The joy a stuffed animal brings

By JEFF CLEMETSON | Mission Times Courier

Pastor John Quinata, founder and minister at Our Father’s Grace Ministries, knows just what kind of impact gifting a stuffed animal can have on a child. When his daughter was three years old and undergoing oral surgery, the doctor sent her home with a stuffed teddy bear.

“She fell asleep with that little bear and when it was time to go back for the follow-up she walked out of the house clutching the bear and I just thought that it was cute like it was a security blanket,” Quinata said, adding that his daughter brought the bear to the follow-up because she thought she was only borrowing it.

SEE STUFFED ANIMAL, Page 22

Affordable housing proposed for Nicolosi’s property site

By JEFF CLEMETSON | Mission Times Courier

At its Sept. 9 meeting, the Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (NCPI) board heard a presentation by Community HousingWorks (CHW) about a plan to build an affordable housing project on the property currently occupied by Nicolosi’s Italian Restaurant.

Mary Jane Jagdozinski, CHW senior vice president of housing and real estate development, opened the presentation by describing the kinds of housing projects

SEE NAVAJO HOUSING, Page 2

Rendering of the proposed housing project on Navajo Road (Courtesy Community HousingWorks)

Rendering of proposed All Peoples Church (Courtesy photo)

PLANNERS TO VOTE ON ALL PEOPLE’S CHURCH

At its Nov. 11 meeting, the Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (NCPI) will take action on the proposed All Peoples Church project off College Avenue in Del Cerro. The NCPI board is encouraging local residents interested in commenting on the project to attend.

The action taken by the NCPI board will be whether or not to approve the project. Because planning boards are only advisory in nature, the city could still grant approval to the church. If the city denies the project, the land property will remain zoned for single-family housing. A previous housing project for that property was approved by the city but the property owners ultimately sold the land to All Peoples Church.

The NCPI meeting will be held Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Visit navajoplanners.org to request access to the meeting. To view updated plans of the proposed church project, visit bit.ly/34ytwmwy. To submit questions or comments on the project to the NCPI board, email them to navajoplanners@gmail.com.

SEE COMMUNITY BRIEFS, Page 13

ALLIED GARDENS/GRANTVILLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Our Sept. 22 Town Hall Meeting was devoted to the interview of our candidates for

SEE COMMUNITY BRIEFS, Page 13
Navajo housing

CHW does throughout the state, providing affordable residences for working families, seniors and disabled adults. The Navajo Road project, she said, would be limited to families earning 50 to 70% of the median income in San Diego.

“Attending community garden and room with kitchen three-bedroom units 12 two-bedroom units; and 12 conies – 21 one-bedroom units; and that the density is more than much higher than nearby housing,” Jagdozinski said.

A man named Rick voiced concerns over the height of the project would be 51 feet; and reduction in parking, although not a full reduction. CHW representatives said keeping some extra parking was to serve the residents better because the public transportation nearby is only the 115 bus line that runs every 30 minutes in peak hours. If approved by the city at its fastest timeline, the project could break ground by fall of 2021 and be finished in approximately 18 months. Jagdozinski said.

A CHW representative said that they would like to see the project add more units if possible, citing the city’s need for affordable housing. A man named Rick voiced concern that the project will bring crime, drugs and “undesirable things” to the neighborhood and that it is only the 115 bus line that runs every 30 minutes in peak hours. If approved by the city at its fastest timeline, the project could break ground by fall of 2021 and be finished in approximately 18 months. Jagdozinski said.

Residents near the project site who attended the online meeting voiced some concerns over the project.

A resident named Beth said she liked the look of the proposed housing project and was worried that the density is more than much higher than nearby housing. Jagdozinski also pointed out a study that was conducted in the City of Poway that showed affordable housing projects actually improved school performance, had no effect on crime, and no effect on property values. A woman named Karen expressed a lot of concerns about the project.

“The Navajo Road housing project will be back before the NCPI board for a vote on whether or not to recommend the project on Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m. Details on how to join the Zoom meeting can be found at navajoplanners.org.”

—Reach editor Jeff Clemetson at jeff@sdnews.com.

The property site for the proposed housing project, currently occupied by Nicolosi’s Italian Restaurant (Courtesy Community HousingWorks)
Key differences between the two Democrats running for Mayor of San Diego were on display at a Sept. 23 mayoral forum hosted by Del Cerro Action Council in coordination with Allied Gardens-Granville Community Council and San Carlos Area Council moderated by the Mission Times Courier.

In introductions, Assembly member Todd Gloria highlighted his multi-generational roots in San Diego and a resume that includes past government work at the county Health and Human Service Department and Rep. Susan Davis’ office before being elected to the District 3 City Council seat. During his stint on City Council, Gloria was elected to serve as Council President and also served as Acting Mayor following the resignation of Mayor Bob Filner in 2011. Gloria was elected to state Assembly in 2016.

“From these experiences, I hope that it shows what my parents taught me as I grew up, which is if you care about something, you’re supposed to leave it better than when you found it,” he said, adding that he views his work to raise the minimum wage, provide paid sick leave and help pass the city’s Climate Action Plan as major accomplishments during his tenure in government so far. “I care deeply about this city. It has given me tremendous opportunities.”

Gloria stated that his goals as mayor would be to defeat COVID-19 and open the economy and schools while tackling the housing affordability and homelessness crisis, which he said was “unacceptable in a city as wealthy as ours. Cities across the country have success fully ended chronic homelessness and San Diego should have it as a goal to achieve.”

City Council member Barbara Bry highlighted a different resume.

“I never expected to be in politics, on City Council or running for mayor,” she said. “I ended up running for office because I was frustrated that the companies.

For reforms, he urged voters to pass Measure B which would create an independent commission free of police involvement that would have to look into police misconduct and other issues with policing in the City of San Diego. Gloria also said he supports moving responsibility of responding to mental health and homelessness from police to other agencies.

Bry took a similar position, and said “police are doing more than they were trained to do,” and added that the city needs mental health responders. She said as mayor she would look at public safety more “holistically” and bring back neighborhood policing practices.

Both candidates said they would defer to the city’s police chief in the event of rioting.

COVID RESPONSE
On how the city has balanced safety and economy during the pandemic, the candidates had different criticisms.

Gloria said the city must enforce public health orders and follow the law, but said there could be better public education to foster proper compliance from businesses. He added that the city should have been better at coordinating efforts with the county to build public trust.

“There should be no daylight between the city and county
resolutions,” he said. “The city and the county should be working collaboratively and saying the same message to the public.”

Bry said she is concerned that small business have paid a disproportionate price during the pandemic. “You could go to Target or Costco during the early days of the shutdown to buy a book or a toy for your grandchild or a piece of clothing, but you couldn’t go to your neighborhood store,” she said. “And I thought that was very unfair.”

Bry also criticized Mayor Faulconer for not being visible in the community during the crisis, and promised if she was mayor she would “lead by example” and be out in public wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing and shopping local to promote safety and economy.

Both candidates said that federal money will be required to stave off an eviction crisis in the city. “An eviction moratorium is basically an empty promise because the rent is still due at the end,” Bry said. “I think that was very unfair.”

Gloria said the moratorium was the “sensible thing to do at a time when health officials are asking people to stay home,” but that back rent must be dealt with at the federal level.

At the state level, Gloria said he supported legislation to give relief to mortgage holders to avoid foreclosures.

“Unfortunately, that legislation was not successful, but we can still do a multitude of things to try and address this issue,” he said. “But right now, I think it is very important to keep people in their homes at a time when that is one of the best ways we know of to keep people safe from the virus.”

HOUSING

The candidates addressed several questions related to housing issues in the city.

On the issue of maintaining single-family zoning, Gloria said, “Right now we’re in a housing crisis and what I would say is that excluding any housing whether it’s single-family or multi-family doesn’t make a lot of sense because we need to have a lot more housing to accommodate our people and get costs down.”

Gloria did say that he doesn’t support changing zoning in neighborhoods that are not near transit or job centers and that plans like SB50 would not work across the entire city.

“I believe we need to build a lot more housing but not anything anywhere,” he said.

Bry said eliminating single-family zoning will not solve the housing crisis, but instead lead to gentrification and neighborhood displacement. She said she would solve the housing problem by revamping the Development Services Department (DSD) and also promote adapting office and commercial buildings in the city to accommodate housing.

“This is much less expensive than building new,” she said.

Bry also proposed a down-paymenamt assistance program in the city to help first-time homebuyers. Both candidates voiced support for Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) and tiny home programs, and both recognized that those programs have code compliance issues — that ordinances are not enforced fairly across the city.

“After DSD, that is my next priority, because you all deserve fairness and equity, that everyone in every neighborhood is treated the same and that we don’t allow Joe to do something that we do allow Jane to do,” Bry said.

Gloria pointed out that the city adopted ADU and tiny home ordinance after state legislation, which was important because it made all cities responsible for expanding housing options, not just large ones like San Diego.

“So I do believe the state can play a role in making sure that we have an equitable response when it comes to the housing crisis,” he said.

Gloria said code compliance issues are mostly because the city’s enforcement department is underfunded, and he encouraged planning group members and residents to speak up at budget talks to encourage better funding.

On the issue of what should be done about STVRs (short-term vacation rentals) in the city, both candidates were critical of how the city has handled them.

Gloria said this was an issue most cities have figured out, and blamed the current problems with STVRs an a lack of leadership from the mayor. He said STVRs should be regulated and the city should adopt a “robust enforcement mechanism” using “fees, fines and taxes” to end parties and other nuisances they can cause.

Bry’s approach would be to ensure existing city ordinances that prohibit STVRs in neighborhoods, effectively eliminating most of them currently operating in San Diego.

“Our current municipal code prohibits short term rentals in residential neighborhoods and other California cities have enforced their existing code that is similar to ours,” she said, adding that she is frustrated that Mayor Faulconer isn’t enforcing existing law.

Bry also pointed out that STVRs have exasperated the housing crisis by taking 16,000 homes and hundreds of apartments off the rental market.

“They are units that are meant to be lived in by San Diegans, either as owners or long-term renters,” she said.

Gloria again pointed to his long record of public service, as well as his personal background as the son of a gardener.

“I think you want the person in the mayor’s office to know what it’s like to struggle, to understand the life experiences of the people they’re trying to represent,” he said.

He said his experience in public office is a benefit and pointed out that he already has experience running the city as Acting Mayor.

“I have already done the job for eight months. I think I can do it for eight years,” he said.

Bry again countered that her experience in the public sector and diverse career background is a strength.

“You could go to Target or Costco during the early days of the shutdown to buy a book or a toy for your grandchild or a piece of clothing, but you couldn’t go to your neighborhood store,” she said. “And I thought that was very unfair.”

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“These are units that are meant to be lived in by San Diegans, either as owners or long-term renters,” she said.

Many of [the STVRs] are in Ocean Beach, Pacific Beach, Point Loma — smaller units that were affordable to working families and young professionals when they were available on a long-term basis.”

Mayoral forum continued from Page 3

You don’t have to wait until Election Day to vote! Every active registered voter will receive a ballot in the mail for the Nov. 3, 2020 Presidential Election. Ballots start going out in the mail the week of Oct. 5. Make voting decisions and complete your ballot in the comfort and safety of your home.

Remember to sign, seal, and return your ballot to a trusted source. Return your completed ballot by mail or at a convenient mail ballot drop-off location around the county. Visit sdvote.com to find a location near you.

Track your ballot every step of the way by signing up for Where’s My Ballot? at sdvote.com

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Part of an $810 million underground illicit sex economy in San Diego alone, human trafficking is hiding in plain sight in our community. It impacts every age and ethnic group, and people from all ages and backgrounds. At the same time, our mobile phones ping us with breaking news and current events each day: we are constantly filtering social media messages, determining what’s important and what we need to ignore. Now a duplicate of even a dangerous string of messages has cropped up: an attempt by Q’Anon sympathizers and supporters to co-opt the fight against human trafficking.

The work to end human trafficking in San Diego is a decades-long collaborative effort supported by multi-sector partners who work to identify those who are exploited, protect and rescue victims and track down and prosecute traffickers. A critical part of this effort is public awareness, helping our community understand what human trafficking is, and how and where it happens in San Diego and what each one of us can do to end it.

Enter the social media messaging of Q’Anon supporters and promoters, lurking online and in our community, masquerading as truth have. It has been a hard road bringing light into this darkness, sorting out truth from lies and truth from lies. The Q’Anon is spreading through social media across the U.S. and the world. It is creating a twisted logic, the concern for human trafficking victims itself a dog whistle for politicians interesting in wooing the votes of Q’Anon sympathizers. The bogus anti-trafficking statistics and claims of Q’Anon are making their way into current political campaigns. It is incumbent upon those of us that know better to call out the false narratives and misrepresentations and to demand accountability from public officials.

The influence of Q’Anon-related ideologies continues to grow. Recent reports out of the United Kingdom highlight the growth of Q’Anon beyond U.S., U.K., and Canada. Twitter is scrambling to fight the false narratives and theories in the mouths of public figures.

The President is staring down a hunger strike. As Americans, during times of great suffering, we turn to shared values, to the faith traditions, Democrats and Republicans. Lies that masquerade as truth have the danger of unbalancing decades of carefully nurtured cross-ideological collaborations as they thrive on anger, grief, mistrust while they drive people and communities further apart.

The work to end human trafficking is, how and where it happens in San Diego and the community to work harder and smarter, through education and awareness, helping our community understand what human trafficking is, and how and where it happens in San Diego and what each one of us can do to end it. We are constantly filtering social media messages, determining what’s important and what we need to ignore. Now a duplicate of even a dangerous string of messages has cropped up: an attempt by Q’Anon sympathizers and supporters to co-opt the fight against human trafficking.

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Republican women are turning out in great numbers to volunteer for our local candidates. We are making phone calls, texting and walking the precincts for numerous wonderful Republican candidates who should deserveily win in November. The positive responses that we receive spurs us on and reinforces our optimism for a victorious election result. It cannot be overstated how important this election is for our communities and country. We either head the path of socialism and lack of respect for law and order, or we avoid it by voting for conservatives who respect our freedoms and the Constitution.

There are several propositions on the ballot for us to consider but let’s focus on just two for the moment. Proposition 15 is deceptively titled on the ballot. It will increase taxes by $12 to 15 billion and will destroy jobs. This measure guts Prop 13, the Howard Jarvis Initiative from 1978, for commercial, retail, industrial and other properties and allows for new taxes on home-based businesses. It would cost jobs and increase prices for the consumer. Tax increases get passed down the line. If this measure passes, you can be assured a companion measure will soon follow to rival Prop 13 and increase property taxes for homeowners. Your property tax bill will skyrocket!

Another measure that deserves close scrutiny and thought is Proposition 16. The title may sound good: “Allows Diversity as a Factor in Public Employment.” This proposition would reverse a voter approved Constitutional Amendment passed in 1996. It says the state cannot discriminate or grant preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in public employment, education or contracting. If this measure passes race-based preferences such as quotas and affirmative action would be banned and merit-based criteria would be disregarded. This is a step backwards in the fight against racial injustice and a step away from equality under the law. Preferential treatment is the opposite of what we need. Vote. It is a privilege and a right so please don’t waste it. Your voice will make a difference. Navajo Canyon members are hopeful that our Nov. 10 meeting can be held in person, but we can’t make any promises at this time. Please get the updates and the latest information on our website RWCAvajocanyon.org and on Facebook at Republican Women of California Navajo Canyon.

Pat Boerner writes on behalf of the Republican Women of California – Navajo Canyon.
Mission Trails Foundation offers new online programs

Preventing and protecting your home or business in the event of a wildfire is a reality for those who call San Diego home. A top priority for Cox during a natural disaster is to keep customers connected so they can stay informed, check in with family and friends, and access their shows away from home. Cox also works to keep business customers, including hospitals and emergency responders, connected so they can continue to serve our communities.

Wildfire season now begins earlier and ends later, so Cox prepares all year long, reviewing its business continuity plan and running mock emergency events so employees know their roles and responsibilities during a disaster.

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During a PSPS, Cox services may be interrupted in an area where the electric company shuts off power. During a wildfire or PSPS, Cox works closely with the power company and public safety agencies to monitor the situation and ensure the safety of its network and facilities to keep residential and business customers connected. There are also some things customers can do to prepare:

- Have a charged backup battery and corded phone. Most cordless home phones require electricity and won’t work in an outage. Make sure you keep a corded wired phone available for use during a power outage.
- In addition, power is needed for your other telephone equipment to place and receive calls. If Cox’s network is operating during a power outage, make sure you have a charged backup battery to help ensure you can receive a 911 call. Purchase a backup battery by calling 855-324-7700 or visiting a Cox Solutions Store.
- Get updates on Cox’s Twitter handle. During a PSPS or a disaster, Cox posts outage updates and other information on Twitter. Customers can follow Cox at @coxconnects.

Download Cox apps before a wildfire or PSPS occurs:

- Cox Contour app — Turn your smartphone or tablet into a portable TV, access programming available with your Cox subscription while away from home.
- Cox Voice Everywhere app — Your home phone away from home. Make or receive calls on up to four devices.

Consumer Disaster Protections

Customers whose residential phone service is impacted during a state of emergency declared by the California Governor’s Office or the President of the United States may be eligible to receive disaster relief protections such as a waiver of one-time activation fees for establishing remote call forwarding, remote access to call forwarding, call forwarding features and messaging services. For information about these consumer disaster protections, visit cox.com/CaliforniaAssist.

For more helpful information and tips, visit cox.com/CaliforniaAssist.

Mission Trails Regional Park is home to all kinds of birds and animals and this presentation includes examples that are often seen on the trail. Viewers will learn where and when and they were seen, something interesting about them, and the birds’ call or song.

Wendy Esterly is a long-time volunteer at MTRP and an avid photographer whose stunning images of birds and wildlife have been used in publications and exhibitions. She is on the training team for the Trail Guides and is the MTRP Next Box Project’s co-coordinator, monitoring nest boxes during nestling season. Wendy is the author of “Coloring Southern California Birds” by Sunbelt Publications.

Jennifer Morrissey is executive director of the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation.
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Observation of the Month: Bobcat

By PATRICIA SIMPSON

On a sunny August mid-morning on Father Junipero Serra Trail, trail guide Wendy Esterly was lucky to spot a gorgeous kitty in the middle of the road. Luckier still, she captured the beautiful feline in a great shot and shared it on iNaturalist! (View at bit.ly/2GggIKh.)

Mission Trails is the proud home of the bobcat (Lynx rufus), a wild cat about twice the size of its domestic cousin. It is always a treasured moment when a visitor spots one, which doesn’t happen often. The ambush predator with a brownish grey fur coat adorned with spots and stripes is a master of camouflage, which allows it to prey on small animals. It is often confused with a bigger relative, the mountain lion, but is much smaller in size and can easily be recognized due to its namesake bobbed tail and tufted ears. Due to its wide range (U.S., southern Canada, and parts of Mexico) and adaptability to many different habitats (chaparral, woodland, riparian, desert, and others) the bobcat is not threatened. However, in San Diego County, it seems to prefer wild preserves and adjacent canyons, rather than urban landscapes. Despite a rather safe population status, it is illegal in California to hunt bobcats as of January 2020 and trapping has been forbidden since 2015. Bobcats are a central part of our ecosystem. They help control rodent populations and in turn help vegetation thrive. A fun fact: Bobcats have white spots on the back of their ears. The spots are called “flashes” and ward off predators. The flashes look like eyes on the back of the cat’s head.

This is possibly how a pair of scientists discovered that painting eyes on cows’ bottoms saves them from predation. Researchers in Botswana borrowed the idea from nature itself and conducted a study that showed that painting eyes on the bovine’s posterior prevented attacks from lions in areas where their territories overlapped.

You can read an NPR story about the Botswana experiment at http://n.pr/2EMolrz.

—Patricia Simpson is a trail guide at Mission Trails Regional Park.

Bobcat (Photo by Wendy Esterly)
For more information on emergency preparation and wildfire safety, visit sdge.com/wildfirekit.

There’s nothing more important to us than keeping you safe during wildfire season. But we need your help. Download our emergency checklists from our site, then make and practice your family’s preparedness plan. Next, be sure we have your current contact info so we can keep you updated. That way in the event of high fire risk weather conditions, you’ll be both ready and well-informed.

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At monthly meetings of the AGGCC Board of Directors the community designs and implements important projects. Use the “Contact Us” page at aggccouncil.org to let us know how you can support our neighborhood. We next meet on Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom.

—By Shain Haug, president of the Allied Gardens Grantville Community Council.

SAN CARLOS AREA COUNCIL NEWS

Where, what a summer. Blistering heat, virulent wildfires, rolling energy black-outs, a pandemic that nothing seems to curtail. But it’s all not bad news — the Padres made it into the Playoffs for the first time in 14 years; our San Diego Loyal soccer team is walking the walk against homophobia and racism; and El Cajon’s Taylor Guitars reported an enormous uptick in sales. That means more people are now making music.

As for San Carlos, our Eastern Division Police Department just announced that they are now able to conduct and participate in virtual meetings beginning Oct. 1. As per an announcement on Nextdoor, “If you are interested in setting up a meeting with your Community Relations Officers to discuss current events, crime trends, crime prevention and education, Neighborhood Watch, Community Council meetings, or anything else, please reach out to Officer Steffen, Community Relations Officer for Grantville, Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, Lake Murray, San Carlos, College West and College East.” You

Noli Zosa

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Community Briefs
CONTINUED FROM Page 13

If you have not yet filled out your Census 2020 forms, please do it. It took me two minutes. The census population count determines how many representatives each state will have in Congress for the next 10 years, and how much federal funding our communities will receive for roads, schools, housing and social programs. Each man, woman and child counts for about $1,250. Really, it’s a no-brainer. How many of us have noticed the condition of Navajo Road with its unending potholes? So please, if you haven’t done it yet, take two minutes and fill out the census. On the web go to my2020census.gov or call 844-3-2020 to perform your civic duty.

Mayor candidate Barbara Bry came to visit the San Carlos community about a month ago. Her team created a video from that day. You can see it here (watch/ Tg3jyWb0u).

SCAC meetings are now on hiatus until further notice. If you have a San Carlos story to share, please contact San Carlos Area Council VP Patricia Mooney at patty@crystalpyramid.com.

And as always, please stay safe. San Carlos.

—By Patricia Mooney, vice president of the San Carlos Area Council.

DEL CERRO ACTION COUNCIL NEWS

On Sept. 23, the three community councils in our Navajo Community held a very successful Zoom candidate forum for the two mayoral candidates: Todd Gloria and Barbara Bry. The forum was moderated by Jeff Clemetson, the editor of the Mission Times Courier. Each candidate presented their position on a number of matters which are now, and will be impacting the City of San Diego. They also strongly stated why they wanted to be mayor of our city. The Zoom forum was recorded and there is a link on the Del Cerro Action Council website: delcerroactioncouncil.org. Thank you to everyone who submitted their questions for the candidates.

The next quarterly Del Cerro Action Council meeting will be on Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. The meeting will again be via Zoom. The link for attending this Zoom meeting will be posted on Monday, Oct. 19 on the Del Cerro Action Council home page: delcerroactioncouncil.org.

The All Peoples Church has submitted their third response to the city’s planning department and is waiting for the city’s response on what should be the city’s final cycles report. The All Peoples Church is planning on providing an update for us at our Oct. 22 meeting. The church staff has also met with the residents whose property borders the church property and there is an agreement with the property owners for the church to construct a property line wall where appropriate.

Please join us on for our Zoom meeting on Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m.

—By Jay Wilson, secretary of the Del Cerro Action Council.

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(Photo by Patricia Mooney)
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Online clubs keep students engaged at Henry

We have been in school for almost six weeks. What extraordinary times for education. Our teachers have planned rigorous lessons and activities to keep our teenagers engaged and active in their learning. While online learning is a learning curve for everyone, our students are keeping up with their academics and staying engaged in school with online clubs and after school support.

At Patrick Henry, we have a variety of clubs to engage students with common interests. Some of our clubs are:

- Black Student Union
- Red Cross Club
- Patriot Younglife Club
- Journalism Club
- MEChA
- Roller Skate Club
- Rubik’s Cube Club
- Photography Club
- Anime Club

This is just a handful of clubs that we offer. Along with clubs, we also offer Academic Labs (tutoring sessions) for students Tuesdays-Fridays from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Any student can access these Academic Labs to get support from our teachers and students from our Link Crew. Check out the PHHS website for more information.

REOPENING PLAN

Recently, Superintendent Martin shared Phase 1 reopening plan for schools. Principals were provided a comprehensive process for reopening schools during the Sept. 29 meeting that includes health and safety guidelines, transportation guidelines, multi-step process for identifying students, and learning options available for students. Eligible students will receive additional support beyond online learning to support their needs if they are in grades TK to grade 5. Our elementary school principals will be notifying eligible families within the next few weeks.

It is our hope that additional Phases will be rolled out within the next few months in order to return to in-person learning. As soon as more information becomes available, we will notify our community.

Please remember to visit the Patrick Henry website for up to date information about our school and district at – patrickhenryhs.net.

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

IMPORTANT FUNDING

At Patrick Henry, we receive over $200,000 of federal funding when parents turn in Free/Reduced lunch applications. We encourage families to submit your application online whether or not you believe you will qualify. This federal funding supports our library, provides tutoring for all students, mental health counseling, and more. We will lose this funding if not enough people apply and qualify. Please go to this website and apply today: my.schoolapps.com/Application.

If students qualify for Free/Reduced lunch, they will receive food on-site and at our many “Meals to Go” locations and they will receive free AP exams (worth $95 per exam). Please apply today.

SHOW YOUR PATRIOT PRIDE

If you are in need of some sweet Patriot gear, the Sideline online store is now open and Patriots can order gear for 25% off if you use code “GRANDOPENING20” by Oct. 30. Ten percent of all gear sold goes back to the students — we will divide up amongst the graduating classes as an all year fundraiser.

What’s super cool is that logos are interchangeable, can be swapped out, some colors can be changed, your name can be added to backs of items. There’s clothing as well as accessories. Visit bit.ly/3w9zm.

Patrick Henry High School 2021 Yearbook is on sale now. Go to yearbookordercenter.com and use code “8037” to order your yearbook today. Also, follow this Link to the e-share (for parents to share photos): bit.ly/3g7tuw.

FEDERAL SURVEY CARDS

Sometime in the next few weeks all parents/guardians will receive this year’s Federal Impact Aid Survey in your U.S. Mail. All schools need you to fill out the survey completely and accurately, and return it in the postage paid envelope — via U.S. Mail — directly to our district Impact Aid Office by Oct. 28 at the latest.

Why is this survey so important? It enables our district to receive significant income from the Federal Government, which can be used for any general fund purpose, such as instructional materials, salaries for our staff, school transportation, technology, capital needs, etc. We depend on your support in filling out the survey, so we can obtain this money each year.

—Michelle Irwin is principal of Patrick Henry High School.
Construction underway on new building at Crawford

Construction crews are in full swing at Crawford High School. The school’s old 700 Building has been demolished and work is underway to build its replacement which will house a new auditorium, administrative offices and classrooms.

“It’s exciting because as you know our school was built 61 years ago and now we’re on to our next phase,” said Crawford principal Froylan Villanueva.

The new building is part of a massive three-part overhaul of the aging Crawford. Part one of the project has been completed — an update to the schools athletic fields and facilities. The new auditorium and administrative offices building is part of the second part, which will also include modernizing all classrooms at Crawford. Phase two is expected to be completed by May 2023.

The third part is the construction of a Career Technical Education building to teach automotive repair. That project was started in summer 2019.

“We’re really excited because [the school update is] really impacting our community and Crawford is the center of our community,” Villanueva said.

San Diego Unified removes Trump letter from food baskets

San Diego Unified is removing a letter from President Donald Trump inserted into food baskets because it significantly diminishes the scientifically-backed importance of wearing a mask to protect against the transmission of COVID-19.

The letter from President Donald Trump (politico.com/2GtA) was placed into boxes of free groceries to be distributed to some 50 million families nationwide by school districts under the USDA Farmers to Family program. The state’s second-largest district is taking the unprecedented step of removing the letter in order to protect local families from being misled on how to best safeguard themselves from possibly becoming infected.

“Science is clear: wearing a mask works to prevent the spread of the coronavirus,” Superintendent Cindy Marten said. “Masks are required in California and on every San Diego Unified school campus. It is not optional, as the President wrote in his letter.”

Trump’s letter recommends that Americans practice social distancing “and consider wearing a face-covering in public.” Medical experts call masks essential to fighting the spread of COVID-19. Many states, including California, counties, and cities mandate masks and social distancing.

Marten has directed the San Diego Unified Food and Nutrition Services Department to remove all letters that have not already been distributed. She said the removal will occur as part of the existing delivery process, which requires every box to be opened before distribution. (San Diego Unified receives the boxes sealed with the letter, and opens the boxes to refrigerate the milk, yogurt and eggs to keep them cool until the time of service.)

Trustee Dr. Sharon Whitehurst-Payne said she was appalled that the Trump Administration was failing to follow state health mandates when communicating to the most disadvantaged students. She noted these same communities are among the most vulnerable to the COVID-19 crisis and are suffering disproportionately. According to recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 hospitalization rates among non-Hispanic Black people and Hispanic or Latino people were both about 4.7 times the rate of non-Hispanic white people.

“The COVID-19 virus has disproportionately impacted communities of color,” Dr. Whitehurst-Payne said. “Not only are we facing higher rates of infection and mortality from the coronavirus, but we have also been the hardest hit in terms of unemployment and hunger. To take advantage of that suffering by distributing

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Crusaders Soccer rec division teams hit field

The 54 Crusaders Soccer Club’s recreational division teams are now practicing every weekday on the large grass field at Gage Elementary School and as of Oct. 10, participating in team activities every Saturday.

When you drive by the grass field during the week, you will see several hundred colored cones designating the space for each player to ensure social distancing is maintained. This is in addition to the 300 competitive division soccer players practicing on the two fields at Pershing Middle School.

It is very gratifying to all of us to see the happy expressions on the faces of our nearly 600 recreational division players and listen to their comments about playing soccer and seeing their friends whom they have not seen in six months. The parents are pleased as well. They continually comment on how great it is that their child is outside, seeing friends, socializing with children their own age, and getting some much-needed exercise on a regular basis. Our recreational division is for children born between 2006 and 2016.

Our recreational division is successful because of our volunteer coaches and division coordinators. They have adapted very well to soccer, COVID-19 style. Everything a coach asks of their players requires the players to maintain a COVID-19 social distancing of six feet. COVID-19 protocols require we take the temperature of each player. All guests are required to wear a mask and have their temperature taken.

For more information, visit crusaderssoccer.org.

—Jay Wilson writes on behalf of Crusaders Soccer Club.

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Oct. 9 – Nov. 12, 2020
Celebrate macabre literature online at San Diego PoeFest

The third annual San Diego PoeFest, will be held this year online, streaming Oct. 23 to Nov. 1. PoeFest is produced by Write Out Loud in partnership with Save Our Heritage Organisation.

PoeFest has quickly become a San Diego favorite Halloween adventure. Everybody loves the wonderfully chilling stories of Poe. And there are so many authors to explore that have followed in his footsteps,” said PoeFest artistic director Veronica Murphy. “Virtual is our only option for storytelling now, so we are embracing the challenge of capturing a phantasmic theatrical experience on video. We’ve recreated the atmosphere, filming by candlelight in the Historic Adobe Chapel in Old Town.”

Poe’s poetry, as well as other literature inspired by him, will be performed by local actors Britney Caldwell, Manny Fernandez, Linda Libby, Brian Mackey, Paul Maley, Sandra Ruiz, Rachael VanWormer, and featuring Travis Rhett Wilson as Edgar Allan Poe.

The actors will present six episodes of fully-staged, theatrical performances of short stories of the macabre, including “The Tell-Tale Heart,” “The Yellow Wallpaper” and “La Llorona” and more.

Audience members can choose to see just one video program (or more) – or become a VIP and have access to all six videos, plus an exclusive livestream event for opening night. Access to video performances is restricted to the dates of the festival, but viewers can choose the dates and times to watch – they can binge watch all on Halloween or see a performance every day for a week to keep all the days spooky.

Programs include:
- An Evening with Mr. Poe and “The Masque of the Red Death”
- Featuring Travis Rhett Wilson as Edgar Allan Poe
- Malignant Mothers
- “The Bells” by E.A. Poe
- “To My Mother” by E.A. Poe
- “La Llorona” – a Latin American Folktale (bilingual)
- “Mama Gone” by Jane Yolen
- Guilty – Pleasure?
- “The Tell-Tale Heart” by E.A. Poe
- “Sonnet—to Science” by E.A. Poe
- The Statement of Randolph Carter by H.P. Lovecraft
- Shades of Poe
- “The Raven” by E.A. Poe

“Why The Little Frenchman Wears His Hand in a Sling” by E.A. Poe
• Fairy-Land” by E.A. Poe
• Voodoo
- The Conqueror Worm” by E.A. Poe
- “Boogah Man” & “The Haunted Oak” by Paul Laurence Dunbar
- “The Lips” by Henry S. Whitehead
- The Yellow Wallpaper
- A Dream Within a Dream” by E.A. Poe
- “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Individual programs are $13 each, VIP Festival Pass is $50. VIP Festival Pass includes access to all six programs and exclusive live-streamed Opening Night Event. Tickets may be purchased online at writeoutloud.ticketspice.com/poefest or by calling 619-297-8953.
Nearby October flu clinic locations:
- Oct. 10, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Grossmont Healthcare District, 9001 Vineland Ave, El Cajon, CA 92019
- Oct. 11, 7:30–11:30 a.m., Northgate Market, 5401 University Ave, San Diego, CA 92105
- Oct. 19, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Grossmont Park Model Home, 1200 College Dr, El Cajon, CA 92020
- Oct. 24, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Volunteers in Medicine, 1457 E. Admiral Pl, El Cajon, CA 92019
- Oct. 26, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Grossmont Health Occupations Center, 9368 Oakbourne Road, Santee, CA 92071

Flu clinics will run October 2020 to March 2021. Additional dates and locations can be found at bit.ly/34AN5q.

COUNTY EXPANDS OUTDOOR COVID TESTING
The County announced on Sept. 29 it will be increasing the number of COVID-19 testing sites across the region to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The number of sites will increase from 29 to 41 and the number of tests available to be administered by public health nurses through the County’s lab contract with Quest will nearly double to about 10,000 weekly tests.

Testing by the County of school employees will take place at four regional locations the County identified through consultation with the San Diego County Office of Education. Testing of teachers and staff is recommended by the state for schools preparing to reopen for in-person instruction.

COVID-19 testing continues to be primarily being conducted at hospitals, with additional tests from commercial labs and community health centers.

Testing is available through your healthcare provider and health plans are required to cover the cost. Many County sites no longer require an appointment, but others do. To make an appointment, visit 211sandiego.org or call 2-1-1.

OUTDOOR PLAYGROUNDS REOPEN
The state has released guidelines for allowing for the reopening of outdoor playgrounds in parks, campgrounds and other publicly accessible locations.

The County local health order will be updated to reflect the new guidelines which go into effect locally Sept. 30. They include:
- Use of face coverings for every- one age 3 and older, children must be accompanied by a caregiver
- Physical distance must be maintained, and children must be from the same household
- No food or drink in playground

To ensure face masks are worn. Wash or sanitize hands before and after using the playground. Limit visit to 30 minutes per day when others are present.

Full stories Online updates Comments Event calendars and more

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“She thanked him for letting him come home with her while she was healing. The doctor got on one knee and said, ‘No honey, this is for you. He gets to live with you from now on.’” he continued. “Well my daughter went to college; she’s moved three or four times; she’s 28 years old, and to this day that bear sits on her bed.

The impact that it made on that little girl is what I’m reaching out for all these young kids that are in the hospital.”

That hospital Quinata reaches out to is Rady’s Children’s Hospital and its partner organization the Ronald McDonald House, where he has been organizing a stuffed animal drive for five years now.

The stuffed animal drive began as a class project for middle school students Quinata was teaching through Our Father’s Grace Ministries. The 16 students collected 150 animals the first year. The project could have stayed a successful program for Quinata’s students, but after discussing it with Inter-religious Council of San Diego president Lisa Patton, it was re-imagined as something bigger. Patton reached out to LDS Church East State president Clark Hendrickson to get involved and the stuffed animal project had a team in place.

“Between us three, this thing has just exploded — having those two people involved,” Quinata said. “Each year it has grown, and last year we donated 998 animals.”

Since the involvement of the Inter-religious Council, participation has grown to include many churches from around the region, including the Bahai center, many LDS churches, St. Andrews Lutheran, Sainte Christian, St. Martin de Tours, Our Mother of Confidence and more. Although some churches who participated last year are not involved this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, the stuffed animal drive is still expecting to break its collection record thanks to the participation of more LDS churches from the county, Quinata said.

Stuffed animal collected for the drive are stored and given throughout the year to patients at Rady’s and their siblings who stay at the Ronald McDonald House. Families at the house are from all over the world and are separated from friends and belongings left at home while their son or daughter or brother of sister is getting treatment. The animals come with a card from Our Father’s Grace Ministries and the Interreligious Council that “let’s the families know that people are praying for them,” Quinata said. “I thought this was a little gesture to remind the kids that we care out here and we’re pulling for your family to get everybody well and go home and continue life the way it’s supposed to be.”

Donated stuffed animals must be new and only 10-to-12 inch tall, but “no noise makers like monkeys banging cymbals,” Quinata said.

Animals will be collected on Oct. 24 at drive-through drop off locations — mostly participating churches and supporting businesses — during specific hours. The animals will then be brought to a central location where they will be boxed for storage. Because of the pandemic, many extra safety precautions are being taken for this year’s event — including forgone the usual party at the Bahai Center for all the participants.

“We’re going to make sure this is done very cleanly and safely as we can,” Quinata said. “I’m hop ing next year we can just get back to throwing a big party and have everyone join us.”

For more information about the stuffed animal drive, visit bit.ly/3c29Ex6.

Reach editor Jeff Clemenson at jeff@sdnews.com.

**ALVARADO HOSPITAL EMERGENCY SERVICES**

If you feel you are having any kind of emergency, do not wait to come to the Emergency Room. Alvarado Hospital is a STEMI Severe Heart Attack Receiving Center and a certified Advanced Primary Stroke Center

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AlvaradoHospital.com

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**Trump letter**

**CONTINUED FROM Page 17**

misleading medical information is appalling. This is equivalent to the Tuskegee Syphilis Study in terms of the level of contempt demonstrated towards our community.”

Beyond understating the health benefits and ignoring the state mandate of wearing a mask, the Trump letter mistakenly repeats the president’s claims that only the very old and very sick need to be protected from the coronavirus. President Trump has repeated the line that children are “basically immune” to COVID-19, despite evidence to the contrary.

“More than 60,000 school-age children in the State of California have been infected with the coronavirus, and no one knows what the long-term health effects of that will be,” Dr. Whitehurst-Payne said. “To imply that only people over 80 need to be protected from the virus is extremely irresponsible.”
San Diego is experiencing an ex- ploding housing market in terms of both median prices and number of prop- erties available. There are three variables explaining this surge.

One factor is that people are look- ing for properties with both more interior and external space. Many people spent a lot of time outdoors near the beach, hiking, etc. In addition, people would spend 40 or so hours at their workplace. The working- from-home phenomenon is causing people to spend much more time at home which is acting as a catalyst for people to find a property with both additional interior and exter- nal space.

A second factor causing a dramat- ic increase in demand for housing right now is that the spring and early summer buying season was reduced causing demand to be slightly de- layed. Buyers were a little bit hesi- tant to look at properties in April, May, and June until they knew more about the current environment. Now that the dust has settled and people have spent an abundance of time sit- ting at home, buyers are emerging from their apartments all saying the same thing: “We need to buy a home ASAP!”

One of my buyers is a young military gentleman. A few homes went on the market last Saturday. We raced to see it and prepared an excellent offer that same day. By Sunday the agent had 13 offers. The market for homes with a yard in the $400,000 to $900,000 range is cur- rently off the charts. Inventory is at all-time lows.

A third variable is that interest rates are artificially low, causing monthly payments to be reduced. Buyers can afford more than they thought and are pushing for the best house they can afford. So what is ahead for 2021? I read lots of real estate newsletters and blogs. And the forecast for 2021 is a prime topic of discussion.

First off, if additional stimulus fi- nally gets passed, that would be a positive for the housing market. If an effective vaccine gets approved, I believe that would be the greatest single positive for the housing mar- ket. Expect home price increases to follow. If for some reason, this virus issue does not get resolved and gets worse, that could hinder the overall economy and cause a tough 2021. Rent and mortgage delinquencies could again increase, and bankrupt- cies would grow.

I, like all of you, pray we are closer to the end of this pandemic than the beginning. Overall, in my opinion, I believe that 2021 is going to have strong economic growth and solid home price appreciation. I am active- ly trying to get my handful of buyers into homes quickly.

Market update (single fami- ly homes): In the 92115 zip-code, the median home price jumped to $649,000 with very little invento- ry of only 11 homes for sale. In the 92119, inventory of homes is even lower with only 16 homes for sale, less than one month’s supply and the median home price increased to an all-time high of $718,000! And finally in 92120, the median home price rose to a jaw dropping $812,500 with only 11 homes actively for sale.

Inventory is minimal across all zip-codes as well as listing and closed sales declined because there are so few homes or basic economics will tell you that’s a recipe for sub- stantial home appreciation in the near-term.

—Sarah Ward is a Realtor with Fine & Coastal Real Estate. Reach her at sarahward21@gmail.com, or by calling 858-411-6043.

For the last 26 years, Crisis House has served the San Diego commu- nity from within a building provided by the City of El Cajon. Now Crisis House is being forced to end its lease with the city and move out by Dec. 31, 2020. In response, the city is pro- viding financial support of $700,000 toward the purchase of a newly iden- tified building.

The David C. Copley Foundation has pledged a challenge grant where- by the Foundation will match “one dollar for every one dollar” raised up to $250,000 toward the purchase and related relocation expenses.

A new space, to ensure access to crucial resources in a confidential setting, plays a critical role in plan- ning for a future of positive impact over the next 50 years. A new build- ing will allow Crisis House to contin- ue to provide urgent and direct emer- gency, transitional and permanent housing with wrap-around services for 145 families, including 312 chil- dren, fleeing domestic violence in its four Journey Programs annually.

Crisis House’s Camp HOPE pro- gramming, for the children abused by domestic violence, will provide trauma-informed camperships and year-round mentorships for 125 chil- dren and families. Thirty-five families and individuals will end their home- lessness through our East County Housing Connections project and the mobile outreach team will offer life-saving services to 570 people experiencing homelessness who can- not yet make the transition to housing.

Throughout the next 3-plus days, Crisis House is seeking donors will- ing to help meet Copley Foundation’s “dollar for dollar” match up to $250,000 to purchase its new site and preserve the long legacy and meaningful service to families in crisis in our community.

For information, please call Mary Case, Executive Director at 619- 609-1747 or visit crishouse.org/ newpropertycampaign.

SAN CARLOS LIBRARY

New online program- ming: We will be increas- ing our online presence by offering new programs on our Facebook page. Be sure to check out these initial offerings and check back regularly for new announce- ments at facebook.com/SanCarlosPublicLibrary.

Join us for a weekly in- spirational quote by J.R.R. Tolkien in an online pro- gram called “Lord of the Rings Life Lessons.” Librarian, David Ege, will enlighten and inspire by reading select passages from “The Lord of the Rings.” Videos will be posted every Monday at 10 a.m.

In the next few weeks, I, like all of you, pray we are closer to the end of this pandemic than the beginning. Overall, in my opinion, I believe that 2021 is going to have strong economic growth and solid home price appreciation. I am active- ly trying to get my handful of buyers into homes quickly.
Is it Time to Replace Your Water Heater?

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