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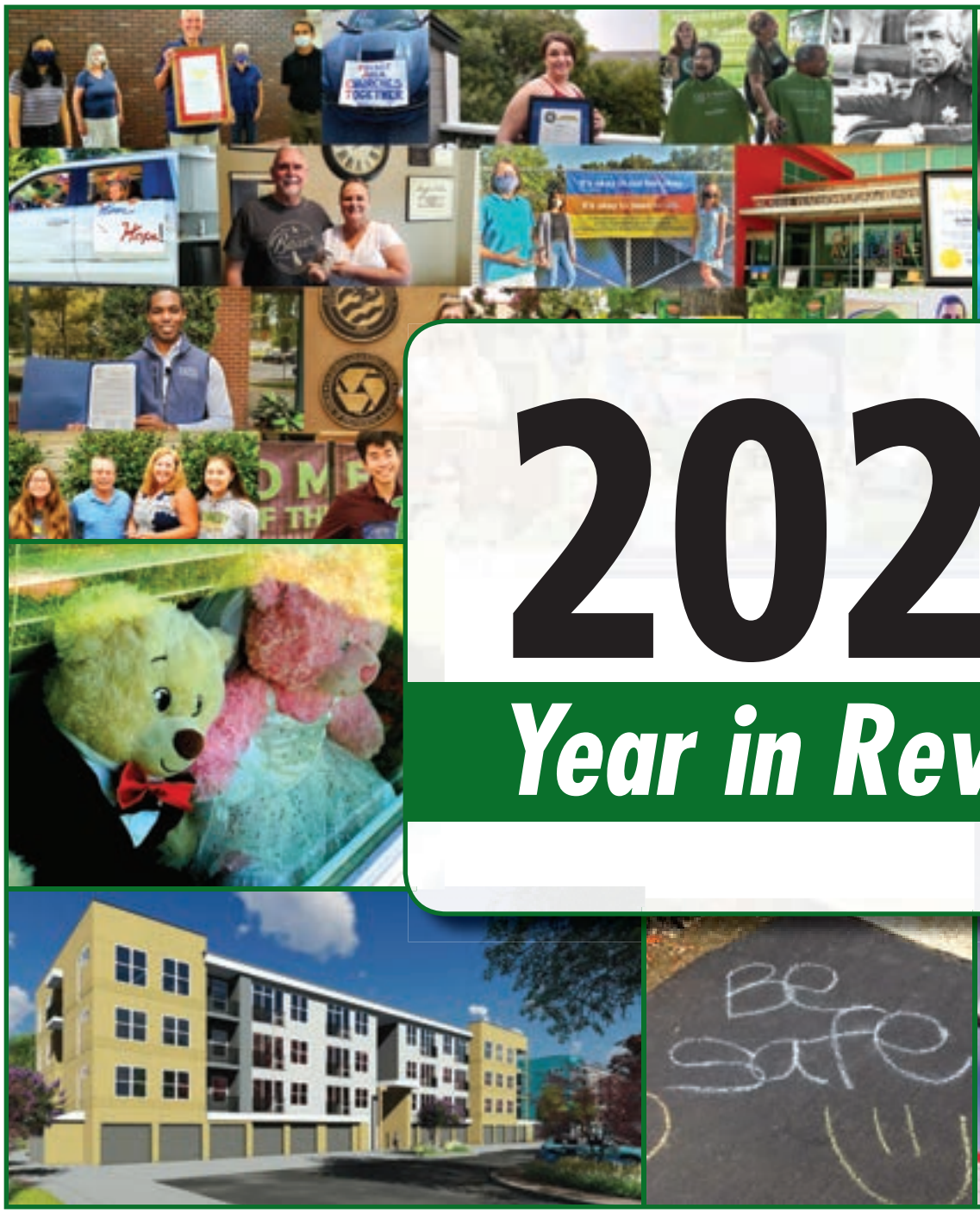
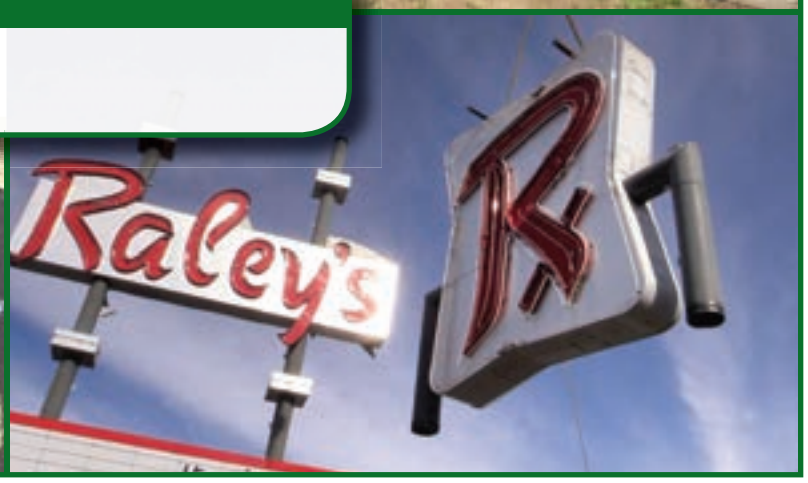


2020

Year in Review









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2020 Year in Review

Pocket News

A year ago, I made the resolution to see things with clear 20/20 vision with the new year and to treat my little world with the most kindness I could give. Little did I know that the coronavirus I had heard about on the other side of the world would turn into a full-blown pandemic.

In these unprecedented times, we have seen death, unemployment, under-employment, growing homelessness, social unrest. Whether a pandemic, a natural disaster or any other traumatic event, the community always comes together. "It's Us. It's always us. We're in this together. Etc." The rallying cries for humanity's survival.

I hope you enjoy some highlights from this year's Ledger, and here's to a happy new year and the health of the city.

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Community Association President Addresses Coronavirus Situation

By LANCE ARMSTRONG



Will Cannady, president of the Pocket-Greenhaven Community Association, told the Pocket News that his organization is doing whatever it can to assist and provide encouragement to the community during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

"(The pandemic) is hitting people really hard, and whatever we can do, especially here in the Pocket-Greenhaven community, to support one another, to get the word out that now is the time to come together as a community to stay strong," he said.

As new cases of this highly infectious respiratory disease continue to be reported locally, throughout the nation and other places globally, general methods for taking caution against it have commonly become known.

Measures to prevent the spread of this virus include frequently washing one's hands with soap and water, avoiding touch one's eyes, mouth and nose, covering coughs and sneezes, and practicing social distancing by maintaining a 6-foot separation from other people.

The new coronavirus primarily spreads through droplets from an infected person when they sneeze or cough, or via droplets of saliva or discharge from noses of infected persons. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

Among the ways that the Pocket-Greenhaven Community Association has been assisting the community during this pandemic is promoting Pocket area businesses that remain open, and offering direction for obtaining important coronavirus-related resources.

The association has been developing a web page of resources for Pocket neighbors. That page can

see CORONAVIRUS page 3

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Cover photo by: Courtesy

Coronavirus

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be visited at www.pocketgreenhaven.org/pocketstrong.

Included on that page are city and county government websites and telephone numbers for obtaining reliable COVID-19-related information.

Accessible through these sources are details pertaining to getting tested for coronavirus, if one believes they might have the disease. The most common symptoms of this disease are fever, tiredness and dry cough. Difficulty breathing occurs in severe cases.

The web page's contacts also inform people how small businesses can obtain financial support and which local restaurants currently offer take-out food for their customers.As part of Sacramento County's stay-at-home order, restaurants can remain open, but dining on the premises is prohibited. Those businesses are instead limited to providing food through take-out or delivery orders.

Cannady stressed a need for local residents to help restaurants in the community to stay in business.

"We keep hearing over and over again how restaurants around here are struggling to stay afloat and we are encouraging all of our community members to eat out as much as possible," he said. "Of course, follow the county guidelines, everything of that nature. At the same time, we want to make sure that these restaurants are still around when this crisis is over."

Other types of businesses that received exemptions from the stay-at-home order, under the "essential businesses" category, include grocery stores, banks, gas stations, post offices, breweries, wineries, dairies, hardware stores, airlines, taxis, and newspapers, radio and television services.

Among the prohibitions in effect in Sacramento are public gatherings of 10 or more people, exercising in fitness gyms, and patronizing bars in a typical visiting manner. However, bars are permitted to sell alcohol to go, as long as they also offer food for sale.

Cannady told the Pocket News that it is especially important to the association to keep neighbors updated during this pandemic.

"The last thing we want in a time of crisis like this is for people not to be sure what's going on," he said. "The more we can do to get out there and provide them with information, so that they understand not only what's going on, but where they can seek out help, I think our community will be stronger for it."

Cannady also responded to the situation at the Pocket's Faith Presbyterian Church, where one member died from COVID-19 and multiple members of the congregation tested positive for the disease.

"I want to make sure that it's pretty clear that we support Faith Presbyterian Church," he said. "They've been going through an awful lot. One of the things (is) not only our association, but the community, in general, supports them."

Although Cannady is well aware of many people's struggles related to the coronavirus situation, he said that he also recognizes that the community has maintained much of its spirit.

Cannady noted that many people are assisting neighbors in need or keeping active exercising in the community, while practicing social distancing.

He additionally mentioned that he is impressed by messages written in chalk that have appeared along the Pocket Canal Parkway.

"If you walk down (the) parkway right now, all over the place you see so many positive messages," he said. "Maybe they were kids or parents or a combination of both just writing really nice things in chalk, like 'Don't worry, be happy,' or 'Everything is going to be fine.'

"I think (the additional kindness is) a sign of our strong neighborhood, that we're willing to do what we can for our neighbors."

Cannady, who is a U.S. history teacher at the School of Engineering and Sciences, also shared his personal experiences related to the closure of local schools due to the pandemic.

"Unfortunately (schools are) on a break right now," he said. "I've personally still been teaching my students on a daily basis by posting assignments to Google Classroom, as well as Google Drive. In addition, I also produce daily videos to guide my students."

Cannady added that he hopes to be permitted to return to his job in a few months.

As residents of the Pocket area continue their fight against coronavirus, Cannady urges people to bond together.

"We're all going through this as a group, as a community, as a neighborhood, and through (bonding together), we'll be stronger as a community," he said.

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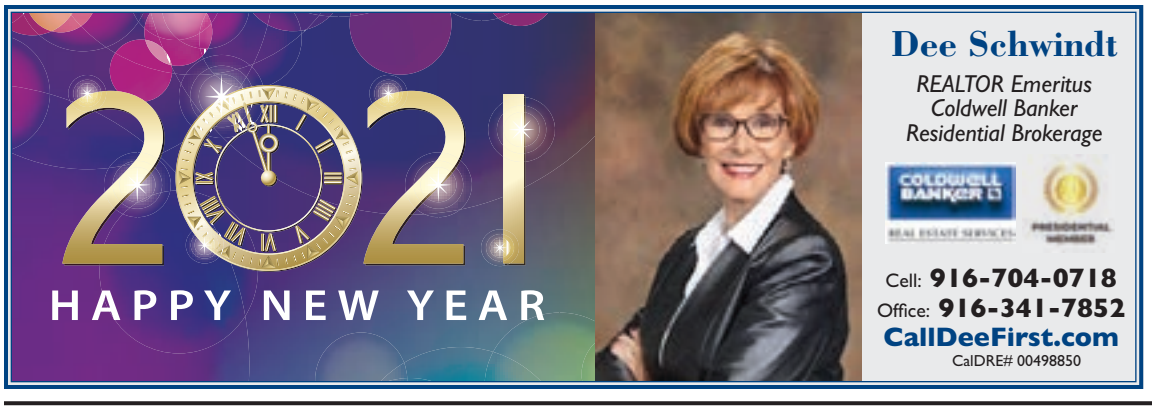

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Families Stay Connected Under Social Distancing

By Devin Lavelle

It is really hard being home with kids 7 days a week. We can talk to them about why they can't play at the playground or see their friends at school, but they don't really understand. Even if they do, it doesn't do anything to burn off the massive amount of energy they wake up with each morning.

COVID-19 has brought out so much good in humanity. Neighbors helping neighbors. Strangers helping strangers.

One of the really cool things that we've seen is people finding ways to connect creatively, while staying safely socially distanced.

We have seen great chalk art, in front of homes, in the parks and along the canals. It's a fun, uplifting thing to see while walking around the neighborhood with our kids.

The Pocket Moms group and Nextdoor have been full of art projects. Children made shamrock decorations to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, which their parents then hung on their doors or front windows. Families could then walk around the neighborhood, getting some great fresh air and exercise, while looking to spot these fun decorations.

Next up were flowers to celebrate the start of spring!

Most recently families went on bear hunts around the neighborhood. Families that weren't scared could enjoy the beautiful day (and possibly circumvent wavy grass, rivers, mud, our wonderful urban forest and so forth) and find stuffed bears placed in the windows for neighbors to enjoy. We saw a bear wedding, a bear dressed as a bunny, even Chewbacca! All, of course, with a shiny wet nose, big furry ears and big googly eyes!

As Rowna Lopez, a South Pocket neighbor says, "The Bear Hunt has given families the chance to do something fun together and bring camaraderie in the community!"



Alone Together: Closed Facebook Support Group for Mental Health Issues

By Monica Stark

Alone Together, a closed Facebook support group for mental health issues, has been started by Laura Bemis, local photographer and co-founder of "Journey of Hope Exhibit," the annual collaborative project that pairs writers with local artists to share stories of hope and recovery.

The group is for anyone who experiences a mental health challenge due to the isolation from the novel coronavirus. Bemis said she's keeping the group by either invitation or special request to ensure some sense of confidentiality. "If somebody wants to get into it, they can get into it. It's not open to the public so not everyone can sit and browse to read what's written," she said.

Bemis said the shelter-in-place ordinances have increased her depression because by helping others, she helps herself. "For me, the reason why I started it was because I have depression as one of my problems to deal with challenges. To keep me so I don't get depressed I get very involved in the community and I help other people with mental health challenges," she said.

Social distancing and health mandates can also be triggering for people with obsessive-compulsive disorder. "They are told they are to wash their hands and use sanitizer, that could be very strenuous because they already have that disorder and (the mandate) compounds it." She also explained that those who suffer from anxiety can be suffering more with all the latest coronavirus apocalyptic news. "A lot of people don't have anywhere to go or call to talk to somebody about it because it's such a personal thing and people don't want to share that they are hurting in that way."

Bemis started this group and has 12 members so far. Every now and then somebody will ask if they can join.

Each day, Bemis posts a photograph she's taken as a sort of conversation starter. Topics range from pretty flowers to the five sheep brought in to mow down her grass. As she writes on the page: "Even though we are in isolation we can still find beauty."

She said the requirements are pretty basic – that you be at least 18 years old, appear to have a lived experience of a mental health challenge, or are a caregiver with serious mental illness and be willing to share and participate in the group. "We're not asking anyone to prove their mental illness but if want to share this is a safe environment for that," she said. Bemis hopes to offer a Zoom or FaceTime session where members can login and join in on fun activities like coloring or art. "It's not group therapy," she said, "But, I'm looking for people to lead those things – someone who wants to do a craft or something online.

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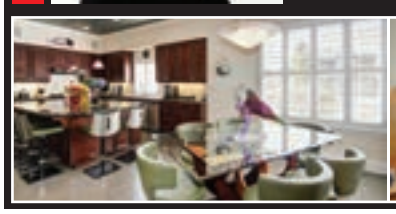



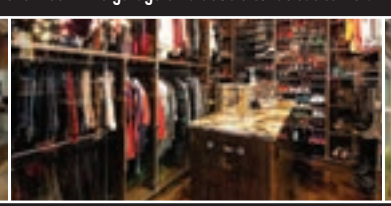



4-Story Apartments Proposed Off Pocket Road

By Patricia A. Clark

One of the entrance points to the Pocket Area may look very different if a development application is approved by the City.

In late November 2019, the City of Sacramento Planning Division received an application to build a 4-story apartment complex on Klotz Ranch Court, off Pocket Road. The applicant is the Spanos Corporation from Stockton and the project name is "Klotz Ranch Apartments (P19-070)".

The location is the 12.7 acres of vacant land just south of the Shell Gas Station and McDonald's on Pocket Road, between Interstate 5 and Freeport Boulevard. The land is currently zoned Shopping Center Commercial and has Planned Unit Development Guidelines attached to it from City Council approval in 1997. The General Plan designation for the land is Regional Commercial Center. The property is currently owned by "Cora Properties, LLC."

The proposal includes six 4-story apartment buildings and a 2-story clubhouse. The apartment buildings would contain 266 apartments and 537 parking spaces in the complex. Amenities include a tot lot, pool, and dog run. The apartments would be market-rate.

The necessary City entitlements for approval of this proposal are 1) amendment to the Klotz Ranch Planned Unit Development (PUD) Guidelines and Schematic Plan, 2) a Conditional Use Permit to allow multi-family residential use in the Shopping Center zone, and 3) Site Plan and Design Review. The application is expected to be heard by the City Planning and Design Commission in the spring or summer. The decision of the Commission would be final unless appealed to the City Council.

The property has several restrictions and planning considerations. In addition to the City's General Plan, the 2015 Pocket Area Community Plan also designates the property as Regional Commercial. The Klotz Ranch PUD Guidelines, approved by City Council in 1997, state their purpose is to establish a cohesive set of development criteria to govern all future construction in the PUD, resulting in an attractive project with architectural and site plan compatibility.

An example of the restrictions in the PUD Guidelines is height. The maximum height of any building is 35 feet, per the PUD Guidelines. The Klotz Ranch Apartments application proposes buildings as tall as 48 feet, or deviating by more than 36% from the approved guidelines.

The 266 units on 12.7 acres equates to 21 units per acre. Some residents regard this as too dense to be compatible with the surrounding low-density communities. "A 4-story building complex to add hundreds of people and potential of 537 vehicles will have a detrimental impact on the surrounding neighborhoods by increasing traffic, noise and need

see APARTMENTS page 6

Keep Taking Out, Please!

By Devin Lavelle

We continue living under the fear and limitations of COVID-19 has turned life on its head. It's a scary time, but we've had good news that the curve seems to have flattened significantly. Still, many of our friends and neighbors have gotten sick, some have even died. Our hearts go out to everyone who is suffering from this terrible virus.

Our hearts also go out to everyone who has been hit by the economic crash. One of the most vulnerable local industries remains our local restaurants. Restaurants are an important part of our community. They are a place to relax, enjoy time with family and friends, to gather with community. They express the diversity of our community. They give flavor to our local culture.

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Apartments

continued from page 5

for public services. Bottom line is a decrease in the quality of life in our neighborhood," said a South Pocket resident. South Pocket Homeowners Association submitted a comment letter to City Planning documenting six concerns with the project including traffic impact, height, and inconsistency with the Klotz Ranch PUD Guidelines.

Other concerns raised by community members include only one point of ingress and egress, as there can be no access from Freeport Boulevard due to existing easements. The bottleneck raises public safety concerns. The traffic impact for Meadowview and Pocket residents should be thoroughly analyzed for this proposed project, said Riverlake resident Larkin Penrose. Existing Pocket Road traffic between I-5 and Freeport Boulevard is already negatively impacted, especially during peak usage times. The addition of all of the traffic from this development channeled directly into the middle of this impacted section of Pocket Road will greatly exacerbate this problem. Additionally, having all the traffic from this development funneled into only one ingress/egress point will negatively impact not only the flow of traffic, but also be a safety hazard for residents, fire, police and other public safety entities."

The constraint on access also captured the attention of Park Place South Homeowners Association President Dave LaManna. I understand infill projects have their own challenges. In this case I think the very stark industrial design does not fit the neighborhood whatsoever, LaManna commented. Also, with only one entry/exit point, adding the potential of hundreds of vehicles per day on Klotz Ranch Court is a nightmare waiting to happen. Park Place South Homeowners Association is located on the east side of Greenhaven between Rush River and South Land Park Drive.

The 4-story height of the proposed buildings is not only inconsistent with existing apartments in the Pocket,



but also with Meadowview to the east and the Town of Freeport to the south.

Pocket residents are not the only ones to raise concerns. Freeport Community Committee Chair Janet Lake said, "We believe that a 4-story apartment complex is completely out of line with anything in the area and will have a negative effect on traffic and population in the area." She added concern with Freeport's historical nature. "There are historical/heritage issues in the Town of Freeport that have not been addressed by this project."

A similar 4-story apartment complex, also proposed by the Spanos Corporation, called "Spanos Apartments at Natomas Crossing (P17-062)" is now under construction in North Natomas, having gained city approval in 2018. According to the 2017 City Staff Report, that complex is 293 market-rate units. Located near Arena Boulevard and Truxel Road, that complex has easy access to I-5 and I-80 and has three-story apartments to the west and two-story townhomes/condominiums to the south, providing evidence of compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood. Most revealing, the staff report indicates on page 13 that the applicant was required to provide a secondary access point into the apartment complex, a common-sense requirement that seems unlikely to be achieved at the Klotz Ranch location.



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"Oops": Raley's Iconic Neon Sign Came Crashing Down, But Have No Fear, It's OK

By Monica Stark

As Raley's on 4850 Freeport readied itself for the big move next door, the iconic neon sign came down with a crash on Feb. 3, 2020. Some took to the internet exclaiming "Rest in Pieces". And down the street, Land Park Ski and Sports responded to the incident in jest on their sign with one word: "Oops". Meanwhile, Raley's addressed the community via social media: "Have NO FEAR, the sign is okay!" They said the script on Raley's logo was impacted, but the letters are fine... despite the pictures. In partnership with Western Sign Company, Raley's rebuilt and refurbished it using the original elements to maintain the integrity of the historic sign, according to an official statement. The iconic "Rx" had already been removed and was unaffected. According to SacMod (Sacramento Modern)'s 2016 Sacramento Mid-Century Modern Home Tour guidebook, Freeport Boulevard has historically been a commercial corridor and contains many of Sacramento's beloved neon signs, which contribute to the streetscape's authentic and vintage character. Electrical Products Corporation was located at 2101 28th St. and designed the Raley's sign as well as many other favorites in Sacramento, including Sam's Hofbrau that was located at J and 17th streets, the original Tower Records "dancing kids" sign atop Tower Cafe, "Jugglin' Joe" from Gunther's Ice Cream and the Hollywood Hardware hammer on Freeport Boulevard.



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Coronavirus Reminds Older County Residents of Polio Epidemic

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues, some of Sacramento County's elderly residents are reminded of another disease that caused great fear in the lives of millions: polio.

For decades, polio severely worried parents, as this infectious viral disease, which was also known as "infantile paralysis," mostly affected young children, causing muscle weakness, paralysis, and in the most severe cases, death.

Although COVID-19 has different symptoms and complications than polio, the two diseases have similarities, as both have caused great panic, and infected and killed many people. And like the novel coronavirus, polio spread while having no known cure.

The nation's first polio outbreak occurred in Vermont in 1894, and caused 18 deaths and 132 reported cases of paralysis.

Like COVID-19, the disease spread throughout the country and caused many thousands of people to become infected.

Among the most known examples that polio could affect adults came in 1921, when then-future President Franklin D. Roosevelt was diagnosed with polio at the age of 39.

In the late 1920s, a mechanical respirator – nicknamed the "iron lung" – debuted. The machine was used to help with the breathing of polio patients with paralyzed muscles in their chests.

Polio reached an epidemic level in the United States in 1952, as about 58,000 new cases were reported, 3,145 people died from the disease, and 21,269 people were left with mild to disabling paralysis.

During the following year, Dr. Jonas Salk, an American medical researcher and virologist, announced on a national radio show that he successfully tested a vaccine against poliomyelitis, the virus that causes polio.

Salk's vaccine was introduced in 1955.

A plan to give the "Salk Vaccine" to 17,000 first and second graders in Sacramento County was initially set for April 18, 1955. But due to some early complications with the effectiveness of the vaccine, it was not until the following month that the county's schoolchildren were first vaccinated.

Upon the recommendation of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, a two-shot program within the first month, followed by a third shot about seven months later, was instituted.

The national program to vaccinate schoolchildren led to a drastic decrease in the number of polio cases.

There have not been any natural occurring polio cases reported in the United States since 1979.

Such a statistic does not remove the memories of this disease, which 90-year-old Elk Grove resident Arnie Zimbelman said he remembers well.

"I remember how bad it was at the time," he said. "We used to go around selling little 'wipe out polio' stamps. It's pretty well wiped out, isn't it?"

Zimbelman, who moved to Elk Grove in 1956, recalled one of his friends who was a polio survivor.

"I remember Dick Lichtenberger," he said. "He had polio as a kid and went to Shriners Hospital, and he was thankful forever after, because they got him back on his feet."

Melba (Ledbetter) Mosher, who attended Sacramento College (today's Sacramento City College) in the 1940s, recalled an incident in which her family feared that she had become infected with polio.

"I was born in 1927 and I had a really high temperature as a (child), so my family was just really very upset," she said. "My mother was thinking polio, but I hadn't been any place. But because of my temperature, that was a big fear, definitely."

Riverside-Pocket area native Dolores (Silva) Greenslate, 95, noted similarities between the fear caused by polio and the fear caused by COVID-19.

"Polio was something new to us, too, because we hadn't had anything like this before," she said. "And now with this coronavirus, it seems like it is repeating itself. We've never had anything like it. Right now, it is affecting everybody, every darn person.

"When you had infantile paralysis, it scared you. And people are panicking about this (COVID-19) and we were panicking about polio. We were so afraid that we were even afraid to talk about it, and if it hit us, what would we do?"

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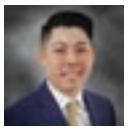
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Distance Learning Proves Successful for St. Robert Catholic School

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, 2020 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, 2020.

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

see ST. ROBERTS page 9

St. Roberts

continued from page 8

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.

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 curricu-

see School page 10







School

continued from page 9

lum, 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, have planned spirit weeks each week that we've been at distance learning," she said. "So, these students have provided student leadership 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."

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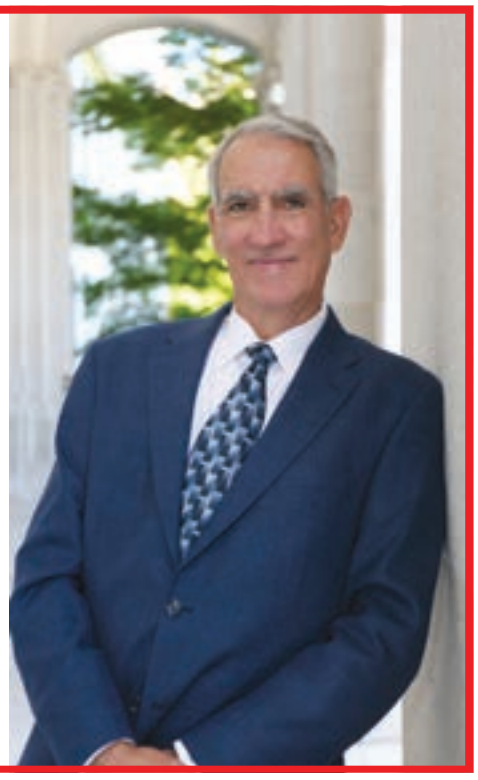

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An Old-School Approach to Homeschooling During the Pandemic With a Dash of Modernity

By Monica Stark

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 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

see HOMESCHOOLING page 10

Homeschooling

continued from page 10

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 a 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 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.

(Pre-Shelter-In-Place Orders)

Pickleball Offered at Elks Lodge No. 6



By Lance Armstrong

With the growing interest in pickleball, this paddle sport is now offered at Elks Lodge No. 6 on Riverside Boulevard.

A cross between tennis, badminton and pingpong, pickleball is played on a badminton-sized court with a slightly modified tennis net.

It is a singles or doubles game played with a paddle and a plastic ball with holes in it, and includes underhand serves. Doubles are typically played at the local Elks lodge.

One rule of the game is that the ball must bounce once on one side of the court before it can be hit to the other side of the court.

see PRE-SHELTER page 14

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Pre-Shelter

continued from page 11

As for scoring, the game is played to 11, unless additional time is needed for a player to secure a two-point advantage to gain the victory.

And to avoid any confusion, pickles play no role in the playing of this game.

The origin of the name varies, with one of the stories being that a dog named Pickles would run off with the ball as the game was being played by the dog's owner, Barney McCallum.

McCallum, Joel Pritchard and Bill Bell, residents of the Seattle area, are credited as having created the game in 1965 as a way to cure the summertime boredom of their children.

Now a half-century later, the game has gained popularity with many people across the globe, and in the United States, it is governed by the USA Pickleball Association – an organization that "provides players with official rules, tournaments, rankings and promotional materials."

As for pickleball at Elks Lodge No. 6, Vic Cima, Ron Sharp and Craig Huizar are the program's coordinators.

Although the first pickleball games at this lodge were played outdoors in the parking lot on Sept. 29, the rest of the games have been played in the Elks building. The program uses three courts for its games.

Open play games, which are open to both lodge members and the public, are held year-round on Sundays from 4 to 7 p.m., and Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

That schedule began with the first indoor games last month, with an open house that drew about 120 people. Elks member Linda Pohl, a longtime Pocket News advertising representative, served as the event's master of ceremonies.

The games at the lodge draw people of various skill levels.

Elks Lodge No. 6 is located at 6446 Riverside Blvd.

Zumba fundraiser held for Kennedy Cougar baseball



The community came out to support John F. Kennedy baseball at Zumba Night on Thursday, Feb. 20 at Jazzercise Greenhaven.

Monique Hollowell, local fitness expert and mother of player Talen Hollowell, thought it would be a fun idea to bring together the baseball community and those who support them through music and movement and Zumba is the perfect blend.

Zumba is a mix of high and low intensity moves for an interval style, calorie burning dance fitness party. "The music is a combination of Latin and World Rhythms that makes exercise fun and effective for everyone," says Monique.

The Zumba Night incorporated all the traditional fun movements and amazing music. The players attended and participated in the class and/or answered any questions that the community has had about the program.

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Enjoy a evening with Asian Pair as vocalists George Connor and Mary Nakamura perform old standards and contemporary music.



Francesca Anderson and Daniel Roest, Friday, February 26, 2:30 pm
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Congratulations to All of Our Pride of the Pocket Winners!



By Devin Lavelle

On September 24, 2020, your Pocket Greenhaven Community Association held the Pride of the Pocket to recognize some of the amazing people who make this community such a wonderful place to live, work and play!

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- Supervisor Patrick Kennedy: Jay Jugoz
- Councilmember Rick Jennings: Meals on Wheels by ACC
- SMUD Member Rosanna Herber: SES Assistant Principal Patrick Bohman

Higley Concluded Longtime Service as Local Church's Pastor



By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Mike Higley, longtime pastor of River's Edge Church, stepped away from his service at this Pocket area place of worship.

Higley became the lead pastor of this church in June 2005, when it was known as Riverside Wesleyan Church.

He told the Pocket News that his decision to depart was made, because he believes that the church needs a "new voice."

"I just know that God has clearly told me that I'm not supposed to be the next voice," he said. "The church needs a new voice to take it into the future, and I'm very clear about that. For me, it means leaving the church completely and hoping that God leads me somewhere else (to serve as a pastor)."

He added that although his next pastorship will likely be in a different state, he will "not be a stranger," considering that he has children and grandchildren who live in this area.

Higley's last day as the lead pastor of River's Edge Church was Oct. 11, 2020.

Reminiscing about his early days of serving as this church's lead pastor, Higley said that he and his wife quickly fell in love with the church and the community.

"The church needed a pastor at that time and I got to be the one, if you will, that God selected and to enjoy the ministry of the people of the church, as well as the great community, in which we fell in love with very quickly," he said. "This community is full of some amazing people."

Prior to beginning his service at this church, Higley resigned from his pastorship at a church in Tucson, Arizona.

Higley described River's Edge Church as a very community-minded church.

"We recognize that we need to serve the community," he said. "It's not just the invitation to come to the church, but to be a part of the things that happen out in the public schools or out on the back lawn of River's Edge, where we do our Harvest Festival or helicopter egg drop." The church also participates in levee or park cleanup, and assists with the annual 4th of July Spirit of the Pocket Parade.

While speaking about the Pocket area, Higley expressed gratitude with the opportunity he had to meet people from outside of the congregation.

"What sticks out to me is the involvement I got to have in the lives of the people within the community," he said. "Not all of them come to my church at all. We realized earlier on that the Pocket community is a very unique spot. So, we got to be part of people's lives from other churches, we got to know people who were business owners.

"I've been really blessed to personally know all the city councilmen during my tenure, from Robbie Waters, Darrell Fong, and, of course, the City Councilman Rick Jennings now. They're friends of mine. Just having that opportunity to be that involved in things that happen in the community, you don't get to do that very often. But, again, that's the uniqueness of the Pocket community."

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All Leather is on Sale!*



All Dining is on Sale!*



All Sofas are on Sale!*



All Accents are on Sale!*



All Office is on Sale!*



All Bedrooms are on Sale!*



All Sectionals, Entertainment, Recliners, Cocktail Tables, Youth, Mattresses, Accessories, and MORE!*

Don't miss out! New furniture will be the start of something exciting in 2021.

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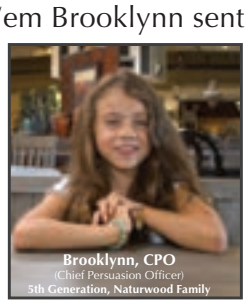
"Tell 'em Brooklynn sent you!"



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*Everything is on Sale exept for "Special Buys", "Mega Clearance", and Serta icomfort mattresses. Sale prices cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion. Sale ends 01/18/2021.