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COVID-19 surge may bring drastic measures

BY BILL SULLIVAN
OF THE FOLSOM TELEGRAPH

As the state of California continues to experience its most rapid increase of COVID-19 infections since the beginning of the pandemic, Gov. Gavin Newsom is already touting that further restrictions could be ahead in the coming days. "If these trends continue, we're going to have to

take much more dramatic, arguably drastic action," Newsom said. All but seven counties are now in counties in the most restrictive tier of restrictions, which makes up 99 percent of the state's population. With tight restrictions already in place, along with a statewide curfew, few options lie ahead when it comes to tightening activities even further, other than

the return of a stay-at-home order. As of press time, officials have not shared any further details of a possible new order. However, looking back to March of this year, such an order required people to stay indoors except for essential services and exercise and now cases are surging beyond those in March. When it comes to records, the seven-day average in

new daily cases was 14,657 on Monday, compared to 9,881 in July. In the next week, new cases resulting from Thanksgiving will further add to the increasing numbers. Currently, the state is administering more than 200,000 COVID-19 tests a day and with those tests, records are showing the positivity rate remains high and continues to rise. In

mid-November, the positivity rate was 4.7 percent. As of Tuesday, it was at 6.2 percent. The positivity rate is the percentage of those who test positive for the virus of all individuals who are being tested. Hospitalizations across the state have increased 89 percent over the past 14 days. "Current projects show hospitalizations could increase two to three times

the current amount in one month," said Newsom. As of Monday, 59 percent of California hospital beds were occupied, a number Newsom expects to climb to 78 percent by Christmas. Currently, California ranks 39th in the seven-day average case rate per 100,000 in the nation. California is recording 34.5 new daily

• SEE COVID-19 PAGE A8



COURTESY

Firefighters from the Folsom Fire Department, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, and El Dorado Hills Fire Department saved a Folsom home on Randall Drive on Thanksgiving night.

Thanksgiving home fire quickly snuffed

TELEGRAPH STAFF

A quick response by firefighters from multiple agencies saved a Folsom home from being destroyed by flames on Thanksgiving evening. Firefighters from the Folsom Fire Department, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and El Dorado Hills Fire Department responded to a structure fire in a residential home at the 200 block of Randall Drive in Folsom at 5:34 p.m. last Thursday.

Firefighters from Folsom Fire Department were first on the scene to find fire from the roof of a two-story home. Engine 35 initiated an offensive fire attack supported by the other fire companies working simultaneously to contain the fire. Fire damage was contained mostly to the second floor with smoke damage throughout the home, according to Folsom Fire Department public information officer Lauren Ono.

• SEE FIRE PAGE A8

ST. NICK ARRIVES



BILL SULLIVAN • FOLSOM TELEGRAPH

Santa made his first appearance in the Folsom Historic District over the weekend, greeting those who were visiting the district for the first day of Jingle and Mingle that takes place on weekends leading up to the holiday. Santa will be returning, along with carriage rides, live outdoor theater and more. Find out all the details at www.historicfolsom.org.

Council, mayor to be sworn in

BY AMANDA ROWLAND
OF THE FOLSOM TELEGRAPH

At a special meeting Monday, new faces will join the roster as the swearing in of newly-elected City Council members commences.

"I look forward to the swearing in of two new colleagues next week. YK and Rosario will both bring great energy and enthusiasm to the council. It has been my pleasure to serve as mayor this past year and I know the next mayor will continue to lead the city through these unprecedented times," said Folsom Mayor Sarah Aquino.



ROSARIO RODRIGUEZ



YK CHALAMCHERLA

Folsom City Council has had its share of trials this year, with COVID-19 affecting the local economy and the copper pipe pinhole leaks debacle. But staff has risen to the challenge and mitigated these circumstances, making the best out of tough situations.

"The Folsom Charter establishes the Folsom City Council as five members elected at large by the voters of the City. The terms of councilmembers are four years and begin the second Monday in December following their election," read an excerpt from the City of Folsom website.

YK Chalamcherla and Rosario Rodriguez won the seats on City Council in November, both campaigning diligently to win the hearts and votes of Folsom

• SEE COUNCIL PAGE A8

Vice Mayor's final call

Community says goodbye to Ernie Sheldon

BY BILL SULLIVAN
OF THE FOLSOM TELEGRAPH

After flags flew at half-mast the past two weeks throughout the city, Folsom Vice Mayor and longtime resident Ernie Sheldon was laid to rest Tuesday morning at Lakeside Memorial Cemetery in the heart of the community that Sheldon contributed so much of his time to over the decades. All masked and keeping a safe distance from one another, current and

past city dignitaries came together along with community members and the Sheldon family to say farewell to the man who was very much about "community." Sheldon, 86, was currently in his third four-year term on the Folsom City Council when he passed away on Nov. 13. Sheldon continued to hold a seat and remain very active on City Council, even as he was fighting a courageous battle with cancer on his own over

the past year. Sheldon was a 35-year resident of Folsom and will long be remembered for his decades of service to the community. He has served on the Folsom City Council since 2008. Prior to his election to the City Council, Sheldon served on the Folsom Parks & Recreation Commission for two decades. "The imprint of his life's work can be felt throughout

• SEE SHELDON PAGE A7



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Family members of the late Vice Mayor Ernie Sheldon look on as the colors are presented by the members of the Base Honor Guard during his memorial service on Tuesday.

LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE

Weather A2 Sports A9 Classified A6
Opinion A4 Home & Garden A10 Crosswords A6

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