

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

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Moraga Youth Involvement **Committee Accepting** Applications Online MORAGA moragarec.com 925-888-7045

Saint Mary's College fall semester functioning through coronavirus

By Vera Kochan

As humankind adapts to the COVID-19 induced new normal, Saint Mary's College begins its 2020 fall semester doing what it can to provide students, faculty and staff with some semblance of

business-as-usual. First and foremost, everyone affiliated with the campus is required to commit to the Gaels Wellness Pledge. The 10point pledge encourages personnel to consciously adhere to the safety protocols put forth by the Contra Costa County Health Department, the California Department of Public Health, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The pledge includes: reporting any COVID-19 related symptoms to medical professionals; completing a daily health screening; staying away from campus if living with someone who has a confirmed case; reporting if tested positive; practicing good hygiene; keeping belongings and shared spaces sanitized; practicing physical distancing; complying with contact tracing, quarantine or isolation; wearing a mask; and avoiding

stigmatizing and generalizing. Instruction is primarily remote, although some inperson and hybrid courses are offered for undergrads living on campus using research and lab facilities, working in studios with performance-based courses, and attending seminars. There are newly developed outdoor classroom spaces that will also be utilized.

All facilities will go through a daily cleaning regimen by a custodial staff, and Facilities Services will provide individuals with disinfecting wipes and spray for use in computer labs, classrooms and public spaces. Any athletic facilities that are open for use will undergo a more rigorous cleaning. Outdoor facilities will also be cleaned at least once a day.

Residential areas will see an increase in disinfection to three times a day for the restrooms and other common spaces. Students are expected to keep their individual bedrooms sanitized.

The Chapel, Health & Wellness Center, Oliver Hall, Café Louis, post office, recreation center, library and bookstore will all be open with frequent disinfection services provided several times a day.

Pending approval from county health officials, SMC will allow student-athletes from limited fall and winter sports to begin returning to

campus in preparation for voluntary conditioning workouts.

Any events, meetings and gatherings should continue to be offered virtually with the exception for on-campus residential students. Campus departments may sponsor outdoor recreation activities for groups of 12 or less; outdoor worship or cultural ceremonies; and indoor/outdoor academics activities conducted outside of regular class sessions and associated with academic classes for groups of 12 or less.

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Rheem Theatre waiting



Rheem Theatre's message to the town.

By Vera Kochan

Despite the good news that Contra Costa County has moved into the red tier allowing movie theaters to reopen at 25% capacity or 100 people, Cinema West (owner of the Rheem Theatre) has decided to wait until a 50% capacity is sanctioned. According to Executive Director James Howard, a 25% capacity "still won't work for our smaller auditoriums. Plus, by that time the movie selections will also have improved

enough to entice people back

to movie theaters." Many studios have decided to push back the release of their anticipated blockbusters to November, December and into 2021. To make matters even more difficult, local movie houses are currently banned from selling concessions, which typically accounts for higher revenues to the theater than does their share of ticket sales.

Election information for Moraga

There is a new permanent ballot drop-off box at Saint Mary's College (1928 St. Mary's Road), in the first parking lot on the left when you drive in. All ballots from drop-off ballot boxes will be handled by County Elections personnel only and will not be mailed through the USPS. There will be an Early Voting Site at the Moraga Library on the following days: Oct. 30 (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.); Oct. 31 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.); Nov. 2 (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and Nov. 3 (7 a.m. to 8 p.m.). This site will be available to anyone dropping off a Vote-by-Mail ballot. Any County resident who wishes to vote in person may do so Friday, Saturday and Monday only! On Tuesday, Nov. 3 voters will need to vote at their correct polling location -Moraga Library at 1500 St. Mary's Road and Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church at 10 Moraga Valley Lane.



Town Council Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m. Planning Commission: Monday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m. **Park and Recreation Commission:** Tuesday, Oct. 20 7 p.m.,

Moraga School District Board Meetings:

Special Board Meeting Tuesday, Nov. 10, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2





Hours of operation

Mon-Sat 9am -6pm Office and Yard.

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appointment.

