Is San Diego ready for transition to EVs?

By DAVE SCHWAB
College Times Courier

With the passage of recent state legislation phasing out the sale of all gasoline-powered vehicles by 2035 in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a clear message has been sent encouraging the state’s drivers to switch to electric cars. But is San Diego ready for such a transition?

Gov. Gavin Newsom recently signed an executive order that it’s time to join, support the CACC

Many communities in San Diego have formed community or town councils that typically serve as the unified voice of their area. Many of these represent areas larger than individual community groups or developments. Their focus tends to be community improvement and giving focus to issues of common concern.

Such is the case in the College Area, where the College Area Community Council territory includes several organized community neighborhoods and groups such as El Cerrito, College View Estates and Mesa Colony. Though not official or government-recognized organizations, they serve as a conduit for and to the city for information on issues of concern.

The City of San Diego does have quasi-governmental planning groups that advise the city on planning and land-use issues. Typically, there are more than one community or town councils within the boundaries of most city-designated planning areas. The College Area community is one of only two planning areas in the city of San Diego where the geographic territory of the planning board is the same as that of the area’s community council, the other being Tierrasanta. Given that, the board of the College Area Community Council (CACC) is also the College Area Community Planning Board (CACPB) which means that...
a biking and pedestrian friendly network of neighborhoods,” said CABD Executive Director Jim Schneider. “While the CACC is going through the Community Plan Update, the College Area Business District is working on a campaign to attract new, viable business and development investment to the commercial corridor. This campaign is called, ‘Locate Here’ and is part of our Vision of the Future concept.”

There are many potential projects to improve driving and biking possibilities, including places of grassy areas, visual interest, places to rest, adding trees and building a bridge overlook at 4800 block of College Ave. In some places, a lane of traffic and parking will be removed to slow traffic, add a bike lane and widen the sidewalk. Although these projects, the business district hopes to attract new investment into the area, including small shops in mixed-use developments people can visit on the way to existing businesses. In addition, the business district wants to create safety for pedestrians. One of the first steps will ask the City of San Diego to convert three streets into Slow Streets to add space for outdoor space. The three streets suggested for the expedited process are Art Street, Catoctin Street and 63rd Street between Montezuma Road and El Cajon Boulevard. The safe streets projects will take longer as they require construction.

The council and planning group had a positive reaction to the plan, according to board president Jose Reynoso. He said it aligned with the goals of the College Area Community Plan Update the group has been working on for the past year. The switch from an emphasis on vehicular traffic to multi-modal transportation is also good for the environment as well as meeting Vision Zero, which aims to eliminate traffic deaths.

HOMELESS PATROL

Another part of the Locate Here plan’s push for safety is dealing with crime and homelessness. At the request of the business owners and commercial property owners along El Cajon Boulevard, the College Area Business District (CABD) piloted a program in October to reduce visibility of homeless persons and other potentially criminal behavior along the commercial corridor

ACTIVATION PROJECTS

- Bridge Overlook – 4900 block of College Avenue – Bridge that can accommodate some sort of activation. One idea is to build an overlook as a pedestrian rest stop.
- Incorporating Residential Mixed Use (RMX) zoning along the 4700 Block of College Avenue to include unique shops operated by owner operators creating live-work spaces for entrepreneurs. This can be done simply using the existing housing stock or incorporated into any new development as well.
- Transportation modification along College Avenue between SDSU & El Cajon Boulevard: Widen the existing narrow sidewalks and include bicycle lanes along College Avenue between SDSU and El Cajon Boulevard. Reduce vehicle traffic lanes to 1 lane each way and eliminate parking along College Avenue.
- Remove existing traffic control lights at Arora and install a roundabout.

CA Happenings

beyond land-use and planning issues, the board also addresses more quality-of-life and related issues than the typical planning group. While our board addresses issues of concern to the greater College Area, we make sure that all communities have a voice. This is reflected in the make-up of the board, with members from all or most of the neighborhoods and constituencies in the College Area.

Over the years we have advocated for and accomplished many visible projects, from median enhancements on our streets, public safety improvements such as street lights, signal lights, side-walks, and work with SDPD, SDSU and SDSUPD to address issues such as homelessness, disorderly parties and code violations. In addition, we have successfully lobbied to get to the front of the line for a new community plan update by undertaking the compilation of much of the data necessary to begin the update process, and presenting it to the city.

The last update for our community was done in 1989. The plan update is now in progress. There are numerous projects that we have undertaken and envision to our community better and safer for everyone. The primary goal of the organizations is to implement positive change.

At this time of year we hold our annual membership and fundraising drive. There are plenty of projects we would like to accomplish, and we need volunteers and funds to support the work involved. If you are not members, join. If you can support the work financially, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution of $25, $50 or $100 to support and expand our activities. You can do so online at collegear ea.org.

If you are already a member, you will probably receive a renewal in the mail so that you can make your donation to support the efforts of your neighbors to make our community the best it can be. SDSU students are all encouraged to get involved in our community and we encourage you to become a member of the College Area Community Council.

—Jose Reynoso is president of the College Area Community Council.

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San Diegans really worked together to make this year’s Stuffed Animal Drive a huge success.

On Saturday morning, Oct. 24, hundreds of cars drove through 11 locations around the county donating thousands of new stuffed animals that will provide comfort to sick children and their siblings during their stay at the Ronald McDonald House.

Pastor John Quinata of Our Father’s Grace Ministries has organized this event for the past five years. This year, 51 congregations of different faiths and numerous businesses participated in this county-wide drive-thru event. A generous printer and graphic designer also donated their time to help.

Eleven parking lots around the county were set up with tables, collection boxes, storage boxes, and masked and gloved volunteers. Volunteers gathered the donations from each car and then tied a tag with a special message to each stuffed animal. The tag read “A Gift of Love, Hope & Prayers from Our Father’s Grace Ministries and the Interfaith Community of San Diego.”

Drop-off locations were in University City, Clairemont, Carmel Valley, La Costa, Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, Bonita, El Cajon, Mission Valley, Allied Gardens, and San Carlos. Volunteers used the JustServe.org website to find the location nearest to drop-off their stuffed animals.

Thanks to this “labor of love” by so many good and generous San Diegans, Pastor John will be delivering over 2,400 stuffed animals to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego.

—Reach editor Jeff Clemenson at jeff@sdnews.com.
As more automakers add electric vehicles to their lineups and with California’s announcement to only sell EVs by 2035, many consumers might be considering purchasing a used EV. In its latest study, iSeeCars analyzed California’s announcement to only sell EVs by 2035, many consumers might be considering purchasing a used EV. In its latest study, iSeeCars analyzed

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amounts to the most aggressive clean-car policy in the nation. Although it bans the sale of new gas cars and trucks after the 15-year deadline, it will still allow such vehicles to be owned and sold on the used-car market.

The City of San Diego is incorporating accommodating electric vehicles into its planning for the region’s transportation future. “One of the main strategies in the City of San Diego’s Climate Action Plan is to lower emissions from our transportation sector, so electric vehicles are certainly a key component of that,” said Nicole Darling in the City’s Communications Department. Noting an update to the City’s Climate Action Plan adopted in 2015 is currently underway, Darling pointed out the CAP update includes “gathering the viewpoints and priorities of our residents. An online survey is available and virtual forums are planned for every council district. We anticipate that the CAP update will include targets related to electric vehicles and charging stations across the city.”

Presently, the City has 57 electric vehicle charging stations (68 ports) at 15 locations. The locations include destination sites such as Balboa Park, other parks and recreation centers, libraries, and entertainment districts. Information about the charging stations can be viewed at bit.ly/3yyFgl.

Concerning the future of infrastructure serving electric vehicles in the City, Darling said, “We expect public charging in the region will increase over time and we are regularly looking for opportunities to continue that expansion. We are specifically looking to facilitate the deployment of charging stations in areas of the City that have the lowest access to clean energy resources (using our Climate Equity Index as a guide for prioritization). We are in regular discussions with our fellow regional public agencies in the County and the San Diego Association of Governments (regional transportation planning agency) about identifying grant opportunities to fund regional public charging stations.”

Recently, the American Lung Association released “The Road to Clean Air,” a new report that outlines the benefits of a transition to an electric transportation sector increasingly powered by clean, non-combustion renewable energy over the coming decades. The report finds a transition to electric cars, buses, and trucks by mid-century would both improve air quality and address climate change, benefiting the lives and health of Americans.

In the report, San Diego was listed as one of the top 10 metro areas that would see the greatest benefit from a transition to electric vehicles. “The transportation sector is a leading contributor to air pollution and climate change,” said William Barrett, director of advocacy, clean air for the lung association. “We have the technology to transition to cleaner cars, trucks, and buses, and by taking that step we can prepare San Diego for the future while also seeing the health and economic benefits forecasted in ‘The Road to Clean Air.’ Especially as our state faces the impacts of climate change such as extreme storms, this is a powerful and practical opportunity to take action to improve our economy, our health, and our future.”

Check out the City’s Climate Action Plan survey at SDClimateSurvey.org.

—Contributing editor Dave Schwab can be reached at reporter@sdnews.com.

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Americans fire Trump, San Diegans hire Dems

By SEAN QUINTAL

“This process of election affords a moral certainty that the office of President will seldom fall to the lot of any man who is not in an eminent degree endowed with the requisite qualifications.” – Alexander Hamilton

Alexander Hamilton was no fan of democracy; he generally favored an elected monarch, and he feared the masses having too much power. But even Hamilton could foresee that, at least occasionally, the president might fall to an unequal actor. And if that were to happen, the electoral process itself was to impose some moral certainty, to rein in such an ominous threat as would be presented by a trespasser who was not eminently endowed with requisite qualifications.

This month, faced with another grave threat, the American people responded. It is also helpful to focus on other events. In honor of our heroes, this fall we saw the heroism of election workers all across the country, this fall we saw the heroism of millions of their fellow citizens’ votes were handled with scrupulous integrity. In an historic display of democratic resolve, with turnout not seen in more than a century, the American people overwhelmingly rejected Donald Trump. Joe Biden received more votes than any other presidential candidate in U.S. history. By the time all the votes in California and New York are tabulated, somewhere around 80 million Americans will have condemned Trump to the sad list of presidents — only four in the last 100 years — who were so ineffective they failed to earn a second term from voters. In what must be the most stinging rebuke to his deformed psyche, Donald Trump will now and forever be known as a loser.

In typical fashion, Trump is petulantly whining about being treated unfairly, and making baseless claims of election impropriety. But Americans no longer need care about Trump’s pathetic self-pity. On Jan. 20, 2021, Donald Trump will again be just another despotic old crank on Twitter. And as a private citizen, Trump might wish to recall his claims of being a “law and order” president. Because once he can no longer hide from prosecution in the White House, he should think about getting his affairs in order, because he will soon have to face the law.

Meanwhile, here in San Diego County, voters also overwhelmingly chose Democratic candidates to represent them, and to assume the levers of tradition of our club, and it is always wonderful to see how much the veterans appreciate the remembrance in honor of their service to our country. It is also a treat for our members to visit with them as they share their memories. We owe our liberty and freedom to those who fought and sacrificed their lives. Let us never forget.

Republican Women of California-Navaajo Canyon will be continuing another tradition this Christmas season with the donation of gifts to Military Outreach Ministries. MOM’s mission is to help junior enlist-...
local governance. Five of the region’s six U.S. congressional seats are held by Democrats, as are five of seven State Assembly seats. For the first time in 30 years, the County Board of Supervisors will have a Democratic majority. In the City of San Diego, voters chose Democrat Todd Gloria as mayor, and expanded the City Council’s Democratic majority to eight of the nine seats; one of these is held by Jack Shu, who flipped the previously-Republican District 7. As of this writing, the top two vote-getters in the La Mesa City Council race are two Democrats, our own Colin Parent and Jack Shu.

The Democratic leaders who succeeded this month can bank on solid support from the community. SD County Democratic Party Chair Will Rodriguez-Kennedy points out that Democratic voter registration has grown by 14%, and that its growth is four times that of Republican registration. The emboldened Democratic leaders intend to achieve genuine progress on the most important issues confronting the region.

At both the county and municipal level, Democratic office holders have awoke to immediately address the crisis in homelessness and housing, to provide greater resources for behavioral, mental and drug treatment services, to implement a regional transportation strategy, and to take coordinated action to mitigate the slow-rolling devastation already being experienced due to climate change. In the City of San Diego, voters approved a measure to create a Police Review Board, an action already endorsed by the La Mesa City Council. These are the priorities of elected officials who heard the voice of the people, and who intend to answer that call.

So in two weeks, at our Thanksgiving tables, as Americans and as San Diegans, we can raise a glass in gratitude. To give thanks for a return to truth and decency in the White House and to express appreciation for the prospects of good local government. And speaking of the holidays, we hope you might join us for our December meeting. It’s a holiday party on zoom, with entertainment and an opportunity to contribute to local charities. We’ll be collecting socks, toiletries, canned goods and other staples for folks who are in the greatest need this holiday season. The meeting starts at 7 p.m., proceeded by a half hour of freestyle conversation starting at 6:30 pm. Zoom details at Lmfdmc.com/links.

—Sean Quintal writes on behalf of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club

Property Taxes Will Be Profitably Impacted by Changes to Proposition 13 and Proposition 58, With 5 Months Left to Prepare, Evaluate and Possibly Appeal Your Property Taxes – Potentially Reducing Your Tax Bill by 20% to 10%

Wes Nichols, president of Paramount Property Tax Appeal Service is ringing an urgent alarm bell right now, suggesting that the dearth of property owners in California looking to take advantage of estate planning needs, concerning potential reversals of longstanding, widely utilized tax breaks.

His firm has been inviting California property owners to take advantage of the firm’s unprecedented offer of a free consultation regarding property tax reduction – specifically Property Appraisal; Real Property Tax Appeal, Business Property Tax Appeal, and Business Personal Property Tax Compliance.

Mr. Nichols announced this week: “Families often invite us to look into preparing themselves for all property tax eventualities, concerning potential reversals of long-standing, widely utilized tax breaks.

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Property Tax Appeals are a hot topic right now, and for good reason. The tax code is complex, and changes are inevitable.

As property owners, we understand the importance of understanding your property tax obligations. With so many changes, it’s no wonder that many property owners feel overwhelmed.

That’s why we offer a free consultation to help you understand your options and make informed decisions. Our team of professionals has extensive experience in property tax matters, and we can help you navigate the complex world of property tax law.

Property appeals are not just about reducing your tax bill. They can also affect your estate planning and other financial decisions. By working with us, you can be sure that you are taking advantage of all the available options.

Contact us today to schedule your free consultation. We’re here to help you understand your options and make informed decisions. Our team of professionals has extensive experience in property tax matters, and we can help you navigate the complex world of property tax law.

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Reduce winter flooding with trees

By TROY MURPHEE

Trees provide many benefits to our communities such as cleaner air, cooling shade, protection from harmful ultraviolet rays, increased property values, reduced crime, vibrant commercial areas, reduced energy costs, reduced noise levels, and increased pavement longevity, etc. Our current rainy weather is a good reminder that trees also improve water quality and reduce flooding.

College Area development has increased impervious surfaces (e.g., rooftops, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, roads) so that rainwater absorption is limited. When passing over impermeable surfaces, runoff collects pollutants and increases the velocity of rainwater. Consequently, un-vegetated slopes are eroded and sediment and other contaminants enter storm drains and waterways. Trees can improve the problem. Their leaves, branches and roots intercept rainfall and absorb nutrients and contaminants.

Without the benefit of a healthy urban forest, waterways are polluted with petroleum byproducts, heavy metals and other harmful substances that are washed away in the runoff. Fish and wildlife suffer, drinking water is more expensive to treat, and our streams, bays, and beaches are degraded.

Now is a great time for you to help improve water quality and reduce flooding. For free trees in the College Area, contact me at mesacolony@gmail.com. Or if you are purchasing a tree yourself, here are some...
Consider small before big

By KAREN AUSTIN

Across our nation and around the world, small businesses are facing unprecedented challenges as they comply with temporary closures and other COVID-era mandates. Most have had to cut salaries, lay off workers or downsize to cut costs. Some have been able to use cash reserves, others have had to take on debt to survive.

Candice Bucket is an Alvarado Estates resident and the owner of Diesel Salon in nearby Kensington. She knows, first-hand, the impact the Coronavirus Pandemic is having on small businesses. Candice writes:

“Being a small business owner in 2020 has had it’s challenges. (Mandated closure for 19 weeks this year, first closure 12 weeks and second closure seven weeks.) When we re-opened we decided to take all precautionary measures for our staff and clients, but to come back with confidence that we are providing the best service and to make sure all felt safe. We have provided face mask to all stylist and clients, limited the number of clients in salon, social distance all service stations 7 to 10 feet, increased cleaning on all high touch points, disinfect each service station after each client, added contactless payment and added privacy panels between each shampoo bowl. You can now enjoy all your favorite hair services knowing you are in a clean environment and our staff has taken all sanitary measures. Supporting local businesses is crucial this year by buying products, gift cards or receiving services yourself. We have never seen such support from neighbors like we have this year, and I’m proud of what we have overcome. When odds were against us it was our great clients and neighborhood that uplifted us and helped us stay in business. Support local, keep our hair dreams alive!”

As parts of the country continue to open, small businesses are seeing some improvement and many one-of-a-kind shops, restaurants, boutiques, florists and many one-of-a-kind shops. The “Shop Local” section of this College Times Courier highlights many local gems.

When you buy from a family-owned business you are literally helping to put food on their table, but you are doing so much more than that. You are helping to create local jobs, you are investing in our community, you are encouraging innovation. Your support improves lives and neighborhoods by helping to keep money here in our community instead of sending it off to corporate shareholders.

To help area businesses this pandemic holiday season you might call ahead to order purchases, make an appointment to visit, get take-out or delivery, and buy gift cards. Social media is also an increasingly important (and no
Virtual Aztecs Rock Hunger a success

San Diego State University’s annual Aztecs Rock Hunger food drive collected 344,117 pounds for The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank, marking another high-achieving year for the campaign and a successful shift to the virtual space.

“This year’s campaign was a testament to what SDSU and San Diego is all about,” said Associated Students Vice President of Financial Affairs Victor Penera. “No matter the situation, we continued to adapt and overcome because we understood that now more than ever our community needed us.”

The demand for food distribution in San Diego County remains at an all-time high and, prior to the pandemic, the San Diego Food Bank served 350,000 people each month. Since March, the number of people served monthly has spiked to an estimated 600,000.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on gathering, this year’s campaign looked different than earlier years with a shift to a primarily virtual format. Between Sept. 28 and Oct. 18, SDSU’s community was invited to donate virtually on the Aztecs Rock Hunger website.

Donations were also accepted since we are currently feeding tens of thousands of families experiencing a crisis, including food insecurity. In fall 2019, the ECRT used the donations to provide short-term and long-term aid to students experiencing a crisis, including food insecurity. In fall 2019, the ECRT used the donations to provide short-term and long-term aid to students experiencing a crisis, including food insecurity. In fall 2019, the ECRT used the donations to provide short-term and long-term aid to students experiencing a crisis, including food insecurity. In fall 2019, the ECRT used the donations to provide short-term and long-term aid to students experiencing a crisis, including food insecurity.

“Since the food drive started in 2010, every year SDSU steps up to the plate and donates hundreds of thousands of pounds of food to help fight hunger in our community,” said Floros. “This year, SDSU has risen to the occasion despite tremendous challenges due to the pandemic. The Aztec family has united in support of the 2020 Aztecs Rock Hunger Food Drive to help all of our neighbors in need. On behalf of the Food Bank’s staff and family of volunteers, we are so deeply grateful to everyone at SDSU for feeding those in need during this heightened time of need in our community.”

Virtual Aztecs Rock Hunger also directly assists SDSU students. The food and monetary donations collected through the campaign provide the food, including fresh produce for the A.S. Food Pantry, which provides an average of 100,000 pounds of food each year to SDSU students. Additionally, 20% of the monetary donations go directly to SDSU’s Economic Crisis Response Team (ECRT). The ECRT uses the donations to provide short-term and long-term aid to students experiencing a crisis, including food insecurity. In fall 2019, the ECRT served about 200 students. Since March 2020, the team has served over 1,200 students. Students can request ECRT assistance online.

SDSU’s Library celebrates 50 years with book list

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the completion of construction of San Diego State University’s Love Library. Now home to more than 1.6 million books, serials and media titles in the library, with an additional 1.2 million and e-books and databases accessible to the SDSU community, the Love Library continues to evolve to meet the needs of students and SDSU’s aspirations as a research powerhouse.

The library is part of a legacy of expansion under Malcolm A. Love, who led the campus from 1952 to 1971 and retired just prior to its transformation from San Diego State College into the university of today.

Amid booms in student enrollment, faculty, graduate degree programs and research grants, plans emerged for a great new library to house over one million volumes. Construction began in 1968 and was completed in 1970. The building was named for Love in May 1971.

To cap off this milestone, librarians narrowed down the candidates to 50 Books SDSU Loves, Students, alumni, faculty, and staff nominated their favorite books, and librarians narrowed down the candidates to 50.

The list reflects the diversity of the SDSU community. While some of the expected literary classics, such as Jane Austen’s “Pride and Prejudice” (No. 7 on the list) and “The Great Gatsby” (No. 18) by F. Scott Fitzgerald are on the list, there are also modern novels by diverse authors.

The top book, “Kindred,” by Octavia E. Butler, was written by a Black woman and explores the impacts of racism, sexism, and white supremacy through the eyes of a young Black woman.

The list also includes books written for younger readers such as Madeline U’ngle’s “A Wrinkle in Time” (No. 2), as well as books that are just fun to read such as “The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy” (No. 6) by Douglas Adams. Nonfiction works include “The Autobiography of Malcolm X” (No. 14) and “ Becoming” by Michelle Obama (No. 9).

Many of the books on this list explore issues of social justice in both fiction and nonfiction formats. The list includes timeless racial justice classics such as "To Kill a Mockingbird" (No. 3), by Harper Lee, as well as an intimate look at the impact of war in “A Thousand Splendid Suns” (No. 36), by Khaled Hosseini.

Overall, the list is a splendid commentary on how much the SDSU community cares about social justice and the people injustice harms.

The library has electronic or paper copies of most books on the list, and the website links each book to the circulation page for easy checkout. Use Domeside Pickup to have library staff retrieve the book and have it ready for contactless pickup. For books the library does not have, the list links to Amazon for a quick purchase.

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CA Trees
CONTINUED FROM Page 9
things to look for in a
good tree:
• Look for individuals
  with a single strong cen-
tral leader that has not
been clipped off or topped.
• Look for a tree that is
  not root bound.
For planting guidelines
and other information
about trees, visit the fol-
lowing: treesaregood.org,
arborday.org and epa.gov.

—Troy Murphree is
Community Forest Advisory
Board member for Council
District 9.

Tubman School
Community Cleanup

On the morning of Oct. 24, Mesa
Colony neighbors joined in for a
community cleanup around the pe-
rimeter of Harriet Tubman Village
Charter School. Eighteen hard work-
ers came to help out. Even former
neighbors who now rent out their
property put in hours of hard labor
on stump removal!
Saul, Bob and Jose fixed the
drip irrigation, others worked for
hours to dig out some dead trees,
tree roots, and weeds. We also
picked up litter, trimmed dead
and sprawling vegetation, etc. We
topped off two big school dumpster
bins.
Luckily, our friendly neighbor
Miguel Nunez, from Judson drove
by and stopped to volunteer to haul
away other green waste. He also
joined our Mesa Colony email group.
Miguel is a foreman for a roofing
company and I will be sure to get
an estimate from him in my next
roofing work—be sure demonstrated
great energy.
In January or February 2021, we
will have another cleanup. Urban
Corps will also be planting some free
Jacaranda and other trees around
the perimeter.
All College Area properties are el-
gible for free trees from the College
Area Residents Association (CARA)
grant. Please contact us at mesaco-
lyn@gmail.com to stay informed
of this and our other community
happenings!

—Troy Murphree is co-chair of the
Mesa Colony Community Group.

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   Roast turkey breast, bone-in spiral cut quarter ham with chipotle-pineapple glaze topping and all the Feat trimmings.

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**Navajo Times Courier / College Times Courier**

Nov. 13 – Dec. 10, 2020

Mission Times Courier / College Times Courier
Hitting the ‘Spot’
Surf & Soul offers up authentic Southern flavors

By ROBIN DOHRN-SIMPSON | La Mesa Courier

If you want to eat at Surf & Soul Spot, the first thing you have to decide is if you want surf or soul. Next, you have to pick the right day, because surf is on Monday and Tuesday and soul is on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Owners Chef Sarajevo Petty and former Olympian Eagle High School and NFL football player Sergio Bailey joined the College Area/La Mesa neighborhood in December 2019. They liked both that it is central in San Diego and that they could cook everything in their on-site kitchen.

Chef Sarajevo has had a career in the culinary world working with Hyatt Hotel Corporation on both the east and west coasts of the United States. Sergio is an extremely successful 20-something, who realizes that you can’t play football forever and you need other plans and goals in life.

“Write your goals down and check them off at the end of the day,” Sergio said.

The restaurant is currently fast, casual takeout. You can order via phone or walk up and order. The restaurant opens at 11 a.m., noon or 1 p.m. depending on the day and closes when they have sold out. Don’t delay in ordering your food; closing can be as early as 4 p.m. on some days. Currently guests wait for their orders outside as they are taking extra precautions during COVID.

Sarajevo recommends that the food is eaten directly after pick up so it is hot and fresh. Fans hope that the restaurant will return to a sit-down eatery once the pandemic is over.

“If you visit on a surf day you can expect to see golden fried catfish, crispy fried shrimp and cheese grits, popcorn shrimp, a blackened shrimp and crab roll and crispy fries smothered in smoked turkey gravy and topped with white cheddar cheese, red pepper ranch, scallions and spicy tomato relish. Prices are moderate ranging between $8 and $15.

Soul food days feature southern cooking at its finest. Meats include fried catfish sandwiches, whole chicken wings and fried pork chops. Side dishes include rice with smoked turkey gravy, mac ‘n cheese, sweet candied yams, collar greens or traditional red beans and rice. Pricing is moderate with one meat and two side dishes priced at $16. For those who want the combo plate of two meats and two side dishes you can expect to pay $20.

“We wanted to do our rendition of both types of food. Being that our kitchen is so small it makes sense to have two separate menus that work well together with our brand and name,” Chef Sarajevo said.

Save room for dessert. There is nothing like a sweet potato cupcake, cookie crunch banana pudding or butter pound cake.

With the amount of attention they are getting from residents it will be fun to watch them grow.

Their philosophy: Treat everyone like gold, including our employees and serve great food.

Surf & Soul Seafood Soul Spot is located at 7229 El Cajon Blvd. in Rolando. For more information, visit surfandsoulspot.com. Call in your order at 619-439-8801.

—Robin Dohrn-Simpson is a local freelance food and travel writer.
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If you need of some sweet Patriot gear, the Sideline store is now open for all Patriots. What’s super cool is that logos are interchangeable, can be swapped out, some colors can be changed, your name can be added to backs of items. There’s clothing as well as accessories. Visit bit.ly/3eF73Ky.

—Michelle Irwin is principal of Patrick Henry High School.

The Henry Cluster STEMM Foundation has continued to move forward despite the COVID-19 protocols related to schools. One of their ongoing efforts is presenting Zoom webinars to assist students applying to college.

The first webinar was held on Oct. 20, and it was presented by Kalos Chu. Kalos is a junior at Harvard University studying Educational Studies and a private college consultant/tutor in the San Diego area. A graduate of Patrick Henry High School, Kalos is deeply committed toward expanding college access for all students, especially those who come from low-income backgrounds or who are the first in their families to attend college.

His presentation was on how high school students can best prepare for the college admissions process. He gave critical information on how to apply to various colleges, particularly for under-served students and/or students who may be the first in their family to go to college.

Kalos stated, “We covered all aspects of college admissions, from picking classes, to standardized tests, to extracurricular activities. Among the attendees, there were two major areas of concern. The first was how COVID-19 would affect college admissions,” he continued. “Many SAT test dates have been cancelled, high school grading policies have changed, just to name a few of the unique changes that have resulted from the pandemic. For the most part, however, colleges are being flexible; Harvard, for example is not requiring standardized test scores from applicants this year.”

Kalos also runs a tutoring and college prep business. You can learn more about it at kccollegeprep.com. He offers SAT Prep, academic subject tutoring, and college consulting services.

The second installment of the HC STEMM series on college admission was presented by the SDSU Chapter of Women in Science Society (WSS). It was a panel presentation on Nov. 10.

Check the HC STEMM Foundation website at hcstemm.org for information about future topics and dates.

—Jay Wilson writes on behalf of the Henry Cluster STEMM Foundation.

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By JAY WILSON

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—Jay Wilson writes on behalf of the Henry Cluster STEMM Foundation.
Post-election real estate update

By SARAH WARD

With the election over and Pfizer announcing their new vaccine, we are seeing 90%+ effective against COVID-19, many are wondering about the forecast for the economy and housing market moving forward into 2021.

It now looks likely Biden/Harris will take over in January but the House of Representatives moved closer to neutral and the U.S. Senate is favorable to have a Republican majority. The consensus is thus DC gridlock will remain or should be rewritten to describe it.

This county is landlocked by five states and the only reason the market from Eureka to Chula Vista is still going is that the vaccines are working.

With the election over and the future of the economy more secure, the market will likely tighten. Increased property taxes on commercial properties. What you might not have realized is that most tenant commercial space taxes are written for the tenants to pay property taxes on the building. That is generally how it works (called a triple-net lease). So, although it seemed immediately flooded with offers, if land were plentiful, San Diego could build 100,000 homes and sell them all within a year or two, I believe. Obviously, San Diego does not have the space for that expansion.

This country is landlocked by Camp Pendleton, the Pacific Ocean, Mexico and the mountains. Further supply is permanently limited, but demand for real estate in America’s land the most desirable city continues to be strong! I just received data from the California Association of Realtors that shows a surge in out-of-town buyers moving into San Diego. People from Seattle, San Francisco and L.A. as well as people from the East Coast are moving into San Diego in large numbers. Also, international buyers continue to move here.

If you do not own property in San Diego, call me to discuss your options. I can offer a brief tour of the city and find potential properties for you. I have access to all available properties in San Diego, and I can help you find the perfect property for your needs.

Locate Here

These efforts included hiring security patrols which focused on specific hotspot locations where activity has increased since March 2020. The months-long trial will be assessed and if it is deemed that it went well, the discounted security patrols will be offered to commercial property owners who are CARBID members.

“We have been working closely with the police and these additional security patrols can help to make a noticeable difference. All I have to say is to the one difference that others may not yet be able to notice,” wrote Schneider in a letter to the El Cajon Community Council.

The homeless patrol program coincides with CARBID’s Locate Here campaign to attract new viable businesses and development investment to the El Cajon Boulevard commercial corridor.

“We are trying to invite new commercial investment to the commercial corridor and we have to put our best foot forward,” Schneider said.

In addition to security patrols, the CARBID is also asking for the public’s assistance to make a difference in the area by reporting to the city any unacceptable activity that they see using the Get It Done app.

“We hope to instill the ‘good enough is not good enough any longer’ attitude throughout the College Area. This can only be accomplished if we all do our part in reporting any unacceptable behavior or activity,” Schneider said. “Our staff will also be reporting any reports that are needed by the city such as the faked street name signs, traffic lights, street repairs etc. We ask you to do the same as well.”

—Reach editor Jeff Clemetson at jeff@c.sndnews.com. Reach contributing editor Kendra Sitten at kendra@sdnews.com.

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