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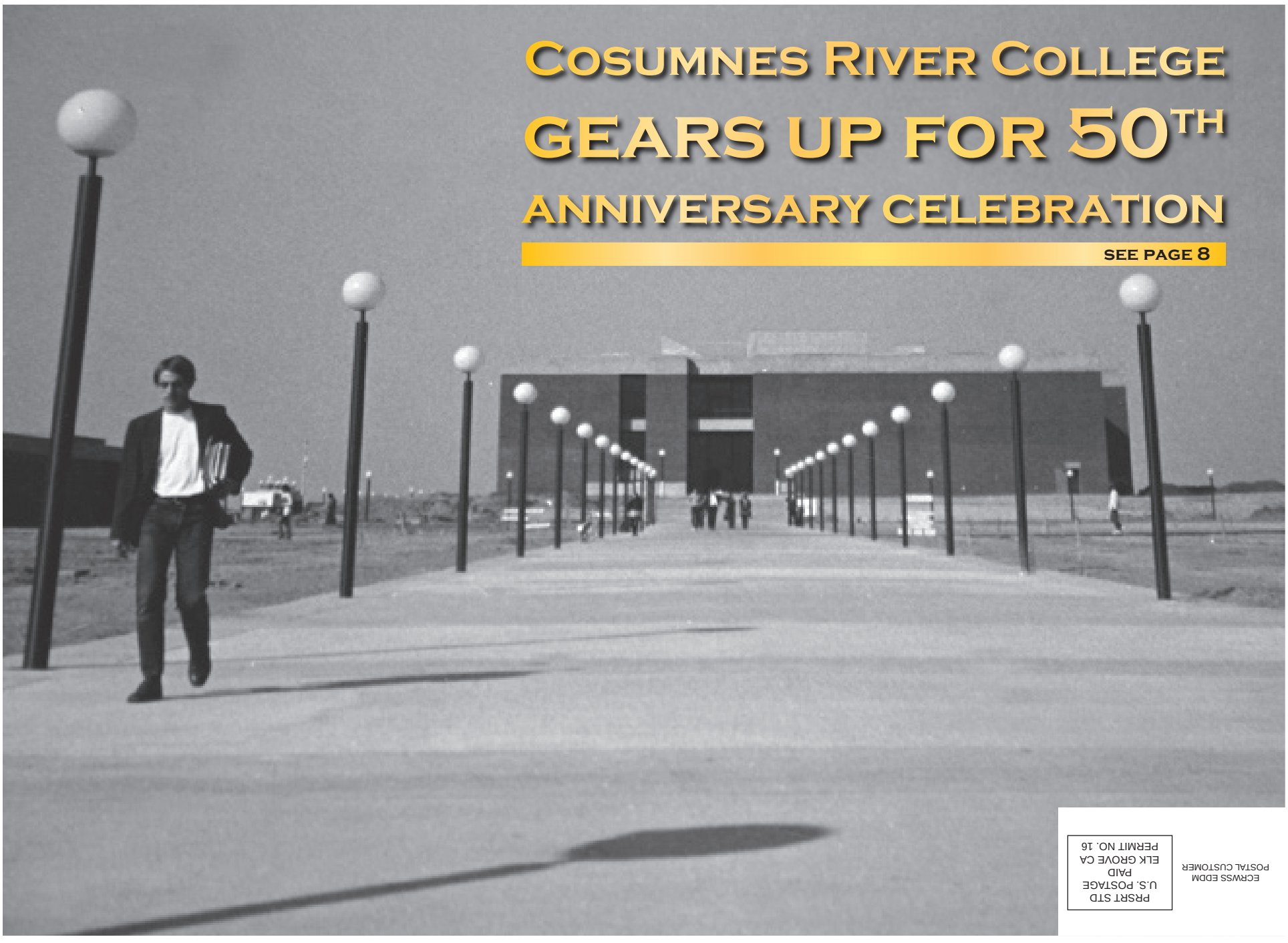

Cosumnes River College Gears Up for 50th Anniversary Celebration

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South Command is Served at Device



Photos by Devin Lavelle

Device staff and south command officers pose inside the Pocket neighborhood taphouse.

By Devin Lavelle

Last month, our local Device Brewing Company, in partnership with Councilmember Rick Jennings, said thank you to our local police officers, serving up lunch and dinner to the men and women who keep South Sacramento safe.

"We served our Cuban Sandwich with mojo roasted pork, coppa ham, Genoa salami, Provolone cheese, pickles, house-made aioli on a butter toasted and pressed Italian roll as our feature dish. Other dishes that were popular that day were Poached Shrimp and Seafood Louie Salad, Authentic Philly Cheesesteak, and our House-Made Black Bean Vegan Burger," Device owner and brewer, and Pocket-Greenhaven neighbor, Ken Anthony said, "totaling more than 40 pounds of meat!"

The gesture was greatly appreciated, as South Command's Captain Green tells us, "As a Police Department it is so important that we serve our business community. As a result of

see DEVICE page 3

POCKET NEWS
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Pocket News is published on the first and third Fridays of the month in the area bounded by Interstate 5 on the east and the Sacramento River on the north, west, and south.

Publisher ..... David Herburger
Editor ..... Monica Stark
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Advertising Director ..... Jim O'Donnell
Advertising Executives: ..... Melissa Andrews, Linda Pohl

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Vol. XXVIIII • No. 10

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Cover photo by: Courtesy of CRC



Device's owner Ken Athony loads the car trunk full of meals for the south command of Sac PD.



One of the many food items offered at Device.

Device:

continued from page 2

the COVID-19 pandemic, the Device Brewing Company took the opportunity to serve the Police Department. The Device Brewing Company provided a meal for every one of our South Command officers who were working on April 20th [(80 meals total)]. This very generous and thoughtful gesture was greatly appreciated by all of our staff. We cannot thank Device Brewing and their staff enough for this incredible showing of support. We are so fortunate to serve such an incredible community."

It's not only an incredible community, but an incredibly connected one, as Ken learned, "Our Restaurant Manager's brother is Sergeant for the Sacramento PD."

Device was excited to partner with our local Councilmember to make this happen. "This all came about when Councilmember Rick Jennings office reached out to me to see if we would be interested in feeding our local police department. We jumped at the chance!" said Ken.

Councilmember Jennings reflected, "During this time when many of us are staying home to flatten the curve and minimize risk for ourselves and our families, our public safety officers are continuing to go to work each day, bravely putting their safety on the line even more than usual to keep us all safe. I was proud to sponsor meals from Device Brewing for all 3 shifts of SPD officers as an expression of our gratitude for their service. Thanks as well to Device Brewing for working hard all day to prepare and deliver the meals!"

"Sacramento Police serve us every day, so it was an honor to serve them for a change. It's important to remember that without law enforcement, there would be lawlessness. Regardless of the inherent danger, the police continue to take to the streets to serve and protect. For that, we're grateful," Ken reflected.

The next time you're picking up dinner or local craft beer, say thanks to Device for taking care of the people who take care of us!

Great Plates Delivered

Device, along with Promenade neighbor A Taste Above, is also working with the City of Sacramento on the Great Plates Delivered program. Funded primarily with FEMA disaster relief funds, the program will provide three healthy meals per day from local restaurants to isolated seniors. Seniors earning less than $74,940 (or $101,460 if married) with difficulty preparing meals and who are not receiving other nutrition assistance should call 311 to inquire about participation.



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Takeout Is Here to Stay

By Devin Lavelle

Our local, family owned restaurants had to pivot quickly when COVID-19 forced the closure of dining rooms around the state. Many had to build a takeout program from scratch, while coping with a limited workforce and implementing elevated safety standards.

In order to support local restaurants in this challenging time, local elected officials, like Mayor Steinberg and Councilmember Jennings and our local Pocket Greenhaven Community Association have been posting regularly on social media highlighting local restaurants and our community has responded well. While business is down significantly, increased takeout traffic has proven a critical lifeline.

It appears likely that by the time you read this (or shortly thereafter), restaurants in Sacramento County will be able to open their dining rooms on a limited basis, though with much lower capacity.

Some of our neighbors are very excited to get dining again. "I'm very anxious to have spicy clams at Lai Wah, salt & pepper prawn, lobster over long noodles at Far East, dim sum at Rice Bowl, bento dinner of tempura shrimp and hamachi at Izakaya, fried rice at Aviator's, salt & pepper chicken wings and tomato & beef chow mein with curry at Chopsticks Express!" says Rich. (That Chow Mein is a personal favorite of this author as well!)

On May 7, I ran a poll on Nextdoor to see how likely local neighbors are to dine-in when restaurants open. While it is not scientific, with over 950 response it seem safe to assume it is at least representative local Nextdoor users.

Half of the respondents indicated that they would not feel comfortable eating in restaurants and are very unlikely to do so at this time. Only one-quarter indicated they are very likely to do so.

As Anne describes, "I prefer to wait for dine-in until there's a much bigger decline in cases, more testing and after people accept wearing masks. People still don't seem to understand that the mask is to protect other people. Even if tables are spaced out, would people walk past your table while talking and with no mask?"

They poll also pointed to the continued importance of getting takeout. The highest response, nearly one third, said they were very unlikely to dine-in, but would continue to get takeout.

Jasmine was among this group, "We do weekly takeout from places around town and will continue to do so after they open up. Dining out may be infrequent, depending on how the place is able to open up. Ella has tables spaced out so I may be more likely to dine-in there than [smaller restaurants where] tables inside are too close to be comfortable."

Device's new restaurant and taproom "is on the larger side, which will be very helpful when it comes time to layout seating that promotes social distancing," says owner and brewer Ken Anthony, who is committed to "following the guidelines set forth by OSHA, CDC, and Sacramento County Health Department which include rigorous sanitation and social distancing efforts above and beyond the standard guidelines for food establishments."

Freeport Wine Country Inn is taking it as an opportunity to give the restaurant "a more intimate feeling" but will also be focusing heavily on takeout and eating picnic style, including offering discounts for diners who take out, co-owner Marnie Stiles tells us.

Rich Wong from A Taste Above is focusing on staying nimble, "We are hoping we continue to rebound from these tough times, and are ready to make adjustments when deemed necessary. We think our takeout business will continue to be strong, and we want to ensure our guests has a great, safe dining experience whether its dining at ATA or at home enjoying a freshly made Hawaiian entree, banh-mi sandwich, Angus burgers or Plant-based options. We will continue to offer curbside service even if restrictions are lifted, as we know there will be those who would still be hesitant on dining in."

Many of our local restaurants have small floorplans, making these restrictions all the more challenging. Some may continue to operate as takeout-only and all will remain dependent on takeout as a core part of their business model. As Marnie relates, "our capacity will be 50% less and since we are small, well, you can do the math."

Ken from Device tells us, "There's not going to be a 'light switch' moment when all of a sudden things are back to normal. It's going to be gradual as the state begins to see fewer and fewer cases of COVID-19, and we have a better handle on the situation. The County will undoubtedly impose reduced occupancy restrictions on dine-in restaurants to help ensure public safety. The only way for a restaurant to make up for the business losses due to this reduction in occupancy is take-out business." Takeout "was always going to be a part of our business, but this pandemic has launched us right into the world of take-out. We're actual grateful for that, because it forced us to move through the learning curve practically overnight."

Marnie at Freeport Wine County Inn wanted to add, "We are so grateful for our customers being so supportive. It has been amazing, helping us to stay afloat, just treading water, but we are still here! We hope that take out continues to be strong even when we open for dine in."

Rich from A Taste Above shared a similar sentiment, "Our awesome locals help me maintain my hard working staff by giving them needed working hours and of course they help keep my doors open."

If you're able, please continue to support Device Brewing Company, Freeport Wine Country Inn and all of our other local restaurants, whether by picking up takeout, or dining in if you feel comfortable doing so. Dining local is the only way we ensure we avoid a Demolition Man-style future, where only national chains survive.

To help you do so, the Pocket Greenhaven Community Association has developed a list of restaurants that are open for takeout or delivery, available at pocketgreenhaven.org/restaurants.





Door to Door

Covidiocy

By Pat Lynch

Don't those people who protest that we must fully reopen remind you of the Virus itself? You've seen those electron microscope magnified pictures of Covid 19—bunchy in some parts, and stringy in others--kind of purplish-orange? Well, that's what the Open Up Now! crowd looked like. Their cars and trucks, festooned with flags, (some Confederate, some Nazi) made a creepy parade to our state capitol grounds where they practiced freedom of assembly and freedom to spread the killer virus. They rallied in many states. In Michigan they also brought, along with their guns, a noose and swastika emblems to the governor's office and to her private home. A noose.

I am no stranger to protest and have exercised it since the seventies when many thousands assembled to object to the Vietnam War, to march for women's rights, racial justice, and other causes. But I never brought a gun to a march, or a raft of guns with bandoliers, or automatic war weapons, never strutted into a state capitol armed to the teeth with smaller guns and knives jutting stupidly from my pretend combat boots. And a jillionaire cabinet member (today it's Betsy DeVos) never organized and financed any protest in which I participated.

So these are different times. These protesters seem more like a joke about themselves, as though they're unwitting actors in a drama written by a cruel satirist. They're all dressed up for combat, when what they truly want is for the bowling alley to open. They want the bars, the malls, the casinos, the midway, the salon, the barber shop, the massage parlor, the whole carefree circus of social commerce. Staying home all day and watching Fox News or Duck Dynasty reruns is boring.

And truly, we'd all like things to be put magically back the way they were: bustling, fun, social. But now it's not only Covid 19 that intimidates us. It's the Covidiots themselves. Who are they and what is Covidocy?

Here's a little breakdown for you.

Covidiots are, of course, people who practice Covidiocy. The "Co" means they co-operate with the virus. These people ignore scientists and spew unmasked trillions of virus particles upon the innocent, spread the disease and add to the body count.

Covidiousness (often called Cohidiousness). This is lying about the virus, its lethality, origins, treatment, body count, etc. These people resent their better-informed neighbors and leaders. One of them shot a security guard (yes, they bring those big boy guns everywhere). Another berated a shopper for wearing a mask. Another pushed a park ranger into a lake. One of them spat at a bus driver who asked her to wear a mask. There is another word for these particular Cohidious exemplars: asshats.

Covapidity. The Covapid are people who care only, and rather listlessly, for themselves. They don't follow the news, are tanned but otherwise vague, and congregate by the water in oiled clumps. They are not aggressive but are deadly vectors because their asymptomatic Covid 19 is aggressive.

Covid Beach Disorder. This is a fatal desire to lounge on shore with the Covapid.

Covid Bleach Disorder. These are the people who, inspired by the president's medical speculations, think drinking Lysol might cure the disease and clear the lungs.

Covidiquackery. Suggesting Covid 19 can be cured by taking Hydroxychloroquine. You should join a class action suit against Fox News if you tried this and, say, a carrot-shaped growth emerged from your ear.

Covidiocracy. This is the religious institutionalization of Covidiocy. It occurs when prominent big tent TV preachers prattle about the need to prematurely reopen the country and accept the consequent rising death toll. This despite their previously staunch "pro life" positioning. And tis despite grave disagreement from Dr. Fauci and multiple other accredited scientists and medical authorities. Catholic Cardinals Dolan and Burke recently these fundamentalists, another moral choice at odds with professed values. Pro life? Not so much these days. Seems they're "pro life" chiefly when it comes to controlling the reproductive freedom of females.

So that's the opposition. Our governor says, "the overwhelming majority (of Californians)… are doing the right thing." That's true, and we're that majority. We've got Covidia Anxiety and Covidia Fatigue, and we've retreated to save ourselves and protect others. It's not easy and not fun. But we're here, and we mean to survive. So we're following the guidelines, distancing, postponing, having parties on Zoom, staying home. We know what's required. We're not slamming around with guns and Dixie flags, trying to bully nurses, threatening officials, spreading pestilence with our flawed twaddle and our very breath itself.

And we'll be here to vote in November.

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Hollywood Park artist colors the sidewalks with fantastical chalk illustrations



Photos courtesy of Nixy Cane

Nixy Cane's chalk art have colored the sidewalks of Hollywood Park. She enjoys doing these projects for friends and neighbors. She also enjoys biking around the neighborhood on her "Burner" bike.

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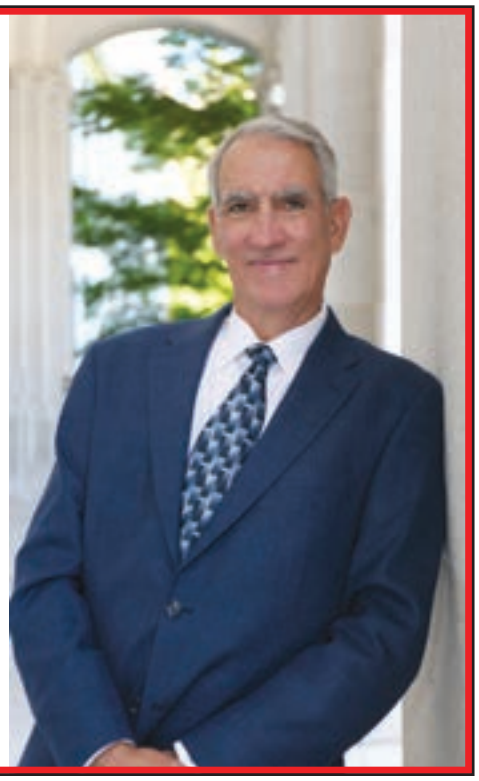

By Monica Stark

Touched by the creative genius of Nixy Cane, sidewalks in the Hollywood Park neighborhood have come alive with chalk portraits of mythical creatures and fantastical displays of flowers and scenes from the likes of childhood favorites such as "The Little Prince", and "Lady and the Tramp."

When shelter-in-place was enacted, like many of us, her life changed. She was laid off from her job as an educator at Applied Behavior Consultants, Inc., and she began missing her students, and particularly missed reading to them. To stay connected with children, she began a virtual storytime, reading books by favorite authors Audrey Wood and Dr. Seuss. "It's been nice. My niece really likes it," she says. Neighbors have donated some books to be read during the online storytime. When the ABC school reopens, Nixy will have a bunch more books to bring to work with her.

But she needed to give to the community something more and she needed an excuse to get outside.

Having spent her formative years living in the neighborhood only to return after her father passed away, Hollywood Park has been Nixy's home for the long haul. But it took the affects of the shelter-in-place order to get her out of her shell and talk with her neighbors. "I'm actually saying 'hi' to people."

"For Easter, we did a big Easter egg thing, and that was really fun, and I wondered if anyone wanted any chalk art." So, she put out the ask on Facebook and to her surprise had about 40 people respond.

A former nanny for 11 years, Nixy's big heart bleeds for children and parents during this pandemic. "I can't imagine how scary it has to be to have to explain what's going on, why people can't see their friends and all that. Also for people in general, people living by themselves. There are people who don't have a family that they're quarantined with. I hope (the chalk art) helps people get out of their house the same way it helps me get out of the house."

It has.

Responding to people asking for the locations of her work, neighbors then go on bike rides to go see it. "It makes me really happy," she said.

One of her pieces, a scene from the Little Prince, includes a quote that speaks to the patience needed to weather the storm of this pandemic to enjoy better times ahead. Writes Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, "Well, I must endure the presence of a few caterpillars if I wish to become acquainted with the butterflies."

Financially fortunate that her husband has a good job, Nixy does these chalk art projects as well as creates birthday messages for friends and neighbors free of charge. She encourages artists in need of financial support to take up these chalk art activities. "This could be an easy way to make some money and make people happy," she said.

Always an artist, Nixy, whose real name is Roxanne Parker, has spent many years with family at the annual Chalk it Up festival and has collected a lot of chalk over the years. More recently, she has gotten donations for the

see CHALK page 7





Chalk:

continued from page 6

chalk art, and has also been excited about things that neighbors have been giving her for trade, including wine and plant starters.

On her birthday, April 26, about 10 neighbors, who she's done chalk art for, biked by her house to wish her a happy birthday. "They sang me 'happy birthday' and I cried so much. It was the best thing ever. I was totally overwhelmed. It was so sweet. It kind of feels like Burning Man in a weird way."

Referring to one of her favorite festivals held annually in August in Nevada's Black Rock Desert (though not this year), Burning Man adheres to 10 principles, including radical inclusion, gifting, decommodification, radical self-reliance, radical self-expression, communal effort, civic responsibility, leaving no trace, participation, and immediacy.

"I have been feeling a ton of them in my community," Nixy said. "For me this is the gifting part – people participating in trading things. People posting, 'Oh my God, I need yeast,' and someone saying, 'I got some of that.' Burning Man isn't happening this year, but it kind of is. In my head, I am going to turn Hollywood Park into Burning Man and they don't even know it yet. I am all riding around on my Burner bike."

Come August, there's going to be something crazy happening at the Parker house for sure. Her husband might make a burning man man or get a pirate ship on their lawn. Stay tuned.

Parker began doing a storytime to stay connected with children. At ABC, Parker runs the "story station" and decided she was going to read a bunch of books to kids online. A fan of children's author Audrey Wood whose books including The Napping House, Piggies, Heckedy Peg, Parker appreciates the illustrations by Wood's husband Bruce Wood. Hollywood Park

When Feeling fairy queens, wildflowers, dinosaurs, a sea-faring cat, and mermaids. scenes from genius Roxanne Parker, whose moniker "Nixy Cane" is used has been a way to connect with her neighbors.

The original post, I just asked if anyone wants some chalk art, just write me and then I realized I needed to say more than that because I was getting so many replies. Have a notebook and writes the requests in the order that she gets them.

Have Special requests for mothers day, birthdays, if in advance I can do that otherwise I have offered to do some birthday signs for kids that are not in the neighborhood on cardboard and then paint them do acrylic more than chalk art.

While she has done commissioned pieces of chalk art but will have to wait until I am done doing the chalk art stuff. "Right now, for me, it's more important to give things for the community. If people want to donate art supplies, they can. I don't really want to get bogged down doing work work right now. That's not why I am doing it.

Favorite little prince and his flower... put a quote on there.

How you have to be acquainted with caterpillars to meet the butterfly that's kind of like this situation. This situation is really horrible and if meeting my community comes out of it though I wouldn't have put myself out there it's like the positive I am getting out of quarantine.

Also have a birthday card group which I would love other neighborhoods to start doing because people are having a hard time celebrating birthdays making lists for your neighborhood so people know when people's birthdays are. It's really easy to make a card dand drop it off.

Just hope it makes people who have lots of chalk to do the same thing.

If interested in Nixy's chalk art? Email her at Nixycane@gmail.com

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Cosumnes River College gears up for 50th anniversary celebration



Photos courtesy of CRC

Cosumnes River College is shown from above in 1973.



A bird's eye view of the campus is shown in 2014.

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College began instruction in September 1970

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

At this time a half-century ago, dust was in the air, as construction workers were diligently working toward the completion of the first phase of Sacramento's newest institution of higher learning: Cosumnes River College.

This fall marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the college, and celebratory events are already being planned.

Those attractions will begin with a kickoff event this September, followed by an alumni reunion, a Native American Heritage Week celebration and more. The kickoff event will include a program with local officials and the opening of a time capsule, with 25-year-old contents.

Michele Steiner, CRC 50th anniversary co-chair, told the Pocket News that much anticipation surrounds the upcoming anniversary.

"It's a very exciting time for us at Cosumnes River College," she said. "Knowing that we're hitting our 50th anniversary, that we have made just leaps and bounds providing educational resources to the members of the south Sacramento and Elk Grove communities (is special).

"I know that the vast majority of our students are from this area, whether it's Elk Grove or the south Sacramento-Pocket area. Just knowing that we have (served) these areas at large is very important to us."

Roots of the college

The decision to build a college in the south part of the county emerged in the mid-1960s.

Steiner noted that on Feb. 17, 1965, talks began on a potential location for a south area campus.

With three colleges planned for the region, Dr. Bill Priest, superintendent of the then-newly formed Los Rios Junior College District – today's Los Rios Community College District – mentioned on Aug. 17, 1965 that the south area campus "may have top priority." He supported that statement by noting that Sacramento City College had surpassed its theoretical capacity, and enrollment was increasing at American River Junior College – today's American River College.

During the following year, the district's three new, proposed campus sites were revealed.

The future, yet then-unnamed south area college was identified as being located along the extension of Center Parkway, north of Calvine Road. The other campus proposals were sites in the Folsom and Natomas areas.

Naming the college

Efforts to name the college began in the fall of 1967, before ground was broken for this project.

Suggestions were solicited and received from residents of the district.

A committee consisting of citizens from south Sacramento and Elk Grove took on the task of selecting one name from a list of 18 possible names for the college.

Besides Cosumnes River College, other names considered for the then-future south county institution were John Sutter College, Jared Sheldon College, Prado Vista College, Prairie College and Elk Grove College.

On Oct. 3, 1967, the committee narrowed the list down to Cosumnes River College, Prado Vista College and Elk Grove College.

Those suggestions were presented to the Los Rios trustees during their Oct. 18, 1967 meeting.

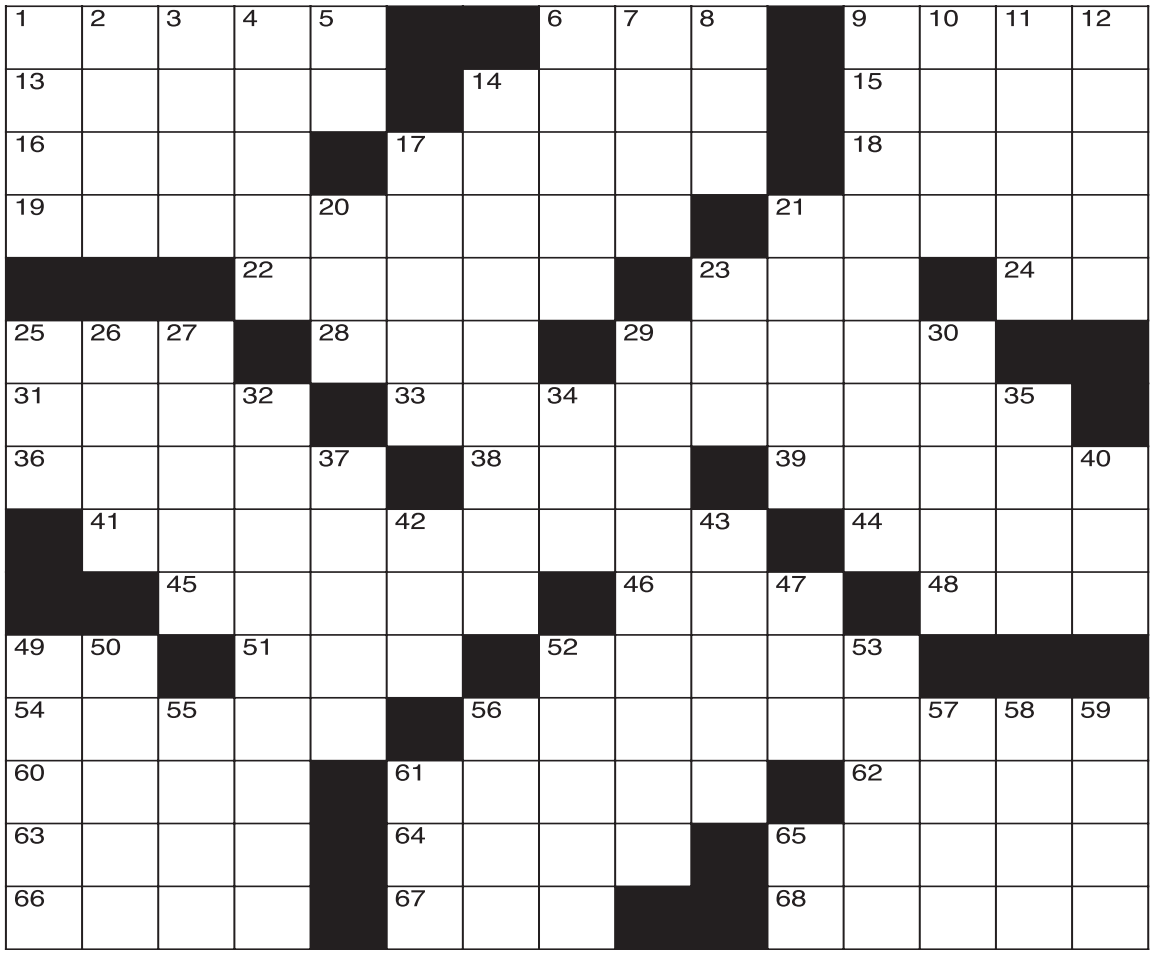
In attempting to name the college, the trustees reached a deadlock on the Cosumnes River and Elk Grove names.

Ultimately, the board settled on the name, Cosumnes River College.

Among the objectors of the name, Elk Grove College, was Trustee Mark Sullivan, who felt that the institution should not be named after a specific community, considering that the student body would consist of students from various

see COSUMNES page 10

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. American composer
6. Very fast aircraft
9. Workplaces
13. A mount on a surface
14. Small freshwater fish
15. Double-reed instrument
16. Canadian flyers
17. Famed astronomer
18. Smooth, shiny fabric
19. Profited
21. Conspiracy
22. Infections
23. Chum
24. Secondary school (abbr.)
25. Resistance unit
28. Sound unit
29. Ancient city of Egypt
31. Crease
33. Polished
36. For goodness __!
38. College basketball tournament
39. Scorches
41. Describe precisely
44. Thick piece of something
45. Frocks
46. Indicates near
48. Senior enlisted US Army member
49. A note added to a letter
51. A nose or snout
52. Clumsy
54. Satisfied to the fullest
56. Display of strong feeling
60. Popular awards show
61. Cuisine style
62. Expresses pleasure
63. Monetary unit of the Maldives
64. Utah city
65. Fight
66. Messenger ribonucleic acid
67. Body part
68. Suspiciously reluctant

CLUES DOWN

1. Fruit of the service tree
2. At some prior time
3. Mongolian city __ Bator
4. Strongboxes
5. Russian river
6. Gurus
7. Horse mackerel
8. Pearl JamÕs debut album
9. Confines
10. First month of Jewish ecclesiastical year
11. Famed Idaho politician
12. Prevents from seeing
14. Indicate time
17. Male parents
20. Tab on a key ring
21. The Great Dog constellation: __ Major
23. Frying necessity
25. Former CIA
26. The leader
27. Produces
29. London soccer club
30. Closes
32. Region in the western Pacific Ocean
34. Not present
35. Small drink of whiskey
37. Begat
40. Helps little firms
42. Pointed end of a pen
43. Fencing swords
47. Inches per minute (abbr.)
49. Hymn
50. Philippine island
52. Flemish names of Ypres
53. A way to inform
55. Small lake
56. Linear unit
57. Central Japanese city
58. Partially burn
59. Sports award
61. Part of your foot
65. Atomic #21

Crossword Puzzle Solutions see page 6



Ron Nakano
Broker Associate
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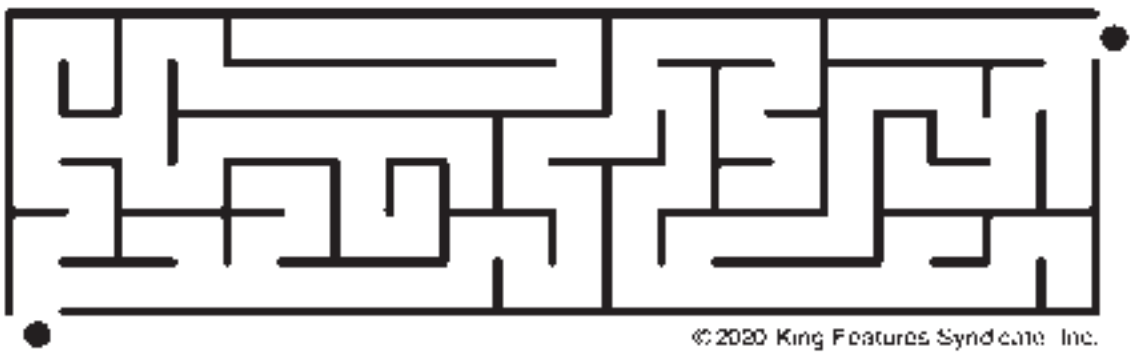

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The campus' library is pictured in 1970.

Cosumnes:

continued from page 8

communities, including the Pocket.

The site of the college lies in Sacramento, as opposed to the nearby then-town, now-city of Elk Grove.

On a further point regarding the topic of location in relation to the selected name, the college property lies closer to the Sacramento River than the Cosumnes River.

As for the name Cosumnes, The Sacramento Bee, in its Oct. 19, 1967 edition, notes: "The name, Cosumnes, means "Salmon People," and it was given to the river by the Miwok Indians. John Sutter gave the word its present spelling, changing it from its earlier version, "Cossomnes."

Construction begins

The district's trustees authorized the preparation of working drawings for the first phase of the 150-acre campus on April 17, 1968. That approval set in place initial work on the site during the summer of 1968, followed by the beginning of construction in January 1969.

This more than $7 million phase included the library, physical education building, a swimming pool and locker building, an automotive shop and a manufacturing processes building.

The architects for the first phase were Starks, Jozens, Nacht & Lewis, and Lionakis & Baumont, and the building contractor was the Baldwin Contracting Co.

see COLLEGE page 11

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Photography class students pose with an old car at 17th Street and 4th Avenue in Land Park in the early 1970s.



A student walks along a sidewalk at the college in 1970.

College:

continued from page 10

Completion of the original campus plan was then scheduled for 1985.

Construction full speed ahead

The California Community Colleges Board on Nov. 19, 1969 issued a report in which they recommended that the college be "developed to full capacity as rapidly as possible," due to an expected greater number of students.

At that time, it was planned for the college to accommodate 1,800 to 2,500 students upon the completion of its first phase in September 1970. It was then planned that the second phase would be completed in 1976.

Opening day

The long-awaited opening day of the college was Sept. 14, 1970.

In its Sept. 16, 1970 edition, the Elk Grove Citizen reported the college's opening day figures as 1,710 day students and 268 students registering for night classes. A report two days earlier in The Bee mentions the same number of day students.

An update in The Bee a week later recognized the completion of two blacktop parking lots, concrete walks and blacktop streets.

The article notes that students "can enter all buildings without wading through dust in summer or mud in rainy weather."

In a temporary arrangement, the offices of President Oliver Durand, the registrar, the dean of instruction and other administrators were located in the auto shop building.

Their permanent offices would be within the campus' three-story library building, which would open in November 1970.

Continued growth

Among the buildings that were constructed following the completion of the first phase of the campus were the business/social science classroom building in 1975, the cafeteria/college center in 1990 and 1991, the visual and performing arts complex in 1995. The latter project completed the campus' original facilities master plan.

Since that time, the college added the Elk Grove Center outreach location at 10051 Big Horn Blvd. in Elk Grove, the on-campus Winn Center for Construction and Architecture, and the art gallery.

Construction is currently underway on the existing college center, which will increase its size to more than 30,000 square feet.

All student services and the president's office will be housed in this expanded center, which is scheduled to open this year.

Educating 14,500 students per year

Cosumnes River College's continued growth has resulted in its ability to educate more than 14,500 students per year and offer about 175 degrees and certificates across 50 different occupational and transfer program areas.

In addition to academic courses and programs, the college offers support services designed to assist students in achieving academic success, including the Student Success and Support Program, counseling and career services.

Celebrating the past, planning for the future

Steiner mentioned that the college is both organizing a celebration of its milestone anniversary and planning for its future.

"I think it's important to really just show our longevity and just really celebrate where we've been and where we're going," she said. "Our theme for this year is 'Paths Forged, Futures Discovered,' and we really want to highlight what we have done to really work with our community to determine what that educational path is for them and help them achieve it."



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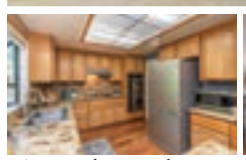

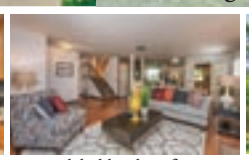

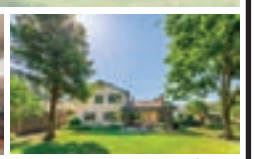

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Distance learning proves successful for St. Robert Catholic School

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Faced with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and school closures, local schools have turned to distance learning to educate their students. And one of the city's first schools to offer this mode of instruction was Hollywood Park's St. Robert Catholic School.

Exactly one month prior to Sacramento City Unified School District's April 13 shift to the distance learning program for all of its schools, St. Robert replaced their physical classrooms with their virtual, internet-based classroom instruction program.

With the families' association with St. Robert Parish, COVID-19 has also affected in-person church services. The congregation last held services in their church building on March 18.

Two days earlier, St. Robert began its distance learning instruction.

Samara Palko, principal of this pre-kindergarten through eighth grade school, noted that the process of transitioning to distance learning was advanced through a collaboration of teachers and parents.

"At (that) time, our teachers had not been trained in distance learning, so what really happened was best practices and excellent teaching strategies kicked in and a lot of collaboration," she said. "There were a lot of staff members that knew a little bit more about technology and how to use and facilitate it for distance learning.

"There were also some parents that were able to help us as their (work) positions are in those tech fields. So, with the teachers that had some background knowledge, and the parents that had some background knowledge, they were able to (collaborate)."

Palko described St. Robert students as having an advantage in the process of integrating into the distance learning program.

"Every student has been exposed to technology at St. Robert and every student signs an agreement of proper usage at St. Robert," she said. "So, when this went home, students already had some background knowledge on how to use the device and they had already used these programs in the classrooms in a variety of ways."

In preparation for the transition to online learning, every household that did not have a Chromebook or computer was lent a Chromebook. The school lent out about 35 Chromebooks.

Ninety percent of the families already had access to the internet, while the other families acquired access to available free internet service.

During their first week home, St. Robert teachers began using the online services, Google Classroom, SchoolSpeak and Zoom, to work with the school's students, which number about 220.

To replicate the in-class experience, the online school days are held Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. These hours include breaks and do not feature continuous instruction.

However, teachers are available to the students during those hours, and often work additional volunteer hours.

Because of the absence of the in-person classroom experience, teachers are dedicating more of their days to students, Palko said.

Also similar to the in-person classroom experience, students turn in homework assignments. But a different approach is their use of Google Classroom to turn in assignments. That medium is also used for teachers to send assignments to their students.

Because St. Robert understands that homework assignments can cause undue stress for the students during this stay-at-home order, the students are not penalized for turning in homework assignments late.

Palko mentioned that in converting their lessons to online instruction, the school's teachers had to restructure their curriculum to utilize the most essential information.

"Basically, teachers broke it down to essential, what's suggested, what are things kids could do other than math, reading, (English, language, arts)," she said.

Palko also noted that religion was maintained in the curriculum, since St. Robert is a Catholic school "first and foremost."

St. Robert's distance learning approach is meant to provide quality instruction that will allow the students to transition well into the following school year, Palko explained.

"It is meant to provide that continuity, so that students don't have gaps come next school year," she said. "So, I was very clear in explaining our process with them, how every staff member at St. Robert is pushing in to support students.

"I also let parents know, very honestly, that this is a learning curve for everybody – for teachers, for students, for them."

Another element of St. Robert's approach to distance learning is its desire to replicate the campus experience online. The curriculum even includes physical education instruction.

Through its online experience, St. Robert uses an education achievement specialist that mostly assists small groups of primary students or individual students with reading and language arts.

The school's classroom aides also provide one-on-one online support to students, in response to teacher or parent recommendations.

Palko said that St. Robert is fortunate to have maintained the assistance of the school counselor, Seymour Morgan, who works with the students two days per week and shares age-appropriate speaking points, including how to manage stress.

Palko also speaks to students online, delivering messages on a daily basis.

Additionally, both she and Anthony Jackson, director of advancement, and teachers have communicated with parents by phone for a variety of reasons.

Palko mentioned that it is important for the school to maintain communication and transparency through the distance learning experience.

"The goal is no student falls through the cracks, no family is left to fend for themselves, (and) every family feels like they are being taken care of by the staff at St. Robert Catholic School," she said.

In addition to their online classroom work and homework, St. Robert students engage in a social experience through their student council, Palko noted.

"Our student leaders, seventh and eighth graders, they have planned spirit weeks each week that we've been at distance learning," she said. "So, these students have provided student leader-

see LEARNING page 15

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An old-school approach to homeschooling during the pandemic with a dash of modernity

By Monica Stark



Photos by Monica Stark

Sophie's perfect vacation is camping. She set up the campground in the backyard. Beware of bears.



Introducing "Starboard"... the intergalactic fort. Sophie was really great at finding materials to use. Her main goal was to have a fort to sleep in as part of her fort building family project.

No alarm clocks, no rushing to school or work. I have somehow managed to tell my daughter, Sophie, that cuddles until 9 a.m. are required. And that we have ALL DAY to do the things we need to do. We don't need to adhere to any 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., schedule, but the daily cuddle fest is required. Above all, I want her to have good memories of this pandemic. Of course, she misses her school and friends and she's definitely not learning as much from me as she does her beloved teacher. She's been writing letters to those she misses. She steals my phone for hours at a time to talk with her best friend. It's as sweet as an experience as it can be. I am grateful for the job and school flexibility. So many parents are stressing out because of all the Zooming that has to be scheduled for. I am sad for children who have to spend hours a day in front of a computer screen.

The digital divide has long existed prior to the pandemic, but what school closures have shown school districts is how tech equity is needed at home. Fortunately, the school district has provided Chromebooks to those who need them and they are a big help, however, I have heard from some families how difficult it is to do the distance learning because they can't afford the high-powered wifi that other families are accustomed to.

There are other ways children can learn the standards required by schools.

While my second grade daughter attends a Title 1 school where more than half of the students are on free or reduced lunch and many have needed to pick up Chromebooks provided by the school district, the curriculum at least for the younger grades includes very limited amount of "Zooming" or distance learning. Each day her teacher provides a 15-minute math lesson and has worksheets that go along with it. Besides that, daily book reading and writing is required. Again, not too much time is spent behind the computer.

But what really sets her school apart are weekly family projects that require creative thinking, creativity, teamwork and maybe even some blood and tears. The first said project was fort building; the second, imagication (imagining a perfect vacation and bringing it home-bound); the third was an animal project and this week we're making an art display in our front yard out of materials found in the natural world. With these projects, students had to collect all their materials from their quarantined home, write them down the list of materials, tell a story about their creations and draw what it looks like. While they are family projects, they are child led and directed. She's my boss and I am her worker bee and also her photographer. I have enjoyed photographing the projects and sharing them with other parents and children in the class. Truly, the community has tried to stay together as much as possible under these strange times. The crossing guard at the school has fallen ill and students have knitted squares that the handwork teacher sewed together into a quilt. She then delivered to it to him and shared a video of his reaction. Touched by how many hands went into the quilt, he said he didn't realize he mattered that much.

This quarantine situation has highlighted the love that was already in our community. Seeing the video and photos of the crossing guard brought tears of joy and love to many of those who have seen it.

Remember parents: You are your child's first teacher, after all, and don't forget to treat yourself just as kindly as you do your precious students.

Learning:

continued from page 14

ship to keep that school spirit going and break up the monotony of being at home."

These activities have included Crazy Hair Day, Crazy Hat Day, and Your Favorite Character Day.

Students have also shared photographs of themselves with their pets, been challenged to baking, cooking and fitness contests, and sung "Happy Birthday" to other students through Zoom.

Palko said that it is important to her to recognize that St. Robert's "school spirit has not been lost."

But most importantly, Palko noted, St. Robert maintains its approach to providing quality instruction in a faith-based learning environment.

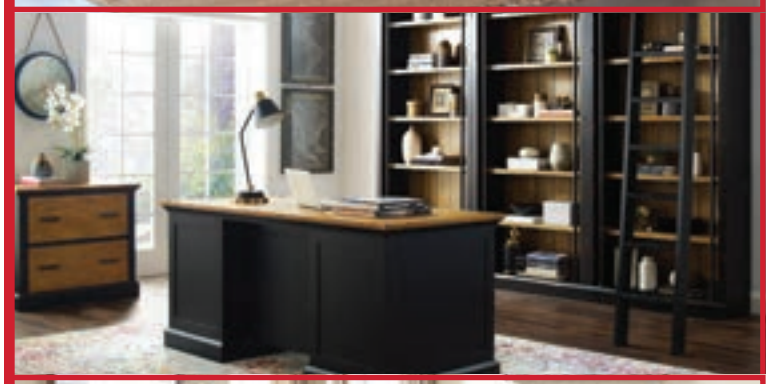
"Everyone is still working 100% to make sure that we're meeting the needs of the students and of their families," she said. "(That achievement) is very vital to St. Robert Catholic School.

"So, I think what we're doing is authentic and it's true to our mission and it shows that we are family, because we really do care."

Planning ahead with a positive outlook, St. Robert has scheduled an on-campus summer school program, as well as a distance learning option tailored to students with specific academic needs. The summer session is scheduled for June 1 through July 17.













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*10% OFF the regular price excludes all "Clearance" "Special Buys" and icomfort products. Offer expires 5/31/20. **0% APR with Equal Payments for 24 months -The Naturwood credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms apply to qualifying purchases of $1,500 or more with a 35% down payment charged with approved credit. The special terms APR will continue to apply until all qualifying purchases are paid in full. The monthly payment for this purchase will be the amount that will pay for the purchase in full in equal payments during the 24 month period. The APR for Purchases will apply to certain fees such as a late payment fee or if you use the card for other transactions. For new accounts, the APR for Purchases is 28.99%. If you are charged interest in any billing cycle, the minimum interest charge will be $1.00. This information is accurate as of 04/01/19 and is subject to change. For current information, call us at 1-800-431-5921. Offer expires 5/31/20.

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