Local businesses, churches and schools take proactive measures

By JEFF CLEMETSON | College Times Courier

[Editor’s note: Because reaction to the coronavirus by state, county and city officials is changing rapidly, some of the information in this article may be out of date. This is therefore a snapshot of how local businesses, churches and schools reacted to the outbreak in the early weeks of March]

College Area takes coronavirus precautions

The normally bustling SDSU campus is all but deserted on Wednesday, March 18. (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

The COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent “social distancing” quarantine has had a profound impact on the world. Locally, businesses, schools and churches have taken proactive and cautious measures to prevent the spread of the virus and insure local residents that they are doing what they can to still serve the needs of the community.

LOCAL BUSINESS REACTION

In a press statement, College Area Business District (CABD) Executive Director Jim Schneider said the CABD hopes the situation will pass quickly, but if it does not, the district will be ready to share any business relief programs with College Area businesses.

Elo running on leadership experience

By JEFF CLEMETSON

City Council candidate Sean Elo believes his background and his life and professional experience make him the best suited to represent San Diego’s District 9.

“I like to say that I’m really the product of a multi-ethnic, multi-religious upbringing that also involved an up and down ride in and out of the middle class,” he said.

Elo’s mom was born in California to parents from Central America and spent some of her childhood in Mexico. His father was born in New York to Jewish parents. He also has an aunt and cousins who are Muslims.

“I really do see everyone as family. With roots like mine, it doesn’t feel like anyone is too far away from being a family member,” he said.

Elo spent his childhood moving around different cities in Orange County and also lived for short periods in Florida and Oregon. His father sold cars — an industry Elo described as tumultuous. Coupled with health issues his mother had and a back injury, Elo feels more than just a pinch of what it is to support local businesses during this time.

According to JP Morgan Chase, 99% of all businesses in the U.S. are small businesses and 48% of all people are employed by small businesses. And this crisis is going to affect them in a much more severe way that it will multi-national conglomerates.

Of course, safety is of paramount concern and no one should be ignoring CDC guidelines or the recommendations of state and county health officials — it is their guidance we need at this time to insure that the virus does as little harm to our vulnerable populations as possible.

But there are ways to support local businesses who are feeling more than just a pinch from this economic inactivity.

• Order food/beverage delivery from delivery

SHOP LOCAL,

Page 7

Vote for your favorite local businesses!

Page 14

Now more than ever, shop local

It is an utterly eerie sight looking down our city streets. Once bustling with happy diners, shoppers and bar hoppers, the empty sidewalks at both night and day are a grim reminder of just how much impact this virus outbreak is having on all our lives.

But life must go on. We still must eat. We still must clean. We still must entertain ourselves and our children. In other words, we still must buy the essentials, and even non-essentials, to make living possible and tolerable during these difficult times.

The instinct for many during this health scare may be to use the modern convenience of ordering products online from places like Amazon and Walmart. Or perhaps, it is to rush to big box stores like Costco or Target for essentials. Those are great choices for some items. But when it’s possible, residents should consider the impact supporting locally-owned businesses during this time will have.

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The 2020 census begins in San Diego and Imperial Counties in mid-March 2020, and community-based organizations in the region have been working together for a year to ensure full participation in the once-a-decade population and housing count. The census provides vital information about the nation’s growing population and infrastructure, which impacts the everyday lives of all persons living in the United States. Census data is used to allocate funding for communities, ensure public safety, and plan new schools and hospitals. People use census data to decide where to open businesses and offices, which creates jobs. The 2020 census is the first census to rely heavily on digital response, but will still have phone mail, and Wi-Fi-enabled kiosk options available before enumerators are sent door-to-door.

Some of the highest rates of “hard-to-count” (HTC) populations have been identified in our region, and the state of California has undertaken an unprecedented and historic effort to ensure a complete and accurate count. The effort in California is larger than all the states investing in the 2020 census combined and represents the largest mobilization of partners in the state’s history.

HIGH RATES OF HARD-TO-COUNT PERSONS

Getting a full and accurate count in San Diego and Imperial Counties (Region 10) is vital for our vibrant, growing region — not only for us, but for future generations to come.

If everyone in our region is counted, it could help bring more money to our region for transportation, housing, and community programs,” says Ray Major, SANDAG chief data and analytics officer and chief economist. “In addition, census data helps SANDAG analyze commute patterns and plan for improvements to our region’s transportation network.”

California is investing $187.2 million to outreach and educate the hardest-to-count populations on the 2020 census, funding the efforts of municipalities, nonprofits, and community-based organizations to ensure California’s communities have fair representation and funding as a result of the 2020 census participation.

This investment pays in comparison to the $115 billion that the state of California stands to gain through 55 federal spending programs, according to the GW Institute of Public Policy Counting for Dollars 2020 report.

When compared to the results of the 2010 census, San Diego County is the 21st hardest county to count, and Imperial County is identified as the most undercounted region in the entire state of California. According to data from the state of California, San Diego and Imperial Counties have more than 255,000 individuals who are considered extremely hard to count. However, data from the Advancement Project lets us know this number could be even higher, with as many as 783,277 people at risk of not being counted in 2020 in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

The region was awarded more than $4.4 million by the state of California to fund their efforts to increase census participation in the 230 census tracts most at risk of undercount. An additional $400,000 was provided through San Diego Grantmakers.

“Nonprofits and community members, funders, and government agencies have been talking about how to make sure that we reach our hardest-to-count neighbors for nearly the past two years,” says Megan Thomas, vice president of collaborations and initiatives, at San Diego Grantmakers.

“For this once-in-a-decade opportunity to promote fair representation and secure the funds we need to support a thriving San Diego and Imperial region, we are doing our best work together.”

EVERYONE TO BE COUNTED

Community groups came together to start the non-partisan Count Me 2020 Coalition in early 2019. United Way of San Diego County is the Administrative Community Based Organization (ACBO) for Region 10 that oversees the collaborative work of the Count Me 2020 Coalition, which is a group of more than 150 civic and community-based organizations from San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Member organizations are committed to ensuring a complete and accurate count of the 14 populations identified by the state of California as “hard-to-count.”

“Our region has some of the highest hard-to-count populations, which include various ethnic groups, immigrants, refugees, military veterans, the LGBTQ community, seniors, young children, individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and residents of traditionally disadvantaged neighborhoods,” says Michele Silverthorn, project lead, Count Me 2020 Coalition.

“Members of the Count Me 2020 Coalition offer valuable lines of communication to encourage census participation within their respective constituencies and the community as a whole.”

The Count Me 2020 Coalition and its partners are the “on the ground” catalyst to motivate the community to participate. They are committed to lifting the key barriers to census participation, which the Advancement Project says include uncertainty about the purpose and use of census data, uncertainty about who should be included, fear or mistrust of the government, and limited English proficiency.

As part of this local effort, SANDAG will work with Count Me 2020 Coalition members to host “Be Counted” community events throughout the region to encourage everyone in San Diego to be counted.

Additionally, Coalition members host nearly 1,000 of their own events and activities, such as phone-banks, neighborhood walks, and other outreach to encourage census participation. The groups will provide language translation services and host Wi-Fi and phone-enabled Questionnaire Assistance Kiosks (QAKs) and Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QACs) to answer questions from the community and provide in-person, phone and online access to census survey response.

“Community partners have been working for over a year to inform and engage their communities. They are the most trusted and messengers, and understand that it is essential that every person, regardless of their citizenship status, housing, race, economic condition, or less of their citizenship status, has access to census survey response.”

“Once the invitation arrives, you can still take the census by April 30, 2020, to help ensure everyone in your household is included in the 2020 census.”

HOW TO TAKE THE 2020 CENSUS

Starting in mid-March 2020, households will receive an invitation in the mail informing them of the options for filling out the census questionnaire. The invitation will contain a unique ID number to use when filling out the census.

Census count begins across San Diego County
Community plan update moving forward with city

By JOSE REYNOSO

At their March 11 meeting, the College Area Community Planning Board and the city of San Diego took the first step to initiate the College Area’s community plan update. This is the creation of a community committee that will work with the city, its consultants, the community and all stakeholders to begin drafting the plan that will serve as the guide for the future of the College Area.

Nathen Causman, the community planner assigned to guide the creation of the formal document/guide, outlined the process and timeline for the creation of the formal document that will be submitted to the City Council and mayor for formal approval. Assisting him will be his colleague Shannon Mulderig.

The process, outlined by Mr. Causman, was the standard three-year process followed by the city. He added that the community plan update report, prepared by the CACC’s steering committee, would be used as the framework for the compilation of the formal, legal document and as such, should shorten the timeline for securing formal approval from the city, according to Causman and the Planning Department.

With some minor adjustments in terms of membership, the steering committee that created the report circulating within the community was approved as the formal Community Plan Update Committee. This will assure that the vision and values contained in the plan will be incorporated into the final document, to the greatest extent possible. Obviously, the city and region have specific goals for future growth in our area but with the input of the committee and the community, all stakeholder goals will be incorporated into the guide that will drive the future of our community.

After some preliminary operating benchmarks are finalized, the first step will be to hold a community forum to present the process, goals and visions compiled to date. This will probably take place in May or June. Please follow updates in this publication, social media and other communication vehicles to stay informed and get involved.

The draft report prepared by the CACC’s steering committee is available at the College-Rolando library and on the CACC’s website at collegearea.org, under the “Community Plan Update” tab. Please read it, get informed and participate in the process.

This is our/your home. Let’s work together to shape it the way we want it to be for the next 30, 20, 30 years. Get involved for yourself, your kids and grandkids. We need to make our community an option for our heirs to be a part of. Stay tuned for the community forum and numerous other community outreach opportunities. We’re neighbors helping neighbors so let’s work together toward a common goal.

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

Now is best time to join community garden

By ROBIN CLARKE

Now is best time to join community garden

As the neighborhood demographics have changed, with original owners moving out and more families with children moving in, there is a notable strong sense of community that has evolved.

With our community park featuring a tot lot, dog park and putting green, it has turned into a meeting place for neighbors and fun for the entire family. We have gone from a neighborhood with seven children in 2005 to more than 50 in 2020. And lots of our kids are now coming from potlocks, kids’ birthday parties and weddings.

In addition, neighbors share resources for home repairs, remodeling, etc. Many contractors and tradesmen have been recommended multiple times because of a couple of owners who thought it would be a good idea to create a service directory.

While the HOA has several planned social events each year which brings neighbors together, we are seeing members having more parties and gatherings, which creates an even greater sense of community.

—Susan Clarke Crisafulli writes on behalf of the Alvarado Estates Association.

El Cerrito Community Council news

By LINDA REBEAU

The ECCC board members decided to cancel our March meeting due to the COVID-19 crisis.

We will tentatively plan on having the ECCC board elections at our April 16 meeting, depending on how things are going with the virus.

Board member Eva Yakutis will be resigning due to other obligations, so we have an opening on the board for anyone who is interested.

At our next meeting, the board members will be asking for your vote to continue working for the community. A new community member is on the ballot, and we are ready for last-minute changes if anyone wants to add their name at the meeting.

Membership in the ECCC is open to any active member, at least 18 years of age residing or owning property within the El Cerrito community, or any business owner whose place of business is within the El Cerrito community. Membership shall be granted upon receipt of an application verifying qualification. You must have attended at least one meeting in the last year in order to run for the ECCC board.

The board of directors sets up the ECCC meetings, maintains membership rolls and attendance, and any other vote eligibility workflows. We work collaboratively on community events including the September garage sale, pot luck dinners and the See’s Candy event.

Also rescheduled for the April meeting is presenter Farmer Bill from City Farmers Nursery, who will talk about spring gardening and facilitate a plant exchange — both of which will now occur in April.

For more information about City Farmers Nursery, visit their website cityfarmersnursery.com.

EL CARRION BOULEVARD

At many of our neighborhood meetings, we have discussed not wanting to have hookah lounges, marijuana shops, massage parlors, and car storage businesses on our El Cerrito section of El Cerrion Boulevard. Many have listened, including Jim Schneider with the business district. There have been numerous improvements as restaurants, coffee shops, a flower shop, a dog groomer, and exercise studios moved in and joined our College Boulevard veterinarian, lawn mower shop and other businesses we really like.

But the business owners who have invested a lot of money for permits and to build their new businesses and are working many hours each day are expressing that lack of patronage is making it difficult to succeed in El Cerrito.

Please add one night each week to your schedule to go to one of the restaurants in the area and frequent the services of the businesses. If we do not support these businesses, we will find it increasingly difficult to get other businesses we want and the Boulevard could become home to more of the businesses we do not want.

—Laura Rebeau writes on behalf of the El Cerrito Community Council.

Newspaper articles

Alvarado Estates Association news

By SUSAN CLARKE CRISAFULLI

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Now is best time to join community garden

By ROBIN CLARKE

Now is best time to join community garden

I recently took over from the amazing Patrick Hanson as president of the College View Estates Association (CVEA), so I would like to start by thanking him for his many years of service and leadership to our organization. Also leaving the board is Bryan Murphy, who has been a service directory.

I would like to suggest one: become a new gardener at the College Area Community Garden (CACC), an organic garden which is probably just around the corner from you.

Located at the north end of Zura Way just off Montezuma Avenue in San Diego, this beautiful 1-acre community garden sits on portions of four different private residential properties that adjoin San Diego State University property, specifically the Associated Students Children’s Center parking lot 2C.

Established in 2013, the CACC is a service directory.

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The experiences of his youth had an impact on his thoughts about government and society. “I’m really proud of being able to make it through college and law school as a first-generation college student despite those struggles that my family had, but I don’t think I did that alone,” he said. “People helped me and society at large helped me and I think that does inform the way that I hope to see society at large do more to support one another.”

When Elo graduated high school, he attended Golden West Community College in Huntington Beach where he continued playing water polo and swimming, eventually landing a job as head coach of Fountain Valley High School’s water polo program. After taking a short break from attending college, he went back to finish his undergraduate at Chapman University. He said he was on the track to becoming a teacher and coach when a Senator from Illinois changed the direction of his life.

“The 2008 Obama campaign completely captivated me,” he said, adding that the former president’s tone and his diverse background that mirrored his own inspired him to make a greater impact on the world.

So, Elo went to South America for three months to teach English to very low-income middle school students and also volunteered at a special needs school. After that, he went to Korea to teach English. While he was there, he took the LSAT and applied to law school at Cal Western. He thought he would practice law for a little bit, and then get into the world of policy and politics, but in his second year of school he took an elective course called Problem Solving for Vulnerable Populations, which changed the trajectory of his career. The professor of the course also ran the City Heights Community Law Project and suggested Elo would like working there. That program runs free legal clinics at Hoover High, Monroe Clark Middle and Rosas Parks Elementary for low-income residents of District 9.

“It was an incredibly rewarding experience and I learned a ton about the community and the different issues impacting it,” Elo said, adding that the experience was very formative for him because that’s where he “fell in love with City Heights District and 9.”

“I just got to know the neighborhood, but also got to see individuals and families dealing with the same situations and problems every day and learned those problems were because of underlying issues,” he said.

But it also showed him that he could have a greater impact helping these families working elsewhere.

“When I found it very rewarding to try and help them and provide legal services when possible … I knew that I would have a very short shelf life of not growing super frustrated by not addressing those underlying issues, which I saw mostly tied to policy.”

Elo decided then that policy would be the avenue to pursue after law school. To that end, he worked on Scott Peters’ congressional campaign before landing a job at Mid-City Community Advocacy Network as director of campaigns and policy.

“It was a perfect job for me. We weren’t a think tank. It wasn’t about thinking up ideas on my own. It was working with communities to hear what challenges folks were facing at the neighborhood level and turning those needs and hopes into policy demands that we should attempt to move forward.”

During that time, Elo also ran for and won a seat on the San Diego Community College District board.

After a few years working at Mid-City CAN, Elo took a job as executive director of Youth Will, formerly known as San Diego Youth Development Office.

“It was a chance for me to lead an organization, a chance to focus specifically on youth,” he said.

LEADERSHIP IS THE DIFFERENCE

In the March 3 primary, Elo came in second with 21.1% of the vote behind Kelvin Barrios who led with 31.9%. The two candidates will now face each other in November’s runoff election and although Elo admits that they both have policy platforms that are not “terribly different” from each other (although Elo points out that his platform is the only one with an anti-corruption component), he said there is one aspect where there is a “chasm” of difference between them.

“To me it is much less what our websites say about our policy goals and much more about what our abilities to lead, our experience in leadership and governance,” he said, adding that he has been in leadership positions his entire adult life.

He also sees a major difference in how the two candidates are campaigning for the seat on the Council.

“I think we’ve leaned heavily on grassroots campaigning,” Elo said, adding that his campaign is more about knocking on “thousands and thousands” of doors and less driven by money. He pointed out that Barrios outspent all the candidates in the primary field by a wide margin.

“I don’t believe that [raising money] is the most effective way to campaign,” he said. “I just don’t think it’s through mail and with money. You need the resources to get materials into the hands of voters but I think the most effective way to communicate with people is face-to-face and have conversations and knock on someone’s door and ask them ‘What are your priorities? What are your needs? What do you want to see?’ And not only does that create a good starting point for a relationship, but also begins to establish the way we want to run our council office, which is directly connecting with constituents.”

In knocking on doors, Elo said he has learned that residents are frustrated by a lack of communication from the city on the issues that affect them directly such as bad streets and sidewalks or street lights that won’t turn on or off.

City Council candidate Sean Elo

Get more tips at sdge.com/safety
**LOCAL CHURCHES**

Statewide recommendations against gatherings of more than 250, then 150, and then 50 people began taking effect around March 10. Sporting events and concerts around the country have been canceled or rescheduled. Locally, limiting the number of people that can gather together has also had an effect on worshippers as church services have been reduced to small gatherings, moved online or canceled completely.

On March 14, College Area Baptist Church announced it was closing all spring sports and day care and reducing recommended in-person gatherings by utilizing technology to connect with fellow churchgoers.

“We will continue to monitor the situation in this rapidly changing environment. Our latest information will be posted on our website and social media. We understand the importance of ministries such as small groups, women’s Bible study, men’s Bible study, prayer groups, and other smaller gatherings. We also understand this can be an unsettling time for many,” wrote Pastor Sarah Harris. “As a church in membership class, remember that the church is not a building, but the people of God. Let’s intentionally seek to stay connected during this time as we utilize the gift of technology during this uncertain time. Reach out to one another via phone, text, email, and social media.”

On March 13, Faith Presbyterian Church announced it was closing its campus through March 31 and its preschool through April 6.

“As a family of faith, we are exploring ways to stay connected through this unprecedented time. Keep a cool head and a warm heart. May the peace of Christ be with you,” read the statement signed by Pastor Sam Codington. “When a church is forced to close its doors and sit idle, do not be discouraged. Catholic Church began livestreaming its masses in English, Spanish and Vietnamese on March 15. The church suspended all daily and weekend masses until the end of the crisis, although parishes in San Diego were encouraged to open longer hours for personal visitation, intermittent recitations of the Rosary, and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Confessions are now held by appointment only. New hours and masses are posted to the website sdcatheo.org.

**SDSU is taking a cautious and proactive approach to protect the health of students.** (Photo by Jeff Clemetson)

**School Responses**

In College Area, no action to the coronavirus outbreak is more noticeable than that of SDSU, which ended face-to-face instruction for most classes on March 13 and all classes, including labs, by March 20. Most classes this semester will be finished online. Because classes continue online, SDSU remained “fully open” and faculty and staff continue going to campus to work.

Student housing also remains open, although SDSU is allowing residents who want to move out and continue their course work online from home after spring break to do so and is also offering reimbursement for the remainder of the spring term for both their housing and meal plans.

“As students are making spring break plans, we will support those who choose not to return to campus and opt to complete their courses remotely,” said President Adela de la Torre. “We understand this can be an unsettling time for many, wrote Pastor Sarah Harris. “As a church in membership class, remember that the church is not a building, but the people of God. Let’s intentionally seek to stay connected during this time as we utilize the gift of technology during this uncertain time. Reach out to one other via phone, text, email, and social media.”

**SDSU also canceled most campus and athletic events.** Explore SDSU, GradFest and Student Success Fee Programs are among the canceled events and all non-essential public events on campus scheduled between March 12 and April 8 are canceled or postponed. SDSU also decided to cancel the opening event for the March 21 Native and Indigenous Healing Garden.

The Mountain West board of directors suspended all spring sport competitions indefinitely. In conjunction with that decision, SDSU and the Athletics Department immediately suspended game competition for its spring sports, and are suspending all team activities, including practices. Fans who have purchased advanced tickets to spring sports may receive a refund by contacting the SDSU Athletic Office.

“While no Tubman resident has been diagnosed with the coronavirus, in an abundance of caution, Tubman is being proactive in its response to close school in order to prevent the potential spread of the virus.”

The school closures include all academic, athletic and extra-curricular activities. Campuses will be deep cleaned during the closure.

Woodard’s letter also stated that Tubman teachers and faculty created “enrichment experiences that students can access during the closure. Parents received a separate communication on how to access the materials, which are not a substitute for classroom instruction.”

“*Our goal is to offer opportunities for students to access enrichment, practice skills and have structure to the day,*” Woodard stated.

— Reach editor Jeff Clemetson at jeff@sdcnnews.com.
Guest Editorial

Covid-19 supply chain disruptions can lead to social, political change

By MATT STOLLER

At the end of February, President Donald Trump dismissed concerns about Covid-19. As he put it, the viru–sus “is under control” in the US and that “all of the hot spots” will start working out.” But according to Politico, Trump is privately voicing worries that the coronavirus will undermine his chances of re-election. His panicked actions of late—including preventing an American from being treated in Alabama, at the request of a late — including preventing an action. 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City passes COVID-19 package

On March 17, the San Diego City Council president ratified the Mayor’s state of emergency declaration and passed a comprehensive package of legislation to help lessen the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on San Diego’s most at-risk residents.

“The spread of COVID-19 is an unprecedented global health care crisis. It’s also a growing economic crisis for residents and businesses across the San Diego region,” said City Council President Georgette Gomez, who proposed each of the 14 items in the package. “The measures we passed today will provide desperately needed relief.”

The centerpiece of the legislative package is a proposal to place a temporary moratorium on residential evictions due to non-payment of rent because of financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. After Tuesday’s meeting, Mayor Kevin Faulconer announced his support for an eviction moratorium.

Each of these items will come back to Council for a vote on final implementation.

The full package includes:

- A temporary moratorium on residential evictions due to non-payment of rent resulting from a loss of wages caused by the outbreak of COVID-19.
- A temporary moratorium on evictions and mortgage foreclosures for property owned by the San Diego Housing Authority due to non-payment of rent or mortgages resulting from a loss of wages caused by the outbreak.
- A resolution requesting the San Diego Superior Court to suspend all pending eviction cases during the pendency of state of emergency related to the outbreak of COVID-19.
- A resolution requesting the San Diego County Sheriff suspend service of unlawful detainer actions and enforcement of eviction orders.
- A resolution calling on the Department of Homeland Security to suspend immigration enforcement operations in sensitive locations including hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare facilities.
- A request that San Diego Gas & Electric and any other utility provider to evaluate potential relief from late fees and utility shutdowns.
- Temporary relief funding for workers who were laid off or furloughed because of the outbreak of COVID-19 to help those workers pay rent and/or utility bills.
- A temporary moratorium on evictions for small businesses under commercial leases, who cannot pay rent.
- Evaluation of options to work with banks and lenders to halt mortgage payments or foreclosures for individuals and landlords.
- Prioritization of requests for emergency funding and support from the state and federal governments.
- Enforcement the Earned Sick Leave and Minimum Wage Ordinance.
- Suspension of enforcement of the Vehicle Habitation Ordinance.
- A request that the Mayor, working with the hotel association, labor partners, and homeless service providers, open hotel rooms that include provider services to unsheltered individuals and families.
- A request to discontinue break plans for my nephews who were supposed to visit me but have been canceled.
- The talk of “social distancing” as a way to contain the spread of COVID-19 has me thinking about the importance of neighbors, and of the amazing community that is the neighborhood I live in. Tired of quasi-quarantining myself at home, I stood on one side of my street and chatted with my neighbor across the street. Soon my other neighbor joined, and for a good few minutes, with the appropriate CDC-recommended distance between us (although our dogs clearly ignored this advice), we laughed, joked, and let each other know that we all have enough toilet paper for weeks to come! During moments of heightened uncertainty, I think we can learn to appreciate even more the importance of neighbors and neighborhood.

I am honored to take over as president and joining me on the board of the CVEA are new members Vi Calvo (vice president), Pat McGann, Dan Bannister and Edward Aguado. Of course, we could not do it without our continuing board members Robert Plce, Lisa Vickers, Ann Cottrell, and Jean Hoeger. I am looking forward to working with everyone to continue and build upon the great work that CVEA does.

—Prashant Bharadwaj is president of the College View Estates Association.

Elo CONTINUED FROM Page 4

“At the Hornbrook Center for Dentistry, our goal is to always provide the highest level of dental care in an atmosphere that is comfortable, relaxing, and a very special experience for every one of our patients. Uncompromising in both quality of care and customer service are the reasons we have had such a loyal community following the past 30 years in San Diego

At the Hornbrook Center for Dentistry, our goal is to always provide the highest level of dental care in an atmosphere that is comfortable, relaxing, and a very special experience for every one of our patients. Uncompromising in both quality of care and customer service are the reasons we have had such a loyal community following the past 30 years in San Diego

CVEA News CONTINUED FROM Page 3

Bears, so much thanks to Bryan for volunteering his time. I do wish I were writing my first column during less stressful times. Usually, this is the time of the year when students and families in our neighborhood are looking forward to spring break — a time to decompress after a few months of hard work after the New Year. Instead, for kids in our neighborhood, schools are closing early. I know students who at attend SDSU have transitioned to online-only classes, and spring break plans for my nephews...
Count Me
CONTINUED FROM Page 2

On March 30 and April 1, 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness. As part of this process, the Census Bureau counts people in shelters, at soup kitchens and mobile food vans, on the streets, and at non-sheltered, outdoor locations such as tent encampments. After this period, people experiencing homelessness can visit a community-run center to submit their information, call to respond over the phone, or complete it on their own personal smart device.

Regardless of the participation method, all community members regardless of status are encouraged to self-report and respond early. “Count Me 2020 Coalition members provide outreach education support and access to ensure completion of the census questionnaires, including assistance to individuals in their neighborhood,” says David Bennett, San Diego media specialist, U.S. Census Bureau. “It cannot be used for law enforcement purposes, immigration enforcement, or to determine personal eligibility for benefits. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the answers collected are used only to produce statistics and are kept anonymous for 72 years. Security breaches can result in jail time and $250,000 fine if information is shared.”

For a list of important 2020 census dates, visit censusoutreach.org. In the near future, the Count Me 2020 website will have locations of the Questionnaire Assistance Kiosks and community-run assistance centers, as well as a full list of census-related events and volunteer opportunities in various neighborhoods.

In San Diego and Imperial Counties, the majority of 2020 census efforts are coordinated through the Count Me 2020 Coalition, led by the United Way of San Diego County, with support from SANDAG and the County of Imperial. For additional information on the 2020 census in our region, please visit countme2020.org, californiacensus.org, or 2020census.gov.

The census is known for having confidentiality in the federal government. “There are many measures in place to keep census information private,” says David Bennett, San Diego media specialist, U.S. Census Bureau. “It cannot be used for law enforcement purposes, immigration enforcement, or to determine personal eligibility for benefits. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the answers collected are used only to produce statistics and are kept anonymous for 72 years. Security breaches can result in jail time and $250,000 fine if information is shared.”

Amenities: CACG gardeners who lease space enjoy a well-stocked tool shed complete with organic garden materials for their use. High-grade garden soil rich in nutrients is provided. Water is always nearby because there are over 20 faucets. Gardeners can now draw from rainwater that has been collected in our two large tanks. Compost is created, “cooked” and monitored on the property, and then stored in three tall bins. There is a 900-square foot shaded area for classes, meetings and events.

We have established table grapevines, thornless blackberries, many healthy fruit trees (some of which are over seven years old), honey bee hives and solitary bee houses, wildflowers and herbs. Soon we will have fresh eggs to be shared by those participating in caring for chickens.

Events: Our volunteer work parties attract community members as well as local and international student volunteers. Educational events led by master gardeners and other local experts are frequent and very useful. And we have great parties! We throw a couple of BBQs every year, which include fabulous dishes contributed by fellow gardeners.

Sustainability: Organically growing food is healthy for us all and for the environment. Garden founder and CEO Henry Bertramand and the entire elected volunteer board of directors are constantly mindful of the best possible ecological and environmental practices in our garden community.

Community: At the request of San Diego master gardeners, the College Area Community Garden became one of six county centers for garden manager meetings, training events, etc. Board members are active in offsite community events, including neighborhood fairs and meetings with local government and business leaders.

The College Area Community Garden is still open to members. (Courtesy photo)
Gonda was president of the Women’s Museum (1998-2005), and Puentes-Reynolds was a commissioner with the San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women (under chair Gloria Harris) where commissioners had identified their interest in developing a Women’s Hall of Fame. Their goals in creating the Hall of Fame were to shed more light on the many well-respected women in a vast array of segments in the community. During the event, inductees are honored for their decades of work within their specific communities and professions. “It’s mind-blowing to see the communities of support cheering on their winners,” Gonda said. “It is the most diverse, multicultural event you’ll ever attend.”

Four easy ways tech can help grandparents bond with younger family members

Grandparents: a word often associated with presents, special outings, yummy food and unconditional love. Yet many Americans don’t talk to, or see, their grandparents as often as they’d like.

Here are four ways technology can help you connect with your grandparents.

1. Messaging Apps

A recent study revealed that 73% of grandparents own smartphones. Messaging apps like WhatsApp or Talkatone are a great introduction to texting for grandparents.

With messaging apps, you can send and receive text updates, photos and videos in one place. When there’s time for a longer conversation, you can use these apps to chat for free, as most don’t use cell minutes.

Snapchat is another option for sending and receiving custom pictures or videos with a variety of fun filters and lenses.

How to Help Your Grandparents

Only 44% of grandparents identify as tech-savvy.

Teaching non-tech-savvy family members how to use video chat and social media can be a bonding experience. You can also set your grandparents up with useful homemade features like the SURE Universal Remote, which allows them to control their TV and other devices from their smartphone. Less tech-savvy grandparents may not realize they can watch their cable TV content from their mobile device or schedule DVR recordings with a simple app.

Giving your elders the power to connect helps build relationships with the people you love most, and that’s priceless at any age.

The fifth Mini Golf Challenge for boys and girls teams K-12 is just around the corner. On Saturday, April 18, teams of two to six members from local schools and organizations will participate in this fun-filled event. This year’s event is being held at the Mission Trails Church, located at 4880 Zion Ave. in Allied Gardens from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Each team will build a single golf hole based on this year’s theme, which is Earth Day. Every team is to work with an adult volunteer such as a parent or teacher. The team is to design and build the hole, set it up on the day of the event, have the team members present to answer about their design and encourage the public to try to sink a golf ball into the hole in their mini golf challenge hole.

The public is always invited to play the course and vote for their “Favorite Hole.” The winning team will be awarded the Henry Cluster STEM Foundation Mini Golf Challenge trophy. For more information and to register a team, go to hctemm.org.

—Jay Wilson writes on behalf of the Henry Cluster STEM Foundation.
Women’s HOF
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9
and service. Since 2010, she has served as director of SDSU’s Community-Based Block (CBB), which provides multicultural community counseling and social justice education while serving the City Heights and communities in southeastern San Diego. A community-based therapist and counselor, she is also president of the California Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors.

“Seeing it forward is really important to me — in my community we call it ‘each one, teach one,’ said Butler-Byrd, harkening back to her upbringing in a close-knit black community in Cincinnati, Ohio. “You learn something and you make sure that other people learn about it.”

After leaving her career as a social justice change agent in the nonprofit sector, Butler-Byrd’s came to CBB in the late 1990s to pursue her M.A. in counseling. Under her leadership, she transitioned the program to a two-year M.S. in counseling that prepares licensed professional clinical counselors.

Currently serving as vice chair of the University Senate, Butler-Byrd is also particularly proud of her work to champion an ethnic studies graduation requirement. But her biggest source of satisfaction is as a healer.

As a psychotherapist, sometimes folks come to you with so much pain,” Butler-Byrd said. "I realized I had a lot to give.”

—For more SDSU news, visit newscenter.sdsu.edu.

Patrick Henry celebrates Black History Month

By ELIZABETH GILLINGHAM

Black History Month was established in 1926 in the United States and was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. It began as a way of remembering important people and events in history with the primary goal of teaching lessons about black American history in our nation’s public schools.

In today’s world, I’d like to think we integrate it all year round however this year, our Black Student Union club (BSU) coordinated some schoolwide activities, which she said inspired the spirit. BSU club president Zyah Cephus and vice president Aesha Osman wanted to write articles for the broadcast news to air weekly stories about influential people who have made a difference in our country.

They also wanted to bring a special presentation for the students at Henry. They wanted to invite Nate Howard, who spoke at the district’s African American Summit to student leaders across the district, to visit Henry. We emailed him and once he heard who was asking and why, he waived his presentation fee and accepted a small grant (to cover travel expenses from Los Angeles to San Diego) from our PHHS Foundation.

The presentation he gave to a crowd of more than 400 students was about breaking away from stereotypes and writing about your own story about who you are. Howard’s positive messages were given through his original poetry and by being a strong presence on the stage encouraging the students to participate in various ways. Students were asked to reflect on moments in their life changing and how that affects who they are today. He asked them to consider writing and telling their story rather than allowing others to do so.

Howard is a noted speaker who graduated from USC. He is the founder of an organization named Movement Be and spends time in after-school programs to inspire others to use poetry and writing as a form to express themselves.

After the event, students were encouraged to give the speaker feedback and one student in the crowd wrote, “I wanted to let you know that it was very special hearing you guys speak at Patrick Henry. My skin isn’t of color, so at first when I was invited, I didn’t feel welcome but you guys made it a lot easier to cope with others in the room.

I went home that day after the presentation and told my mom everything that happened.”

Our BSU club has done a wonderful job in celebrating the outstanding work of others, but more importantly, they are focused on being a positive presence on our campus and on other campuses as well. They have taken on a special partnership with Green Elementary where club members volunteer every other Monday by spending an hour on their campus reading to and mentoring young students selected to participate by their principal.

Principal Sandra McClure sent the following shout-out to our students for their support and help. She stated, “For the last few months, our Green students have worked in partnership with Henry’s Black Student Union. The Henry Patriots have been mentors to our Green Geckos. In order to make our meetings possible, our Henry BSU members wake up an hour early on their late-start days to meet with our kids. Together they discuss role models, positive characteristics, and even model exemplary ‘Playground Behavior.’ Our Henry students plan out the lessons and activities, and then they share these with our students. This is all done on their own time! We have 24 Green Geckos who have signed up for this opportunity, and there are about 10 Henry mentors who come support us. Our little guys truly look up to their high school mentors, and our mentors have been such an amazing example in so many ways. The Henry team has been so supportive — Mrs. Nix, the BSU advisor, and Lesty Gillingham have supported us every step of the way. It truly has been a powerful and meaningful partnership, and I want to extend a special thank you to students to know how much we appreciate their support!”

—ELIZABETH GILLINGHAM is principal of Patrick Henry High School.

Tubman tracks student growth in i-Ready

By RACHEL MCCOY

What is i-Ready? This is the second year that Tubman has utilized i-Ready schoolwide. i-Ready is an online program for reading and/or mathematics that will help you child’s skill level and needs, so your child can learn at a pace that is just right for them. These lessons are fun and interactive to keep your child engaged as they learn.

How are Tubman Students Leaders doing? Based on our January diagnostic, Tubman students are showing a lot of growth in both reading and math since September. The mathematics and reading graphics show how students have progressed through the year.

For reference, Tier 1 students are considered at or above grade level, Tier 2 students are approximately one grade level below standards, and Tier 3 students are two or more grade levels below standards. Based on the graphics, you can see that Tier 2 levels in both reading and math have stayed fairly consistent, but Tier 1 has grown substantially, and the percent of students who are considered two or more grade levels below has shrunk significantly (especially in math). The trends we are seeing this year are very similar to what our students accomplished last year on i-Ready, which translated into 1.6 growth in ELA and 4.4% growth in math on the 2019 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessment, exceeding the state, county, and San Diego Unified growth rates.

How can you support your Student Leader? Speak with your child about how using i-Ready will help them prepare for class work.
Sandwich gold mine

College Sub Shop comes under new ownership

Restaurant Review
By FRANK SABATINI JR.

Software engineer and wholesale bakery owner Kevin Lee was barely a month into his takeover of College Sub Shop when the city of San Diego issued a mandate stating that restaurants must transition to takeout and delivery orders anyhow.

Lee wasn’t fazed because the 10-year-old shop has just five tables inside, and it’s long tilted toward takeaway and catering orders anyhow.

A day before the mandate was recently announced, Lee held a grand opening as a way of introducing himself to the neighborhood, which in normal times gives way to 33,000 students from nearby San Diego State University. He doled out close to 500 small sandwiches for the occasion while introducing a refreshed interior and the addition of Vietnamese banh mi sandwiches to the shop’s original menu.

If self-quarantine during these surreal times triggers demand for culinary comfort, the shop’s submarine sandwiches offer waves of bliss for about 20% cheaper compared to leading sub shops.

Grilled pork banh mi
Consider the Italian-inspired ham, salami and pepperoni sub-marine in its full 12-inch glory. For only $8.95 you get a decent layer of each cold cut, plus your choice of cheese, veggies and condiments. Want your roll toasted? Just indicate it on the checklist of options stapled to your white-paper bag.

For no particular reason, I skipped the lettuce, tomatoes and onions I normally prefer on subs, and went only with the additions of oil, red wine vinegar and house mayo, which is kissed subtly by garlic and herbs. Combined with my choice of Provolone cheese (heated in conjunction with the toasted roll), I ended up with a sandwich reminiscent of the little mom-and-pop sub shops I grew up with back East. The meats were lean, non-watery and well-spiced. And the roll was both crusty and springy.

Lee sources the ingredients from the same vendors used when the shop opened in 1990. Although for the banh mi sandwiches, he uses French-style baguettes from his wholesale bakery called Jho, which is located several blocks away.

Bread Basket Bakery, which is located seven blocks away.

Those rolls are fantastically chewy, but with enough give that allows your teeth to glide through to such fillings as Vietnamese-style pork, chicken or fish — or simply the base medley of vegetables that includes cucumbers, jalapeno peppers and pickled carrots and daikon radishes.

Choose the grilled pork as your protein and you get a scrumptious interplay between the sweet, charred glaze on the meat, the tangy veggies, fresh cilantro and herb butter. In addition, these banh mi sandwiches are a foot long — twice the size of their traditional counterparts everywhere else.

College Sub Shop’s original owner is a man named Cy, who was invited to the grand opening last week.

“He’s very old and couldn’t make it,” said Lee, a native of Vietnam, as he cheerfully greeted new and longtime customers with the support of a few family members who help run the shop. Lee also takes pleasure in handing out VIP discount cards to students residing at the surrounding HCA Plaza apartments.

“I like meeting the customers, and I love the challenge of working with food,” he added while reiterating that takeout and curbside deliveries of his food will be readily available as San Diegans weather through the coronavirus crisis.

—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 staff writer for the former San Diego Tribune. You can reach him at fsabatini@san.rr.com.
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BEST RESTAURANTS
New Restaurant ___________________________ Italian ___________________________
Ahi Poke __________________________________ Japanese ___________________________
American _______________________________ Juice Bar __________________________
Appetizer _______________________________ Live Music _______________________
Bakery _________________________________ Lunch _____________________________
Bar _________________________________ Margarita _________________________
Bbq _____________________________________ Martini ___________________________
Beer Selection _________________________ Mediterranean _______________________
Breakfast _____________________________ Mexican __________________________
Billiards _______________________________ Patio Dining _______________________
Brewery _______________________________ Pet Friendly Restaurant ___________
Brunch ________________________________ Pho _______________________________
Burger _________________________________ Pizza _____________________________
Bunio _________________________________ Sandwich _______________________
Cafe _________________________________ Seafood ___________________________
Casino & Casino Buffet __________________ Sports Bar _______________________
Casual Dining _________________________ Steak _____________________________
Coffee Shop ___________________________ Sunday Brunch _____________________
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Deli ______________________________________________________________________________
Desserts _______________________________ Sushi _____________________________
Dinner _______________________________ Thai _________________________________
Donuts ________________________________ Vegetarian _________________________
Family Restaurant _____________________ Wings _____________________________
Fine Dining ___________________________ Wine Bar _________________________
Fish Taco ______________________________ Wine Selection _____________________
Greek _________________________________ Wine Shop _________________________
Happy Hour ___________________________ BEST RETAIL
Hot Wings ______________________________
Ice Cream/ Frozen Yogurt _____________ Accountant _______________________
Indian ________________________________ Acupuncture _____________________
Irish Pub ______________________________ Antiques _________________________

BEST RETAIL

Accountant ___________________________ Gym _____________________________
Acupuncture _________________________ Gym (Boxing) ____________________
Antiques ______________________________ Handymen _____________________
Applicance Store _____________________ Hair Salon _____________________
Art Gallery ___________________________ Hardware Store __________________
Attorney ______________________________ Health Food Store _____________

Auto Dealership _________________________ Home Care/Caregiver __________
Auto Repair ___________________________ Hotel ___________________________
Bank _________________________________ Insurance Broker __________________
Barber _______________________________ Jewelry _________________________
Bike Shop ______________________________ Locksmith _____________________
Boutique ______________________________ Manipure/Pedicure ______________
Car Wash ______________________________ Massage ______________________
Child Care ___________________________ Martial Arts Studios ____________
Chiropractor __________________________ New Business ____________________
Computer Repair _________________________ Optometrist ______________________
Consignment/Resale ____________________ Office Supply / Shopping _
Cosmetic Services ________________________ Personal Trainer ___________
Credit Union ___________________________ Pet Boarding / Day Care __________
Day Spa _______________________________ Pet Groomer ____________________
Dentist _______________________________ Pet Sitter _______________________
Dermatologist _________________________ Pharmacy _______________________
Dispensary ___________________________ Photogapher ____________________
Doctor ________________________________ Physical Therapist / Rehab ___________
Dry Cleaner ___________________________ Pilates ___________________________
Electrician ___________________________ Plumber _________________________
Financial Planner _________________________ Pool Service _________________
Florist _______________________________ Real Estate Agent _________________
Furniture Store _________________________ Real Estate Office ________________
Garden Supply _________________________ Retirement Living _____________
General Contractor ______________________ Solar Company _________________
Gift Shop ______________________________ Supplement Store _____________

Gym __________________________________
Gym (Boxing) _________________________ Tailor ___________________________
Handymen ___________________________ Tanning Salon _________________
Hair Salon ___________________________ Tattoo / Piercing Studio _________
Hardware Store _________________________ Tutoring ______________________
Health Food Store _____________________ Veterinarian ____________________
Home Care/Caregiver _____________________ Waxing / Threading Salon __________

sdnews.com
Realtors announces continued business support from County Assessor

The Greater San Diego Association of Realtors (SDAR) announced on March 17 that the local County Assessor’s office will continue to support real estate professionals and home sellers and buyers during the concerns of office closures. The office of County Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk, Ernest J. Dronenburg, Jr., was responsive to these concerns, in-person submissions will not be accepted. Information on county services can be found at: arcg.sdcounty.ca.gov.

“Our primary objective is the safety of our members and helping to protect and maintain the continuity of our business. We are pleased to have the ability to work with our local government resources to represent the needs of the real estate professionals we serve, and the home buyers and sellers they support, on a daily basis,” said Michael Mercurio, CEO of SDAR. “During this time of uncertainty, our goal is to provide the support necessary for our members.”

As the leading realtor association, SDAR will also continue to provide a full line of tools and resources that help members to continue servicing their clients during the sale or purchasing process, including market updates, tips and best practices, and technology resources to manage their business. Updates to support and services will be communicated to members as changes occur.

College Area real estate update: Coronavirus edition

By SARAH WARD

Obviously the virus is on everyone’s mind. I went to Costco recently (like most of you) and there were long lines and some empty shelves.

Some of my buyers have postponed their buying process until more certainty comes back into the market. I was ready to list a local property next week, but that seller wants to wait until summer. I expect the housing market to slow for a few months until everyone feels more confident.

I would expect (and hope) this virus to be a temporary disruption only and when the virus starts fading out, we’ll start to get back to normal.

Some of my buyers have postponed their buying process until the virus starts fading out (hope is the Pechanga Arena). The ownership group has petitioned for the ability to build high rises on that 48 acres of property.

I think the council is leaning toward approving it because Sacramento is pushing for more housing and density throughout the state. Obviously, we have a major trolley station here in College Area. It is really just a matter of time until the height limit and density increases occur within a half-mile or so of that station. I will keep an eye on it and report changes to you over the coming months.

—Sarah Ward is a Realtor with College Area Realty. Reach her at sarahward021@gmail.com, or at 858-431-6043.
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