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**CONTACT US**

Editorial
(858) 270-3103 x130
jeff@sdnews.com

Advertising
(858) 270-3103 x118
hfine@sdnews.com

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**Fighting COVID in El Centro, America's hardest hit city**

By JEFF CLEMETSON

Like a lot of filmmakers, La Jolla resident Adam Raby's film projects in 2020 were put on hold. But on Dec. 31, Empowering a Billion Women (EBW, ebw2020.com) connected with Raby for an opportunity to film ground zero in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic — El Centro, California.

EBW is an organization made up of a global network of women leaders who advocate for women's health and prosperity. Raby is the Executive Director of EBW and is also the current Secretary of Health and Human Services for Preparedness and Response.

**San Diego History Center honors city's Black heroes**

By KAREN SCANLON

February marks Black History Month and San Diego History Center has launched a new exhibit titled, Celebrate San Diego: Black History & Heritage. Though the center is currently closed to the public, everyone can encounter the exhibit at bit.ly/3aT8rHM.

“We’ve experienced wonderful success in collecting community-sourced content through our “Share Your Story” COVID-19 initiative,” SDHC president/CEO Bill Lawrence said. A virtual time line celebration acknowledges historical events of African Americans who lived in San Diego County, which includes the following nuggets of interest. Some of the heroes will also be recognized in a 24-foot wide feature at the Balboa Park SDHC Museum.

In 1913, Henrietta Goodwin became the first African American graduate from the State Normal School.

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**NEWSOM VISITS VACCINATION SUPERSTATION**

Gov. Gavin Newsom was in San Diego on Feb. 8 to tour the County’s COVID-19 Vaccination Super Station at Petco Park. The site was the first of its kind in the state and the governor lauded the County and its partners for their efforts in vaccinating more than 100,000 San Diegans at the site since it opened last month.

The governor said the Vaccination Super Station at Petco Park helped inspire jurisdictions across the state to initiate similar large-scale vaccination efforts.

Locally, the County has added three additional Vaccination Super Stations and more than a dozen vaccine PODS since Petco Park became operational as a vaccination site. Together, medical professionals at these sites have administered about a half million COVID-19 vaccines to San Diegans eligible to be vaccinated.

The operation in the Tailgate Lot at Petco Park is the result of a partnership between the County, UC San Diego Health, the San Diego Padres and the City of San Diego which owns the property. Speakers from all entities attended a press conference this morning to join the governor in talking about the region’s vaccination efforts.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

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Black History

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of San Diego (now San Diego State University). Goodwin was not listed on the school’s roster of 15 graduates, which likely why San Diego Union excluded her in its announcement. Let it be known, however, that both an attendance ledger and registration record indicated that this young Black woman entered the school in 1908 and graduated in January 1913.

The Colored Voters Political Club was the first Black bureaucratic organization in San Diego. By the early 1900s, the city’s Black population swelled dramatically, though still less than one percent of the populace. With this increase, they formed groups to express themselves in ways not permitted in a predominately White setting.

In 1887, Solomon and Cordelia Johnson were instrumental in the formation of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. The congregation met in the Johnson home at F and Union streets until funds were raised to secure a church site at 1647 Front St.

Remembering San Diego’s 1905 naval disaster brings attention to John Henry Turpin, one of only a few Black sailors in the U.S. Navy at the time. Born in New Jersey in 1876, Turpin enlisted in the Navy in 1896. In 1917 he was promoted to the rank of chief petty officer. During Turpin’s 29-year naval career, he survived two shipboard explosions: the first in 1898 on the battleship USS Maine, Havana, Cuba. The explosion, which contributed to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, killed 260 seamen.

A second explosion, took place in San Diego when two boilers let loose aboard the Navy gunboat USS Bennington, in July 1905. One officer and 65 sailors died.

In both incidents, a stunned Turpin rescued a number of injured and dying shipmates, swimming them to shore one by one. Eleven of Bennington’s crew, for similar actions taken, received the Navy’s highest service award, the Medal of Honor. Turpin did not!

Our hero transferred to the Fleet Reserve in 1919, also qualified as a master diver, and retired from the U.S. Navy in 1945 to Bremerton, Wash.

Jamaican born Turpin fought for a country that never fully recognized him, until now. (President John Kennedy approved his Medal of Honor nomination for posthumous award in the 1960s, but it went to the government’s back burner. Current efforts are underway.)

In September 2020, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed legislation to rename Washington’s Bremerton Post Office to honor John Henry Turpin.

Let’s all salute San Diego’s Black history, citizens that lived in, and stepped out of, the shadow of what was rightfully theirs.

—Karen Scallon is a local writer of history and co-author of “Lighthouses of San Diego.”

News briefs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Speakers included Newsom, County Board of Supervisors Chair Nathan Fletcher; Mayor Todd Gloria; Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.; County public health officer; and Erik Greupner, CEO, San Diego Padres.

SUPES CALL FOR $30 MILLION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Supervisors Terra Lawson-Reemer and Joel Anderson held a press conference on Feb. 8 calling for the County to be prepared to implement $30 million in support for small business stimulus relief as soon as federal or state stimulus dollars are received.

“The message to San Diego County’s small businesses is clear: we hear you, we’re with you, and more help is on the way,” said Supervisor Terra Lawson-Reemer.

Joining Supervisors Lawson-Reemer and Anderson were Joe Paraiso, owner of Brew Coffee Sport in La Mesa, as well as Fernando Hoyos, owner of Club Pilates in Poway. Both hard-working business owners outlined how COVID has committed to working together for common solutions that lift everyone in our community.”

“While Supervisor Lawson-Reemer and I have different political philosophies and represent vastly different districts, we share the common goal of helping the tens of thousands of our fellow residents that are hurting,” said Supervisor Anderson. “Business owners are struggling to keep their doors open and their employees working. While this $30 million stimulus won’t solve all the problems, this is another step towards a better future, and I am

In 1913, Henrietta Goodwin, seated at right, was the first Black graduate at San Diego’s State Normal School. (Photo courtesy of San Diego History Center)

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Just Listed in San Carlos

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, Page 7
Water Authority exploring new aqueduct plan

Addressing the San Diego region’s limited local water supplies with innovative ideas is something the San Diego County Water Authority has become known for. Using expertise gained from decades of successful planning and projects, the Water Authority is developing strategies to reduce the future cost of water that sustains the economy and quality of life across the county.

Those efforts are ramping up in early 2021, following a Water Authority Board decision to continue assessing the potential for a new aqueduct to transport San Diego’s low-cost, high-priority water supplies from the Colorado River to San Diego County. About 50 percent of the region’s current water supplies are from this independent source, and it is the region’s lowest base-cost supply.

The water conveyance project would only be implemented if it’s more cost-effective than the current system, which requires paying the Los Angeles-based Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to deliver San Diego County’s independent water supplies. A viable project would reduce the cost of water and increase supply reliability, improving affordability of safe, clean water for San Diego County residents. Plus, in the long-term, it would give San Diego ratepayers more control over costs.

The Water Authority is the long-term water planning agency for metropolitan San Diego County and the region’s wholesale water provider, serving 3.3 million people and a $245 billion economy in partnership with its 24 retail member agencies, which provide supplies to homes and businesses across the region.

The first phase of the Regional Conveyance System Study demonstrated the technical viability and economic competitiveness of two routes for an aqueduct to transport the Water Authority’s high-priority Colorado River water to the county.

The second phase focuses on a detailed economic analysis of the two water conveyance route alternatives and further exploring partnerships that could provide significant benefits to an array of stakeholders and potentially reduce the cost of project development.

At the end of Phase B, the agency’s 36-member Board – representing all 24 member water agencies – will decide whether to continue with regional conveyance planning.

“Those issues are complex and the decisions never easy, but the Board chose to keep all water supplies and delivery options on the table in light of future uncertainties,” said Gary Croucher, chair of the Water Authority’s Board of Directors. “I look forward to learning from Phase B and working with the Board to decide what we kept when that study phase is done.”

Today, half of the San Diego region’s water supplies are from two landmark 2003 water conservation agreements known as the Colorado River Quantification Settlement Agreement. Conserved water from the QSA is transferred to San Diego County from Imperial Valley using a pipeline that is owned by MWD, which owns the only facilities available to transport Colorado River water to San Diego County. The cost of using MWD facilities to deliver San Diego’s QSA water has increased 30% over the past five years, so water leaders are looking to save costs on delivering this critical water supply.

The Water Authority’s agreement with MWD to deliver the water lasts until 2047, so the Water Authority is working to develop conveyance alternatives that manage future cost and risks. “While 2047 may seem distant, major water infrastructure projects take decades to develop, plan and build,” said Croucher. “By advancing to Phase B of the conveyance study, the Water Authority is taking prudent steps to ensure long-term water supply reliability for the region.”

Phase B will help address questions about mitigating short-term rate impacts of a project, the benefits of potential partnerships and funding opportunities, developing a finance plan and the requirements of existing agreements, as well as explore with MWD options for long-term water deliveries to the San Diego region using MWD facilities.

Water Authority staff will also begin the process of engaging more formally with stakeholders on potential mutually beneficial partnership projects identified in Phase A, including joint-use projects in the Imperial Valley, public-private partnerships, bi-national projects, renewable energy projects, regional operational storage projects, Salton Sea-related projects, and partnerships with tribes, federal and state governments, and member agencies.

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they got parking lots full of tents with people in them and they’re just trying to find a way to help this community.”

The MAB program that EBW, Raby and his partner Jose Valdez filmed was started by Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Dr. Robert Kadlec and is carried out by IHS and the El Centro Regional Medical Center, a UCSD hospital. The team’s role was to inform the public about the program, help alleviate fears and fight misinformation about the new treatment.

IMPRESSING COMMUNICATION OF COVID TREATMENTS

Women make 80% of health care decisions in the United States, according to Department of Labor statistics, so gaining the trust of women was critical in galvanizing support for the program.

“There is a lot of messaging out there that has made this virus and this pandemic even more tragic,” Raby said. “Using EBW to engage the women in this community and say ‘We have something that will help you, don’t be afraid to go get a test, don’t be afraid to go to the hospital, there are resources there that will help you,’ was an important part of this.”

Raby recalled one woman that was interviewed by a general manager at an electrical cooperative, who shared that one of her employees called in to work because she was not feeling well. Laura encouraged her to get tested.

“She also told her, because now she was aware of this, that she should ask her doctor if she meets the requirements for monoclonal antibody treatment. Two hours later she was getting the monoclonal antibody injection. So that’s the power of sharing the story.”

Another success story was the El Centro fire chief, Cedric Cesena, who had severe symptoms from COVID.

“Within 48 hours after the monoclonal treatment, I was at 80% back to normal,” Cesena said. “My wife’s life was also saved by the infusion. She’s got bronchitis and developed a pneumonia, and without the infusion she probably would’ve died.”

But educating the public about MABs wasn’t the only issue facing the EBW team.

“Our roll in El Centro started with how we galvanize people around knowing about the antibodies,” said EBW founder and CEO Ingrid Vanderveldt. “It has morphed into something far greater than that. How do we simplify for the American public COVID’s five-step progression?”

As Raby, Valdez and Vanderveldt interviewed local community leaders, healthcare professionals and citizens who shared their stories about the successes of the infusion centers, their backdrop was often the COVID-positive tents where people newly infected were admitted, so there’s a slight chance that you’ll get admitted. “But what we’re talking about is we’re avoiding hospitalization early: we’re catching the COVID positives early: we’re treating the COVID positives with the monoclonal body early: and we’re getting better results at the end of the day,” he added.

Dr. Edward estimates that one ICU bed is freed up for every 10 patients treated with a MAB infusion. Pre-COVID, the El Centro Regional Medical Center had only 12 ICU beds, but has now expanded to over 60 in the hospital and even in outside tents.

THE FRONTLINES OF A PANDEMIC

As Raby, Valdez and Vanderveldt interviewed local community leaders, healthcare professionals and citizens who shared their stories about the successes of the infusion centers, their backdrop was often the COVID-positive tents where the filmmakers witnessed the around-the-clock battle healthcare workers were engaged in trying to save lives.

“It felt like we were in a war zone,” Raby said. “People weren’t shooting at us but there was the effect of the bodies that were lined up outside the hospital ward because they had nowhere to put the deceased. We had that view. And it was powerful. It was disheartening. It was tragic.”

Dr. Edwards described the situation in El Centro as “a lawful fact. That is the reality here.”

“We’ve been on the New York Times [list of bad places with very high concentrations of COVID positives]. We’ve been ranked number 1 for 10 weeks, although we’re down to three or four right now, but that’s one of those lists you don’t want to be on,” he said.

After the team finished filming in El Centro, they realized they had documented more than just a government program.

“The emotions of what I experienced over the last six days hit me and tears just started pouring down my face,” he said. “Because what we were witnessing wasn’t just something about COVID-19, it was about a community. It was about people. It was about a history of the land.”

“This was once a desert and because of water it has turned into the fruit and vegetable basket of our country in the winter months. Along with that comes people who’ve been affected by this pandemic more than most places in the county. I think their positive rate was at 37%.”

The high rate of infection comes from a variety of factors in El Centro, where a sizable portion of the population are migrant workers exposed to environmental pollutants like pesticides and many families live in multi-generational households with little to no ability to quarantine at home.

“These people have been affected for a long period of time and their health is at risk. COVID-19 picks on people who have those kind of health issues and it doesn’t allow them up,” Raby said. “And now, hopefully, the people that were there — IHS, certainly EBW, as well as the Department of Defense that is doing this Operation Warp Speed — they will see this community needs the help. And if we can help this community, we can take this program and help the entire country.”

A STRATEGY EMERGES

As the COVID vaccine becomes more available, the EBW team, as well as the doctors at El Centro Medical Center, envision a new tactic to fight the surge by pairing vaccination stations with infusion centers.

“When EBW first visited here, I encouraged that we marry up the infusion and vaccination together because it helps us at the end of the day,” Dr. Edward said. “We’ve been talking about getting more vaccinations down here, it hasn’t happened yet, we’re still waiting for distribution. But avoiding hospitalization, avoiding an ICU bed means a better outcome for the patient, which is a healthier society.”
News briefs CONTINUED FROM Page 3

adversely affected their business and expressed their support for the Supervisors’ efforts to have additional stimulus grants available for San Diego’s qualified businesses.

“We’re thankful that there are people in our local government that are doing their best to help us, and we are truly appreciative,” said Mr. Paraiso. “Any help we can get would definitely allow us to stay in business.”

The bipartisan effort to further support the region’s economy is dependent upon Congress passing a federal stimulus package, as well as the Board approving a joint Board Letter being offered by Supervisors Lawson-Remier and Anderson tomorrow to prepare for the federal support.

STATE ISSUES $45.5 MILLION IN RENT RELIEF FOR SAN DIEGO

On the heels of announcing federal rental assistance in late January, Mayor Todd Gloria announced on Feb. 5 that the state will provide more than $45.5 million in assistance for San Diego residents unable to pay rent due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Together, this week’s funding and the direct federal funding announced previously amounts to nearly $87.9 million in relief for families and individuals who’ve been devastated financially by the pandemic. This is on top of $13.75 million in emergency rental assistance that helped 3,717 San Diego households in 2020.

“Gov. Gavin Newsom, Senate President pro Tem Toni Atkins, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and the California Legislature really came through for tenants and landlords in our city and across California who have had an incredibly hard time throughout this crisis,” Gloria said. “I will work to get these rent relief dollars out for the benefit of our renters as soon as possible.”

The funding comes as part of Senate Bill 91, which distributes to local agencies funds the state received from the federal government. SB 91 also established a statewide moratorium on evictions of residential tenants unable to pay rent due to the effects of COVID-19. The moratorium is now effective through June 30.

On Jan. 26, the San Diego City Council approved Gloria’s proposal to extend pandemic-related ban on both residential and commercial evictions. The state’s law supersedes San Diego’s residential eviction moratorium. Because San Diego’s moratorium on residential evictions will last until 60 days after the City’s

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

The EBW team and Dr. Edward Vanderveldt also point out that right now it seems unlikely that the surge will be stopped by vaccines alone.

“Rolling out vaccine distribution is a daunting task and the vaccine distribution at the same time is a problem because there are not enough vaccines out there,” she said. “Plus, there is still too much doubt about vaccine safety and so the adoption rate may not be enough to reach herd immunity.”

This is not a plan that will take months to see results. According to Dr. Edward, if the community gets vaccines and their distribution is paired with infusion centers, El Centro could start to turn around in three days.

In the meantime, spreading vaccine distribution is a daunting task and the vaccine distribution at the same time is a problem because there are not enough vaccines out there,” she said. “Plus, there is still too much doubt about vaccine safety and so the adoption rate may not be enough to reach herd immunity.”

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Fighting to save San Diego’s utility undergrounding program

By MARA W. ELLIOTT

For years, the City of San Diego has been working to remove tangles of unsightly overhead power lines, which have been defacing our neighborhoods, decreasing walkability, and protecting the public from exposed infrastructure.

These widely-supported efforts were nearly derailed by a recent lawsuit. That’s why I’ve dispatched my office’s highly skilled litigators to defend San Diego’s undergrounding program and ensure uninterrupted continuation.

The party bringing the lawsuit is seeking a multi-million dollar payout from a fund specifically set aside to pay for undergrounding overhead lines.

SDG&E ratepayers are likely unaware of the drama playing out in court. Yet it’s at times like this that I am most proud of the quiet work our office does to protect San Diego taxpayers.

Most neighborhoods in San Diego were built when overhead power lines ran along the streets, often weaving through the trees. It wasn’t aesthetically pleasing, and the frequent power outages, tripping of sidewalks hard to navigate, especially for those using wheelchairs or pushing strollers.

Overhead power lines also create a significant public safety hazard, especially in wildfire-prone areas of the city, where a power line detached by high winds can quickly lead to an out-of-control fire, resulting in terrible losses of lives and property. Even without the threat of fire, a downed power line can be extraordinarily dangerous to motorists and pedestrians.

For decades, we’ve all been paying a surcharge on our SDG&E bills to have these power lines moved underground, but in 2015 a lawsuit was filed saying this charge was actually an illegal tax and needed to be approved by voters. That isn’t what the law says, however. Our attorneys proved to a San Diego Superior Court Judge that years of undergrounding in San Diego neighborhoods was done properly and legally and there was no legal obligation to give any of its money to the lawyers who filed the lawsuit.

An appeal was filed and in November the Fourth District Court of Appeal affirmed the Superior Court’s ruling, and the City once again prevailed. The complainers have now petitioned the California Supreme Court to review their case.

Our goal is to ensure the vital work to underground overhead utility lines throughout San Diego can continue, rather than spending years bogged down in costly litigation.

The City Attorney’s Office stands ready to protect our city from those who aim to stop progress in its tracks. I consider it our duty to defend taxpayers against baseless lawsuits that waste resources and interfere with important projects that enhance our quality of life.

The ability to go outside to take in the lovely views of our ocean, sunsets, mountains, and canyons has never been more important as we find ways to endure these challenges of the lengthy global pandemic. And now, more San Diegans can look forward to a future without the blight of power poles in the picture.

To learn about the utility undergrounding process in your neighborhood, visit sandiego.gov/ undergrounding.

—Mara W. Elliott is the San Diego City Attorney.

It’s time to recall Gov. Newsom

As we approach the one-year anniversary of a warning to Newsom from the Southern California Edison, we are finally seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. Seniors and front line workers are being vaccinated and hopefully, very soon, anyone that would like to receive the vaccine will be able to get one.

March will see the end of the 10-month long effort to collect signatures for the recall of Gov. Gavin Newsom. As of this writing, we have 1.4 million verified signatures of the 1.5 million needed for a special election. We never could have imagined the response from Democrats and Republicans alike. Newsom has proven to be a horrible leader of our state.

Here are the top eight most egregious offenses of Newsom’s reign:

The self-imposed energy crisis: California has abundant energy. Yet California cannot reliably provide energy to the tens of millions of Californians and their businesses that shut downs are a regular part of life and its biggest energy provider, PG&E has warned shut downs will be a fact of life for a decade. It is so bad that in 2019 the tech industry went on a warning to businesses that they will join the many other businesses leaving the state.

Newsom is nowhere with an effort to have industry leaders and mass shutdowns of the country get together to solve this problem that has caused so many jobs. Instead, Newsom blames others.

Wildfire danger: One of the reasons for power shut downs is the wildfire danger caused by decades of a lack of fire management and bowing to environmentalists by Newsom and others.

Finally, after deaths and mass destruction, California is putting serious money toward clearing brush. A serious governor would have acted before the tragedies.
At the February meeting of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club, members were fortunate to have another opportunity to hear from a sitting U.S. representative, Sara Jacobs (CA-50), and from an internationally renowned epidemiologist, Rebecca Fielding-Miller, Ph.D.

Rep. Jacobs described for members her harrowing experience when Trump fanatics, white supremacists and organized seditious fanatics stormed the United States Capitol building. She and other representatives were trapped behind their seats, and were instructed to don their evacuation hoods, to prevent against airborne chemical toxins. Despite experiencing first-hand a terrifying assault on our government and our democracy, Jacobs acknowledged that some Republican representatives, such as Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, directed their traffic to the lie in the conspiracy theories and fascistic rhetoric that fomented and precipitated the insurrection. In addition to voting to strip her of her committee assignments, Jacobs supports an investigation by the evenly bipartisan Ethics Committee, so that Americans can learn which members of Congress participated in the preparation and execution of the violent attack on our government.

That need for accountability notwithstanding, Jacobs continues to look for opportunities to accomplish legislative achievements. She singled out Republican representatives Peter Meijer (MI-3) and Blake Moore (UT-1) as examples of thoughtful members of the minority party, who act in good faith on behalf of their constituents, and who are willing to challenge the danger that the January 6 destruction and destructionist elements in the Republican caucus.

But with regard to the COVID relief bill, Jacobs made it clear that Democrats cannot and will not wait for Republicans to agree to sensible legislative action; the needs of the American people at home are too great and too urgent to delay simply to appease members of the minority party.

The budget reconciliation thing the Democrats can do with the mandate they have received from the American people, said Jacobs, is to pass legislation that makes a difference in the lives of Americans, so many of whom are suffering from the nonfeasance and malfeasance of the previous presidential administration, and of the previous congress. Every American will need a COVID vaccine, and millions of individuals, ranging from small businesses, desperately need economic relief. These are the priorities that the Congresswoman maintains will animate the Democrats’ first major legislative initiative of 2022.

On the topic of COVID vaccinations, Jacobs pointed out that Congress has oversight of the use of federal funds to facilitate the administration of the vaccine. If any folks in her district are having trouble getting information or assistance from state or county officials, the Congresswoman invited constituents to contact her office.

This offer of assistance from Rep. Jacobs dovetailed neatly with the work of Dr. Rebecca Fielding-Miller, of UCSD’s Division of Infectious Disease and Global Public Health. Dr. Fielding-Miller explained in detail to members the innumerable challenges of standing up not just a nationwide vaccination program, but also an initiative to vaccinate America. If any folks in her district are having trouble getting information or assistance from state or county officials, the Congresswoman invited constituents to contact her office.

She elaborated that the first two approved vaccines, from Pfizer and Moderna, are stunningly effective. But the vaccine requires two doses, given weeks apart, and the vaccines themselves must be maintained at extremely cold temperatures. These logistical elements would complicate even the most efficient vaccination rollout.

Dr. Fielding-Miller spoke hopefully about the soon-to-be-approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine. It is only one dose, and the vaccine does not require cold storage. While its clinical efficacy rate was proven to be 72% in the U.S., compared to 90%+ for Pfizer and Moderna, Dr. Fielding-Miller speculates that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine may well prove to have the largest beneficial impact on public health, noting that in its clinical trials, there were zero instances of death or serious illness.

Dr. Fielding-Miller pointed out the critical importance of distributing all vaccines equitably, among various communities. COVID-19 is a highly contagious, airborne virus, so whenever any members of our community remain vulnerable to infection, we are all vulnerable; none of us may feel secure until we achieve a population-wide level of immunity of ~70%. Dr. Fielding-Miller explained that even those who have been infected with COVID still need to be vaccinated, as we do not know how long natural immunity lasts, or how protective it is for any individual.

The epidemiologist acknowledged that many folks remain skeptical of vaccines. She sensibly counseled that people are more likely to change their minds, when they are listened to, not when they are berated or yelled at. She herself has listened patiently, and explained calmly, to individuals who are vaccine-hesitant, pointing out to them, for example, that the vaccine does not affect fertility, and that it is impossible to deliver a microchip through the tiny aperture in a hypodermic needle.

In the months ahead, until we achieve herd immunity, Dr. Fielding-Miller reminds us of some basic things we can all do for each other: wear a mask; meeting outside is better than inside; seeing fewer people is better than more people; wash your hands; and help your friends get vaccinated.

Important guests and useful information are standard features of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club’s monthly meetings. At our next meeting, March 3 at 7 p.m., we will feature a candidate forum of all Democratic contenders for the State Assembly’s 79th District special election. To join the meeting by Zoom, simply follow the invite link on our club’s website, fnldems.com.
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25 Years in Business!!!
Letters to the editor

[Editor's note: After receiving several letters regarding the headline and subhead of last month’s Navajo Canyon Republican Women of California’s column, the Mission Times Courier has changed them in our online edition. They now read “A call to arms” rather than “A call to arms.” The paper has always been a call to action, “A call to arms” rather than “A call to action” in Volume 27, Issue 1, or bit.ly/3ro1JQX]

A BAD ‘CALL’
Re: “A call to arms and reflection” [Volume 27, Issue 1, or bit.ly/3ro1JQX]

I just wanted to share my disbelief and disgust that the Navajo Canyon Republican Women of California chose such an incredibly tone-deaf heading to their article in the Jan. 15–Feb. 11, 2021 paper: “Call to arms and reflection.” After the domestic terrorism we all witnessed on Jan. 6, their use of the phrase “Call to arms...” as well as your paper’s willingness to accept the same, is far more than disappointing.

—Suana Whitten, San Carlos

I read with shock and dismay first the title of the article “Call to arms and reflection” by the Navajo Republican Women of California and then the article itself. Less than 10 days after an armed invasion of the United States Capitol, these women are issuing a “call to arms.” Is the author endorsing the previous days activity? I read the article to find out if there was any reflection about the events on Jan. 6. Nothing was mentioned. Instead, the first line pointed to the need to purge dead people from the voter rolls. There has been no evidence that dead people voted in any significant numbers. The purpose of this line was an attempt to delegitimize the November election. The only so-called reflection in this article was that radical, leftist, socialists are destroying this nation needs is more armed nut jobs being called to “take back America,” whatever the heck that means.

—No more dead people voting?

Extensive vetting by election officials has proved this assertion wrong, pun intended.

—We have been bloodied?

It wasn’t Democrats who打出a cop with a fire extinguisher. It wasn’t Democrats who crushed to death one of their own supporters in the melee. It wasn’t Democrats who took a crap in the Capitol halls and walked it all over the place. It wasn’t Democrats who defaced statues and stole lecterns.

Your advertisers should be made aware of the garbage to which you’re giving print space. If you’re going to print lies and calls to violence like this one, you should at least put it on the Opinion page and add a notice that it’s not based on any facts.

—Callie Mack

In light of the recent domestic terrorist attack on our Capitol and in our democratic traditions, Jamesa Selleck might want to rethink titling her opinion piece “Call to Arms and Reflection”. I would suggest a better title...
would have been “A Time for Reflection”.
—Dave Kiley, San Carlos

I understand there are two main political parties in this country but especially in light of the events in the nation’s Capitol Jan 6, it was implicit of you and irresponsible to publish an article with a boldered paragraph entitled ‘A call to arms’... - No excuse for this! And to allow the inclusion by Ms. Selleck of her salacious false narrative “No more dead people voting” was also enabling.

For her and your edification, there were only three incidents of voter fraud uncovered in the 2020 election and they were all found to be committed by Republicans. Further, in her penultimate paragraph, you allow Ms. Selleck to further incite violence by printing her words “…it’s our charge to take back the America we love.”

I also ask which form of socialism she is “looking in the eye?” The kind when the 1% get a rise and take back the America we love.

As a resident of the San Carlos-Navajo community, I value the importance of our close-knit and hometown demeanor, as well as the spirit of giving back to the community. As a proponent of All Peoples Church, I believe this church would actively give back and bring light and positivity to our community, which is certainly something we need during this time of crisis in our country. Upon hearing about the proposed site, I visited the church to see what it was like. From what I saw, All Peoples prides itself on being a church for all people. This includes all nationalities, all sexual orientations and all races. The location will not impact the typical resident on a day-to-day basis. From an engineering standpoint, looking at the potential impacts of a new church, traffic and noise are unlikely to be a disturbance for a church this size. Our community will benefit from a new church, especially a church like All Peoples.
—Lexi Kammeyer, San Carlos

As a resident of Del Cerro, I have been surprised by the opposition to the proposed All Peoples Church building project. Del Cerro is a wonderful community where people appreciate and respect each other’s different beliefs and views. Our community will benefit from a new church, especially a church like All Peoples.
—Molly Williamson, Del Cerro

As a resident of Del Cerro, I was really disappointed to see the church building project. Del Cerro is a wonderful community where people appreciate and respect each other’s different beliefs and views. I was excited to see the church building become a reality.
—Jamie Conner

As a resident of the San Carlos-Navajo community, I value the importance of our close-knit and hometown demeanor, as well as the spirit of giving back to the community. As a proponent of All Peoples Church, I believe this church would actively give back and bring light and positivity to our community, which is certainly something we need during this time of crisis in our country. Upon hearing about the proposed site, I visited the church to see what it was like. From what I saw, All Peoples prides itself on being a church for all people. This includes all nationalities, all sexual orientations and all races. The location will not impact the typical resident on a day-to-day basis. From an engineering standpoint, looking at the potential impacts of a new church, traffic and noise are unlikely to be a disturbance for a church this size. Our community will benefit from a new church, especially a church like All Peoples.

PRO CHURCH PROJECT
Re: “Conflict and confusion over All Peoples Church project” [Volume 26, Issue 11 or bit.ly/3B52ji]

My husband and I are business owners in the Granville-San Carlos area. We have been members of All People’s Church since 2015. The church has helped me turn my life around. I can now lead my employees in confidence with compassion. With the church’s help, I have seen marriages restored, people come off drugs, trust rebuilt, depression lifted, the poor provided for, the church’s help, I have seen a variety of single mothers cared for, financial needs met, and a variety of other personal needs met. All of this, plus more, is available to the community through All Peoples Church. Having a church building in Del Cerro means we can put our efforts more fully into supporting and helping the community. I am excited to see the church building become a reality.
—Bruce Wilbat, Del Cerro

Every year there are over twenty thousand chimney / fireplace related house fires in the US alone. Losses to homes as a result of chimney fires, leaks, and wind damage exceeds one hundred million dollars annually in the US.

CHIMNEY SWEEPS, INC., one of San Diego’s leading chimney repair and maintenance companies, is here to protect you and your home from losses due to structural damage and chimney fires.

Family owned and operated and having been in business for over 30 years, Chimney Sweeps Inc. is a fully licensed and insured chimney contracting company (License # 976438) and they are certified with the National Fireplace Institute and have an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

For a limited time, readers of this paper will receive a special discount on our full chimney cleaning and safety inspection package with special attention to chimney water intrusion points in preparation for the rainy season.

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District 7 Town Hall meeting scheduled

By Raul A. Campillo

First, let me begin by once again thanking the readers and publishers of the Mission Times Courier for allowing me this venue to communicate important updates from my office.

I would like to begin with an update on COVID-19 vaccinations happening in San Diego. Fortunately, San Diego County is setting California’s pace for vaccinations. We currently have the second-highest percentage of our population vaccinated, and we are only slightly behind Contra Costa for the leading position. As you likely know, San Diegans who are 65 years old or older and healthcare workers are currently eligible to get vaccinated now. We have stood up a number of vaccine “Super Stations” as well as PODs (points of dispensing) throughout the county. I encourage folks to check their eligibility online and make an appointment at bit.ly/3p6z2ud.

It is my pleasure to announce that our office is currently planning our First 100 Days Town Hall series, which will begin on Thursday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m. I will be joined by mayoral staff for a presentation, discussion, and questions and comments period as the city prepares to release a bid for the gas and electric utility franchise later this spring. We want to hear your feedback during this virtual meeting so that we can work effectively to secure the best possible deal for San Diego rate-payers. Please visit bit.ly/3p6z2ud to register for the forum.

After the franchise event, the series will continue with a Town Hall forum specific to each neighborhood of District 7. Attendance at these virtual events is free of charge, but registration is required. I would strongly encourage residents who would like to have their questions answered and their voices heard on matters of importance to their community to register for one or more of these events. Once you register for an event, please keep the confirmation email you receive, as it will contain your unique meeting link that you will need to revisit at the time of the forum in order to join us. Schedule is as follows (follow the hinty link to register):

- Feb. 11: Linda Vista (bit.ly/380dHcr)
- Feb. 18: Linda Vista (bit.ly/3o6ZMOr)
- Feb. 23: Mission Valley (bit.ly/39YXVQ0)
- Feb. 24: Del Cerro (bit.ly/39YXVQ0)
- March 1: San Carlos (bit.ly/2YUxDZ4)
- March 3: Tierrasanta (bit.ly/3rpMID)
- March 4: Serra Mesa (bit.ly/39YXVQ0)
- March 10: Allied Gardens/Granville (bit.ly/3tyi0e)

I would like to remind constituents that all of the memos our office submits, including our budget priorities memo, are available on our website and can be viewed at sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd7/newsroom.

Thank you again for affording me this opportunity to serve. As a reminder, you can always reach my office any time by emailing RaulCampillo@sandiego.gov. For a Del Cerro-specific issue, please contact Jared Miller-Sclar at JMillerSclar@sandiego.gov. For an issue specific to Granville, Allied Gardens, or San Carlos, please reach Sara Loando at SLoando@sandiego.gov.

POLITICS / OPINION

With Valentine’s Day in the air in February, many people are already planning a fun, stress-free date night at home this year, and movies have a magical way of bringing us closer.

Whether you’re married, single or in a relationship, Cox Contour’s Valentine’s Day Movie Collection has something for everyone to help them celebrate love. From classic romance and gal pal movies to rom-coms and Black Love (in honor of Black History Month), Cox Contour is set to release a Valentine’s Day collection on demand or stream via Cox High Speed Internet and your Contour apps, Valentine’s Day is the perfect time to stay in and enjoy a good movie — whether you’re pampering yourself or watching with a loved one. For more information, visit Cox.com.

Cox Contour’s Valentine’s Day Movie Collection perfect for at-home date night

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**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**NAVAJO PLANNERS ELECTIONS**

The Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (NCPI) will hold its annual elections at its March 10 meeting.

NCPI is the duly authorized planning group that reviews and provides recommendations on land use issues to the San Diego City Council. Elections for community planning groups in San Diego are usually scheduled in early March. This year, the City allowed planning groups to choose alternative voting to in-person elections because of the CODID pandemic.

At its Feb. 10 meeting, NCPI decided to hold its elections via the online voting system electionbuddy.com. To cast a vote, residents must submit a proof or eligibility by email to navajoplanners@gmail.com or before March 5. This email must include voters’ first and last name, email address, eligible address and proof of identity as specified in Article V, Section 2 of the bylaws. The Election Subcommittee will verify eligibility. All eligible voters verified by the Election Subcommittee will receive an electronic ballot via email through the electionbuddy.com platform on March 8 and will be required to cast their votes using the platform on or before March 10 at 6 pm. Results will be announced at the March 10 regular meeting of NCPI.

The following candidates are running for two open seats in each neighborhood:
- **Allied Gardens:** Shain Haug, Chris Galuppo, Dana Cole
- **Del Cerro:** Vince Mikulanis, Donna Valerie, Debra Gonzales, Brian Gile, Iris Fink, Abel Santana
- **Grantville:** David Smith, Jim Caspi, Mike Murray
- **San Carlos:** Tamar Caspi

For more information, visit navajoplanners.org.

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**A BRIEF HISTORY OF DEL CERRO ACTION COUNCIL**

In a response to questions about what the Del Cerro Action Council is, how long it has been operating, and what they accomplished, the following information is provided:

The Del Cerro Action Council (DCAC) was established in 1999 when several mothers were tired of speeding cars on Madrina Avenue and wanted to have a forum to share ideas and connect with the City of San Diego and other agencies on how to improve the quality of Del Cerro.

They established the purpose of DCAC to increase the cohesion of the Del Cerro Community by promoting and providing its civic, cultural, social, educational and recreational development and improvement, to serve as a clearinghouse to the community.

The city still has some outstanding issues on the project. It is our understanding the APC will be submitting their response to the city’s concerns about the middle of the month. The APC will have 30 days to respond to a Mitigated Negative Declaration and 45 days to respond if the city issues an Environmental Impact Report; the traffic report; and an additional cycles report from the Planning Department.

The city had some outstanding issues on the project. It is our understanding the APC will be submitting their response to the city’s concerns about the middle of the month. The APC will have 30 days to respond to a Mitigated Negative Declaration and 45 days to respond if the city issues an Environmental Impact Report; the traffic report; and an additional cycles report from the Planning Department.

Once all the information is available, there will be a Zoom meeting for Del Cerro resident to discuss the pros and cons of the project. All concerns and support will be presented to the Navajo Community Planners (NCPI) when the APC project is an action item for NCPI. Please note, there is always an opportunity for public comment when the project is an action item at NCPI, the Planning Commission and City Council.

—By DCAC secretary Jay Wilson

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**ALLIED GARDENS-GRANTVILLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL TOWN HALL LINEUPS**

Our Jan. 26 Town Hall Meeting was directed to the work done by the San Diego River Conservancy. The Conservancy is an independent, non-regulatory state agency established to preserve, restore, and enhance the San Diego River and littoral. The Conservancy’s 17-member governing board consists of both state and local representatives, creating a diverse partnership dedicated to conserving this highly valued resource of statewide significance.

Dustin Harrison, an environmental scientist with the organization, discussed the project and goal of the Conservancy to establish a hiking trail from the mouth of the river at the ocean to its headwaters at Volcan Mountain.

More information about the organization and opportunities to participate in their work will be found at sdrc.ca.gov. We hope to get a recording of the meeting on our website sometime soon.

At our Tuesday, March 23 Town Hall Meeting the primary speaker will be Council District 7 Councilman Brian Madaffer to secure some funding to add to the funding from the City. This included selling memorial bricks which are in front of the playground.

DCAC organized and assisted in community clean-ups on Del Cerro Boulevard, Navajo Canyon and Adobe Falls. Right worked directly with Council member Jim Madaffer to secure some funding from the City to help upgrade the playground in the Princess Del Cerro Park. DCAC spearheaded a community fundraising drive to add to the funding from the City. This included selling memorial bricks which are in front of the playground.

DCAC continues providing numerous community updates on topics from recycling to water and sewer upgrades, underground utilities, 2020 census, canyons, brushfire prevention, and quarterly reports from our police community relations officer, as well as local and state elected representatives and from the Director of Government and Community Relations for SDSU.

For many years, DCAC met on a monthly basis, with the exception of December. In recent years, DCAC moved to quarterly meetings. With the reemergence of a possible Maintenance Assessment District for Del Cerro, and assuming it would be decided by the residents within 9-12 months, DCAC ceased collecting funds for membership.

Our points of communication have been monthly articles in the Mission Times Courier which is delivered to most residences throughout the Navajo Community and is also available online. Information is posted on the website at delcerroac.org. Community reports are also presented at the monthly meetings of the Navajo Community Planners, Inc.

Mark Randels, who has been involved with DCAC in one capacity or another for many years will not be running for any open position and will be stepping down. He has retired and is moving out of state.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Office elections are conducted at the April meeting which is scheduled for April 22. An update will be published in the March issue of the Mission Times Courier and posted on the decelerationcouncil.org website.

**APC update**

Regarding the All Peoples Church (APC), there are still three outstanding, and crucial reports due from the city: The environmental report for the public will have 30 days to respond to a Mitigated Negative Declaration and 45 days to respond if the city issues an Environmental Impact Report; the traffic report; and an additional cycles report from the Planning Department.

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**COMMUNITY COUNCIL TOWN HALLS**

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—By DCAC secretary Jay Wilson

**KEEP ACTIVE, BE FIT, STAY ENGAGED.**

**Alvarado Hospital has a number of health and fitness programs ideal for seniors to help you fit in both body and mind!**

Under our PALS community programs, we offer classes such as our Senior Fitness Class, our Alvarado Balance Class, and the “Back Nine” Senior Golf Program, which is led by a PGA professional and licensed recreation and physical therapists. All are designed to sharpen your motor skills and strengthen your body.

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** greens fees apply to the Back Nine program.**

**Alvarado Hospital Medical Center**
San Diego Rehabilitation Institute

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**SEE COMMUNITY BRIEFS, Page 23**

sdnews.com
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emergency declaration is lifted, it will become effective on July 1 if the City is still under a state of emergency. The state legislation does not protect commercial tenants. San Diego’s ban on commercial evictions will last until June 30, or 60 days after the City’s emergency declaration is lifted, whichever comes first. Gloria announced on Jan. 21 that the City had received more than $42.3 million in direct federal funding for rent and utility payment assistance.

An online portal is available now on the San Diego Housing Commission’s website for city residents interested in receiving information about the application process for the upcoming program. Those interested should visit bit.ly/3p8Hwgf. Signing up to receive information is not an application for the program and will not affect any determinations of eligibility for the program.

VACCINATION STATION NEEDS VOLUNTEERS
UC San Diego Health is partnering with San Diego County and the San Diego Padres to operate the Vaccination Super Station near Petco Park. The partnership welcomes community support and volunteers. Details on the types of volunteers that are currently needed can be found at health.ucsd.edu/vaccine-volunteer.

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New BBQ joint on Lake Murray Blvd.

By ROBIN DORHN-SIMPSON

Why open a new restaurant in the middle of a pandemic? Because we need comfort. Comfort food calms the soul.

We have all been driving by this restaurant for months wondering what is going on behind the canvas walls. Now we know! Smokey and the Brisket has moved into the neighborhood and we are lucky.

BBQ is an art form and art takes time. No one knows that better than a pit boss. Smokey’s pit boss works around the clock for our enjoyment. He is busy smoking all the traditional meats and some unique sausages.

Chef/owner Alberto Morreale, from the Farmer’s Table and Farmer’s Bottega, is all about feeding La Mesa residents good food.

Designers have been busy too, creating a clever motorcycle and automotive theme. The front counter is made of the red toolbox that all of you gear heads have in your garage. Also, a 1960’s Dodge A100 van with the top cut off has been converted into a bar. The beer taps resemble motorcycle gas tanks. Booths and chairs have racing stripes and the armrests have illuminated taillights, and of course, an old gas pump and a motorcycle grace the dining area.

On the menu, you will find the full range of meats that everyone knows and loves brisket, pulled pork, rotisserie chicken, both pork and beef spare ribs and Texas smoked sausage links. If you just can’t live without a hamburger, you’re in luck — and it is good.

If you want a whole or half chicken, they have three different options: herb, habanero and Alabama chicken with a white Alabama BBQ sauce.

Lest you think the menu is all meat, there is a nice selection of salads such as Burnt Carrots and Cauliflower Salad with Arugula, goat cheese and cilantro-lime vinaigrette and a Smoked Pulled Chicken Salad topped with Fritos. The menu also includes an “Oozy Gooey” jalapeno mac ’n cheese featuring brisket burnt ends. Try some of the delicious side dishes like Brussels sprouts, cowboy caviar, mashed potatoes and cornbread. They offer four different flatbreads with handcrafted 48-hour rising dough.

Kids love BBQ too and they are not forgotten with cheeseburgers, chicken tenders, and other sandwiches with fries.

If you are feeding an army, they offer a meal for four to six and another for 12 to 14.

Currently all orders are to go, but you can sit on the patio and eat your food. When we are able to eat indoors again, you can enjoy televised motorsports such as NASCAR, motocross and monster truck events.

Smokey and the Brisket is open for lunch and dinner, Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. or sold out, whichever comes first. Don’t delay in ordering as they sell out quickly.

You will find them at 5465 Lake Murray Blvd. Call to order food for pick up 619-439-6544. Check out their menu and order online at smokeyandthebrisketsd.com.

—Robin Dohrn-Simpson is a San Diego-based freelance travel and food writer.
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**SPECIALS**

<table>
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<td>16” Pizza w/ 3 topping</td>
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**Mission Times Courier / College Times Courier**

Feb. 12 – March 11, 2021
Lacrosse club starts women's league

By LAURIE ALFORD

There is a wide range of youth male lacrosse programs available to young athletes across San Diego County. But, did you know that youth female lacrosse programs are relatively new? Despite the pandemic and its regulations, Mission Trails Lacrosse Club will be starting its first female lacrosse program, led and coached by Alicia Durante. Practices are scheduled to start end of February and conclude in May/June, while game schedules are “to be determined” at the moment. It is valid to question how are “to be determined” at the moment? Many factors to reopen which include the utmost safety conditions, agreements between our district and our employee unions and implementation of PPE equipment at every school.

Later this month, principals will be reaching out to our school communities to get feedback and input on the 2021-22 school budget. We will seek your input and advice on how to invest our school funding to support the children who attend our Henry Cluster schools.

Despite having the right coach, the setbacks of the pandemic also had to be reckoned with. O’Neill explained, “2020 was tough on a lot of players. We had a few strong teams that felt they had finally worked to get to a better competition level and staying motivated for the next unknown opportunity is difficult.”

But in taking steps to move forward with reopening the boys program and kickstarting the female program, coaches remain hopeful for the future if the lacrosse programs at the Mission Trails Lacrosse Club.

“Over the last few years we’ve had tremendous growth and adding a girls program continues to show through travel club teams or out of state.” Mission Trails Lacrosse Club wants to end the search for female programs and make the sport more accessible for every lacrosse player. When asked why it is the right time to pilot this program Andrew O’Neill, president of the Mission Trails Lacrosse Club, explained, “Our girls program has been something we’ve wanted to do for a few years. The boys’ game and girls’ game are similar, but different sports. One of the barriers we’ve always had is finding the right person to come in and lead and direct the girls program and we believe we have right person with Alicia Durante.”

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Lacrosse club starts women's league

Standout Patriots acknowledged

By MICHELLE IRWIN

Due to the current situation with COVID-19 cases, our district has delayed the reopening of our schools for Phase 2. In a few weeks, we may have more information in allowing more students to return to school under Phase 1. There are many factors to reopen which include the utmost safety conditions, agreements between our district and our employee unions and implementation of PPE equipment at every school.

Benjamin will receive official recognition from our member of Congress, and his app will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

Patrick Henry High School sophomore Audrey Freeman has been elected next Lieutenant Governor of Key Club District 21. “The selection process, Audrey called upon her Key Club peers to take the time to understand others, including those who face challenges unique to their situation, and those who may be questioning their gender identity or transitioning to a new gender identity. Other Key Club members to be more than just volunteers, but to empathize with those less fortunate.”

Now in her second year as a member of Key Club, Freeman spent the last year as Patrick Henry’s Key Club President, focusing mainly on outreach to her club’s service partners. “I was the Division Spirit Coordinator for the 2020-21 term. As Lieutenant Governor next year, she will be responsible for the oversight of 13 Key Clubs from Point Loma to Patrick Henry, ranging as far north as La Jolla, Mira Mesa, and Scripps Ranch. Patrick Henry High School sophomore Linh Truong was elected last month to serve as the 2021-22 President of the PHHS Key Club. She will
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For 50 years, Family Health Centers of San Diego (FHCSD) has provided caring, affordable, high-quality health care and supportive services to everyone, with a special commitment to uninsured, low-income and medically underserved persons.

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Covered California is a private health insurance exchange that was established through Affordable Care Act legislation for individuals and families not eligible for Medi-Cal. The program allows California residents to purchase quality health insurance plans to fit individual and family needs. The cost of each insurance plan is based on certain factors, including family size and income.

Covered California has extended its Special Enrollment Period from February 1 to May 15, 2021 without a qualifying life event.

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5. Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices (services and devices to help people with injuries, disabilities, or chronic conditions gain or recover mental and physical skills)
6. Prescription drugs
7. Ambulatory and emergency services
8. Laboratory services and hospitalization (surgery and overnight stays)

For free enrollment help, call (619) 515-2363 or visit fhcsd.org/covered-california.
The heart of MLK

On Sunday, Jan. 17, Lea Nougier, a 7th grader at Pershing Middle School, created a large heart with the words “I HAVE A DREAM.” She and her friends painted the letters in black and then Mrs. Levy, the principal. Mrs. Robe, an English teacher, Mr. Bowman, a math teacher, and a few other parents and students helped tie the letters inside the heart.

The goal was to have people unite a ribbon from the outside of the heart, write a word that symbolized Martin Luther King Jr’s life on the red ribbon, and tie it inside the heart.

“Our hope was that by the end of the week the heart would be come filled with red Ribbons,” Lea said.

—Submitted by Lea Nougier

A student at Pershing Middle School honored civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. with words from his most famous speech and red ribbons in the shape of a heart. (Photo by Jay Wilson)
Are you caring for someone with memory loss, dementia, or Alzheimer's? Then the REACH2CAREGIVERS program is for you! This series is offered FREE and virtually to family caregivers to better understand memory loss, develop communication skills, learn stress management techniques and how to better care for yourself and your loved one. You don’t have to do caregiving alone! Sign up today for our REACH2CAREGIVERS online class at https://bit.ly/REACHprogram.

Southern Caregiver Resource Center has been offering services **FREE direct services to the community for over 33 years.** Our team of highly qualified professional staff supports families through a comprehensive inventory of programs and services.
Community briefs

By the time this paper is published, our first SDG&E utilities box painting should be finished. It is located on the south side of Zion Avenue across from Mission Trails Church. Our thanks to Christine Carino for her design and execution. Is there a box near you that could use beautification?

We sent out notices to our email contact lists of the upcoming election of officers to the Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (NCPI) board. NCPI is the community’s voice to and point of contact with the Planning Commission and the City Council on matters relating to the character of our neighborhoods. If you are not on the list and want to know more about this important part of the land development process you can reach us by way of the “Contact Us” page on our website.

At monthly meetings of the AGGCC Board of Directors community members implement important projects. Use the “Contact Us” page at aggccouncil.org to get on our email contact list, to receive notices of the activities of our Community Council and the Navajo Community Planning Group, Inc., and to let us know how we can help you support our neighborhood. Our next board meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom. The public is encouraged to attend.

—By AGGCC president Shain Haang

SAN CARLOS AREA COUNCIL TO RESUME MEETINGS

San Carlos Area Council is excited to report that we are resuming our monthly meetings beginning Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, so mark your calendars. Going forward, our meetings will now occur on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Contact us for the Zoom link at pattym@crystalpyramid.com or look for it on our Facebook page, facebook.com/sancarlosareacouncil.

NEWLY-SELECTED DISTRICT 7 COUNCIL MEMBER RAUL CAMPILLO

Newly-elected District 7 City Council member Raul Campillo has reached out to us and promised that high on his list of priorities for San Carlos is the “new” library. As we observed the fast-paced razing of Jack Murphy Stadium this past June, we couldn’t help but wonder about the library, construction of which has been held up for over 20 years! This last year, during which all libraries were closed due to COVID, would have been the perfect time to begin construction of our new library.

After the beating we have all taken from the pandemic, both psychologically and physically, here’s a piece of good news that will give you a smile. San Carlos resident Paul Grisham had his lost wallet returned to him. Thing is, the wallet was lost in Antarctica in the 1960s. It took a series of people who were unrelated in their search for Mr. Grisham to track him down and return it to him — 53 years after he lost it. You can find the story at the San Diego Union-Tribune.

And one more piece of good news that we would like to share: Happy 40th anniversary to Crystal Pyramid Productions. It was the year 1981 when SCAC President Mark Schulze started his company, Pyramind Productions. It was the year 1981 when SCAC President Mark Schulze started his company.

Happy Valentine’s Day to all.

—By SCAC president Patricia Mooney

LETTERS

Letters continued from page 13

Girl Scout cookies are currently being sold with COVID-19 protocols in place. And because Girl Scouts cannot no longer knock on doors, on enterprising Scout has embraced technology to reach out to potential customers. She created a sign posted next to the fire hydrant at 5871 Arboles St. with a QR code. Scan the QR code and you can order Girl Scout cookies with delivery within 48 hours!

His opinion that was written in the Times Courier is actually a betrayal to the community that I thought he would represent.

The community of Del Cerro opposes this project strictly on the issue on changing the zoning for this project from single-family housing to a large-scale project being proposed. This is in exact opposition of what residents want.

The impact to traffic is totally unacceptable and should be loudly and consistently expressed by our president. Elections are forthcoming and our new president who supports our community will be voted in.

—Bob Martin, Del Cerro

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