time for the past 10 years.

"In the past 10 years, Veterans Court has helped quite a few individuals in San Diego County get the help they need while still meeting the requirements of their probation period," Huffhines said. "The counseling and support these veterans receive as part of Veterans Court helps to lower crime, reduce recidivism, rebuild lives and ultimately helps them to complete their probation period as part of sentencing."

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, San Diego County

is home to the largest population of Afghanistan and Iraq War veterans in the country, and second only to Los Angeles County for total overall veteran population.

"Veterans Treatment Court is a great example of a criminal justice reform approach that holds offenders accountable but also addresses the particular challenges faced by our returning veterans, including PTSD, to help get them treatment for the underlying cause that has led them to criminal behavior so we can stop the

revolving door to prison," Summer Stephan, district attorney for San Diego, said.

Part of the month long observance included a virtual celebration Tuesday, Feb. 23, that included speakers from many of the participating agencies as well as stories from program graduates and their mentors.

More information on the San Diego Veterans Treatment Court can be found at <https://www.sdcca.org/prosecuting/veterans/veterans-court>.

Medical examiner adds new tech to 1981 cold case effort

Yvette Urrea Moe
San Diego County Communications Office

The San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office is putting current technology into a renewed effort to identify a man whose body was found nearly 40 years ago.

His remains were discovered in a burning dumpster outside a Big Bear Market in the 9900 block of Mira Mesa Boulevard, Sept. 28, 1981. Despite efforts at the time, homicide investigators did not find any information to identify him.

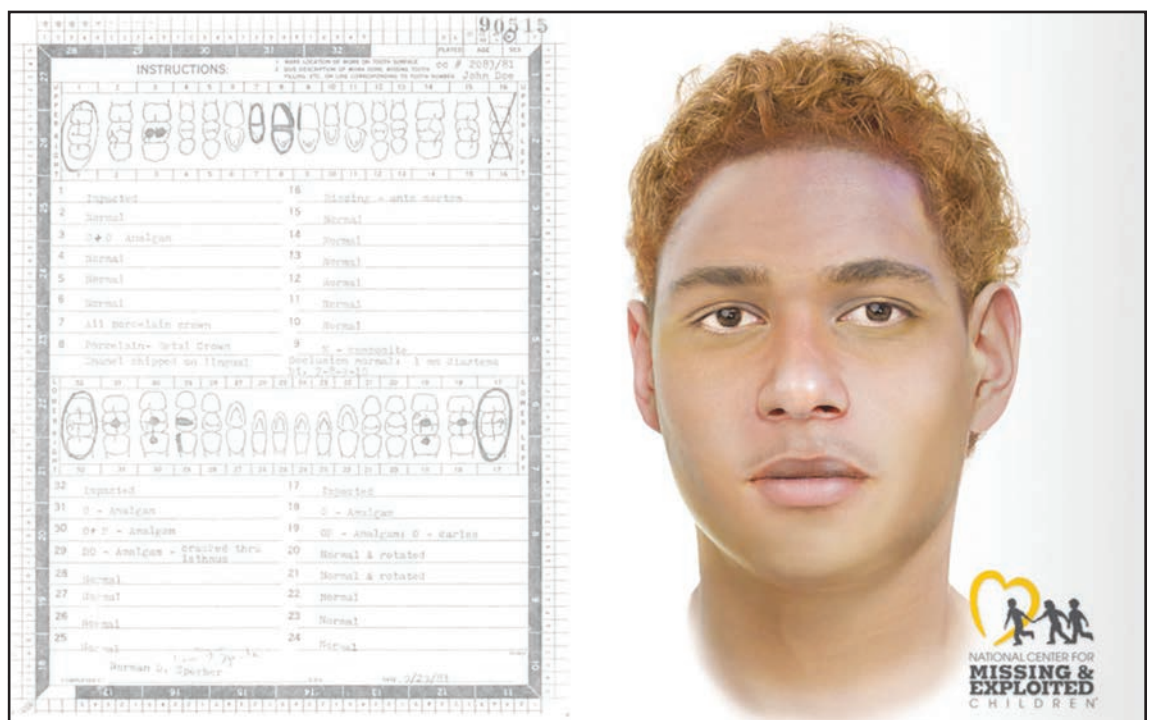
The San Diego Police Cold Case Unit is now taking another look at this case. Police investigators worked with odontologists from the county medical examiner's office, who reexamined the man's dental records taken during the initial autopsy.

At the time, his age had been determined to be in his late teens, but with newer technology, dental experts now agree he was more likely in his mid-30s, give or take five years.

In a video produced by the San Diego Police Department, Detective Lori Adams of the Cold Case Unit said this new information expands the possibilities on identifying him and notifying his family. Determining his identity is also key to determining what happened to him and solving his case.

Police are reissuing a sketch of what the man may have looked like before his death. He is of undetermined race with a medium skin tone, with wavy auburn color hair and brown eyes. He was about 33 years old, give or take five years, stood approximately 5 foot, 7 inches to 5 foot, 10 inches in height, and weighed between 125 and 135 pounds. He had dental work which is consistent with being done in the United States.

In the video, Adams said that the passage of time can sometimes help in cold cases because it can give people time to build courage to provide information that they were too afraid to offer when the crime occurred, or it provides another opportunity for



In reworking a cold case, police are reissuing a sketch of what the man may have looked like before his death.

people who were too apprehensive about getting involved in a police investigation then.

Police asked anyone who may recognize the man or have any information about the crime to call

Crime Stoppers at 888-580-8477 or SDPD Homicide at 619-531-2293.

Numbers of COVID-19 patients at local hospitals continue steep declines

Will Fritz
Staff Writer

As has been the story for weeks now, coronavirus hospitalizations are continuing an extreme decline from the heights of the brutal third wave of the pandemic as vaccines continue to roll out to more and more members of the public.

Those with COVID-19 are making up a much smaller share of patients in local hospitals these days – data released on Feb. 21 by the HHS department showed 21% of patients at Temecula Valley Hospital were coronavirus-positive in the week before the report, as well as 17% at Southwest Healthcare System (which includes Inland Valley and Rancho Springs medical centers in Wildomar and Murrieta, respectively), 25% at Loma Linda University Medical Center Murrieta and 27% at Palomar Medical Center Escondido.

At the peak of the recent pandemic wave, as many as half of all patients were coronavirus-positive at most local hospitals, and as many as two-thirds had COVID-19 at Loma Linda University Medical Center Murrieta in data released in early January.

Between the Feb. 14 and Feb.

21 hospital data dumps, seven-day average counts of coronavirus patients dropped by double digits at all local hospitals.

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): 134.3 (151.4 last week)

Total inpatient beds used (7-day average): 119.9 (132.6 last week)

Total adults hospitalized, confirmed COVID-19 positive (7-day average): 25.1 (32.7 last week)

ICU beds (7-day average): 27.3 (29.6 last week)

ICU beds used (7-day average): 26.6 (27 last week)

Southwest Healthcare System (Inland Valley and Rancho Springs medical centers)
Total beds (7-day average): 203.1 (221.7 last week)

Total inpatient beds used (7-day average): 190.7 (209.6 last week)

Total adults hospitalized, confirmed COVID-19 positive (7-day average): 32.4 (47.4 last week)

ICU beds (7-day average): 25.7 (29.9 last week)

ICU beds used (7-day average): 24.9 (28.4 last week)

Loma Linda University Medical Center Murrieta

Total beds (7-day average): 145.9 (153.6 last week)

Total inpatient beds used (7-day average): 130.9 (131.9 last week)

Total adults hospitalized, confirmed COVID-19 positive (7-day average): 32.9 (40.3 last week)

ICU beds (7-day average): 24.6 (25.4 last week)

ICU beds used (7-day average): 19.9 (17.3 last week)

Palomar Medical Center Escondido

Total beds (7-day average): 411 (410.3 last week)

Total inpatient beds used (7-day average): 307 (306.3 last week)

Total adults hospitalized, confirmed COVID-19 positive (7-day average): 80.4 (103.7 last week)

ICU beds (7-day average): 55 (54.3 last week)

ICU beds used (7-day average): 55 (54.3 last week)

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

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BUSINESS

County announces new Chief Medical Examiner

Donnie Ryan
County of San Diego
Communications Office

The County of San Diego has announced a new Chief Medical Examiner to lead an office with 57 personnel and a budget of \$12.1 million responsible for the county's medicolegal forensic death investigations.

Dr. Steven Campman, the former Chief Deputy Medical Examiner who had been filling the director position in an interim capacity for the past four months, has officially accepted the role on a permanent basis.

In his new position as director, Campman said he hopes to continue the reputation of the office as being one of the top forensic pathology facilities in the country, as well as providing education and assistance to families of the deceased in a timely and professional manner.

"I want to make sure that the department is a valuable contributor to the safety and health of the people of the county by determining the cause and manner of death for all sudden and unexpected deaths in the county – making sure that we document what conditions cause unexpected death in our population," said Campman, who has worked for San Diego County since 2001.

According to Campman, it is important that the medical examiner's office learn from that information so that the region can guide resources and policies to improve overall health and safety

in the future.

"Every single investigation is valuable, whether to the decedent's family, or to attorneys or an insurance company," said Campman. "But what we can learn from all deaths together is valuable to understanding what is going on in our community."

Campman said a lot of people don't know that San Diego County has the second largest coroner-medical examiner system in the state of California.

"It makes sense when you think about the county's population being about 1% of the whole nation's population," added Campman.

Prior to joining the county, Campman worked for the Armed Forces Medical Examiner and served more than 20 years in the U.S. Air Force and Air Force Reserve, retiring as a colonel in 2016. He has conducted more than 5,000 autopsies, served as an autopsy supervisor for more than 800 cases, testified in hundreds of court proceedings, and he has been published more than a dozen times in medical journals and forensic/pathology publications

Campman said the San Diego Medical Examiner's Office faced several challenges last year, not just with COVID-19 but also with fentanyl-related deaths and overall case volume.

"We had initial jurisdiction over about 41% of the more than 25,000 deaths registered in San Diego County in 2020 and ended up transporting about 14% of those



Dr. Steven Campman is now the permanent Chief Medical Examiner for San Diego County.

Village News/Courtesy photo

decedents back to the facility for examination to determine cause of death," said Campman. "Last year's case volume was the greatest we've ever investigated at 3,853."

In addition to COVID-19, Campman said the office helps ensure county residents are living safely by providing important data to government officials on societal issues such as the rise in fentanyl-related cases, the opioid

epidemic, methamphetamine abuse, suicides, child fatalities and homeless deaths. Campman said this data can then be used to help San Diego County government agencies implement programs to address current trends and to target the most vulnerable residents.

"The department is here for the residents of the county," said Campman. "Every member of the Medical Examiner's staff is here

because they've chosen to serve in this capacity and values the unique ways that we can help people."

Campman is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University and Creighton University School of Medicine and completed his residency at UC Davis Medical Center Dept of Pathology and his fellowship through UC Davis at the Sacramento County Coroner's Office.

Gore announces appointment of Assistant Sheriff Kelly Martinez to undersheriff

SAN DIEGO – Assistant Sheriff Kelly Martinez will be replacing Undersheriff Mike Barnett who is retiring after 29 years of service to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and people of San Diego County. Barnett was thanked for his dedication and work to keep communities safe.

Martinez joined the sheriff's

department as a deputy in 1985 and was assigned to the Las Colinas and Descanso Detention Facilities. In 1988, she was assigned to the Fallbrook sheriff's substation where she worked as a patrol deputy. She was later assigned to investigations and worked narcotics, gangs and several intelligence-related assignments.

Her strong leadership skills, hard work and self-motivation were just a few of the qualities that led to her promotion to sergeant in 2007. Over the next several years while serving in a variety of positions with increasing responsibility, Martinez was promoted to the ranks of lieutenant, captain and commander, and eventually she

became assistant sheriff in 2017.

"Kelly brings to the position exceptional work ethic and commitment to the mission of the department," Sheriff William Gore said. "I am confident her wealth of experience and passion for community outreach will keep San Diego the safest urban county in the nation."

Submitted by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

Kelly Martinez is the new San Diego County Undersheriff.

Village News/Courtesy photo



FPUD Board approves payment to LAFCO for costs related to analyzing detachment proposal

Fallbrook ratepayers would save \$2-3 million a year if detachment goes through

FALLBROOK –The Fallbrook Public Utility District board of directors has approved a payment to the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission for processing and studying its proposal to leave the San Diego County Water Authority, which district leaders say will save Fallbrook ratepayers millions of dollars a year in water costs.

"LAFCO requires applicants to pay for all costs associated with reviewing and analyzing their proposal," said FPUD general manager Jack Bebee. "For us, this upfront expense is relatively minimal compared to the money our customers will save if we leave the Water Authority and begin purchasing our water from the Eastern Municipal Water District."

The \$50,000 payment to LAFCO, which was approved by the FPUD board on Feb. 22, will be used to pay consultant Michael Hanemann, who was retained by LAFCO to analyze the proposal and determine what impacts detachment might have on FPUD and other water districts in

the region. Hanemann is expected to present his preliminary findings in June.

Last year, FPUD paid LAFCO nearly \$85,000 to cover initial staff costs that were incurred to process and review the proposal.

FPUD's decision to pursue switching water wholesalers was prompted by rising water costs from the Water Authority over the past decade and the fact that FPUD doesn't need the Water Authority's pipelines and other facilities. By instead purchasing its water from the Eastern Municipal Water District, which is in southern Riverside County, FPUD expects to save Fallbrook ratepayers \$2-3 million a year.

Last March, FPUD submitted its formal application to LAFCO, which is comprised of local elected and appointed officials. LAFCO is responsible for overseeing the establishment and boundary changes of cities and special districts, including water districts.

According to a study released last fall, FPUD and Rainbow Municipal Water District – which

is also seeking to leave the Water Authority – have collectively paid \$49.5 million more to the Water Authority over the past 10 years when compared to the benefits the districts have received from the Water Authority.

The same study also concluded that if the detachment applications are approved, the financial impacts to customers in the remaining 22 districts served by the Water Authority would be minimal – an estimated increase of only about 50¢ per month, per meter.

In addition to paying less for their water, FPUD and Rainbow maintain that Eastern's water supply is just as reliable as the supply currently provided by the Water Authority.

The LAFCO board is expected to consider the districts' applications later this year or in early 2022. If approved, the matter would be brought before voters in Fallbrook and Rainbow for their consideration.

Submitted by Fallbrook Public Utility District.

FPUD approves directors' per diem increase

Joe Naiman
Village News Reporter

Board members of the Fallbrook Public Utility District will receive an increase in the per diem they are paid for attending board or other meetings on behalf of FPUD.

The board voted 5-0, Monday, Feb. 22, to approve a per diem increase from \$110.25 to \$115.76.

"We get a tiny raise," Jennifer DeMeo, board president of FPUD, said.

FPUD's administrative code stipulated that per diem pay is to be reviewed annually, and any increase is limited to 5%.

"This is an item that the board

considers every year," Paula de Sousa Mills, legal counsel for FPUD, said.

The initial review took place Jan. 25. District staff provided per diem amounts for other water districts, and the only per diem lower the FPUD's is the Valley Center Municipal Water District, whose board members receive \$100 for each meeting. A recommended increase requires a public hearing to be set, and a 4-0 vote on Jan. 25 with DeMeo recovering from surgery set the Feb. 22 hearing for the 5% increase.

The increase will not take effect until at least 60 days after the meeting.

"It would be effective April 26, 2021," Mills said.

The 60-day period allows for registered voters in the district to collect signatures for a referendum.

"If they follow certain procedures, they can undo it," Mills said.

FPUD received no public comments about the rate increase either by U.S. mail or by electronic mail between Jan. 25 and Feb. 22, and no members of the public commented during the Feb. 22 virtual meeting.

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

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Sit back and relax with a luxury picnic in Temecula Valley

Lexington Howe
Staff Writer

Phillip White, 21, started his new business, which delivers a personalized luxury picnic including environment and food, during the coronavirus pandemic.

“My parents are both entrepreneurs, so that kind of is what sparked the whole thought process, just figuring out some kind of business I could do for myself,” White said. “Watching them do their thing, it kind of just made me realize I want to be self-employed as well, so I was trying to think of something that would be beneficial to the community but still would be something easy I could do on my own.”

White came across the original picnic idea through Tik Tok.

“I had looked around for all the material and just got a good understanding of what I wanted to do as far as the picnics go, just the different themes and the looks, and then from there just thinking about how it would make people feel,” White said. “Me personally, I’m very emotional, so I was trying to think of something that would make people feel good during these hard times and during COVID.”

The business officially opened Feb. 1.

“All of my picnics that I do are unique to the individual’s wants or what they’re trying to accomplish as far as the feeling they’re trying to get to whoever they’re doing it for,” White said.

The reasons can range from birthdays, anniversaries or dates, just to name a few.

“Pretty much just any type of event where you’re trying to make somebody feel special but you don’t want to do the basic take you on a date, take you to a restaurant, type thing,” White said.

Besides their recent Valentine’s Day theme, there are currently two other themes to choose from: boho and Moroccan.

“I have an all-white carpet that I lay down for them, I went to L.A. to go find it (for the boho option),” White said. “The Moroccan one, that one was a little harder because all the pieces are authentic Moroccan: dishware and tapestry and carpets, so I had to get them all flown in from actual Morocco to get those – the tea set, the red carpet, the pillow cases.”

For the Moroccan style, White said that that choice is the high-end option.

“We have all gold tea ware because the Morocco one is like a tea party, and the boho is probably your more standard



Luxury Picnic of Temecula Valley offers a boho-style picnic theme.

Village News/Courtesy photos

pick,” he said.

White said the picnics can be set up at any location of the individual’s choice, as long as it is within 30 miles of Temecula Valley.

“We do beaches; (or, if they want to have it) at their house,” White said. “We do wineries too. We’re trying to work right now to get partnerships with some of the wineries, but because of COVID a lot of their outdoor areas are closed, but eventually we’re going to have some picnics at the wineries as well.”

They also recommended the Temecula Duck Pond and Harveston Lake as possible location ideas.

White said everything is sanitized and cleaned 24 hours beforehand.

“Just paying attention to the specks on the glass, making sure that we have extra wipes on standby for our clients in case they just want to extra wipe it down, we Saran Wrap all the things people touch, so the plates, the forks, the cups, any type of glassware, and we ask them if they want to unwrap it or we’ll do it for them,” White said.

There’s no prep work on the guest’s end, he said. They get to show up and enjoy the picnic.

“Once I get the order in for whichever picnic they choose, I

do the whole prep work for it so I’m setting up the plates, making sure I have all the napkins folded, and then I load them into my car an hour, hour and a half before just depending on how far away it is. I’ll go there, and I’ll set up the whole picnic,” White said. “I make sure they know that everything was sanitized and cleaned and disinfected, so they can feel comfortable about being there. Then after the hour and a half is over, I’ll go back and then I’ll just, everything that they touch that’s not glass that I can’t wash, I clean up everything and then they can go after.”

For anyone who’s looking to get out of the house and do something special, White recommended a picnic.

“(It’s a) good way to get the family out of the house and just help people create still happy, memorable experiences even though there’s not a lot of stuff going on right now,” White said.

For more information on packages, pricing and add-ons regarding Luxury Picnic of Temecula Valley, visit <https://www.luxurypicnictv.com/> or visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LuxuryPicnicTV>.

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



Each picnic comes with a complementary charcuterie board and beverage, with add-ons available.



Luxury Picnic of Temecula Valley offers a Moroccan-style picnic theme.



Phillip White, 21, is the owner of Luxury Picnic of Temecula Valley.

HOME & GARDEN AND REAL ESTATE

Innovations in irrigation help homeowners to reduce water usage

Debbie Ramsey
Special to Village News

Under a past 'Drought Alert,' San Diego County residents had to adhere to usage restrictions associated with that status by irrigating their landscape before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m., eliminating water waste from inefficient irrigation from runoff or overspray, not washing down paved surfaces and more.

Those regulations had most home and business owners taking a hard look at their watering habits.

Kyle Hawkins, commercial/wholesale sales manager for Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply, said the least expensive thing residents can do to reduce their water usage on their landscape is to "check (do an audit of) their existing irrigation system.

Make sure the irrigation clock is programmed for the current season; check for leaky valves, irrigation lines and sprinklers; adjust irrigation heads; check for clogged heads; prune back plant material blocking sprinklers and check the pressure in the existing irrigation system."

"In general, most people overwater because they never change their irrigation controller run times from summer to winter," Hawkins said.

Remembering to change an irrigation controller's schedule is easy to forget with the busy lives many people lead, hence the movement to a "smarter" product that knows how to do that by itself and doesn't trouble the consumer with conventional timers and clocks.

One of those smart products



A Hunter MP Rotator sprinkler waters a lawn in Bonsall.

Village News/Paul Gallaher photos



Even after 10 minutes of run time, Hunter MP Rotator sprinklers cause little to no runoff from a lawn in Bonsall.



Bob Butler of Butler Landscape demonstrates how to adjust a Hunter MP Rotator sprinkler at a home in Bonsall.

is the SmartLine controller, manufactured by Weathermatic. With state-of-the-art water management technology, the SmartLine controller takes key weather data and combines it with basic site and sprinkler system information. Excessive watering becomes a thing of the past.

"It eliminates human error," Hawkins said.

An irrigation control system like SmartLine takes the guesswork out of programming an irrigation clock.

It uses factors including temperature, rain, humidity, type of sprinkler, type of soil, plant type and geographical region to come up with a formula each day to adjust the clock's run times.

Combine that with the latest in sprinkler technology – for example, the Hunter MP Rotator. The new rotators are a far cry from old spray heads when it comes to effective watering.

Spray heads can be likened to an old-fashioned showerhead; a portion of the water hits the target, and a significant amount

goes to waste. Rotators provide a rotating system with multiple streams of water that achieves better absorbency. By adjusting the radius of the spray, wastewater is practically eliminated.

With 25 years of experience in the landscape industry, Bob Butler, owner of Butler Landscape in Fallbrook, said he is impressed with the efficiency of the rotators. "You can adjust the radius and the angle of throw and because of the single streams... (the water) doesn't drift," Butler said. "These products use about half the water as a spray head."

"The biggest difference between the (old) spray heads and the innovative rotators is the precipitation rate (how much water is distributed in an hour period), similar to a rainfall measurement," Hawkins said. "Traditional spray heads put out 2 inches per hour, which is nearly impossible for our soil to absorb. The rotators put out 0.40 inches an hour, thus allowing the water to soak in and not run off."

Essentially, soft streams of water

directed to turf or plant material only, with no excessive overspray, will save money while doing an exceptional job of watering the premises.

"Rotators cover a good-sized area," Butler said. "They are also perfect for watering newly seeded areas because they put down water in a nice, soft way."

Butler said many of his regular customers have already converted their irrigation systems to the new style.

"I've been doing a lot of revamps lately," he said. "In the old days, people just slammed in systems without a lot of thought and that was that."

For those having a difficult time trying to keep their head above water in the current economy, making the transition to "smarter" irrigation doesn't mean it has to all happen at once. It can be done a little at a time to ease the burden on the pocketbook.

"People can (improve their irrigation system) in stages," Hawkins said. "The first thing to do is an irrigation audit. Second, check the water pressures and adjust it to manufacturer's specifications. Third, install 'smart' controllers. Last, install rotary nozzles and convert areas to drip irrigation."

Because controllers like SmartLine are expandable, a consumer can begin by setting up one area of the yard and then adding other areas to the system in stages as it fits their budget.

And the final cost won't necessarily be what the customer sees on the price stickers in the store. There are plenty of rebates out there to take advantage of.

"All a person has to do is go onto <http://www.granjetto.com>, and we have all the links to rebates for homeowners and commercial applications," Hawkins said.

To speak with an expert regarding the irrigation products discussed in this article, visit Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply at 530 E. Alvarado Street in Fallbrook or call 760-728-6127.

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Food and water produce the best rose blooms

Frank Brines
Master Consulting Rosarian

Location, location, location! Depending on your location – or more specifically, that of your garden – you may have experienced frost damage to your roses and tender young plants recently. Even gardens in the same general vicinity may have different effects due to their prevailing micro-climates.

Lately the temperatures have risen in the Temecula Valley which encourages roses to jump into life. They enjoy this weather. A regular schedule for irrigating should already have begun. Roses do love food and water for the best blooms.

If your roses experienced fungal diseases last year and you haven't yet done so, you might think of applying a lime sulfur dormant spray soon. You can mix horticultural oil with the dormant spray for better adherence. Some gardeners have recently experienced rust on roses yet to be pruned or on the tender new growth as well. As a note of future caution, be prepared for chilli thrips as temperatures warms up.

Steps to take when ready to spray: first, make sure the garden is free of left-over debris and to dispose of it in the green garden waste bin – do not compost rose debris in your yard. Second, remove all old leaves that may be left on the bush. This cleanliness will help keep down disease.

Third, read the dormant spray label completely to ensure the proper strength of the mixture for "growing season instructions" as the new growth has begun. Fourth, saturate all canes and the soil surface of the entire bed.

Fifth, maintain a minimum of 2" to 4" of organic composted mulch over the entire garden surface to insulate the upper 8" to 12" of the soil zone where most rose roots feed, and to reduce evaporation

and conserve water, while still providing sufficient moisture. This will also supply nutrients to build the soil for your roses over the season.

If you have space available and haven't yet purchased new roses, you can still do so and might find some great offers. Over the past several years, there has been a drop in the number of new varieties introduced into the market and commercial rose production has dropped, so there is less of a selection at fewer outlets.

Some nurseries are still shipping to this area. Plants already in pots are the best to buy as they will be far easier to transplant and will establish themselves quicker. Look for those with 3-5 major canes.

Take time now to inspect and make any necessary repairs to your irrigation system. Drip systems are the most efficient and they avoid problems created by above-ground sprayers and sprinklers, which waste water and can foster molds (e.g., mildew and rust).

If possible, avoid any over-spray or misting applied elsewhere in your garden that may hit your roses; but if you do use overhead watering systems, avoid doing so when there is any wind to avoid moisture evaporating or collecting on leaves which could result in sun burn or add to conditions favorable for fungal diseases.

For best results and efficiency, be sure to time the irrigation so it is complete before the day gets hot (preferably by mid-morning, that is, 8 to 9 a.m.). Avoiding afternoon or evening watering prevents excess ground moisture into night time. Too wet soil can lead to unhappy roots and/or fungal diseases.

Now would be the time to sprinkle 1/2 cup to 1 cup of Epsom salts widely around each rose bush (use half as much for minis and mini-floras). There is some indication that this helps stimulate



Watering and fertilizing rose bushes produces better blooms.

Village News/Shane Gibson photo

new cane growths known as "basal breaks" at the "bud union" (the big part next to the ground where grafting was done).

You can begin fertilizing when new growth is 2" to 3" long. I suggest an initial feeding each year be higher in nitrogen (N) to encourage new stem and leaf growth. In about two weeks, apply fertilizer that is higher in phosphate (P) and potassium (K) to give roots a boost at start of season.

New information suggests that continued use of fertilizer higher in P and K will foster greater root development and lead to better growth, resistance and healthier plants. Look for fertilizers rated as 8-10-8 that include micro elements for greater results.

I highly recommend organic type fertilizers vs. inorganic or "chemical" ones. Organics foster better soil development, a richer,

livelier, more viable community of soil organisms that break the elements into easily absorbed form and release them slowly. They will "build" soil structure into a healthy component and when used regularly will develop a soil rich in reserve energy, allowing you to use less product with the same results.

There are no rose events planned for this year. The San Diego Fair has not yet released any plans for opening this year. Go to www.sdfair.com for information.

If you have completed your pruning it is likely all your pruners need sharpened. Sharp pruners make for clean cuts and the prevention of diseases or otherwise damaged weak canes. The best files to use are thin flat types with diamond grit material. This type allows easier sharpening for the tight spaces between the cutting blade and bar.

Attempt to follow the current/original bevel/angle of the sharp blade. Felco states that the angle for their pruners is 23 degrees. Keeping pruners clean can be done using WD40 soak, if heavy plant "juice" is a problem a small brass bristle brush will help remove it. Lubricate the mechanism with a light oil like 3-in-One.

Be sure to visit the Rose Haven Heritage Garden located at 30500 Jediah Smith Road (the cross street is Cabrillo Avenue) in Temecula, a 3.4-acre rose garden owned and maintained by the Temecula Valley Rose Society, a (501c3) organization, supported with donations from kind people like you. (Look for the donation box when you visit!)

Also, visit the web site at www.TemeculaValleyRoseSociety.org regularly for great information and schedule of events!

County ready to distribute over \$100 million in rental assistance

José A. Álvarez
San Diego County Communications Office

Starting March 2, renters throughout the San Diego region could apply for additional rental and utility assistance grants.

San Diego County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program will help lessen housing cost burdens and maintain housing stability for low-income renters who have experienced COVID-19-related loss of income.

The program, funded by over \$100 million in state and federal monies, will primarily aid eligible people who are behind on rent and/or utility payments, covering the period from April 2020 to March 2021.

Utilities include costs such as electricity, gas, water and sewer, trash and other energy costs not included in the rent. The amount of

rental arrears covered will depend on whether the landlord agrees to participate in the program. Landlords owed back rent can also apply on behalf of their tenants.

To be eligible, households must be renting and have experienced a financial hardship directly or indirectly related to COVID-19 or have qualified for unemployment during the pandemic. Eligible hardships include a reduction in household income, incurring significant costs or experiencing other financial hardship.

Households must also earn no more than 80% area median income to qualify; a single-person household can earn up to \$64,700 and a four-person household can earn up to \$92,400 and must be either at risk of homelessness or facing housing instability.

The county will review applications based on federal, state and county prioritization

categories. Those who apply will be able to check their application status online at any point in the process.

First priority will be given to applicants whose household income is at or below 50% of area median income and households that have one or more members who have been unemployed at least 90 days from the date of application. Applications will be further prioritized to reach single-parent households and residents who live in areas that have less access to healthy opportunities based on the Healthy Places Index.

The county's Emergency Rental Assistance Program will assist San Diego residents countywide, except for those residing in the cities of San Diego and Chula Vista. Residents of San Diego and Chula Vista can visit <http://www.ERAPSanDiego.org> for information about rental assistance

programs in those cities.

For the county program, applicants also must not receive any other forms of housing subsidy, such as through Section 8, other rental assistance programs, rapid rehousing assistance or rental assistance from nonprofit agencies.

Emergency rental assistance is crucial to keeping people stably housed as the pandemic continues

and as eviction moratoriums begin to expire.

For more information, including how to apply for the County's program and detailed eligibility criteria, visit <http://www.SDHCD.org>. If you don't have internet or access to a computer, you can get help completing an application on or after March 2, by calling 858-694-4801. A county representative will be able to assist you.

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Realtor and lawyer Portner serves Fallbrook residents

Christal Gaines-Emory
Intern

Henry Portner has been practicing law for 49 years and, after being in the field for so long, he was inspired to follow a new career path in real estate. He has been a Realtor in other states for seven years, but last year he earned his California Realtor license. He is now working at Coldwell Banker Village Properties in Fallbrook.

Portner was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, earning his degrees from Temple University. Three years ago, he decided to move to Fallbrook to further pursue his new career in real estate.

After moving to Fallbrook, Portner realized how different the town is from other places he has lived.

“Fallbrook is very unique

compared to the other places I’ve seen,” Portner said. “The people here are genuine and sincere, I’ve had positive experiences with everyone I’ve met. Plumbers, electricians, everyone in Fallbrook is down-to-Earth and kind.”

He has also found that Fallbrook is a great place to live because of its sheer beauty.

“The rolling hills and avocado groves remind me of Italy,” he said. “The beauty here takes me back to my time in Tuscany.”

Portner said he has enjoyed adjusting to the differences in California real estate, and he loves having the ability to help people.

His experience in law has given him an advantage because he has a strong background and an understanding of real estate laws and regulations.

“I have witnessed firsthand the types of problems that can arise

in real estate, and this allows me to solve the problems before they become serious,” he said. “I enjoy keeping my clients safe and problem free.”

Portner has worked on many different types of legal cases, some lasting up to 12 years, and this past career has helped him in his real estate career. For example, he has a vast amount of experience in litigation, environmental cases, land acquisition, and this knowledge helps him in succeeding in his current career.

Portner’s favorite part of working in real estate is having the ability to help people buy and sell their homes as easily as possible.

“Having the right people supporting you is imperative when you’re buying or selling homes,” he said. “I want to help my clients through the entire process and be that support system for them.”

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Portner earned his real estate license in California, and he is looking forward to becoming more active in real estate once the pandemic ends.

“Hopefully things will change soon,” he said. “This is my passion. There are so many pieces to put



Realtor Henry Portner is looking forward to helping more Fallbrook residents buy and sell homes.

together, and I want to help my clients complete this process as smoothly as possible.”

For more information and

business inquiries, contact Henry Portner at 760-663-0000 or email portnerrealtor@gmail.com.

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Top at home-repair blunders to avoid

FALLBROOK – Home improvement projects should be exciting as they progress, with a positive outcome upon completion. However, some home repairs end up turning into an unorganized mess or a homeowner being taken advantage of by an unscrupulous worker.

By avoiding some common mistakes and taking common-sense precautions, you can end up with renovations that ‘wow.’

Do not accept the lowest bid just because it is the cheapest on paper

Smart homeowners shop around for everything – including work done on their home. But accepting the lowest bid right off the bat to save money may cost you more in the long run.

A low bid certainly may be a great deal. But it could be a sign of an inexperienced contractor, or one who plans to use sub-par materials or skimp on the job. Contractors that provide good quality work generally have similar prices. Shop based on experience and recommendations, not price alone.

Check a contractor’s license

It is paramount to retain a building contractor that is licensed in the state you wish the work to be done. This provides certain safeguards and recourse to the customer.

In the State of California, a contractor’s license can be verified by visiting the California Contractors State License Board Web site at www.cslb.ca.gov. The site also offers numerous tips for consumers embarking on a project.

Be cautious about choosing friends or family members to do the work

There certainly are skilled professionals that also may be a close friend or family member. But mixing business and pleasure could be a recipe for trouble, especially when workmanship and an exchange of money are involved.

“We had a friend replace our home’s furnace,” said one woman. “While we got a great price, we found out later on when there was a glitch in the system that certain

things weren’t done up to code. We had to spend more money to have it repaired, and the friendship has since suffered.”

Some relatives are adamant about doing repairs for family members – but they may not be skilled or know the correct laws governing remodeling. Stick with a third party contractor with whom you’ll feel comfortable talking to if you feel repairs need to be done a certain way.

Don’t bite off more than you can chew

Think you can handle the remodel yourself? Many do-it-yourselfers (generally in an attempt to save money) believe they can learn every necessary task from a book or magazine.

There are some jobs, however, that should be left to the professionals, including major plumbing work or electrical repairs. There’s no need to risk a fire, injury or death by doing electrical modifications if you are not an expert.

Letting maintenance slide

Many homeowners think once the repair is made that they’re all set – failing to keep up with routine maintenance. But complications can arise by not maintaining a new appliance or keeping up with an improvement.

“Our homeowner’s association required proof that the dryer venting for our clothes dryer was replaced on an annual basis,” said one homeowner. “I’d simply go out and buy a new box of the venting material and submit the receipt as ‘proof’ so I could save the money on a professional installation. But one day the lint trapped in the venting, which I hadn’t bothered to change, caught on fire. It not only damaged the venting, it damaged the entire dryer – resulting in the purchase of a new dryer. Luckily no one was hurt. I’ve since learned my lesson.”

Following every trend

Anyone who has a harvest gold or avocado green appliance collecting dust in the garage or basement knows how interior style choices come and go. Instead of jumping on every trend (granite countertops and stainless steel refrigerator, for example), think about what will work for your home and be timeless. Otherwise you may end up having to update every few years.

The hazard of asking questions later

Make a list of every question you can think of and ask it before the work gets started. This way you’re left with few surprises and can do changes without costing yourself time and money. Don’t wait for the finished product before you start to question the “how’s” and “why’s.”

Expect some challenges/changes If you go into a project with the idea that there will be no challenges, even minor ones, you may end up stressed out when one arises. Everyone makes mistakes – even professionals. If you think something is not being done correctly, speak up or get a second opinion.



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How to fireproof your California home

SAN DIEGO – Fire has always been a natural occurrence in California. The hills and canyons burned periodically long before people built their homes. Many homes have been built and landscaped without fully understanding what a fire can do, and few families are adequately prepared for a quick evacuation. San Diego fire officials said that most homes that burn during a wildfire aren't ignited by dry brush, but instead by embers landing on the roof, through vents or on decks and porches. Simple fixes from roof to foundation to make your home safer from embers and radiant heat.

Defensible space works.

If you live next to a naturally vegetated area, the Wildland Urban Interface, you should provide firefighters with the defensible space they need to protect your home. Create a buffer zone by removing weeds, brush and other vegetation. It helps keep the fire away from your home and reduces the risk from flying embers.

A home within 1 mile of a natural area is in the Ember Zone, where wind-driven embers can be a risk to your property. You and your home must be prepared well before a fire occurs. Ember fires can destroy homes or neighborhoods far from the actual front of the wildfire.

Make your home fire-resistant.

The roof can be the most vulnerable because of the large surface area. Roofs made of metal or asphalt are generally safe, as the most dangerous roof type is one made of wood shingles. In California, it is common to have Spanish tile roofs, but this type of roofing is prone to cracks

and openings that allow embers to sneak into and start another flame. Check with a local building inspector to see if yours is up-to-date. Always keep your gutters clean, too – dead leaves are tinder waiting to ignite.

Embers can gather under open eaves and ignite combustible material. Enclose your eaves to prevent ember intrusion and regularly clear away debris that collect in the eaves.

Embers can enter the attic or other concealed spaces and ignite combustible materials. Vents in eaves and cornices are particularly vulnerable, as are any unscreened vents. Use corrosion resistant metal mesh to screen all vents and check them regularly to remove any debris that collects in front of the screen.

Wood products, such as boards, panels or shingles, and common siding materials are combustible and not good choices for fire-prone areas. Combustible siding or other combustible/overlapping materials provide surfaces or crevices for embers to nestle and ignite. Build or remodel with noncombustible or ignition-resistant materials whenever possible. Regularly clear away debris from any crevices and perform annual upkeep.

Embers can enter gaps in doors, including garage doors. Install weather proofing around your garage door, and if your garage is attached to your home make sure the interior door is solid and on self-closing hinges.

Plants or combustible storage near windows can be ignited from embers and generate heat that can break windows and/or melt combustible frames. Wherever possible, use dual-paned windows with tempered glass, as they are



less likely to shatter from radiant heat. Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows.

Wooden decks and furniture are especially vulnerable. Build a deck with ignition-resistant materials. They last longer and take less maintenance than wooden ones.

Do not store combustible items underneath them. If there is a fire threat, bring any furniture into your home. Embers can collect in or on combustible surfaces, or beneath decks and balconies, igniting the material and entering the home through walls or windows.

To harden your home even further, consider protecting your homes with a residential fire

sprinkler system. In addition to extinguishing a fire started by an ember that enters your home, it also can help protect you and your family year-round from any home fire.

Clear the vegetation.

Combustible materials should be kept at least 5 feet away from walls, paying special attention to mulch which can catch fire and grow. Cut any tree branches within 10 feet of your roof.

Construction materials and the quality of the defensible space surrounding the structure are what increases the chance of survival in a fire. Embers from a wildfire will find the weak spot in your home's fire protection

scheme and can easily catch because of a small, overlooked or seemingly inconsequential factor. Follow these measures so you can safeguard your home, and despite all your efforts, don't forget to confirm that your insurance is paid and updated with your latest information.

This article first appeared on Broadpoint Properties' website, <https://servingsandiegocounty.com>. Source: San Diego Fire-Rescue Department.

Submitted by Elisabeth Hartig Lentulo, broker associate, who can be reached at 760-532-1057, elisabeth@ehlentulo.com or <http://www.ehjentulo.com>. CalBRE #01904564.



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Founder/REALTOR

DRE #01054284
*MLS data thru December 2019.
**MLS data 2018 and 2019.

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CURRENTLY AVAILABLE



17 Gateview, Fallbrook **\$2,195,000**



3576 Diego Estates Dr, Fallbrook **\$1,495,000**



4333 Vista Del Pacifico, Fallbrook **\$1,299,000**



2492 Via La Orilla, Fallbrook **\$1,350,000**



2506 Dos Lomas, Fallbrook **\$1,300,000**



1056 Vista Valle Camino, Fallbrook **\$999,900**



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



3690 Lupine Lane, Fallbrook **\$899,900**



4613 Sleeping Indian, Fallbrook **\$850,000**



1215 Lorenzo Drive, Fallbrook **\$849,900**



3268 Sumac, Fallbrook **\$850,000**



352 Charles Swisher Ct, Fallbrook **\$750,000**

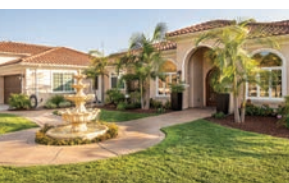
RECENTLY SOLD



30926 Villa Toscana, Bonsall **\$1,568,000**



30345 Via Maria Elena, Bonsall **\$1,450,000**



2224 Dos Lomas, Fallbrook **\$1,395,000**



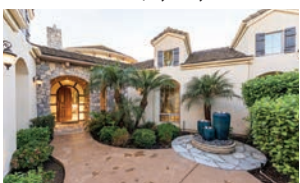
3255 Brooke Hallow Rd, Fallbrook **\$1,395,000**



1947 Bluebell Ln, Fallbrook **\$1,385,000**



3945 Pala Mesa Dr, Fallbrook **\$1,350,000**



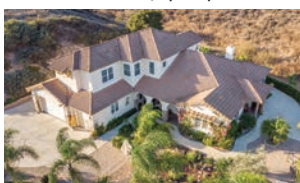
3999 Burma Court, Fallbrook **\$1,150,000**



5237 Circa De Loma, Fallbrook **\$1,120,000**



3730 Wildflower Lane, Fallbrook **\$1,100,000**



317 Highland Oaks Ln, Fallbrook **\$999,900**



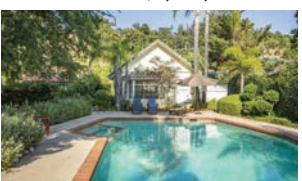
2168 Summerbloom Ln, Fallbrook **\$990,000**



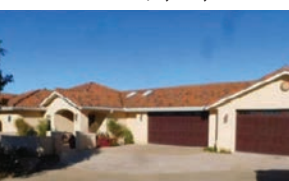
1605 Via Chapparel, Fallbrook **\$962,500**



215 Del Valle, Fallbrook **\$950,000**



2915 Lakemont, Fallbrook **\$930,000**



3360 Sol Vista, Fallbrook **\$860,000**



266 Rancho Camino, Fallbrook **\$850,000**



3846 Foxglove Ln, Fallbrook **\$842,500**



1053 Charlyn Ln, Fallbrook **\$820,000**



1258 Palomares, Fallbrook **\$775,000**



5299 Olive Hill, Fallbrook **\$771,940**



370 Spanish Spur, Fallbrook **\$725,000**



3573 Northcliff, Fallbrook **\$715,000**



35671 Garrano Lane, Fallbrook **\$686,500**



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

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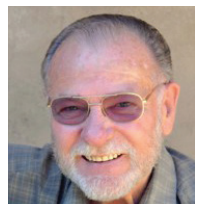
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268 Via Cassandra, Fallbrook \$545,000



1831 Tecalote, Fallbrook \$1,050,000



4747 Oak Crest Rd. #1, Fallbrook \$299,900



3838 Luneta Lane, Fallbrook \$750,000



731 Oak Glade, Fallbrook \$826,000-\$836,000



1180 N. Crescent Ridge, Fallbrook \$525,000

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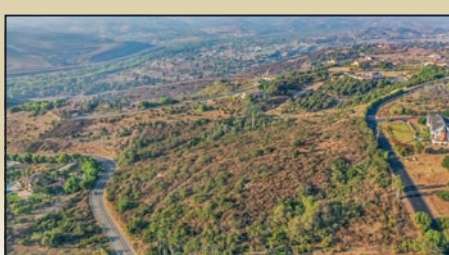
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