The adapting artist
Musicians, actors find new ways to perform in lieu of traditional venues and theaters

By JEFF CLEMETSON

On Sept. 1, theaters and music venues across the country lit their buildings red to draw attention to the plight of an industry that employs over 12 million people nationwide. Legislation to save performance venues — the Restart Act and the Save Our Stage Act — is stalled in Congress along with other pandemic relief aid bills. Concert venues and theaters were among the first businesses forced to shut down because of the pandemic and will most likely be the last allowed to open.

With performance spaces unable to open doors to patrons, local artists are exploring new ways to bring their craft to fans, while at the same time hoping to one day return to performing from lighted stages to audience-filled seats and dance floors.

ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE

On Aug. 29, musicians from around the world participated in the seventh annual Play Music on the Porch Day. The event was originally conceived to bring people together from across racial, religious and political divides to share a moment together in harmony. This year’s event had even greater meaning as musicians put on porch concerts to also raise awareness of the challenges faced by the music industry.

One of the bands that part in the event was San Diego-based Enter The Blue Sky — a folk rock trio featuring singer/songwriter Sandé Lollis, viola player and singer Karen Childress-Evans and backing singer Tina Dee.

Although Enter The Blue Sky’s Play Music on the Porch Day performance was one of their most attended, according to Lollis, it was COVID CASE RATE

The case rate for the region increased in the past week, placing the County at risk of dropping to Tier 1, the highest-risk level. The region’s case rate rose to 6.9 cases per 100,000 residents after entering the state’s new monitoring system with a 5.8 case rate and being placed in Tier 2, also known as Red Tier.

Should the case rate continue to increase, the County could be moved to Tier 1, or Purple, which carries more restrictive COVID-19 measures.

Vaus points to Poway record in Dist. 2 race

Steve Vaus is banking that his record leading the city of Poway will convince voters on Nov. 3 that he is best to represent District 2 on the County Board of Supervisors.

The District 2 race is one of the tightest in the county. In the March 3 primary, Vaus garnered 31% of the vote, just 3.5 percentage points behind former state senator Joel Anderson — a nearly even split with the remaining votes going to Democrat-backed Kenya Taylor (26.7%) and long-shot candidate Brian Sesko (8%). Both candidates tout their conservative bona fides in the deeply red district, while promising bipartisan compromises and solutions if elected to the seat currently held by termed-out Dianne Jacob. The outcome of the race may come down to which candidate can attract Millennial market.
Pandemic irreponsibility not confined to college students

BY JOSE REYNOSO

It was disappointing to see that SDSU had to stop in-person classes because of a surge in positive COVID-19 tests. The reason? Socializing in large groups without masks.

Yes, because they are younger, they think they are less likely to suffer severe effects of COVID-19, and they might feel somewhat invincible. But what they don’t realize is that little is yet known about the virus and its long-term effects on any age group. Cases of organ damage are starting to get reported.

However, we can’t point our fingers only at students. With all due respect to El Cajon mayor Bill Wells — who in a recent Union Tribune column explained why El Cajon police were not going to enforce pandemic rules and laws — wearing masks is not a political issue. Wells’ matter-of-fact comment that we should expect some deaths from any illness — epidemic as something that we should accept and be used to — really struck a nerve. I suspect that given his city administration’s policies, and his desire to make their position known, the message I got from his column is that it is probably not safe to shop or socialize in El Cajon.

I was at a supermarket earlier today and a gentleman walked in, not wearing his mask. One of the workers standing in the produce section stopped him and asked him to please put a mask on. My wife took our son to the dinner when I was telling my teenage son has more common sense than one — and probably more — of our community leaders. I have hope for our future generations.

Now that we can begin, once again, to go enjoy some of our favorite restaurants and other venues, please do so. Support our local businesses. Our communities depend on it. But please, do so safely. Your family, neighbors, businesses, etc. depend on that. I apologize if I sound preachy but I really want to get past this mess as quickly and safely as possible. My younger brother came down with COVID-19 a few months ago. All of us siblings were on pins and needles for a couple of months. Fortunately, he seems to have gotten past it.

So if anyone tells you that it’s fake news or a hoax, it’s not. If you’re feeling lucky, offer to sell that person a nice bridge in Brooklyn. They’ll believe anything and you could come out a few dollars ahead.

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

Local teen fosters puppies during pandemic

By MADDISON JOYCE

I am a senior at Cathedral Catholic High School. Like many of my peers, I have found lockdown to be extremely isolating and, frankly, pretty depressing. I was starting to feel increasingly sad about the state of the world. Seeking an outlet to overcome those feelings, I persuaded my parents to let me foster rescued dogs and puppies during the quarantine.

My family most often works with Mutt Scouts Dog Rescue in San Diego. During the quarantine, we have rescued and placed over 15 dogs into loving forever homes. We also recruited and inspired 11 other families to start fostering.

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, some 3.3 million dogs enter U.S. shelters each year. During COVID-19, a lot of animal shelters were shut down and some of the animals that were not placed in shelters were, reportedly, put down. What many people do not realize is that most animal rescue programs do not have kennels. Every dog that is rescued must have an immediate foster family to care for it and help rehabilitate it, or it cannot be rescued. So the rescue population is directly equal to the number of families willing to foster.

I love rescuing these dogs, especially over the quarantine, because it gives our whole family a common purpose. We’ve been united in the cause of nursing the puppies and even sick dogs.
Vaus was born in Los Angeles, but moved with his family to a Black Angus cattle ranch in Oregon when he was a toddler. “That shaped my life, he said. “When you get to go up at the crack of dawn to feed the cattle back to the barn, you learn something about hard work. And that has served me well.”

After high school, Vaus attend- ed Eisenhower College in Seneca Falls, New York. While he was away, his parents returned to Southern California, settling in San Diego. When he graduated, he lived in the Old Port and East Coast and moved back west.

Vaus’ first job after college was working for an organization that provided residential care for troubled youth — a precursor for his future life as a public servant. “I have a heart for that social service aspect of the job,” he said. However, Vaus also had a heart for music and soon pursued a ca- reer as a singer and songwriter. “That had always been a pas- sion of mine,” he said. “I wanted to try my hand at it and ended up getting the highest awards in the industry and being reasonably successful.”

Vaus credits the work ethic he learned growing up on a ranch for propelling him in the music indus- try and also credits hard work for his success in politics — a pro- fession he found himself in after leading a recall effort of a former Poway City Council member.

“I found a property I wanted to buy and I was doing a lot of reading and research and I found Poway City Hall on a map,” Vaus said, after reading about a City Council member involved in a scandal, he decided to take action. “I was really ticked off that this person could abuse the power of his office like that and the council had no interest in getting rid of her,” he said of his successful recall effort. “And so I discovered I was pretty good at this kind of stuff and two years later I ran for City Council and I won. Two years after that I ran for mayor and won and I think we’ve gotten some important things done in Poway.”

POWAY AND SANDAG

Vaus said the secret to his suc- cess as mayor of Poway is “being accessible.” “I’ll never forget a couple years in, once I became mayor, I got a letter from a little girl that they needed a stop sign in her neighbor- hood. She was worried about her friends being safe from cars,” he said. “And I just went down and knocked on their door — the knock of the door, the look of the parent, the face that the mayor would show up at the door.”

“We’re all elected to be public servants,” he continued. “But far too many people in office focus on the public part — I try to focus on the serving part. I had all the public acclaim back in my enter- tainment days, I’m here to serve the people.

At proof of Vaus’ record of serv- ing the people, he points to a list of Poway’s strengths as a city — ranked best to raise a family: safe roads; and strong fiscal standing with paid-down pension obliga- tions and significant reserves.

“Right now we’re building a brand new senior and community center. It’s been talked about for 20 years. We’re finally getting it done and we’re paying cash,” he said, adding that the city recent- ly completed a revitalization of its downtown and also has added around 490 acres of open space.

“All together, I think that offers a great blueprint for the rest of the county,” he said. “Being a supervisi- tor is like being a super mayor. Day in and day out I’m taking care of the people here in Poway and that’s what you got to do as supervisor.”

TRANSPORTATION

In addition to being mayor of Poway, Vaus is also chair of SANDAG, having been voted by fellow members unanimously in 2018. Transportation issues are of major concern to District 2 resi- dents, especially in the back coun- try. Vaus said he would continue the “balanced” approach he has taken as SANDAG chair if he is elected to board of supervisors, by promoting mass transit in urban areas and funding roads in rural areas.

In SANDAG, Vaus said he has already prioritized roads projects in District 2. “Twenty years ago SANDAG made commitment to widen road from Ramona to Lakeside to four lanes. That’s been ignored,” he said. “I was able to lead a coalition of Democrats and Republicans to reauthorize the expansion of the 67 and completion of the 94/125 interchange; improvements or ex- pansion to the 52 and improve- ments or expansion to the 78.”

Vaus said the coalition has budgeted $90 million to start the work.

When it comes to urban area, Vaus said there needs to be more options, but added that he sees a chance of getting people back on mass transit because of the pan- demic. One way to meet the coun- ty’s transportation goals, he said, would be to encourage telecommu- nuting by exploring countywide broadband WiFi — a proposition he added could also solve distance learning issues for families that lack internet connection.

“We got a lot of opportunities to do big things, we just got to make sure they are the right big things,” he said.

COVID RESPONSE

When it comes to dealing with the pandemic, Vaus said he sup- ports being cautious about re- opening because he doesn’t want to see mandatory shutdowns again.

“With the county is doing right right they’ve been acting very fact- based. We can’t have rules and regulations that are like a light switch — on, off, on off,” he said. “I know it’s frustrating to a lot of people, but safety has to come first.”

Vaus said Poway was one of the first in the county to offer small business long-term loans.

“That has been incredibly helpful to our small business- es,” he said, adding that Poway was also one of the first to adopt a plan to allow businesses and churches to operate in outdoor public spaces.

Poway also started program where city purchased 100 picnic tables to loan to restaurants while restrictions are in place.

“After we get through with the pandemic, all the picnic tables can go into our parks.”

HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

With fires currently threat- ening homes in District’s 2’s back country, Vaus said it is impor- tant for the Board of Supervisors to listen to locals and especially fire departments before approving any new housing developments in the district.

“You got to listen to your com- munity planning boards. You got to make sure something fits with the character of the community that’s going to be impacted.”

HOW To Get Top Dollar In Uncertain Times When Selling Your Home

San Diego – A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today’s market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homeowners don’t get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and worse financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homeowners make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitles “The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar”. To order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-270-1494 and enter 1000. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report Now to find out how you can get the most money for your house.  
“We’re working with the state to resolve the issue,” Wooten said. “Currently, the state has indicated that they will use the County’s data to calculate the case rate and positivity percentage over the next several weeks.”

Should the County’s case rate drop to under 3.9 for a consecutive two weeks, it would qualify to move into Tier 3, or Orange Tier. The region’s positivity percentage has been under 4.9% for over two weeks and would allow the region to move to the higher, less-restrictive Tier 3. However, both metrics will need to qualify for the Orange Tier for two weeks before the County could move into it.

The state will assess counties on a weekly basis, with the next report scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 15.

SUPPORTING ARTICLES

“San Diegans should continue to take the necessary measures to keep COVID-19 from spreading and the case rate from increasing,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer.

Tier placement is also based on each County’s percentage of tests coming back positive for COVID-19.

The positivity rate also increased from 3.4 to 4.2%, but still well below the state’s goal of 8% or less.

Should the County positivity rate hit 8% and the case rate continue to increase to more than seven cases per 100,000 residents for two consecutive weeks, the region would have to be moved to the Purple Tier.

For those counties not testing their residents at the same rate as the state, new adjustment factors have been added, potentially increasing a region’s case rate.

Counties that are testing above the state’s rate have had their case rates scaled down.

Based on the state’s testing data from the County, the region’s case rate is at 7.9 per 100,000 residents, but the region did not get penalized because the state has been having issues, going back several months, that prevent it from getting the County’s correct testing numbers.

For those counties not testing, the county has partnered with The San Diego Foundation, Child Development Associates and YMCA of San Diego County to manage the application, verification and grantmaking process.

Starting August 24, eligible providers could apply for funding by visiting SDFoundation.org/ChildcareGrants. Funding will be held online via Zoom video chat and begin at 7 p.m. The forum will be moderated by Mission Times Courier editor Jeff Clemenson.

The public is being asked to submit questions for the candidates by noon on Monday, Sept. 21. Email questions to mayorcandidatesforum@sdnews.com.

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California Proposition 24, also known as the Consumer Privacy Protection Act, was passed by the state electorate in November 2020. This measure marks an important step in California’s history as a role-model for the rest of the country. We have taken the lead once again and proclaim our rights in this digital age. With thanks to the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), the federal government may well follow suit. As Governor Gavin Newsom likes to say, “so goes California, so goes the nation.”

We desperately need better privacy protections online. Our private data is vacummed up and sold with reckless abandon, and used to sell ads. I’m a web developer, so I understand what can be done with this technology and what’s being done today to abuse it. If you had said to a crowd in the early 1990s that 30 years later this tech will be under constant, targeted domestic surveillance by companies looking to sell them skin cream and e-cigarettes, you’d have been laughed out of the room. But that’s exactly the world we live in today.

This November a whole host of elected offices in San Diego will be up for grabs. San Diegans will be asked to decide who our next president will be, who will represent us in the U.S. House of Representatives, in the California State Assembly, and who will be our next mayor. What’s more, Californians will be asked to vote on probably the most progressive slate of ballot measures in recent California history. With everything up in the air, it’s ok to feel overwhelmed, but let’s not let ourselves get distracted. We have a chance to further cement our rights and, we should take it.

—Brian Schrader is a local business owner, software developer, writer and San Diego resident living in Normal Heights.

More capacity to enforce its provisions. Proposition 24 would allow customers to tell businesses not to share data about them. It would also allow customers to opt-out of having their personal information sold or used for advertising, and provide a host of additional protections.

Perhaps most importantly, Proposition 24 would establish a new California Data Protection Agency which would take over admin- istering and enforcing these provisions as well as those in the now active CCPA. This new Data Protection Agency would function similar to the FDA or other consumer watchdog agencies. Staffed by knowledgeable experts in consumer protection and privacy law, it would be in charge of developing regul- atory guidelines, promoting good faith to businesses, assessing penalties, and raising public awareness about the dan- gers of businesses abusing our trust. This agency would protect the digital rights of all Californians and reign in the worst instincts of the corpo- rate surveillance state, ad tech, and data brokerage industries. Creating a separate agency also ensures that these issues are given the attention they deserve rather than languish- ing under other departments not staffed with technology experts and the nuances of privacy law and technology.

This measure marks an important step in California’s history as a role-model for the rest of the country. We have the chance to set the standard once again and proclaim our rights in this digital age. With thanks to the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), the federal government may well follow suit. As Governor Gavin Newsom likes to say, “so goes California, so goes the nation.”

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—Brian Schrader is a local business owner, software developer, writer and San Diego resident living in Normal Heights.

Most San Diegans can agree on the need for more and more affordable housing. A parcel of undeveloped land along Claus Street from the I-8 freeway to Del Coro Boulevard was approved by the city planning department for development of 24 homes. This home-planned parcel would have been consistent with the existing housing in Del Coro — single-family, single-story.

Within days after developer ColRich received city approval for the construction, the property was sold to All People’s Church for a corporate complex of 90+ seat church with classrooms, offices, parking structure and gymnasium.

There are several problems with this particular proposal. Plans initially proceeded with an input from neighboring residents, schools, businesses or the Del Coro Action Council. The main building is to be between 48-50 homes which would dramatically change the charac- ter of the surrounding residential community and visually dominate the landscape. The area is vulnerable to wild fires and this parcel is in an environmentally sensitive area.

Traffic would be a major issue. There is currently no ingress or egress to the property and considerable traffic would be added to an already busy College Avenue. Since the church op- erates seven days a week, this would be a continual problem and a safety issue.

We affirm that houses of worship are a part of any communi- ty; we appreciate those already in Del Cerro. However, we hope that there are other and better locations in San Diego County for a megachurch. Del Cerro, as a residential neighborhood, is bet- ter suited as a place for much-needed housing. If you are also concerned, please get involved in maintaining the residential quality of Del Cerro.

—Mardine Davis, Del Cerro

California Propositions: Why They Matter

By SEAN QUINTAL

At our September meet- ing of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club, we talked with more than a half-dozen Democratic leaders about how you can volunteer to help Democrats in state win elections and stop the spread of bigotry and superstition in La Mesa and sur- rounding East County commu- nities, using the peaceful tools of democracy. We talked with all with social distancing — you don’t have to leave home! If you missed us, you can catch up on our YouTube channel.

And join us for our next meeting, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m. for social time, 7 p.m. for programming, when we’ll hear from a bushload of great candidates, find out more about volunteer opportunities and also learn how you can make sure your vote is counted.

You can find links to both the YouTube video of September’s meeting, and our Zoom for October, at lmdems.com on links and recommendations.

Propositions

The following statewide prop- ositions are on this year’s ballot, with many of them being taken by the state Democratic Party. Please consider using this a simple voting reference when casting your ballot.

Vote YES on the following:

Proposition 14: Renews funding for California’s stem cell research initiative.

Proposition 15: Makes commercial property tax more fair to better support schools and communities.

Proposition 16: Ends the ban on affirmative action in college admissions.

Proposition 17: Free the vote; allows registered California citizens on parole to vote.

Proposition 18: Allows 17 year olds to vote in the primary, if they’ll turn 18 by the general election.

Proposition 19: Property tax relief for California’s senior homeowners; supports the wild- fire fund.

Proposition 21: Allows cities and counties to enact some rent control measures.

Proposition 23: Requires dialysis clinics to have a doctor present, and to treat all patients equally.

Vote NO on the following:

Proposition 22: Would allow Uber, Lyft et al to continue to explo- it working conditions but providing them basic work protections and rights.

Proposition 20: Reimposes unnecessary mandatory crim- inal sentencing schemes. However, the justice system less fair, and that overrode provisions.

—Sean Quintal writes on behalf of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club.
As we approach the election in less than 60 days, it seems appropriate to consider the words of a very wise man: “When personal attacks replace honest debate, no one wins.”

Unfortunately we are witnessing attacks today and are seeing that the result is further division in our communities. Now is the perfect time to practice civility and treat others with respect. Stand up for your convictions but do it with dignity and remember to listen to others and seek to understand their viewpoints. As Republicans, believe we can present our conservative principles with logic and clarity and do not need to resort to disparaging others.

We are all aware of the violence, riots, looting and lack of respect for law and order that are taking place all over the country. Is this really what we want? President Trump supports our police, and wants us to feel safe in our own communities. Where there is an incident that needs to be investigated, it will be done swiftly, fairly and justly.

When we vote in November let us stop and think who has done the most for minorities in terms of higher employment rates, creating opportunity business zones, prison reform and fairness in educational opportunities. President Trump is clearly the winner and the strongest candidate to carry this momentum for the next four years.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, 5–9 p.m., Republican Women of California San Diego County is featuring nationally recognized speaker Leo Terrell at the Legacy Resort Hotel and Spa in Mission Valley. Terrell, a “Walk Away Democrat” is featured frequently on Fox News and shares why he switched parties and became a Trump supporter. He is a civil rights attorney, teacher and radio host. For ticket purchase and more information please go to RWCSDC.org.

Instead of our usual lunch meeting at the Brigantine La Mesa, Republican Women of California-Navajo Canyon will be hosting a Zoom meeting Oct. 13. Carl DeMaio, host of “DeMaio Report” on New Radio 600 KOGO from 3–6 p.m. will be the featured guest speaker. DeMaio served on San Diego City Council and is chairman of Reform California which wages campaigns against tax increases and advocates for government reforms. During the Zoom meeting he will address the various measures on the ballot including SB731.

GOTV stands for “Get Out The Vote” and is probably the most important action for Republicans to remember. We cannot win if we do not vote. You are urged to value your right to vote and take the responsibility seriously. The 2020 election could change our country and head us down a path of socialism. If you don’t vote, you cannot complain later about the changes that occur – and they will occur.

Become an active volunteer to help support and elect the candidates that will preserve our freedom, respect our constitution and maintain law and order. Please consider joining Republican Women of California-Navajo Canyon. For more information visit our website RWCNavajo-Canyon.org and check us out on Facebook at Republican Women of California Navajo Canyon. For more information on our activities or membership please contact Vaskah at waskahwhelan@aol.com.

—Pat Borrner writes on behalf of Republican Women of California-Navajo Canyon.
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School year begins at Patrick Henry High, online

On Aug. 31 Patrick Henry High School began the 2020–2021 school year with 2,654 students enrolled in grades 9-12. Our campus was very quiet though on the first day of school since we started this year online. While we all wanted to return to campus and start school like we have always done, we understand that the safety of our students and faculty take priority. So, we did the next best thing – we Zoomed with 2,654 students! The first week of school was considered a “soft-launch” so we could iron out any technology and/or connectivity issues with our staff and students.

Beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 8, our bell schedule will be as follows:
- Period 1: 8:50 a.m.–10:04 a.m.
- Period 2: 10:13 a.m.–11:27 a.m.
- Period 3: 11:36 a.m.–12:50 p.m.
- Lunch: 12:59 p.m.–1:29 p.m.
- Independent Learning Time: 1:38 p.m.–3:29 p.m.

Due to the extraordinary year, we have modified our bell schedule where our students will take three classes first semester and three classes second semester in order to support both synchronous and asynchronous learning. We all hope to return soon to in-person school but until then we will provide rigorous and relevant lessons to our students virtually.

On behalf of the Patrick Henry High School faculty, we want to thank you for being our partner in education so we can ensure all students graduate with integrity, purpose, and options.

IMPORTANT FUNDING FOR HENRY
At Patrick Henry, we receive over $200,000 of federal funding when parents turn in free or reduced lunch applications. I encourage families to submit your application online whether or not you believe you will qualify. This federal funding supports our library, provides tutoring for all students, mental health counseling and more.

We will lose this funding if not enough people apply and qualify. Please go to this website and apply today at sandiegounified.org/food-nutrition-services.
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Lorna and Alex Zukas — both professors at National University in the Department of Social Sciences, and members of the El Cerrito Community Council — received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant to offer Discussion Leader Training and Reading Discussion Groups centered on veterans and civilians’ experiences of war.

The project, “A Soldier’s Place: Veterans and Civilians Speaking about War,” hosted at National University (NU) brings together history, sociology and psychology faculty from NU and San Diego State University (SDSU) with veterans and civilians who are interested in the study of war and its impacts on people and societies from ancient Greece to the present.

According to project co-director, Dr. Alex Zukas, studying war through the humanities accomplishes a number of goals.

“First, it allows us to explore the effects of war on individuals and societies with attention to the project’s key themes of loyalty, heroism, trauma and homecoming, and, second, it creates a space for veterans and others to have meaningful and transformative conversations through facilitated discussions that focus on those themes,” he said.

Project faculty member. Dr. William Weeks of SDSU and National University, said, “With a repertoire of epic poetry, narrative non-fiction, military biography, film, and memoir, the humanities provide important intellectual and cultural frames that give participants a variety of perspectives to understand societies at war and the expectation of those on the battlefield and the homefront.”

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS

The project leaders are recruiting veteran alumni leaders and veteran students with a demonstrated capacity to be leaders, who want to help others think more deeply about the issues raised by war and military service, to become Discussion Leaders. The NEH Discussion Leader Preparatory Workshop will help participants enhance existing skills in using historical and literary resources and perspectives to understand and process traumatic and life-changing experiences.

Applicants to the NEH Discussion Leader Training Program must be veterans who hold or are completing a Master’s Degree in the Humanities or an allied field (e.g., Literature, Creative Writing, History, Philosophy, Law, Politics, Religion, Art, Anthropology, Sociology, Human Behavior, Psychology, Sociology, Education, Leadership, etc.). An exceptional Bachelor’s Degree holder may be considered. Project coordinators are hoping to support NU and SDSU veteran alumni but all qualified veterans may apply.

The training workshop will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. over two weekends in November two weeks apart (Nov. 7-8 and 21-22). Due to COVID-19, the training workshop will take place virtually.

NEH Discussion Leaders receive all program materials free of charge and are paid a stipend. For information and application, visit bit.ly/13yFle8. The deadline for applications for this position is Sept. 30.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The project, “A Soldier’s Place: Veterans and Civilians Speaking about War” is a public humanities program offered at National University. The program is open to all veterans and civilians who are interested in the study of war and what it means to be a warrior in both ancient and modern times. This program creates a space where those affected by war and its aftermath can explore important humanities sources on war and have meaningful conversations through facilitated discussions of those sources.

The program supports the idea that reading and discussing humanities texts about war in a supportive intellectual environment can help U.S. military veterans and civilians reflect more deeply about the issues raised by war and military service and compare their experiences and reactions to the experiences and reactions of people from other times and places.

Project readings include epic poetry, narrative non-fiction, military biography, and memoir. They highlight multiple branches of service and uncover men and women’s experiences on the battlefield and the homefront. Readings focus on three wars: the Trojan War, the Vietnam War, and the Iraq War (Operation Iraqi Freedom) to highlight the persistence of powerful themes of trauma, loyalty, heroism, and homecoming and the effects of their enactments on individuals and societies in the accounts of war over the last three thousand years. The battle arenas are completely different yet the impacts of the wars are significantly similar.

The Veterans and Civilians Speaking about War program welcomes participation from all veterans, active duty members, civilians, and others associated with the military regardless of branch, service years, deployment history, disability status, age, race, or gender.

PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM

Program participants have the opportunity to join a small group of people, veterans and civilians, veterans and civilians, share stories, expand networks, support one another, and use the humanities to open up dialogues on the experience of war. All materials are provided at no cost to participants.

Discussion groups will meet twice monthly for five months (January to May 2021) and will meet either on a weekday evening or on a Saturday during the day. National University currently plans to resume campus operations in January 2021. On campus and online discussion groups will be offered. Applications are available online at, nu.libguides.com/nehvetproject. Class size is limited and registration is first-come, first-served. Applications are due Nov. 1, 2020, or until space fills. For more information, contact Dr. Lorna Zukas at 619-538-9689 or lzukas@nu.edu. Follow on Twitter at @SoldierPlace.

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Millennials are driving this housing market

By SARAH WARD

Millennials are defined as those born between 1981 and 1996 and are currently aged between 24 and 39 years old. This group recently passed the baby boomers as the largest adult generation in the U.S. This group is suddenly moving out of their parent’s homes, moving out of their apartments, and fueling the home purchase market in a big way. Over the last 10 years, real estate analysts continued to assume this group would remain primarily renters due to high student debt, other debt, and a reluctance to enter into mortgages as the days continued to show a lag in their ability to qualify for mortgages. However, that idea is quickly unraveling as this group has now entered the home purchase market in droves. The COVID-19 outbreak is obviously a factor, acting as a catalyst to get these people in the home buying mindset. Lots of soul searching has been going on over the last six months. The millennials, like most of us, having been spending a lot more time at home and the idea of purchasing a property has moved from the backburner to the front. But the equation also includes low down payment loans, record low interest rates, and the Fed spurring trillion dollars into the economy.

Millennial home buyers are now making up over 40% of the entire residential purchase market and over 64% of mortgage originations. This recent surge is helping keep home prices high and the housing market stable. With San Diego rents frustratingly high, it is sometimes cheaper to buy a property than to continue renting these days. I recently worked with a buyer in their early 30’s who was paying $2,500 rent at the beach and now owns a condo near North Park for $2,200 a month all-in.

As I mentioned in my last article, I have had a few buyers say they want to wait until home prices drop 20% to 30% (like in 2008 to 2009) before jumping in to the purchase market. However, mortgage qualification at that time was weak, contributing to that downturn. Mortgages written over the last 10 years have been written according to stricter qualifications and additionally few homeowners are typically underwater at this time. Expect current home prices to hold steady.

One additional note to consider is that anyone who has taken out a mortgage in the last ten years is likely to have great knowledge in importing a rental property to hold for a turn. Mortgages written over the last 10 years have been written according to stricter qualifications and additionally few homeowners are typically underwater at this time. Expect current home prices to hold steady.

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back to health and then finding them great homes. Over the months of COVID, we have inspired other neighborhood families to also foster and have shared in the care and fun of three litters together. They really do bring a lot of new life and positive energy into our homes.

People often say they could never foster dogs because it would be too hard to give them up. For me, the feeling I get when I have matched the perfect dog with the perfect home is far greater than any sadness associated with my own personal loss. It’s like watching the beginning of a love story. Additionally, most of the owners of the dogs we place in homes stay in touch via text and social media, so I get to enjoy watching the dogs grow up and bond with their forever family.

So far, we’ve placed four dogs with families who live right here in Alvarado Estates. One such adoption was by the Lee family. Mrs. Lee told me, “Adopting (our dog) Lewis was one of those meant to be moments. He came into our home and it is like he has always been with us. We are all so in love with him!”

It’s so fun to see them walking Lewis around the neighborhood and realizing I had an important role in bringing them together. Animal rescue is now a central part of who I am. It is the most rewarding experience of my short life to date and it has been my saving grace over COVID. I guess what I am trying to demonstrate is the importance of service to the community and the benefit to my own mental health. I now know that one quiet act of heartfelt kindness can inspire others to also act. Together, the overall impact becomes exponential.

I acknowledge that rescuing dogs isn’t going to end climate change, cancer cure, stop school shootings or change the world in any of the Nobel Peace Prize-worthy but it does unquestionably change the world forever for each and every one of those dogs, and that is a pretty empowering feeling for this teenaged quarantined girl.

If you are interested in fostering or want to adopt, contact Mutt Scouts Dog Rescue at muttscouts.org.

—Maddison Joyce writes on behalf of the Alvarado Estates Association.

Puppy story

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Fostered dog with forever home family in Alvarado Estates (Courtesy photo)

"I get to enjoy watching the dogs grow up and bond with their forever family."

"Adopting (our dog) Lewis was one of those meant to be moments."
St. Katharine opens for in-person learning

By KELLY BONDE

As of Sept. 2, St. Katharine Drexel Academy is officially reopened for in-person learning, per the governor’s mandate that San Diego County remain off the watch list for 14 consecutive days. SKDA took a phased-in approach by welcoming transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students on Sept. 2, first through fourth grade on Sept. 8, and fifth through eighth grade will begin on Sept. 14. Parents also have the option to continue distance learning for their child if they’d like.

The school’s reopen plan is in accordance with the local, state and CDC guidelines for schools. In the morning, all students will be screened for symptoms and have their temperatures checked. Each grade level has their own designated hand washing station. All students are 6 feet apart in the classroom and have their assigned desk all day. Mask will be worn on campus all day unless the students are eating or playing outside safely more than 6 feet away from each other. In addition to this, the campus will be sanitized every day. No supplies will be shared without sanitization in between and no cohorts will mix.

All of these rules still allow for fun, a love of learning and community. Recess and lunch will have music, and students will still be able to work in groups with the use of Google Meets. Each child will be assigned their own device while at school as well.

We are still hosting clubs on campus, where the students will meet virtually from their classroom with students and a teacher throughout the school, including Lego Club, Craft Club, Future Scientists and Coding, just to name a few. We will also be continuing to hold Mass outdoors, welcoming one grade level a week and livestreaming Mass to the classrooms and to home.

For families who choose distance learning or for children who are quarantined at home but well enough to join class, each teacher will have a tripod streaming their class via Google Meets. The students at home will be able to watch class and unmute themselves to ask questions.

For all classes, all of the curriculum material will be available on either Seesaw for younger students or Google Classroom for third grade and up. This way, the transition from home to school is seamless. We know this year is bound to present challenges, but we want to work with all of our families to make this the best experience we can for the child.

SKDA is still enrolling and has some spots available. The full reopen plan can be found on the school website at skda-sd.org. To schedule a tour, contact the main office at 619-582-3862 or email mainoffice@skda-sd.org.

—Kelly Bonde is principal of Saint Katharine Drexel Academy.

The way we celebrate these days has changed. But one thing hasn’t. Though metallic foil balloons seem harmless, they can actually be dangerous around electric power lines. The metal in the balloons can cause the line to arc and spark. So keep balloons securely tied down or weighted when outdoors. Always deflate and dispose of them when the party’s over. And when we all return to our normal celebrations, think about using festive rubber or vinyl balloons instead.

Get more tips at sdge.com/safety
Mediterranean melange

Restaurant Review

By FRANK SABATINI JR.

With some of the cheapest meal prices in town coupled with big, bold signage that stands out from blocks away, Mystic Grill & Bakery is difficult to ignore. Located advantageously on the corner of University Avenue and 70th Street, the fast-casual restaurant has been serving up Mediterranean-inspired food for over 12 years. Yes, there are the obvious choices such as Greek-style salads, hummus, gyros and kabobs. But you’ll also find things like kibbeh, which are crunchy Arabic croquettes encasing ground beef and onions, plus assorted meat pies of Levantine origin filled with spinach, beef or chicken shawarma. The kibbeh and meat pies are only $1.99 each.

There’s also pizza using house-made dough. Remarkably a 14-incher with two toppings sells for $5.95 — less than what many frozen, commercial brands cost. For $5.95 — less than what many 14-incher with two toppings sells for $5.95 — less than what many

For Pick-Up or Delivery

He ran a second location of Mystic Grill on Fletcher Parkway in La Mesa but closed it for an offshoot he opened on Balboa Avenue in Kearny Mesa. I kicked off a midday lunch with two kibbeh constructed traditionally with sturdy bulgur wheat casings. With kibbeh I’ve encountered elsewhere, the ground beef inside is usually light seasoned. Yet in this case, the earthiness of the wheat create a distinct flavor that sort of resembles a juicy sugar cookie, if one ever existed. As for the baklava, both pieces were feathery light on the outside and moist and nutty inside.

Mystic Grill’s large, pictorial menu hangs over the order counter and visually entices you with substantial entrees and combination plates as well. Those offerings average around $11 and include beef or veggie moussaka; salmon or jumbo shrimp over rice; pasta with a choice of seafood and sauces; and kabobs of beef, lamb or chicken served with rice and salad.

The triple-storefront space offers ample seating at granite-topped tables. Vivid, framed paintings of Mediterranean landscapes occupy the walls and correspond well to the assorted foods from multiple countries that inevitably end up in your mouth.

—Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of ‘Secret San Diego’ (ECW Press) and began his local writing career more than two decades ago as a staffer for the former San Diego Tribune. You can reach him at fsabatini@san.rr.com.

Co-owner Kamal Laila at the cone of chicken shawarma (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Kibbeh with yogurt sauce

A falafel wrap

Falafel wrap

Pistachio baklava, almond baklava, and harissa

Kibbeh with yogurt sauce

Sticky, smoky, nutty baklava, and harissa.

A meat pie filled modestly with chicken shawarma was my first introduction to the house-seasoned poultry that is sliced directly from a sumptuous cone of all-white meat. It prompted me to order a plate of the shawarma by itself. The robust flavors of fennel, smoky paprika, cinnamon, salt and cayenne pepper duly compensated for the dryness of the chicken, which sported crispy edges reminiscent of those tasty end pieces you find on roast beef. A falafel wrap with the addition of lettuce cheese inside needed a boost from garlic sauce since the fried chickpeas balls tasted cum-in-deprived. But the sauce lacked flavor too, as I could barely detect any garlic in it. So I resorted instead to a little cup of hot sauce in it (maybe tahini), which gave the wrap a decent zip. On the plus side, it’s a hefty item with plentiful fillings for only $4.99.

When I asked Laila how he’s able to keep prices so low,

he didn’t offer an explanation, but said with a chuckle, “We’re going to change them soon.”

I concluded my visit with a small plate of finger-sized desserts: two types of baklava, one made with pistachios and the other with almonds; and a minia-ture square of harisa.

The latter is an Arabic cake combining cream of wheat, yogurt, fresh coconut and honey. The merged ingredients create a distinct flavor that sort of resembles a juicy sugar cookie, if one ever existed. As for the baklava, both pieces were feathery light on the outside and moist and nutty inside.

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Adapting artist

just one of the many concerts the group has put on from the garage of Childhood-Evans’ home at 7623 Flag Lake Street in San Carlos. Since early May, the band has put on a concert every two weeks, drawing fans and neighbors out to the street to hear their music play. “It’s just nice to be on this regular schedule,” Lollis said.

The alt-weekly garage concert schedule replaces the band’s normal gigging schedule, which averaged six to 10 shows a month. Lollis added. The band performed regularly at places like Nate’s Garden Cafe, Wynola Pizza in Julian and the Pine Valley House in Mount Laguna. The band was also a fixture at large events like Art Walk. Adam’s Avenue Street Fair and was billed to play at this year’s San Diego County Fair.

The band members said they worry about what might happen to local music venues as the pandemic drags on keeps their doors closed. One venue they frequently play at — Space Bar in La Mesa — is being helped out by the musicians who played there regularly, a group of over 50 people who have made it a habit to buy coffee or lunch there at least once a week.

“We’re, as a community of musicians, trying to keep [it] alive,” Childhood-Evans said. “We’ve got to have these places to go to when it’s safer.”

Since the pandemic began, many musicians have taken to the internet, performing online and asking for tips through PayPal or Venmo. Although some artists have found some success in that format, it is one that Enter The Blue Sky has largely avoided, preferring instead to put out a tip jar for people to offer up support during their garage concerts.

“While we do have one of those online live open mics, but there’s really nothing like the actual live vibe,” Lollis said.

Dee added, “There’s something real sterile for me playing the online open mics because I have to have that feedback from people. We’re having a conversation here. With Sande’s words, which are amazing, this conversation has to be received. If you’re just singing to the wall there’s some sterility there.”

The band has found a happy medium by broadcasting their garage concerts on Facebook Live.

Beyond live streaming and garage concerts, the band members are hopeful some more socially-distant performance opportunities will arise.

Childhood-Evans pointed to a gig her and husband have playing with “30s and 40s music to seniors. “When we go to the retirement homes, we can’t go in, but they come out on a balcony and we play from a patio,” she said, adding that the idea could be expanded to local casinos where hotel room balconies could overlook a performance stage. Concerts in parks could also return if families sat together and stayed socially distant from each other.

The problem is not us,” Childhood-Evans said. “The problem is the people that come to see us. They got to wear masks and have to stay at appropriate distance.”

While waiting for more performance opportunities to come about, or for the restrictions on venues to be lifted, Enter The Blue Sky has stayed busy with its regular rehearsal schedule and has also finished up their first music video, or Venmo. Although some artists have found some success in that format, it is one that Enter The Blue Sky has largely avoided, preferring instead to put out a tip jar for people to offer up support during their garage concerts. (to enter) Enter The Blue Sky members Tina Dee, Sandé Lollis and Karen Childhood-Evans perform a garage concert in San Carlos. (Courtesy photo)

“Who knows?” Lollis added. “Maybe we’ll just keep doing them forever.”

THE SHOW WILL GO ON

In the midst of a pandemic where people are asked to stay socially distant from each other, it would seem improbable that a theater company could put on a full production. However, that is exactly what Rolando-based Moxie Theatre plans to do. Opening Sept. 12 and running Thursdays through Sundays at 7 p.m., Moxie will offer online presentations of “The Niceties” by Eleanor Burgess, a play that focuses on two women at an Ivy League school and delves into the topic of racial justice.

“We thought, ‘We already planned to do this, this moment is ripe to have this discussion and we don’t want to do this just on a Zoom conference call. We want to make theater and what is the safest way we can do this,” said Moxie Executive Artistic Director Jennifer E. Thorn.

To pull off a full-production play safely, Thorn said they chose “The Niceties” because it was the safest to produce of all the plays in the season that was planned before the pandemic. “There are only two actresses in the play and they were able to do much of their rehearsal on video chat. The simple set — a school office setting with books and a desk — was built over a much longer period of time to allow for social distancing.

“Keeping you safe is our #1 priority,” added Moxie Executive Artistic Director Jennifer E. Thorn.

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Keeping you safe is our #1 priority.
Adapting artist

When in person rehearsal was set to begin, the director, stage team, camera crew and actresses self-quarantined after being tested. Because members of the Moxie board of directors are filmmakers, the production was able to be filmed with very high quality. Thorn said, “We’re attempting to capture what feels like live theater on film — so we’re not making a movie, she added. “People watching will know it’s a play. It’s lit like a play. It moves and sounds like a play.”

Although the play is not presented like a movie, there is a movie that will come out about the production. Filmmaker John Brooks is also making a documentary companion piece about the “unique convergence of things happening with the production” — the attempt to do theater in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and the play being about racial justice during a time of mass social unrest following the recent high-profile killings of unarmed Black men, Thorn said. Although the companion documentary won’t be released right away, each night of the production, audiences will be invited to join in discussions with the cast or special guests. “I will be live before every single performance welcoming the audience and talking about who they will meet after the performance that night,” Thorn said. “And every single night of the show, someone from the community — maybe a professor, someone from the community.”

These audience interactions are a regular feature of in-person Moxie performances and Thorn said keeping this tradition for the online presentation was especially important for this play because the subject matter calls for discussion.”

Normally you’d get to do a play performance even in your car with whoever you came with on the way home,” she said. “But [online viewing] sort of just leaves you in the living room, if that’s where you’re watching from, and I think the play deserves some time to digest and talk about it so audiences will get to do that after they watch.”

A lot is riding on “The Niceties” success — it being the first tick-tack-toed experiment by Moxie since the start of the pandemic. But Thorn is confident it will do well, in part because Moxie very early on in the quarantine pivoted to producing plays on the Zoom video platform. “As soon as we all know we were going to be home, my company, like so many companies, started video conferencing on Zoom. And it was only after a couple of meetings that it became clear to me that it’s really theatrical, being on a video conference call. It’s hilarious,” she said. “We started reaching out to artists and playwrights we work with and asked them if we could pay them to keep writing new plays and performing them live and our audience response was pretty incredible.”

Thorn herself wrote the first Zoom-themed play for Moxie — a play titled “Safe Distance” about a company who had pivoted to a Zoom call, resulting in a confrontation between a bookkeeper and the CEO.

“The bookkeeper waited until everyone was off the call to confront this CEO about a line item, about money going missing,” Thorn said. “And it played with the idea that because we were all just starting out on Zoom, we didn’t all understand that somebody could appear to leave the room when they shut their video down but their audio could still be there. So this character had somebody shut their video down and watch so she would have a witness to this conversation.”

Thorn said the response from audiences was “crazy.” Shows would have a preshow comedy routine on current events, and productions covered topics ranging from marriage therapy to online dating for seniors and even a murder mystery. The Zoom productions were about 20 minutes long and Moxie put out a video platform.

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We will support staffing, supplies, mortgage and rental assistance, business resilience and capital improvements on the frontlines.

To date, the COVID-19 Community Response Fund at The San Diego Foundation has distributed more than $2.6 million to nonprofit on the frontlines of the crisis.

The Foundation will also provide an additional $10 million in grants to support children and families, and access to quality, affordable childcare in the San Diego region over the next five years with at least $1 million of that distributed in 2020. Funding will be allocated based on predetermined categories outlined in the CARES Act agreement.

Large family childcare providers (licensed to care for a maximum of 14 children) will be eligible to receive up to $1,500 and small family childcare providers (licensed to care for a maximum of 8 children) will be eligible for up to $2,750. Non-government contracted, licensed providers will be eligible to receive up to $175 per child capacity based on childcare license.

Partially-funded Government contracted (i.e. CSPP, CCTR, Head Start), licensed childcare centers will be eligible to receive up to $175 per non-subsidized child, not to exceed license capacity. Non-government contracted, license-exempt group care providers, such as summer day camps, recreational programs that are camps and community youth clubs such as Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego, that serve school-age children up to 12 years old will be eligible to receive up to $100 per child capacity.

To learn more about the San Diego County Childcare Provider Grant Program, visit SDfoundation.org/ChildcareGrants.
click in and listen, new episodes are added on Tuesday and Thursday, and can be accessed through the library’s Virtual Library of Things. The library’s staff is working diligently to create take home craft kits for young children looking for something to do while our library remains closed. Available kits are displayed on a sign in the parking lot and will be available while supplies last. To request a kit, please come to the library and give us a call indicating which kit you would like. We will gladly bring out the kits for you and your little one to take home and enjoy.

Distance learning tools for students: San Diego Public Library has curated a list of several resources to help students with their academic studies. To navigate, go to our home page and select the “Distance Learning” tile for the full list of resources.

Thank you, and feel free to reach out to us with any questions 619-535-4500 Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and check out the Library’s website for the most current information (sandiego.gov/public-library) or download the SDPL app on your mobile device.

—Kathryn Johnson is managing librarian of the Allied Gardens-Benjamin Branch Library.

SAN CARLOS BRANCH
The San Carlos Library Contactless Pick-Up Service is going strong! We average between 50 to 60 pick-ups a day and even top 100 on Friday afternoons. It is wonderful to see so many familiar faces, we encourage you to smile behind your masks.

Don’t forget that you can return your library items. Library bookdrops at all 36 locations are open Monday through Friday but will be closed on weekends. Come by during the week to drop off your library materials. Please note that all returned materials will be quarantined for 96 hours so it may take up to one week before they are cleared from library accounts. Do you or your kids miss reading the television’s paperback books? “You Go Reads are here!” Visit the San Carlos Library, choose a prepackaged set of five themed books, and we will check them out to you on the spot. “You Go Magic,” “Goosebumps,” “My Weird School,” “I Survived” and more – we’ve got lots of choices, and we add new ones every day. Come and get ’em!”

Before heading Program prizes are still available for pick up through the end of September on Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at any of our eight contactless Pick-Up Service locations. Visit your local pickup site and once you arrive, call the library and let staff know you are here for your pick up.

At this time, participants will receive a coupon for the free book prize. Hold on to the coupon to choose a book when we reopen.

—David Egg is managing librarian of the San Carlos Library.
Sarah Ward, Your Local REALTOR®

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