Census Bureau courts student volunteers

By JEFF CLEMETSON  |  COURTESY TROY MURPHEE

The 2020 census is less than three months away. Counting everyone who lives in the United States is a huge undertaking — and the U.S. Census Bureau needs everyone’s help to ensure a complete and accurate count.

Deputy Director for the U.S. Census Bureau Ron Jarmin met with San Diego State University’s board Jan. 6 to discuss how SDSU’s more than 8,000 students will be counted and how they can get involved.

“We need students to know where they are going to be counted and let their parents know,” explained Jarmin. “This partnership with SDSU is ongoing, necessary and you’re added efforts with recruiting will help ensure we count everyone once, only once and in the right place.”

San Diego State University is working to raise awareness of the importance of the census and to help recruit people.
in the area to work for the 2020 census. The jobs are temporary, have flexible hours, and have a pay rate from $20 to $30 an hour. The job is so important and perfect for college students, that the SDSU Jumbotron near the Interstate 8 freeway currently blasts messages on how students can apply.

Getting an accurate count for San Diego is important to the area’s future. Results of the 2020 census will be used to determine the number of seats California will hold in the U.S. House of Representatives. The data will also be used by federal organizations to determine how billions of dollars in federal funds are allocated by state, local, and federal lawmakers every year for the next 10 years for critical programs. The data is used in federal funds are allocated by state, local, and federal lawmakers every year for the next 10 years for critical public services like hospitals and health care clinics, schools and education programs, roads and bridges, and emergency response.

SDSU is one of the Census Bureau’s many local partners who are raising awareness about the 2020 census. For more information on the 2020 census, please visit 2020census.gov and to apply online go to 2020census.gov/jobs.

News briefs CONTINUED FROM Page 1

to The Mission Continues project manager, will most likely be bringing anywhere from 50-200 volunteers to the campus.

For this project, volunteers can help paint, garden and build benches, a gazebo, etc. Overall, it’s a great opportunity to network with the different nonprofit organizations in the community.

WHAT’S GROWING ON?

By HENRY BERTRAM

Yes, you can plant now. Come join us. We make it as simple as possible. You lease a raised veggie box already filled with healthy soil and amended with all organic nutrients and supplements. You buy organic veggie “starter” plants, water regularly, add organic fertilizer we provide, then watch them grow. Harvest, eat, repeat the process with different veggies. Advice is always available and we have workshops run by master gardeners of San Diego County, who are themselves trained by the University of California. At six years young, our 1-acre nonprofit community garden has become quite the hub of activity. With more than 100 raised growing boxes and over 55 fruit trees, we have much to offer.

For general information about our nonprofit 501(c)(3) community garden and to join us as a gardener (no matter your previous experience), please see our website collegeareagarden.org. Also, find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We have some really good raised boxes available that are filled with rich soil and are ready for new gardeners. Why not join us?

—Henry Bertram is president and founder of the College Area Community Garden.

Growing healthy veggies is very satisfying

WHY NOT GROW?

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TYPE O BLOOD AT ‘CRITICAL LEVELS’

San Diego Blood Bank is asking those who have never given blood and those who haven’t given blood recently, and have Type O blood, to donate blood immediately. Supplies of O-positive and O-negative blood are at critically low levels.

Type O-positive is the most common blood type, and therefore needed by many hospital patients, while Type O-negative is the universal blood type and can be given to any patient, and is often used in emergency rooms when there is no time to determine the blood type of the patient.

“Coming out of the holiday season, we typically see a decrease in donations of all types at this time due to schools being out of session for the holidays and seasonal illnesses like the flu,” said David Wellis, San Diego Blood Bank CEO. “The need for Type O blood has hit a critically low level and we need the community to help us keep a safe supply for local hospital patients.”

San Diego Blood Bank has six donor centers throughout San Diego County and bloodmobiles out in the community, making it convenient to donate. To be eligible to donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 114 pounds and be in general good health. Anyone who is eligible to donate blood and has O-negative or O-positive type blood is encouraged to make an appointment immediately at SanDiegoBloodBank.org or by calling 1-800-4MY-SDBB. Walk-ins are also welcome.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY CERTIFIES STUDY FOR TERMINAL 1 REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The San Diego County Regional Airport Authority Board of Directors has certified the final environmental impact report for the replacement of the 53-year-old Terminal 1 at San Diego International Airport.

The new Terminal 1 would feature 30 gates (up from 19 in the current terminal) and represent a significant upgrade for passengers.

College Area Branch Now Open

6145 El Cajon Boulevard, Suite 3D
(El Cajon Blvd. and College Ave.)
This year, that day is Thursday, where the region’s unsheltered well as additional security check-

 Point-in-Time Count campaign Count for a one-day snapshot of Murdock Elementary School in La Mesa. The forum is sponsored for housing and services.”

“HOMELESS COUNTY SEeks VOLUNTEERS

 The Regional Task Force on the Homeless conducts an annual Point-in-Time Count to survey the unsheltered individuals throughout San Diego County called We All Count for a one-day snapshot of the region’s unsheltered neighbors who are living. This is an engaged count to meet them where they are at.

BAGS & BAUBLES TO RAISE MONEY FOR PETS

The local animal nonprofit the Foundation for Animal Care and Education (FACE) is asking for your used or new luxury items to help save lives – right in time for spring cleaning.

Donate your gently loved designer and vintage handbags, sunglasses, and fine jewelry to FACE’s annual shopping event, Bags & Baubles. Taking place on April 26, this event raises proceeds for pets in need of life-saving veterinary care.

Requested brands include, but are not limited to: Rebecca Minkoff, Michael Kors, Marc Jacobs, Tory Burch, Stella McCartney, Ted Baker, Prada, Gucci, Luis Vuitton, Chanel, and Jimmy Choo. Donation pickups can be arranged.

“Why not save a life this year through spring cleaning? All donations to Bags & Baubles will directly help to support local pets facing economic euthanasia with a decided chance and experience that helps him relate to the English learner students at Crawford.

“I take it personally because I am an English learner,” he said. “When my parents came from Mexico they were speaking to me in Spanish so when I entered Emerson, I wasn’t speaking English I was speaking Spanish.”

Now at Crawford, Villanueva spends some of his time learning a little Somali or asking his new students from Venezuela where and how they also learned to speak Creole.

“I want people, when they see me, to know that I’m trying to speak their language,” he said. “I think that in the community that I grew up in, which is this community, there are great things — the diversity is like none other. I want people to know that our diversity is a strength. I feel like I can fit in with all the different groups on our campus because I’m open to it.”

“People used to always come to me at my desk and say, ‘Come on back.’ Don’t choice to make room for a brand new performing arts theater and administration building. Already completed at Crawford are new track and sports fields installed two years ago with new turf, lights, sound system and bleachers.

Villanueva sees the renovation of Crawford, which was construct-

ed in 1957, as a way to build pride in the school. He pointed to his alma mater, Hoover High School, and how its recent renovations make him feel about the school.

“I know that having been a student there, I’m kind of proud, I’m like I wish I can be there right now. I know that’s going to be the case for Crawford students as well,” he said.

Bringing some pride back to Crawford is something that the school needs, Villanueva acknowledged, and pointed to the number of local students who commute to other high schools such as Patrick Henry.

“Nothing against Patrick Henry, but we want our kids to stay in our community and be proud of the school and the buildings that they enter,” he said. “That’s my job, to promote our school and say, ‘Come on back.’ Don’t choose to. Give Crawford a chance.”

“IM a product of this neighborhood,” he said. “I grew up in City Heights, El Cerrito. I see it as coming home — coming back to the area I grew up in.”

Villanueva’s professional experience is also extensive, having worked as the head administrator at high school, middle school and elementary schools in three different districts, most recently as principal of Southwest High in the Sweetwater district. However, working at Crawford is not his first gig in the San Diego Unified School District.

“I actually worked for San Diego Unified School District as a custodian when I was a student at San Diego State,” he said, adding that he also worked as a para-educator at Marston Middle School in Clairemont in a program working with students being bussed from the inner city.

Besides his studies, his roots in the area and his professional experience, Villanueva also brings with him a personal experience, Villanueva also brings with him a personal experience, Villanueva also brings with him a personal experience, Villanueva also brings with him a personal experience but are not limited to. Rebecca Minkoff, Michael Kors, Marc Jacobs, Tory Burch, Stella McCartney, Ted Baker, Prada, Gucci, Luis Vuitton, Chanel, and Jimmy Choo. Donation pickups can be arranged.

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“A NEW CAMPUS

Just as Villanueva is bringing a renewed approach to the admin-

istration of Crawford High, the campus itself is undergoing its own renewal.

Construction is currently under-

derway on a new building for a CTE auto training program for students that is a project partner-

ship with Ford Motor Company.

“That building will be complet-
ed in April,” Villanueva said.

In March, construction on new restrooms will begin and a temporary kitchen will be set up while the current kitchen is ren-
ovated in April. And on the first day after students get out for sum-

mer, buildings on campus will be switched to help individuals, veter-

ans, and families access the airport. A proposed on-airport entry road would remove an existing bottleneck near the Transit Center. This service is scheduled to start in mid-2020.

The goal is to break ground on the new terminal by June. The airport is opened the first phase (19 gates) in 2024.

HOMELESS COUNTY SEeks VOLUNTEERS

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College Area Community Council membership drive

The College Area Community Council (CACC) created a 501c3 non-profit umbrella organization in order to make any donations potentially tax deductible and to have the opportunity to apply for grants for specific projects to improve our community. The new entity is the College Area Community Coalition, so it has the same acronym as the Council. The Council will essentially function as a project of the Coalition, with the Coalition providing the funds and legal umbrella for Council projects. The annual membership drive was delayed a bit until all details of the new organization were finalized, so that any annual donations could be tax deductible. Existing members will receive their annual membership update letters in the next week or so by regular mail. Any existing member or someone wishing to join can do so online at collegearea.org.

The College Area Community Council Planning Board and Council is holding annual elections at its March meeting. There are six seats with three-year terms expiring in 2023 and one seat with a term expiring in 2022. Both incumbents and new members are encouraged to run. It is an exciting time with our community plan update project moving forward very positively. It would not have been possible without your financial support. This and other projects in the pipeline are critical to you, your family and community. Please be part of the positive momentum. Support your community!

CACC Membership Application

Member Name (s)
I am registering as a new member or a renewal. Mailing Address
Phone/cell Email address

Membership Categories are as follows. Please mark one.

- Resident property owner (owns property and lives in the College Area)
- Non-resident property owner (Owns property in area, but does not live in College Area)
- Renter (lives in the College Area but does not own property in the College Area)
- Business/Professional/Non-Profit Agency (operating at a property within the College Area)

Name/Address of Business/Agency:

Our only source of income is from voluntary dues. It is important for you to know that dues are not required, in order to be a CACC member. They are greatly needed and appreciated.

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Operating costs and community events, are significant costs. Any of the dues categories below qualifies you for the Affiliate rate at the SDSU Aztec Recreation Center. If you wish to make a donation, our voluntary dues fall in to the following categories.

- Supporting Member – $15/yr
- Community Patron – $50/yr
- VIP Member – $500/yr

PLEASE MAIL THIS APPLICATION AND ANY CONTRIBUTION TO:
CACC P.O. Box 15723 San Diego, CA 92175

Because we did not provide goods or services to you personally, your full gift is tax deductible as a charitable contribution according to Section 170 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code. New Internal Revenue regulations require that you show a receipt to claim a charitable deduction. Canceled checks alone are no longer acceptable to the IRS. Please email president@collegearea.org to request a receipt. EIN:84-3212518.

Make the Right Choice Senior Living

Established in early 2008, Jean Brooks (UCSD Graduate) and Todd Brooks (Air Force Veteran, US Air Force Academy Graduate) had the desire to develop Assisted Living Care Homes and Services for seniors that are a cut above the rest at fair & competitive rates. Right Choice Senior Living has Residential Care Homes located in highly desirable neighborhoods close to UCSD, La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Clairemont (Mount Street Area) medical facilities and the beach. Come see us today before making your final choice. Make the Right Choice Today. For more info call (619) 246-2003 or go to the website. NOW HIRING CAREGIVERS! CALL NOW!

News from El Cerrito Community Council

By LAURA RIEBAU

The city of San Diego Mayor's Office, on Dec. 11, 2019, posted the draft EIR for the new Complete Communities Housing Solutions and Mobility Choices’ proposed amendments to the municipal code and land use and housing regulations. This plan does impact our El Cerrito neighborhood, as well as all of the single residential neighborhoods in the city of San Diego, as it replaces single-family housing with four-unit, multi-family on a single-family zoned lot. The draft Complete Communities: Mobility Choices Regulations and the associated draft environmental impact report (EIR) are available for review online at bit.ly/31eLwR.

Comments on the draft EIR must be received by Jan. 27, 2020 - not a lot of time to review something of this importance, which was released during the holiday season when staff was not available to assist.

So it is really should try our best to review the draft EIR and get your comments to the city. This document is nearly 500 pages, so the sooner you start the better.

Please take time to review and send your comments on the city of San Diego’s Draft Complete Communities: Mobility Choices Regulations and the associated draft environmental impact report (EIR).

—Laura Riebau writes on behalf of the El Cerrito Community Council.
SDSU breaking ground on a campus Native and Indigenous Healing Garden

By SDSU News Team

Constructions of the long-awaited San Diego State University Native and Indigenous Healing Garden begins this month, with an opening scheduled for the university’s annual Explore SDSU all-campus event on March 21. The garden represents the concepts of healing – emotionally, mentally, and physically – that derive from Kumeyaay, Nahua and Mixtec cultures and that can be replicated in the environment of San Diego. The design and plant listings were a collaborative project of Kumeyaay, Nahua, and Mixtec community members along with KTUA architects and members of the Aztec Education Committee. The garden’s design incorporates cardinal directions as well as the axis mundi through primary pathways. Half of the garden form a circular patterned pathway that captures the Kumeyaay coiled basket design and the serpent of the Aztec/Nahua. The shared sacred colors of black, red, blue and white that are affiliated with the cardinal directions are captured in natural decomposed granite pathways. The quadrants that are created through the formation of the pathways will be filled with various plants that have importance in healing from each culture: the Kumeyaay, Aztec/Nahua, and the Mixtecs and Zapotecs. The final quadrant will hold plants that are shared by these groups and other native and indigenous peoples from California and throughout Mesoamerica. The majority of the plants are season- and will change throughout the year. A website is in development that will provide detailed information on each plant species located on the site.

The garden will be open for public use, and the herbs and plants are intended to be a resource that can be harvested for use. The garden plans will be enhanced with a natural water feature and a shade cover that were made possible through a special donation from SDSU Alumni and funding from the 2019-20 Associated Students Board of Directors. In addition to serving as a resource for plants that have been used by our native and indigenous communities for generations, the space also will be a living classroom with three different naturalized learning spaces and a place to rest and reflect through nature,” said Ramona Pérez, chair of the Aztec Identity Initiative. “I am very grateful to the many collaborators that came together to share their insight, knowledge, and experiences in creating a place that reflects Kumeyaay, Nahua and Mixtec cultural engagement in human and nature interactions.”

The garden was conceptualized in 2003 as an interpretation of the extraordinary gardens developed by the Nahua speaking people of the Aztec Empire. However, funding for the garden that was originally planned was not available at that time. In 2017, funds were set aside by President Sally Roush and Associated Students to allow the project to move forward. At the same time, the garden was renamed and re conceptualized as a more inclusive project that recognizes SDSU’s location on the lands that have sustained the Kumeyaay for millennia, along with the contemporary indigenous people of the Aztec Empire who call San Diego home. The SDSU Native and Indigenous Healing Garden also will feature a 30’ x 60’ mural that captures the significance of plants to indigenous life in the region of the Aztecs. The mural was designed by SDSU students as part of an Arts Alive! project in fall 2019 by Department of History professor and graduate adviser Paula DeVos and School of Art and Design associate professor Eva Struble. Professor Struble will continue to oversee the painting of the mural. Work on the mural begins in January, and students, faculty, staff, and members of the community will be invited to join the students in painting the mural in February.

“We look forward to beginning construction on this important project that will be inclusive of the SDSU and San Diego commu- nities,” said Amanda Scheidlinger, director of construction at SDSU. For more information on the SDSU Native and Indigenous Healing Garden, please contact Ramona Pérez, chair of the Aztec Identity Initiative, at preza@sd- su.edu or Amanda Scheidlinger, director of construction, at ascheidlinger@sdsu.edu.

An example of what the healing garden may look like (Courtesy SDSU News Center)

From the Alvarado Estates archives

By SUSAN CLARKE CRISAFULLI

The original plan in 1952 was to have stables where our community park is now located. Over time that changed, and the new vision was to create a community park with a clubhouse. But for that to happen, donations were needed as the HOA was not going to make any special assessments. The development of the park began in 2002. Wayne Breise spearheaded the operation with donations from 71 neighbors ranging from $200 to $25,000. The first phase included a gazebo with meandering sidewalks that led through an artisan to inspiration point and around the lawn area that is the contemporary scene. Member donations allowed for the planting of trees, drinking fountains, concrete seating and a picnic table.

The neighborhood demographic- ics changed as original owners moved out and more families with children moved in. Having a lot tot playground with swings, a slide and climbing equipment became the next phase in 2012. In 2014, a dog park was created, and in 2016, a putting green was installed. The end result is a park that is fun for the entire family. In addition to the annual picnic in October, members get to enjoy the park with several scheduled events that include a golf chal- lengers in June, a concert in July and family movie night under the stars in August. Also, our community park is home to pollbucks, kids’ birthday parties, and weddings as members have full access to reserve it at no charge. What our park has given us is a true sense of community with our neighbors and that in turn creates more camaraderie.

Susan Clarke Crisafulli writes on behalf of Alvarado Estates.
Declutter your life for a stress-free 2020

KATHY BURNS | kathyburns2013.com

2020 marks the beginning of a new decade and if you want to embrace the year with style and clarity, this is the perfect time to begin decluttering and organizing your life. The average U.S. home contains more than 300,000 possessions. It is no wonder why we sometimes feel like our possessions are possessing us!

Most of us spend a great deal of time buying, maintaining, storing, trying to access and keeping track of our items. When your life is overrun with clutter, you are not able to see clearly what you need to do to create more success or to simply have more free time. This year is when you and your home become organized and decluttered; you will automatically have extra room for new experiences and will also experience a greater sense of peace and well-being.

When we make time searching for things we know we own, but cannot find, we become frustrated and lose precious hours from our life. Studies show that the average person wastes 3.5 hours each week searching for lost items. There are several simple steps you can take to start 2020 on an organized path. These steps are simple but not necessarily easy. Keep in mind, there is no end result — it is all about your personal vision for this new decade. If you feel ready to begin anew, here are a few basic steps you can take right now to start this new decade feeling like your life is under control!

The first organizing tactic is to set up permanent donation boxes in your home. It is important to position your donation bin in a place that is quick and easy to access. A hall closet or right inside the garage door typically trumps other locations.

Once you set up a permanent donation box, if you no longer want, use, or love, your life will become less cluttered with less effort. Develop your ‘like’ and ‘not-liked’ items to put into the bin for four to six weeks until it becomes automatic.

It doesn’t really matter what type of bin you use for your unwanted items. It can be as simple as a plastic tub or old box. The main requirement is that it be located in a vertical space. This is the perfect way to keep the closet door and contents in place as you decide that they are no longer needed, used or loved. To guarantee success, once your donation bin is full, you must take it immediately to your closest donation station. The goal is to vertically habit of going towards the donation station as frequently as your bin fills up. If your bin is the perfect size and shape, simply empty it and bring the bin back to keep the process going!

Adding a second donation bin to each closet will dramatically help you reduce your closet congestion by helping you get rid of clothes you no longer wear. When you try on a piece of clothing and take it off right away — this is a good indication that you no longer really need it. If you are keeping 80% of the clothes in your closet so this might be the perfect time to get real with yourself. If you don’t want to wear it today, why would you want to wear it tomorrow?

In doubt and you just can’t talk yourself into tossing it immediately? Try hanging the item backwards onto the rod. In a few months, check to see if you ever wore it again. If not, toss it! This trick is simple, quick and be done with it!

Once you have a donation station set up inside your home, it is time to start the purging process. Your next step will be to assess each space every time you open a drawer or door. Do a quick scan to check if there is anything inside that you have not used for the last six months or a year.

A pro organizing tip: It is easier to make decisions if you empty the drawer. Seeing all of the contents will help you make a quick assessment of the contents. Are you surprised or even shocked at how much stuff that drawer contained?

Before you place items back into that drawer or cabinet, think about how you might be able to optimize that space. This area will be better organized when you create separate zones to contain each type of item. It is easy to contain collections of ‘like’ items within plastic bins. You can also employ baskets to serve as quick and easy dividers in drawers. Use pre-made plastic drawer dividers or instant cabinets within cabinets.

For instance, my bedside drawer has a few different categories within. One cuddle pet holds stuffed animals and another holds vitamins, my extra cables are stashed inside a plastic bag and the last container holds my reading glasses. For me, this strategy follows the principle of ‘like with like’ that you will often hear from your local storage consultant or like myself teaching. The reason we love this organizing tactic is simply is when similar items ‘live’ in the same location, they are much easier to find when needed.

One super important decluttering strategy is to purge your homes once a regular basis. The beginning of each year is the ideal time. The beginning of a new decade makes decluttering even more significant. Start this decade with systems put into place and remove all clutter from your space!

Keep in mind that purging and releasing our items on a regular basis is a win-win! It helps you pass your good out into the world and at the same time makes your home much less stressful and you will absolutely receive the bonus of more free time for fun!

—Kathy Burns is the CEO of addSpace. To Your Life! Learn more at addspaceinyourlife.com.

A look at the next legislative session

BY TONI G. ATKINS

Happy New Year! January is a good time to regroup, recover, and recharge after the busy holiday season. For the state Senate, January also means returning to Sacramento for the second year of our legislative session.

During the legislative recess, I enjoyed taking part in dozens of meetings and events in the 39th District projects, which was focused on everything from affordable housing to human trafficking to celebrating the achievements of local businesses and community leaders. Now, I’m eager to join my colleagues for another productive year in the state Capitol.

Our annual deliberations on the state budget begin this month after Governor Newsom announces his initial proposal. Then, the Senate Budget Committee moves forward with its review. Last year, we enacted a bold and responsible budget that rejected continued funding for education, strong reserves in case of economic downturns, and addressed several important projects in our region. I believe this year’s budget will be equally beneficial.

Two areas where we made major investments last year — health care and housing — will again be the subject of legislation in 2020. While we increased the number of California Health Access Program (CalHealth Access) to help health care and reduced the cost of health care for middle-class Californians, the Legislature must continue to work with the governor on the path toward health care for all.

Because there is not enough affordable housing construction to meet the need, we have to fix that by being thoughtful about building homes in places that will increase access to jobs, reduce the time people have to spend in their cars, and help us meet California’s greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Our region has a strong recreation and tourism industry. That includes not only the Center of military facilities in the world. Because these vital sectors of our economy all face challenges from climate change, especially sea level rise. I am particularly pleased that the Senate will be advancing a $4.1 billion bond measure that will help communities invest in climate resiliency — including addressing sea level rise, preparing for droughts, and pre- vening wildfires.

In fact, wildfire preparation will continue to be one of our highest priorities in 2020 — and beyond. In November, the Senate held a hearing to examine issues involving the power shutoffs Californians have endured during our ever-expanding fire season. Another hearing is scheduled later this month to focus on telecommunications issues that arise during wildfires. San Diego’s experience in establishing recovery and prevention protocols after the 2003 and 2007 fires was basically learn-as-we-go. Having been through it and working on it, I insist that California needs a comprehensive wildfire action plan, implemented in a timely and trans- parent way. Californians need to know what to expect, and when.

No doubt it will be a busy and challenging year ahead, but one filled with many opportunities to make California an even better place to live.

I hope 2020 will also be a very good year for health and happiness for you and your loved ones.

—Toni G. Atkins represents District 39 in the California Senate. Follow her on Twitter (@SenToniAtkins).
With anti-Semitism on the rise, the stories of Holocaust survivors become more important

CA 53 BULLETIN

By REP. SUSAN DAVIS

On Dec. 28, I had the honor of attending a birthday party for Rose Schindler, a 90-year-old friend, hosted by her remarkable family and community. A highlight of that evening was the reminiscence of his favorite tradition and the importance it held for him in Spanish, and it was during this time that he started his formal study of Spanish and excelled in it all through high school.

That same night in Poway, another part of our country, another story began. That incident is extraordinary in itself, but she is a Holocaust survivor. Her story and that of her husband is now told in the recent publication of “Two Who Survived: Keeping Hope Alive while Surviving the Holocaust,” which I strongly recommend.

Here in San Diego, we have had our own horrific events, particularly the attack on the synagogue and the machete attack in New York and the machete attack in Poway last year. We know that anti-Semitic attacks occurring throughout our country have increased sharply, not to mention those in Europe. My colleague from New York, Rep. Nita Lowey, recently wrote an editorial with the American Jewish Committee’s David Harris asking two important basic questions: Why now? How is this regressing?

In trying to understand the rise of anti-Semitism, Lowey and Harris state it exists as the world’s oldest social disease. As fewer and fewer Holocaust survivors are able to tell their wrenching stories, understanding the conditions that created such dehumanization becomes a less personal story to new generations. This is why capturing those stories from survivors able and willing to share painful memories is so important.

The rise in violence against individuals is occurring in parallel as ignorance of the Holocaust also increases. According to a recent report by the FBI, while the number of hate crimes reported has gone down, violent acts have increased.

Failure to address hate in all its forms is tantamount to accepting it. The response to the machete attack in New York and other attacks across the country produce the usual results in increased security, and stronger police presence, and talk of raising awareness. These, of course, are positive signs. Unfortunately, as these incidents fade from memory, so do prevention efforts.

There needs to be a constant campaign of education about hate, violence – past and present – and the importance of acceptance. This education needs to start at an early age so we don’t see as astonishing numbers like 66% of millennials who cannot identify the Auschwitz concentration camp. We need to hear from survivors, like Rose, who clung to hope during a period of horrific atrocities. We also need to hear the stories of those who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.

We can all agree that, in the many outbursts of hate we hear and see today, social media plays a role in giving people a toxic outlet for like acceptance. Social media platforms create easy environments for hate groups and terrorist organizations to recruit vulnerable individuals, who are usually those feeling isolated from society and seek affirmation from others. Social media companies have a responsibility to weed out those who would use their platforms to spread hate and violence.

Putting a stop to hate is the responsibility of everyone. The voices of tolerance are many and the voices of hate are few. When communities join together to denounce hate and promote tolerance, it sends a powerful message that we will not be intimidated and we will not live in fear.

Here is a simple maxim to start the new year: Treat others as you want to be treated.

To check out the memoir, go to TwoWhoSurvived.com.

—Congresswoman Davis represents central San Diego, including the communities of Old Town, Kensington, Mission Hills, University Heights, Hillcrest, Bankers Hill, North Park, South Park, Talmadge, Normal Heights, as well as La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Spring Valley and parts of El Cajon and Chula Vista.

Tubman science fairs were a huge success

The Student Celebrations Committee is proud of how well the event went but had a lot of people to thank for making the event possible. The committee would like to thank the following people: Mrs. Martinez, Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Bush, Mrs. Lisa LaGrone, Ms. Sherri Wallace, and Ms. Zuray Domínguez for judging the science fairs and selecting our winners. Mr. Nathan Yeta for setting up the tables for the science fair; all the elementary school teachers for facilitating classwide projects; and all parents.

Go Tigers!

—Ryan Woodard is principal of Harriet Tubman Village Charter School.

Patrick Henry Teacher of the Year

Patrick Henry High School is proud to announce that World Language Department chairperson and Spanish teacher extraordinaire Mr. Edward Stanko was named as our Teacher of the Year for 2020!

Stanko was born and raised in San Diego. From birth to 4 years of age, he spent Wednesdays with his grandparents while his parents were busy working; his grandparents, David and Mary Diaz, would speak to him and spend time with him in Spanish, and it was during these years that his exposure to the Spanish language and culture began. All throughout his childhood, he would be exposed on a daily basis to Spanish and English, and would experience the culture—including his favorite part of the tamalada—when his family would gather to make tamales.

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Local filmmaker Theo Davies discusses ‘Wish Man’ doc

By NICOLE LEWIS | College Times Courier

Theo Davies is the writer-director-producer of the biopic film “Wish Man” which recounts the profound life of Frank Shankwitz, creator of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This inspirational and heartfelt film is currently available to watch on Netflix — and don’t forget to have tissues on hand because it’s a tearjerker.

Davies has lived in San Diego, California with his wife and two sons since the summer of 2009 and currently teaches script writing at Platt College San Diego located in the College Area.

Davies graduated from Reading University in 2001 with a degree in English, Film, and Drama. He also attended the New York Film Academy. He has worked in the film television industry as a freelance writer, director, producer, and editor for 18 years.

More recently, his main focus has been on screenwriting and directing. In 2012, he directed his first feature film “5 Hour Knock” and myself, had spoken room. The boy inspired Frank to start the Make-A-Wish Foundation. By the end of the story there wasn’t a dry eye in the room.

Greg Reid (who founded Secret Knock, an entrepreneur’s event in San Diego back in 2013. Frank spoke to an audience of 300 to 400 people and told the story of how he met a seven-year-old boy with leukemia in 1980 when he was an Arizona Highway Patrol motorcycle cop. They formed a close bond before the boy succumbed to his illness a week later. The boy inspired Frank to start the Make-A-Wish Foundation. By the end of the story there wasn’t a dry eye in the room.

When you watch the movie yourself, what emotions come up for you?

I have probably seen the film about a hundred times by now, but I still get emotional during the same four or five scenes that moved me the first time that I watched it and during the making of the film! Generally, it’s a feeling of familiarity because I know the film and the story so well and what we went through trying to get it made. I also feel a lot of pride and satisfaction when I see the final product.

Has the film won any awards yet? Is it going to screen anywhere else locally?

We have won a couple of awards — the Emerald Award at the Coronado Island Film Festival and the Best Narrative Feature Award at the Prescott Film Festival in Arizona. The film has finished its limited theatrical run and there are no other plans to have it screened locally unless it’s re-released this year, which is a possibility. I’ll let you know!

Where has the film screened so far?

“Wish Man” was released in 40 theaters across thirteen states back in the summer of 2019. In September, it began its streaming run, being released across every platform, including Amazon, Google Play, iTunes, YouTube, VUDU, Fandango, and Vimeo. Additionally it’s on DVD and Blu-Ray in Walmart, Target, Best Buy, and Barnes & Noble. It was also released on Netflix in December in all the English speaking countries around the world — US, Canada, UK, Australia, New Zealand, and
Pizzas for every taste
Pie picks in the College and Rolando areas

By FRANK SABATINI JR. | College Times Courier

Thanks to the estimated 4 million Italian immigrants who came to this country in the early 1900s, we see pizzerias anchored in nearly every neighborhood from coast to coast. Just as pizza styles varied based on the migrants’ regional origins, they continued changing in the hands of modern cooks who realized that pizza is a comfort food we can’t live without.

As National Pizza Day (Feb. 9) approaches each year, pizza is a creation that crosses all cultural lines. It’s a favorite among kids, college students and older generations alike. Options range from thin to thick crusts with basic or elaborate toppings. And as of late, a growing number of kitchens have begun making gluten-free and low-calorie pies, which is not so long ago were unimaginable.

Below are several establishments within College Area and Rolando that offer standout pizzas in both the traditional and modern sense.

Woodstock’s Pizza.
6145 El Cajon Blvd.
This California-style pizzeria uses “vine-to-cup” tomato sauce on its pies. It’s a proprietary recipe produced at a Central Valley farm, in which fresh-picked tomatoes are converted into sauce and canned within six hours. The product is distributed to all seven locations across California — mostly of them perched advantageously in college towns.

By default, the pizzas flaunt medium crusts. Although thick or thin crusts are available upon request, they’re brushed with garlic butter after leaving the oven. The dough and sauce are made in-house, as well as the ranch dressing used on the “white pizza” topped with mozzarella, spinach, and tomatoes.

In keeping with its name, the largest pizza size rings in at a whopping 28 inches. It’s cut into squares and easily feeds 10 people.

Putros is the third owner of the pizzeria, which dates back 20 years ago when it was originally called The Joker. For more information, call 619-462-6456 or visit milospizza.com.

Oggi’s Pizza Express.
5500 Campanile Drive, Suite 150
With more than a dozen locations throughout California, and seven in San Diego County, this is Oggi’s only “express” outpost. It opened in 2014 inside SDSU’s Student Union building, which was freshly built at the time. The first Oggi’s debuted in 1991 in Del Mar.

The “kickin’ carnitas” from Woodstock’s Pizza (Courtesy photo)

Pizza in the making at Milo’s (Courtesy photo)
Rose worked in pizzerias through high school and in years thereafter. Since setting up shop here in 1996, he’s been an advocate of selling pizza by the slice, but also slings whole pies ranging in size from 12 to 20 inches. He also occasionally brings in guest pizza makers, those being friends from back East who are equally versed in crafting classic pies.

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Another high point: “We don’t skimp on the toppings,” said general manager Matt Cascone, while citing that the “kickin’ carnitas” pizza introduced about five years ago ranks as a top seller. Topped also with bacon, red onions, fresh cilantro and chipotle sauce, it pairs ideally to any of 15 craft beers on tap.

Woodstock’s was founded more than 40 years ago near Oregon State University by the late Chuck Woodstock. The brand eventually fell under the ownership of Jeff Ambrose and expanded throughout California. Today, Ambrose and his wife, Laura, run the business from their San Diego headquarters. For more information, call 619-265-0999 or visit woodstocksd.com.

Pizzas at the campus location are ordered at the counter, where customers (mostly students) choose from a display of toppings that employees sprinkle onto house-made dough disks. They bake up sporting medium-width crusts. The interior features a dining area and a bar rigged with 30 taps for craft beer, and the menu extends also to salads and wings. For more information, call 619-286-4447 or visit oggipizzapress.com.

Luigi’s New York Giant Pizza.
6126 University Ave.
Owner Ninous Putros is likely San Diego’s youngest pizzeria operator. Now 23 years old, he took over the shop about a year ago and gave it a fresh interior paint job, with plans to add food photography as the décor. He also updated the quality of a menu featuring specialty pizzas, calzones, sandwiches, wings and pasta dishes.

By default, the pizzas flaut medium crusts. Although thick or thin crusts are available upon request. Their edges are brushed with garlic butter after leaving the oven. The dough and sauce are made in-house, as well as the ranch dressing used on the “white pizza” topped with mozzarella, spinach, and tomatoes.

In keeping with its name, the largest pizza size rings in at a whopping 28 inches. It’s cut into squares and easily feeds 10 people.

Putros is the third owner of the pizzeria, which dates back 20 years ago when it was originally called The Joker. For more information, call 619-229-6666 or visit luigispizzasd.com.

Pesto Italian Craft Kitchen.
6911 El Cajon Blvd.
Healthy-style Italian cuisine rules the day in this bright and sleekly designed restaurant, which greets customers with a built-in pizza oven and assembly station upon entering. House-made dough is stretched thin for classic New York-style pizzas. And organic tomato sauce, fresh veggies and scratch-made pesto constitute some of the toppings.

“We’re the real green movement,” quipped owner Alex Massar, a vegan who was born in Brooklyn and raised in Philadelphia. One of his top sellers is the keto pizza using a
A cook since childhood, June began introducing his native foods to San Diego through local farmers markets. He still maintains a presence at the markets in Hillcrest (9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays), Ocean Beach (4 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays), and at SDSU (8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays).

Because of the particularly spirited reception he received at SDSU, he opened Flavors Express in August, giving students and neighborhood folks daily access to things like ginger-spiked beverages, sambusas encasing savory fillings, and robust-tasting jerk chicken that is decidedly zippier than classic Jamaican recipes.

Even his collard greens and legumes (offered as sidekicks in meal plates) flaunt spice combinations that don’t fall into any type of regional cuisine you’ve eaten before. The food options are presented cafeteria-style in metal steam trays sitting behind a glass panel at the order counter. Though if you opt for the sambusas as a combo plate with stewed beans, they’re also available for $2 apiece.

Because of the underlying sweetness of the beef and lentil sambusas are termed as “spicy.” But fear not because their heat levels were mild amid undertones of onions, clove and perhaps cardamom. The others contained braised chicken, spinach, and potato — all very gently flavored with African spice blends that don’t exclude turmeric, paprika and cinnamon.

There is no need to sample the latter two and loved them. Similar to aguas frescas found in Mexican eateries, the difference is in the throat burn you feel if gulping the drinks too fast. Chalk it up to the tender, mellow-tasting jerk chicken that is decidedly zippier than classic Jamaican recipes.

A creeping kind of heat ensues when eating the jerk chicken, available in “sweet” or “spicy.” We tried both — the sweetish version piled atop french fries with braised greens, and the spicy version in a combo plate with stewed beans. Both chili-spiked sauces offered a sustained punch fronted by numerous flavors, which seemingly included allspice, cardamom, garlic and cloves.

A side of saffron rice pointed up each with the purchase of two beverages. We ordered six for $10, choosing one of each type of filling listed on the menu. They’re also available for $2 apiece.

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Mighty blasts of fresh ginger appear in three different house-made beverages displayed in large vats. There’s cardamom, hibiscus and trendy turmeric. We chose the latter two and loved them. Similar to aguas frescas found in Mexican eateries, the difference is in the throat burn you feel if gulping the drinks too fast. Chalk it up to the tender, mellow-tasting jerk chicken that is decidedly zippier than classic Jamaican recipes.

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CA Pizzas
CONTRIBUTED FROM Page 10

Working on a script that is open to interpretation gives directors the freedom to put their own stamp on the material. Director Lisa Berger has been given this opportunity for Moxie Theatre’s production of an “open text” play by Caridad Svich, “Red Bike.”

It is “the first play in the ‘American Psalm’ seven-play cycle,” and is primarily told as a series of short scenes. The story is about an 11-year-old child with a deep connection to a red bike.

Throughout the show, the audience learns about the child’s life in a town that the kid believes is deteriorating.

While the subject matter is about a child coming of age, Svich’s complex writing keeps it from being classified as a piece of theater targeted toward families.

Berger became involved with the staging after Moxie’s co-founder and executive artistic director, Jennifer Eve Thorn, asked her to read the script.

“It caught me in the first couple of pages,” she said. “I always go by whether a project scares me. If I does, I should probably do it.”

Svich’s script asks for one or more performers and gives directors the option to cast people of different genders and age groups.

The script is free of scene descriptions and stage directions, and is only made up of spoken dialogue, which means it’s up to the cast and crew, including Berger, to visually present the plot.

The joys and complications of childhood

By DAVID DIXON
(Courtesy Two Cut Cuts)

Nancy Ross (Courtesy Carson Nicely)

Timothy L. Cabal (Courtesy of Skyler Beckett)

Lisa Berger is (Courtesy Rachel Esther Tate)

“You really have to use your theatrical imagination to try and tell the story,” Berger said.

An important point that Berger emphasized is that Svich consistently plays with time.

“The kid lives both in the past and the present, and you see the kid’s experiences through the past, the present, liminal space, memory, and dreams,” she said. “Time is not realistic in this play.”

Through emails, Berger talked to Svich and asked questions about her writing. She is grateful for the assistance Svich gave her as she explored the playwright’s prose.

When discussing Svich’s writing style, Berger described her dialogue for the child as “poetic, simple, spare, and impactful.”

Aiding Berger with the unconventional show are Nancy Ross and Timothy L. Cabal, who both play the young kid at the center of the tale.

Ross is working with Berger for the former San Diego Tribune.

Ross agrees and thinks both the staging and the script is free of scene descriptions and stage directions.

The two leads have been involved with a professor of Cabal’s when he was studying theater at MiraCosta College.

If the narrative is a hard one to properly explain, given that the script doesn’t feature a straight-forward narrative structure (a fact that Berger acknowledges), Cabal still encourages audiences to go in with an open mind.

“I almost want people to enter blind, because I feel that the messages are universal,” he said. “Come see this show if you’re a human being who lives in this community.”

Ross argues and thinks both theater lovers and non-theater fans will find plenty to take away from the offbeat experience.

“This is going to be a whirlwind for everyone, including us,” she said.

For tickets and more information on “Red Bike,” visit moxie-theater.org or call 858-598-7620.

—David Dixon is a San Diego freelance writer with a bent toward film and theater articles.

CA Pizza
6305 University Ave.

What used to be a gas station in the late 1970s is now Rosaria’s Pizza. It changed hands a couple of times until Bee Ho and his family took over in the late 1970s.

White pizza with sausage at Rosaria’s (Courtesy photo)

Rosaria’s Pizza
6305 University Ave

Unaffiliated with Rosaria’s in Point Loma, the pizzeria specializes in thin crust pies using freshly made dough, although Ho says the kitchen accommodates customers who prefer thicker crust.

The “gourmet veggie” is a big seller. It’s topped with a garden’s worth of vegetables such as artichokes, zucchini, green peppers and spinach. The “meat lover’s” pizza is carpeted with Canadian bacon, meatballs, sausage and more. And the “Sriracha combo” with jalapenos speaks to those who don’t mind spicy twists mingling with their mozzarella and pepperoni.

Pies range from 12 to 28 inches in diameter. For more information, call 619-582-7097 or visit rosariaspizzamenu.com.

—Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of ‘Secret San Diego’ (ICW 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 fubutini@san.rr.com.

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College Times Courier
Filmmaker Theo Davies teaches at Platt College San Diego in the College Area. (Courtesy Theo Davies)
Pending law would allow large buildings in College Area neighborhoods

By SARAH WARD

Over the last 20 years, Sacramento legislators have focused on greatly increasing the population density of the state. More people in the state translates into more state income tax revenue and more sales tax revenue as well as greater gas taxes, property taxes, etc.

As many of you may know, the state government in Sacramento rules over the local cities and towns. Each year, new laws come out of Sacramento that push their agenda of increased population density. For example, over the last few years, Sacramento forced local jurisdictions to ease rules on ground flats construction (ADUs) by greatly reducing or eliminating permit fees, reducing set-back requirements, and reducing or eliminating the requirements for additional parking spaces.

New pending legislation for 2020 is SB 50. This is state Senator Scott Wiener’s (San Francisco region, District 1) bill which eliminates single-family zoning in most of California to allow developers to buy out single-family homes, and replace them with up to 10-unit apartments, four-plexes, or apartment towers up to eight-stories high! And remember, local cities would have little to no recourse to refuse the mandates of this law. Sacramento rules the state and has final say.

College Area would be greatly affected for two primary reasons: the close proximity to both a transit station and to SDSU. The law (if passed and signed into law) gives greater weight to neighborhoods near universities and transit stops to build high-density housing.

Neighbors near rail stops or major bus stops, as well as neighborhoods near major shopping and business districts, and universities, is where developers can ignore city zoning, buy out homeowners and build up to four- to eight-story housing structures. Most of the state (and thus most of San Diego) would have R1, R2, and R3 zoning eliminated entirely meaning nearly all neighborhoods in the state would be up-zoned for four-plexes on virtually every residential street in California! So nearly any lot, in any neighborhood, could have a single-family home bulldozed (one wall would need to remain) and a four-unit structure built on the lot. Even coastal zones would qualify for an R4 zoning override. In fact, there is some talk to redo coastal zone regulations in the near future with new laws to start again allowing large housing towers (think Miami Beach) but no legislation is currently pending on that issue.

Some in Sacramento have expressed their opinion that single-family home zoning (R1) is “immoral” and want to do away with it. Another issue of SB 50 is the elimination of set-back requirements, allowing structures to be built right up to the sidewalk or street, eliminating the requirement for a small space of trees, bushes, and grass between the structure and sidewalk. SB 50 calls for the waiver of existing local height limits and density levels to allow developers to build up to a minimum of 55 feet within a quarter mile of a transit hub, and 45 feet within a 1/2-mile radius as well. So very close to SDSU, it is my understanding that any neighborhood street could have a couple of homes bulldozed and have a large building constructed.

SB 50 is complicated and the above is my understanding of the law and not to be relied upon, please conduct your own research. I will keep an eye on the developments and keep you informed. If you are thinking of buying or selling real estate in San Diego, give me a call to discuss your options.

—Sarah Ward is a Realtor with College Area Realty. Reach her at sarahward021@gmail.com or at 858-431-6643.

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