Beach lifesavers ask for budgetary boost for staff, equipment needs

By DAVE SCHWAB

The lifeguards responsible for the lives of 20 million-plus beachgoers along San Diego’s 17-mile coast who made more than 5,000 water rescues in 2013 are asking for a little more than $5 million over the next five years from the city during budget deliberations.

“The main thing is to look ahead and have a plan ready so that, as funding is available, we know where we want to be (operationally) and can act on those opportunities,” said San Diego Lifeguard Services Chief Rick Wurts. “We recognize the city is still going through its recovery in the budget and that there are many important needs throughout other departments like police and fire. The list of needs we’ve submitted are our top priorities.”

Wurts’ recent budget proposal to the city asked for about $5.28 million over the next five years. This includes $1.77 million in fiscal year 2014-15, to add personnel and address maintenance and equipment needs.

Wurts said his department’s budget proposal was projected over five years “to take a comprehensive look at areas where we felt we could augment operations to be able to continue to provide even better service in all aspects of our operations.”

On Monday, April 14, Mayor Kevin Faulconer released his proposed budget, which will be vetted...
Politics, and La Jolla’s love, didn’t escape Bob Hildt’s notice

By DAVE SCHWAB

On the solemn occasion of a community memorial for Rob Hildt, Bird Rock neighbor and friend Steve Dowdy recalled a political “battle” between the diehard conservative Republican and his liberal daughter.

“I’m a professor, and I lean a little to the left. Rob was a Ronald Reagan Republican,” said Dowdy, noting Rob and his daughter, an Obama supporter, got into a campaign sign war during the McCain-Obama race in 2008.

“He got McCain campaign signs for his lawn,” Dowdy said, “and she got an Obama sticker that was half an inch bigger that she easily slipped over the McCain signs. So it was solid Democrats going up his driveway. He realized, ‘This girl has to go.’ So not to be outdone, he got two more McCain signs, which she now matched with five Obama signs. Finally, they each called for a truce and agreed to go back to having just three signs each.

“But she gave the other two to the next-door neighbor,” Dowdy said. “Rob was just glad the election was over—no matter who won.”

Hildt’s public remembrance was held April 12 at La Jolla Community Center. He died March 25 after a long bout with cancer. He was 56.

A Los Angeles native and a career banker, Hildt formed two community banks for which he served as president and CEO. He was a longtime trustee and first vice president of La Jolla Town Council and a member of the La Jolla Traffic & Transportation Committee, the La Jolla Christmas Parade Committee and the La Jolla Community Center.

A Vietnam veteran, Hildt was awarded the Army commendation for meritorious service and was buried at Fort Rosecrans Cemetery.

At his public memorial, Hildt’s pastor, Walt Dilge of La Jolla United Methodist Church, said, “We’re all here to celebrate the gift that Rob was to all of us. Remembering how his special qualities added to our community and personal lives.”

“Rob has finished his race,” said his sister. “He has fought the good fight, and he did it courageously. Rob’s loving spirit moves us.”

Hildt’s wife, Deborah, recalled she was “impressed by him in his suit” at their first meeting, noting “he seemed older than the other men in the room.”

Deborah said Hildt tore off the end of a sheet of paper to write her phone number down. She found the memorabilia recently, while “going through his effects in a safe deposit box.

“He was always the romantic, and the rest is a very happy history,” Deborah said.

Hildt’s daughter, Natalie, read poignant personal cards she sent him on his birthday and on Veterans and Valentine’s days.

“There aren’t enough hours in the day to express my admiration for my father,” she said. “I’m so lucky to have had such a great, supportive, loving father.”

Bob Veres said that Hildt was a true friend and that they’d known each other a long time.

“The most remarkable thing about Rob was that everybody he talked with — there was a connection between him and them,” he said.

Buthansick, La Jolla Community Center CEO, said, “Rob had a purpose in life,” adding that “every day he made it like his last day, opening up his heart to his family, his church and his community.”

Yansick said Hildt was a “gentle soul” with a “great sense of humor.”

La Jolla Town Council immediate past president Cindy Greatrex said she was lucky to have had Hildt as a colleague.

“How does the scenario happen where you have someone on your board who was once a CEO and a banker handling the operations of Walmart?” Greatrex asked. “Never.”

Greatrex pointed out that “there aren’t enough hours in the day to express my admiration for my father,” she said. “Rob and Ann Kerr had the great idea of forming a foundation and turning the La Jolla Christmas parade into the La Jolla Christmas Parade and Holiday Festival.”

Greaterx noted that, thanks to Hildt and Kerr, the festival, at the La Jolla Recreation Center following the parade, now has a whole new dimension children’s bands onstage, art and music classes and former council treasurer Sonia Olivia teaching kids the harp.

“Each year, the class offerings grow,” she said. “Everything is free, paid by the foundation.”

The uplifting remembrance ended with closing remarks and a toast by Hildt friend Javier Lorenzo.

FONDA FAREWELL A motorcycle stands among the effects that marked the April 12 remembrance for La Jollan Bob Hildt. At right, Sonia Olivia regales the attendees with harp music. PHOTOS BY DAVE SCHWAB

FIESTA DE REYES HOSTS FIFTH-ANNUAL FOLKLORICO COMPETITION IN OLD TOWN

Preliminary Rounds Hit the Stage on April 26 and 27; Finale on May 3

Dance troupes from throughout the region will meet and compete during the fifth-annual Fiesta de Reyes Folklórico Competition in historic Old Town San Diego. The annual three-day event will light up the main stage in historic Old Town San Diego State Historic Park during the last weekend of April.

On Saturday, April 26, and Sunday, April 27, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the children and adult groups will each have 25 minutes to perform their best dances, representing many different cultural traditions. One finalist from the children’s groups and two finalists from the adult groups will be selected to advance to the finals.

A week later, on Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to noon, the six finalists will return to the state park for the finale. The competition is free for the public to attend and will take place in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

There is free parking available all day on the weekends in the Caltrans parking lot on Taylor Street, just two blocks from the Festival of the Americas. For more information, visit www.fiestadereyes.com or call 619-297-3100.

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A PASSION FOR ELEGANCE. This lean, mean, driving machine was among the hundreds to grace La Jolla Cove during the tenth annual Concours d’Elegance, which expanded this year to include a free program including 150 classic autos, staged entertainment and a children’s automotive area. The elite event transformed “the Jewel” into a weekend playground, with a remarkable motor-car showcase, fabulous shopping, five-star accommodations and unforgettable culinary experiences. Proceeds from the event go to local nonprofits, including the Monarch School Project, which educates students impacted by homelessness, and the La Jolla Historical Society, which preserves the history of La Jolla.

Janice Thompson, 87, longtime Evans School teacher, nature enthusiast

Janice Thompson, a longtime teacher at the private Evans School, passed away peacefully at her Pacific Beach home on Saturday, April 5, surrounded by family. She was 87.

When once asked what her dream job would be, Janice responded, “Mother.” According to her three sons and their wives, Janice fulfilled that goal beautifully. Janice was a natural giver, joyfully attending to the needs of everyone around her.

An outstanding teacher, Janice earned her bachelor’s degree and special-needs certification from San Diego State University. She taught for 15 years at The Evans School and tutored many other students on her own time. She cared deeply about her students and stayed in touch with many of them long after they established their own careers.

Janice loved nature. As a Canyoneer with the San Diego Natural History Museum and as a master gardener, she led nature hikes throughout the county.

Janice served as deacon and elder during her 57-year membership at La Jolla Presbyterian Church. She founded the church’s English as a Second Language program, assisted the homeless and generally lit up the church with her presence. Once, when Janice was a hospital patient, a medical technician stopped to thank her. He had once been homeless, and Janice had helped him write a resume.

Janice leaves behind her husband Frank; sons Don, Bruce and Doug; daughters-in-law Donna and Maryanne; and six grandchildren. Services were held April 12 in the sanctuary of La Jolla Presbyterian Church.

January

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Janice loved nature. As a Canyoneer with the San Diego Natural History Museum and as a master gardener, she led nature hikes throughout the county. Perhaps some of her love of nature came from her father, who lived above Mission Valley and fished there in the early 1900s.

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by the public and City Council in budget deliberations over the next couple of months. The budget will be finalized sometime in June for the new fiscal year starting July 1.

The lifeguard budget proposal requests 15 additional lifeguards and support staff. Faulconer’s budget calls for a $500,000 increase in the city’s current $19.2 million annual lifeguard services expenditures.

“We have 97 full-time lifeguards working year-round, and in the summertime we bring in about 200 seasonal, part-time lifeguards,” Wurts said.

New lifeguards would reportedly be added to La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach, South Mission Beach, Windansea and Mission Bay for the boating-safety unit.

Though the lifeguard’s flotilla of watercraft is small — totaling 11 vessels, including two fire boats and nine patrol/surf-rescue vessels — it’s integral to the department’s lifesaving mission.

“We have a cliff-rescue vehicle that sorely needs replacement,” Wurts said. “That’s currently being constructed and we hope to get that delivered to us sometime in January 2015.”

Wurts said another big-ticket item, replacement of a fire boat, is going through vendor selection.

“We’ll hopefully get that boat about 12 months from now,” he said. “We’re setting chunks of money aside over the next 20 years or longer so when a boat comes due for replacement, there’s money that’s been set aside.

“Our goal is to pre-plan for when these things start coming due,” he said.

There’s also funding set aside in the lifeguards’ five-year plan to expand lifeguard headquarters at Mission Bay.

“We’ve shared that facility with the Park and Recreation Department for decades,” said Wurts.

“We need some additional lifeguard headquarters for things we want to do,” he added.

One way lifeguards could be getting more space is through the conversion of a carpenter garage used by Park and Rec at Quivira Basin into a boating safety unit locker room and sleeping quarters.

“It’s really a big footprint (garage) and used by only one person,” Wurts said. “We’re in the process of identifying another space to relocate all that shop equipment. We’re hoping to build out that same space into a large locker room and sleep facilities for our emergency lifeguards who work 24-hour shifts.”

Wurts noted supporting lifeguards is important, not only for their rescue function but for the “preventative” work they do.

“Last year, we made more than 251,000 preventative actions,” said Wurts, pointing out such actions involve activities like “lifeguards seeing people too close to a rip current and warning them to move further north or south.

“There is a tremendous amount of activity that goes on along the coast-line to make sure that our beaches are safe,” he said.

HARRIS CONT. FROM PG. 1

Lightner, David Alvarez, Mark Kersey, Scott Sherman and Lorie Zapf, who will run to become the next full-term District 2 councilmember in the June primary.

In appointing Harris, who is head of the city’s lifeguard union, his council supporters said they were familiar — and comfortable — with his leadership style.

“I support Ed Harris,” said Alvarez. “He really has the ability to get things done and that’s what it’s going to take. He’s well prepared to take the job. Ed is the right choice today.”

Lightner agreed.

“I am supporting Ed Harris because I have known and worked closely with him for the past six years and believe he is best suited to come in and hit the ground running as a councilman,” she said.

District 9 Councilwoman Marti Emerald was of like mind.

“Ed Harris is a hero, flat out, a U.S. Marine, a lifeguard who puts his life on the line every time the bell rings, and he’s been an incredible partner here at the city,” she said.

Other candidates receiving votes to fill the temporary District 2 seat were: Chris Cramer, CEO and co-founder of Karl Strauss Brewing Company; Gretchen Kinney Newsom, of LeSar Development Consultants, which works with the chronic homeless; and Howard Wayne, a deputy attorney general and former three-term state assemblyman.

All 17 candidates had three minutes to address the council and present their qualifications.

Harris told the council that protecting the safety of the public and the environment topped his priority list.

“I know how to work with labor and managed the city’s most financially troubled department (lifeguards),” Harris said.

Harris added that he’s worked to set up and administer Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) set aside along San Diego’s coastline to protect fish species in no-take areas, allowing them to repopulate.

Also a Point Loma soccer coach, Harris started a real-estate investment company in 2002 and has now purchased and renovat-ed properties in Ocean Beach and Point Loma for nearly two decades.

He said he understands “the business perspective and the need to improve small business in the city of San Diego.”

He said he’s a renewable energy proponent. His home is totally solar-powered.

“I believe renewable energy starts in your backyard,” he said.

A 25-year resident of District 2, Harris became a San Diego lifeguard in 1989 after serving in the Marine Corps.

His current post was as a lifeguard sergeant and a dive-team supervisor answering high-profile emergency calls.

Harris said he initiated a deal with Toyota for 34 new lifeguard vehicles that saved the city $1.1 million.

He is also a member of the Livable Streets Coalition, striving to make San Diego a more walkable and bike-friendly city.

He also started the annual “Fill the Fin” campaign in 2011 to raise money for swim programs in San Diego’s poorest neighborhood.

“As City Council representative, I will be the ‘voice for the coast’ at San Diego City Hall,” said Harris in his council application.

Harris will be the District 2 representative until that district’s newly elected councilmember is seated on Dec. 8 or Dec. 10.

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April in La Jolla means it’s time for the community’s signature La Jolla Half Marathon. The 33rd running of the annual race, set to begin at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, April 27, will feature thousands of runners negotiating the grueling, partly uphill 13-mile trek from Del Mar Fairgrounds to La Jolla Cove.

Begun in 1981 as a fundraiser for the Kiwanis Club of La Jolla, the race has grown into one of the more prestigious in the country, with scores of runners descending on La Jolla the last Sunday in April to participate.

Contestants will enjoy unparalleled views throughout the course, a reward for climbing the challenging hills, including the steep, harrowing trudge through Torrey Pines State Park.

The half marathon has also evolved into the largest annual fundraising event for the Kiwanis Club of La Jolla. Proceeds come back to the community in the form of scholarships, grants to school music programs, support for veterans programs and supplementary funding for the Meals-on-Wheels program, to name a few.

“It is through these activities that the Kiwanis Club of La Jolla embraces and acts upon the tenets of community, family and fellowship,” Kiwanis spokesman Henry Chiu said. “All this is made possible by you, our generous neighbors in La Jolla, and we thank you.”

For those seeking a less demanding Sunday morning, the La Jolla Shores 5K offers similarly picturesque vistas en route from La Jolla Shores Beach to Scripps Park. Although registration for the half marathon is closed, last-minute participants can still register for the 5K. Medals will be awarded to the top five finishers in each age class, with championship trophies awarded to the first open-division male and female finishers overall. The awards ceremony will take place at the finish line at Scripps Park at 10 a.m. To add to the celebratory atmosphere, a beer garden will also be open at 10 a.m. for guests and participants 21 and older.

As with all public sports events, the half-marathon will bring a certain level of inconvenience to the community. On race morning, some streets will be closed off from 5 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

“We do appreciate all the help and understanding afforded us by our neighbors,” said Chiu. “This year at the finish area (Ellen Browning Scripps Park) at the Cove we will feature some rather interesting vendors.”

Kiwanis is a non-denominational, non-sectarian service organization with the mission to serve the children of the world. For more information about the Half Marathon, visit lajollahalf-marathon.com or call (858) 454-0777.

For more information about the Kiwanis Club of La Jolla, or to arrange for a visit to the club’s weekly meeting on Friday at La Jolla Presbyterian Church, email Henry@ljpb.biz or call (858) 454-1239.
Long, historic chapter in La Jolla lore ends with closure of Burns Drugs

Like the passing of an old friend, La Jolla residents who’ve treasured mom-and-pop Burns Drugs for the past 62 years are mourning the loss of yet another Village bedrock business.

The family-owned pharmacy, at 7824 Girard Ave., announced recently it would be shuttering for good May 31 due to owner Wayne Woods’s pending retirement and declining business following the 2008 recession.

April 15 was the last day of operation for the pharmacy, which will be transforming its business — and some of its employees — to CVS Pharmacy, at 7525 Eads Ave. The rest of the store will remain open to sell off inventory.

“It’s a huge loss for our community, another end of an era,” said Tim Lucas, president of La Jolla Shores Association (LJSA) at the group’s April meeting.

Noting Burns has been far more than just another business, Lucas added, “It’s been a huge bedrock business.

“A colleague of Lucas’ on LJSA, Janie Emerson, said it will be impossible to replace the home-run store’s “personal” touch, citing her own example.

“My husband had an emergency appendectomy last summer, and he got an abscess (the doctors didn’t pay any attention), and if it hadn’t have been for Wayne (Woods) and one of the other pharmacists working with me … I don’t think he would have made it. It’s a huge loss to the community. No other pharmacy would have done what we needed last summer. I feel like people are ripping pieces of La Jolla out of me by inches. It’s so sad.”

Claude-Anthony Marengo, president of La Jolla Village Merchants Association (LVMA), the community’s Business Improvement District (BID) concurred that news of Burns demise was “very sad for all of us.”

Marengo recalled that Burns and nearby Rexall pharmacies were part of his and others’ childhoods. “We’d get candy in one, and as soon as we got laced out, we went to the other one. Then later, we would go down to Children’s Pool (for a swim),” he said.

“For a long time Burns was a part of the fabric of La Jolla,” Marengo said. “We’re going to miss that.”

Cindy Greatrex, immediate past president of La Jolla Town Council, agreed that Burns was like family and, once gone, can never be replaced.

“Burns Drugs was a true classic with every trace of local character,” she said, adding that the pharmacy was “personality-driven and always kind and caring to residents and visitors alike.”

She said she’ll always remember the pharmacy for how its presence “flavored” the town, recalling, “It was a welcome respite on a warm day of strolling the Village, especially for pet owners, who always received such a kind welcome and a little treat. We will miss our long-term staff friends at Burns and hope to see them again.”

Diver and longtime La Jolla Islander Bob Rogers said Burns was especially good with seniors.

“When my mother retired, they gokk great care of her prescriptions,” he said. “It even got to the point where Burns would know when she needed a refill (they kept such good records) and faithfully deliver them to her. There’s simply no way any other pharmacy would have taken care of it like that.”

Rogers also expressed concern for the future welfare of Burns’ staff of more than 30 workers, some of whom are seniors working part-time.

In a recent editorial, we suggested U-T San Diego owner/publisher Doug “Papa” Manchester, who has been gobbling up local independent newspaper publications like corn flakes, had his own — and not print journalism’s — best interests in mind.

In noting that there’s a “battle for freedom and independence going on” in the local print-journalism industry, we intimated that Manchester’s machinations were more land grab than altruistic acquisition.

We suggested that what Manchester is doing in the short-term — attempting to buy out his competition — is bound to be detrimental to the print journalism industry in the long run. We think his try-and-buy approach will ultimately turn into cut-and-run.

In truth, the Manchester “era” in local journalism could come to an unexpectedly quick end.

In San Diego, word on the business street, now rebounding among a number of daily publishers around the country, is that the ownership of the San Diego Union-Tribune, renamed U-T San Diego, wants out.

Rumor has it that “Papa Doug” wants to sell and that he’s directed U-T CEO John Lynch (who has publicly been talking about wanting to purchase more papers) to find a buyer.

We know Manchester is working on plans to redevelop U-T’s existing Mission Valley headquarters site, creating an estimated $200 million, pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use project offering residential, office and retail in twin towers with 200 residences, a parking garage with a rooftop swimming pool, a gym and tennis courts and a San Diego River trail.

This sounds like the “Papa Doug” Manchester we all know, not the wannabe newspaper publisher but the real estate baron credited with being the driving force behind development of the San Diego Convention Center, the man who made his fortune building some of San Diego’s tallest hotels and office buildings.

Why is Papa Doug interested in acquiring print publications losing money in a troubled industry during rapidly changing times? Could it be he’s not actually interested in improving the print product or moving it forward but, rather, making a quick buck on the real-estate end before moving on?

Noting that the current print journalism trend has been toward national markets with a global audience, many industry experts are now saying the print industry is due for a reversal, that increases in the next five to ten years will be local. They also are pointing out that the local digital opportunity is “real,” while cautioning that advances on that front will be a slog fit only for those in it for the long and not the short term.

Something tells us Papa Doug’s not a long-termer. We think he’s already getting indigestion from the debt he’s absorbed appeasing his appetite for print. Our hunch is, once the U-T headquarters redevelopment is done and over with, Papa Doug will collect his profits, divest himself of debt (print), and move on to his next “project.”

-- San Diego Community Newspaper Group
Debate marks vote for cell tower proposal
By DAVE SCHWAB

Cell phone towers and the potential threat posed by their electromagnetic radiation were hotly debated by La Jolla Community Planning Association (LJCPA) April 3 before trustees voted 7-6 in favor of an AT&T proposal for installation of a cell tower in Cliffridge Park, near Torrey Pines Elementary School.

The advisory group, which makes land-use recommendations to the city, was considering an application for a conditional-use permit for a wireless facility consisting of 12 panel antennas mounted on a 30-foot-tall faux eucalyptus tree, with equipment in an adjacent enclosure at 8111 Cliffridge Ave.

Since 1996, the Federal Communications Commission, which regulates cell tower input and output, has maintained that electromagnetic radiation emanating from ground-level cell phone tower exposure is much less potent than exposure that might be encountered very close to the antenna and its transmitted beam. Therefore, local jurisdictions are allowed to debate only the appropriateness of a proposed cell tower site, not whether its emissions could be harmful.

Nonetheless, the possibility of cell tower emissions poising a community health threat continues to be publicly debated. And the April 3 discussion at LJCPA was no exception.

An AT&T representative told trustees the proposed cell tower would be on the west side of Cliffridge Park’s north baseball field adjacent to Torrey Pines Elementary and that the facility would consist of a dozen antennas atop the faux tree with an accompanying 240-square-foot equipment enclosure not visible from the playing field.

“Our concern is the radiation to the grammar school,” said LJCPA trustee Myrna Naegle.

“My main concern has always been keeping cell towers outside the perimeters of the play areas and installing arrays that do not face the field,” said Mary Coalkey-Munk, a La Jolla community planner and past city telecommunications committee member.

Audience members shared the trustees’ concerns.

One resident suggested youth could be more vulnerable than adults from radiation because their bodies are growing so rapidly. “Do you really want to risk it (radiation) with your kids?” the resident asked.

Another suggested youth should be left out of a site decision, like some in Orange County, don’t allow cell towers near schools.

“Cell towers should be put in places other than where kids play,” one person testified.

The president of La Jolla Youth, Inc., a nonprofit supporting youth sports, said the proposed Cliffridge cell phone tower should be rejected for a different reason.

“A total of $100,000 in donation fees spent annually maintaining the Cliffridge complex for kids to play on grass, which is precious to us,” he said.

He added that “the field is needed 10 months out of the year for soccer and baseball. The field is only closed for six weeks during summer camp. Putting the cell tower in would require big trucks and cranes. I don’t see how they could build this tower without going on the field and causing damage.”

Trustee Phil Merten pointed out that the need for cell phone towers is a practical matter.

“Any for cell phones, pocket computers, has grown exponentially, and people are demanding service and that the facility would operate,” Merten said.

He added this proposed cell phone tower is “way out beyond the baseball field line and is probably one of the best locations we have in La Jolla for this type of use.”

“The precedent is really key here,” disagreed trustee Jamie Emerson. “It’s our community, our kids. We’re the ones who should say, ‘We don’t want it in parks.’ Let’s not get bamboozled and say, ‘This is going to happen regardless.’”

LJSA elects officers, hears restroom-graphics pitch
By DAVE SCHWAB

La Jolla Shores Association (LJSA) has elected new officers and has seen the latest conceptual designs for bathroom graphics — including surf etiquette — at the new North Comfort Station under construction.

Chairman Tim Lucas and secretary Dorehos “Dee Dee” Donovano were both re-elected. Susan Tschirn, newly elected to the board, accepted the vice chairmanship at the April 9 parley. Board member Ray Higgins was elected treasurer.

Lifeguard LL Rich Stroopy reported spring break was busy, noting, “We’re making a lot of rescues.” He added that a new RFP request for proposal (RFP) is in process, with local surf camps adding an April 25 meeting between lifeguards and vendors.

“Any funding from the RFP for surf camps coming back for the (Kellogg) park?” asked board member Mary Coalkey-Munk.

“We’re still exploring that,” Stroopy said. “The way it’s set up now is the city sets up an enterprise fund and funds then get dispersed back based on need.”

“I encourage you to lobby for a ranger,” Coalkey-Munk said. “That certainly would be helpful to the millions who come to that park.”

Regarding the upgrade of the Cove lifeguard tower, Stroopy noted the renovation is “moving along well, and we’re happy with it.”

Mixing & mingling
Upcoming Chamber Mixer:
La Jolla Wellness Studio
Wednesday, April 23rd

Message from the COB
On March 26th the La Jolla and Golden Triangle Chamber of Commerce hosted a Business After Five Mixer and Ribbon Cutting at The Regus Business Center located at 880 Prospect Street Suite #200 in La Jolla. Approximately 100 guests enjoyed networking, a tour of the facilities and the view. Several new members received their Membership Certificates; these included: Oscar Ordonez from AAMCO Transmissions and Total Auto Care; Heidi Coggan of Hygiene In Motion; and Rose Ramsden of Torrey Pines Bank. Many thanks go to our Host and Facility Manager Mr. Jonathan Gauvin.

The April Business After Five Mixer will be held at the La Jolla Wellness Center on 7660 Fay Street from 5:30 to 7:30. Our host and Chamber Vice President, Ted Burdson, wants everyone to try out his very high-tech (state of the art) and beautiful work-out machines. Food and beverages will be provided. This event will be free and lots of fun: not to mention the great networking. See you there!

Cordially, George Schmall, COB LJGTCC.

Photos from The Regus Business Center March Mixer

La Jolla Wellness Center's new facility.

Oscar Ordonez of AAMCO Total Car Care receives his new member certificate.

Rose Ramsden of Torrey Pines Bank is welcomed into the La Jolla and Golden Triangle Chamber of Commerce.
Mesa College student designers see Red

The San Diego Repertory Theatre and San Diego Mesa College collaborated around abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko, known for his vivid use of color, on April 13. Students designed garments and illustrations inspired by his creations, mounted on the Rothko Fashion Catwalk prior to the performance of Red, a play on the life of this Latvia-born artist.

The audience was encouraged to vote on the students’ work. The first-place garments award went to Sarah Sisson Christensen, with Coco Monet garnering second place and Tyler McDaniel the People’s Choice. Awards for best illustrations went to Raisa Parilla, with first-place garments award going to Sarah Sisson Christensen, with second-place garments award to Raisa Parilla.

Following the catwalk event, the theater presented the six-time Tony Award winner Red, which will run until April 27 at the Lyceum. Chicago’s John Logan intertwined humor and drama for a very engaging play, set in Rothko’s New York studio during the ’50s. Giulio Perrone built a terrific set, surrounded by gigantic black and red canvases created by Kristen Flores.

This play was masterfully executed by John Vickery as Rothko and Jason Maddy as Kevin, his assistant. The lighting by Brian Gale and sound by Kevin Anthenill complemented the action, which was marvelously directed by Michael Arabian.

The play covers the most difficult motivational dilemma every artist has to face — creation for personal satisfaction versus commercial acceptance. Rothko was confronted with this predicament when he was commissioned to create paintings for the exclusive Four Seasons Restaurant — does he create for the masses and sales or does he follow his creative instincts? Check out this play to find out what path he chose.

For more information, visit www.sdrep.org.

Filmatic Festival, ArtPower!’s mini Comic-Con, is set

Legend 3D, a Del Mar firm that produces many Hollywood 3-D movie projects, outgrew its first campus before construction was completed.

Platt College, a premiere digital media design school in San Diego’s Rolando area, graduates its kids at rates well above the national average at similar places.

San Diego has five video game design schools. Big brother and world film capital Los Angeles has four.

As the world digitizes itself before our eyes, and amid greater demand for spectacle among moviegoers, our region holds its own as an educational and commercial industry center. It was only a matter of time before a local resource picked up on the idea of a public film event that speaks to the changing tastes that accompany the digital revolution — and Thursday, April 24, marks its opening.

Give it up for the inaugural Filmatic Festival, a four-day excursion into the changing face of cinema, in which lanes between artist and audience are far less distinct and thus encourage everyone’s creativity. ArtPower!, an artistic development arm at UCSD, conceived and oversees the festival, which will center at the university’s Qualcomm Institute through April 27 and features interactive screenings, karaoke jams, lectures and media workshops in charting the course. The festival is the first of its kind in the state.

It’s kind of a mini Comic-Con, an immersive object lesson that curator Rebecca Webb sees as a marker in film’s next step.

Audiences, she said, are looking beyond the divisions between patron and provider — standing on the sidelines isn’t enough as technology drives the masses to movies playing on items as innocuous as their cell phones.

“I’m really interested,” Webb said, “in creating a relationship between spectator and spectacle. It’s this idea that the audience can be creative and artistic in the way they’re participating with the end product. It makes them artists. It’s collaborative. It’s not isolationist.

[Audiences are] taking advantage of what’s going on in social media trends and bringing them to a theater space, a collective space.

“There’s also this idea of taking a passive traditional moviegoing experience, which is becoming antiquated on some level. Ticket sales have gone way down. I’m really interested in creating this interactive experience.”

Webb said she plans to make the Filmatic Festival an annual event.

By comparison, live theater seeks its own interaction with audiences — it’s been said that anyone who’s ever seen a play is as vital a participant as the cast. Why attend Filmatic when plays (which pepper the UCSD campus to boot and incorporate their own technological advances) are just as interactive?

Webb said Filmatic’s stress on physical participation is designed to address that.

“Even just walking within these walls and being open to a variety of possibilities,” she explained, “leaves you open to the festival’s intent. In a live theater, you’re often not engaged with the person next to you. In the festival, you are. Both of you are manipulating and relating to the two-dimensional image in front of you.

‘And the technical people who are orchestrating this behind the scenes are very present,’” Webb continued, “they are participating with the audience as well as the two-dimensional [film]. It’s a layered experience, even more so than live theater, because you’re playing with all these various dimensions.”

The schedule features gaming museum tours (games get a museum already?), technology that captures images at several thousand frames a second, a language invention seminar and media works by students, faculty and international artists.

Meanwhile, no surprise that the festival’s subtitle is “Movies of the Future.”

Tickets range from single-event admission ($5-$25) to four-day passes ($50-$175). One-day passes are priced at $21 to $53. For more, call (858) 534-TIXS or see filmaticfestival.com.
Apollonia

Apollonia has been the destination of choice for La Jollans with an appetite for Greek delicacies. The restaurant has a handsome outdoor patio where shaded alfresco dining is delightful. Venture inside and you will find a charming ambiance in every dining room and in the beautiful lounge. The menu includes age-old favorites such as Dolmathakia and Moussaka, alongside some absolute surprises guaranteed to tantalize your adventurous curiosity. The menu offers many heart-healthy items prevalent in Greek cuisine. Apollonia’s service is very friendly and as pleasant as the food. Open daily from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM (Sun-Thur) and to 10:00 PM (Fri & Sat).

Donovan’s


The Broken Yolk Café

The Broken Yolk Café offers a large selection of home cooked meals in a comfortable and casual atmosphere. There are over 20 different omelets to choose from as well as a wide variety of other breakfast favorites which include pancakes, waffles and French toast. Feel more like lunch? Try one of our juicy ½ pound burgers or one of our large sandwiches.
Blondies: serving up delicious BBQ with warmth and woody humor

By DAVE SCHWAB

Blondies is a barbecue joint with a sense of humor.

Named for the blonde tresses of its owner, Wendy Dohner, the new Pacific Beach eatery is sandwiched between a Thai restaurant and Subway sandwiches at 2015 Garnet Ave.

“This is a fun place,” assured Dohner, who referred to her eclectic establishment as “my little barbecue place.”

The decor of Blondies is as novel as its owner, who previously had a barbecue place up in the Sequoias, five hours drive away. But she opted to trade the rain, cold and snow of Northern California for San Diego’s sun, surf and laid-back beaches.

“This hole-in-the-wall place became available in this little shopping center and I decided to take it,” said Dohner, who’s brought the woody décor with her to the beachfront with its faux wood walls and handmade wooden tables and chairs.

“This is me,” Dohner said, pointing to her busy walls that are covered with personal photographs, saucy sayings, Mickey Mouse memorabilia, license plates and publicity shots of heyday Hollywood stars Marilyn Monroe and James Dean.

“I’m a country girl with a little bit of New York flair,” said Dohner, noting her decorations are participatory in that people are always contributing items to add to it.

Dohner said hers is the only barbecue restaurant now in the Pacific Beach area.

Some people expressed doubt that her outdoorsy décor would fit in with the beach, but Dohner disagrees.

“This is something people will talk about,” she said.

The slogan for Blondies barbecue is “best butt at the beach.”

“It’s because my speciality is pulled pork,” Dohner said of her slogan, noting her special is exactly that.

“I smoke it for 10 hours and stick it in the oven for another 10 hours so it’s very tender, very juicy, with a very smoky flavor,” she said.

She also offers a beef brisket marinated in honey barbecue sauce.

Blondies’ menu also includes a full line of steaks including rib eye, tri-tip, New York and filet mignon, as well as a full selection of half-pound burgers and a one-pound, Western Bliss burger with bacon, cheese, onion ring and jalapeno peppers smothered in barbecue sauce.

Rounding out the menu is barbecue chicken and baby-back ribs.

Dohner said she’s only been open a couple of weeks but is surprised by at least one thing about her Pacific Beach clientele.

“It’s all been take-out, not a lot of dining in,” she said. “PBeans are used to having things delivered.”

With a flaming pig as her logo, Blondies already is catching fire in PB.

“It’s downhome, very casual, warm, friendly, family oriented,” Dohner said.

For more information, call (858) 274-4211.

LJSA >>
CONT. FROM PG. 7

what they’re doing.” He said the city has also hired a contractor to fix the optical problem with visual distortion affecting the Shores’ new lifeguard tower.

“Is the original architect involved in the fix?” asked Coakley-Munk.

Stropky replied it was a different contractor.

Noting a similar RFP process is under way with kayaks, board chair Tim Lucic said Avenida de la Playa operators “want to be part of the solution,” adding that “my experience has been (kayak) operators want to be good neighbors.” He said it’s hoped the city “doesn’t just spring regulations on the kayak community without having a meeting.”

Lorraine Schmalenberger, of the La Jolla Shores Surfing Association, passed around the latest version of graphics for a mural depicting California bottlenose dolphins and a series of patriotic surfing puns illustrating surfing dos and don’ts.

Schmalenberger said the North Comfort Station bathroom is “being rebuilt through private funding, a family grant,” and that design work is being done “for some safety murals, making it an art project.

“Most everyone loves the concept,” Schmalenberger said. “and is pretty supportive of the language.”

Board member John Kaesar asked if words were necessary for the safety murals, which he noted were “pretty standard.”

“The words are necessary for those not familiar with surfing,” noted Donovan.

Board member Ely Tihanoyi said it’s important for mural language “not to be negative” but to focus on “what to do rather than what not to do.”

The group’s next meeting will be Wednesday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. at Scripps Oceanography Building T-29.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blondies</th>
<th>Blondies 2015 Garnet Ave. • (858) 274-4211</th>
<th>Hours: MON-THU 11:30am - 9pm, FRI-SAT 11:30am - 10pm, SUN 1pm-9pm</th>
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<td>Outdoor-Seating: No</td>
<td>Parking: Private Lot</td>
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On a recent Saturday evening, the venerable La Jolla Playhouse marked its 30th anniversary, celebrating three decades of groundbreaking theater since its rebirth on the UC San Diego campus.

Actually, the Playhouse was founded back in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire, and Mel Ferrer. After a successful start, the theater experienced a period of dormancy that began in 1959. It was revived in 1983 under the leadership of Des McAnuff, Playhouse artistic director until 1994. His successor was Michael Greif, who held the position until 1999 (McAnuff would again serve in the post from 2000 to 2007). In these more modern times, the theater is ably led by the dynamic team of Christopher Ashley as artistic director and Michael S. Rosenberg as managing director; McAnuff is now director emeritus.

Ferrer. After a successful start, the theater experienced a period of dormancy that began in 1959. It was revived in 1983 under the leadership of Des McAnuff, Playhouse artistic director until 1994. His successor was Michael Greif, who held the position until 1999 (McAnuff would again serve in the post from 2000 to 2007). In these more modern times, the theater is ably led by the dynamic team of Christopher Ashley as artistic director and Michael S. Rosenberg as managing director; McAnuff is now director emeritus.

“Since arriving on the UC campus, the Playhouse’s extraordinary history has been one of innovation and uncompromising artistic excellence,” mused Ashley as the gala date approached. “As we look back on three decades, it seems only fitting to celebrate with some of our favorite artists and productions that have encapsulated the Playhouse’s vision over the past 30 years.” And that they did — with consummate style. A quite significant gala fundraiser is held every year, but this most recent bash was perhaps the Playhouse’s most festive and successful ever. Debby Jacobs chaired it yet again (as she’s now done for 14 consecutive years).

She’s so expert at it that the Playhouse apparently has no intention of ever letting her stop. Who else could do it so well?

A truly impressive tiered supper club-style seating arrangement debuted a few galas ago. It at first seemed incredibly complex and expensive for use at a single event, but it was in fact cleverly designed to perfectly fit the Potiker Theatre and yet be easily disassembled, stored and reused. Its custom banquettes and multi-level platforms provide a feeling of solid permanence, making it perfectly suited for such affairs.

Following a cocktail reception, the guests (more than 300 of them) found their seats in the elegantly decorated space, where fascinating graphics played on huge video screens on three sides of the venue.

Those graphics soon yielded to a video mosaic of Playhouse productions from the last 30 years. Ashley and Rosenberg welcomed attendees and invited them to enjoy the dinner, promising to reappear after the third course.

The fabulous cuisine, created by Jeffrey Strauss of Pamplemousse Grille, featured a ragout of lobster, shrimp, scallops and crab; savory Bellota ham with shaved parmesan; and a third course of duck confit. A jazz combo entertained. Ashley and Rosenberg returned, giving due recognition to outgoing board chair Jeffrey Ressler, incoming equivalent Lynelle Lynch and director emeritus McAnuff. Students from Playhouse education and outreach programs came onstage for an original performance piece they themselves devised — apparently prompting generous paddle-raise donations amounting to an incredible $427,000 to fund those programs. Another $300,000 will come from matching grants. (Overall net figures, while considerably higher, were unavailable at press time.)

What followed included a tribute to esteemed costume designer Paul Tazewell and a memorial for the late Seamus O’Bryan, longtime Playhouse employee, artist and humanitarian. An expertly staged on-stage retrospective featured six talented Playhouse alumni presenting highlights from the theater’s musicals. (They’d also considered doing selections from some of the plays but nixed it because, as Rosenberg dryly noted, “Nothing says ‘gala’ like a Becket monologue.”)

The program concluded sometime after 10 p.m., and the after-party began. An eight-piece band, The Mark, played for dancing. Outside, guests enjoyed late-night bites, desserts and delectable drinks till after midnight.
FRIDAY, APRIL 18
Gabriel Aparicio, singer-songwriter, 4 p.m., Café-Bar Europa
Allegra, acoustic covers, 5 p.m., Beaumont's
Tomcat Courtney, blues legend, 7 p.m., Café-Bar Europa.
Liz Campbell, singer-songwriter, covers, 6 p.m., Prospect Bar & Grill
Evan Marks, contemporary jazz, 6 p.m., La Valencia
Loma Prieta, indie rock, 7 p.m., Che Café, UCSD
Lafayette Blues, blues, 7 p.m., Amaya
AJ Degrasse trio, piano jazz, 7 p.m., Eddie V's
Tad Sisler, vocals, piano, keyboards, 8 to 11 p.m., In the lounge, The Manhattan
Afro Jazziacs, Latin sounds, 9 p.m., Café-Bar Europa
Dave Booda Band, classic covers, 9 p.m., Beaumont's

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
Bossa Lounge Project, acoustic jazz, 10 a.m., Bird Rock Coffee Roasters
Ryan Hiller, singer-songwriter, covers, noon, Prospect Bar & Grill
Jimmy Lewis, singer-songwriter, covers, 3:30 p.m., Prospect Bar & Grill
Zak Lipton Trio, traditional jazz, 4 p.m., Café-Bar Europa
James Gossett, classic covers, 6 p.m., La Valencia
Aquile, singer-songwriter, covers, 6:30 p.m., Prospect Bar
Tomcat Courtney, blues legend, 6:30 p.m., Café-Bar Europa
KIDS, indie rock, 7 p.m., Che Café, UCSD
Mark Fulton Band, classic rock and top 40, 7 p.m., Amaya
Ray Britz trio, piano jazz, 7 p.m., Eddie V's
Tad Sisler, vocals, piano, keyboards, 8 to 11 p.m., In the lounge, The Manhattan
Gabriela Aparicio, Latin dance music, 9 p.m., Café-Bar Europa
Jones Revival, classic rock, 9 p.m., Beaumont's

SUNDAY, APRIL 20
Malama, flamenco, 10 a.m., La Valencia
Rob Bondurant, acoustic covers, 11:30 a.m., Beaumont's
Brent Curtis & Mike Myrhal, singer-songwriters, classic covers, noon, Prospect Bar & Grill
Open mic, acoustic music, 2 p.m.,
Bird Rock Coffee Roasters
Sounds Like Four, jazz, 4 p.m., Café-Bar Europa
Jimmy Lewis, acoustic covers, 4 p.m., Prospect Bar & Grill
John Cain, piano jazz, 5 p.m., Eddie V's
Jose Serrano, Latin jazz and rock, 6 p.m., La Valencia
Big Boss Bubble, rock and jazz, 7 p.m., Café-Bar Europa
Chris Speed Trio, 8 p.m., The Loft, UCSD

MONDAY, APRIL 21
Flutes de Salon, classical, noon, Atheneum
Dave Hermsen, guitar duo and vocals, 4 p.m., Café-Bar Europa
John Cain, piano jazz, 5 p.m., Eddie V's
Stephanie Schmitz, Brazilian music, 7 p.m., Café-Bar Europa
Deadphones, indie rock, 9 p.m., The Loft UCSD

TUESDAY, APRIL 22
Stefanie Schmitz, Brazilian sounds, 4 p.m., Café-Bar Europa
Lisa Campbell, singer-songwriter, 6:30 p.m., Prospect Bar & Grill
Grupo Globo, Brazilian music, 7 p.m., Café-Bar Europa
Griswold, indie rock, 7 p.m., Che Café, UCSD
Mikan Zlakovich Trio, piano jazz, 7 p.m., Eddie V's
Ariana Warren, clarinet recital, 7 p.m., CPMC Concert Hall, UCSD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23
Kevin and Eduado, latin guitar and vocals, 7 p.m., Café Bar Europa
Freddie A Dream Trio, piano jazz, 6 p.m., Eddie V's
Aquile, classic covers, 6 p.m., Prospect Bar & Grill
Tomcat Courtney, blues legend, 7 p.m., Café-Bar Europa
Aleck Karis, classical piano, 7 p.m., CPMC Concert Hall, UCSD
Kayla Hope, covers, 8 p.m., Beaumont's
Hauschka, jazz and improvisational music, 8 p.m., The Loft, UCSD

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A Special Wellness Report

NEW MEDICINE BASED ON AN 88-YEAR OLD THEORY BY ALBERT EINSTEIN CAN HELP ALMOST EVERYONE WHO IS SICK OR INJURED!

What you are about to read may be the most important information you’ve ever read. Here is why.

Albert Einstein was, quite possibly, the most intelligent person who ever lived. His theories and ideas were so far ahead of his time, that even now, the smartest scientists alive are still discovering his value.

One of his theories published in 1917, worked out the theory of how lasers function. However, it was not until May 16, 1960 (43 years later) that the first actual laser was developed by an American scientist. Since then, scientists and inventors have developed many types of lasers and all kinds of uses for them. They can be used as a scalpel that is so delicate, it can be used on the eyes of human beings. Lasers are used to read price codes at your local supermarket. And they’re used to play music and video on your CD’s and DVD’s.

But now, there is a new type of laser so effective against human disease and injury that it is rapidly changing the practice of medicine. This is a new type of low-level laser which produces an unfocused light that has been...

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Low-level lasers use less than one watt of power and they produce what can best be described as a “Healing Light.” Here is a somewhat un-scientific description of how this “Healing Light” can potentially help reverse the damage done by human sickness and disease.

As you probably know, our entire bodies are made up of cells. The health of all human cells is based on energy. If your cells don’t receive enough energy, they will weaken and the body will become sick.

For you to be healthy, what your cells need is exactly the right kind and the right amount of energy. Every time you get injured or become sick, the energy flow to your cells is disrupted. Until the proper type and amount of energy is restored, you will remain sick or injured.

That’s what a low-level laser device does. It re-energizes the cells in your body with the right kind and proper amount of healing energy.

It may surprise you to learn that low level lasers are ...

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In The Fastest Way Possible!

Could you guess what kind of doctors use the highest percent of low-level lasers on their patients?

It’s doctors involved in sports medicine. Why? The answer is simple. You see, doctors involved in sports medicine often have to get their patients better in the fastest way humanly possible because every day he remains “unhealthy” can cost the sports organization millions of dollars.

But here’s something exciting! You don’t actually need to go to a doctor to get laser therapy. If you want to you can buy one of these devices and use it on yourself. The best ones come with simple, easy-to-follow instructions and can be used by almost any person with average intelligence.

Perhaps the best low-level lasers in the world have been invented by a doctor named Larry Lytle. He has studied medicine and human health for years, and Dr. Lytle is, without question, one of the most knowledgeable people in the world about low-level lasers... and how they can be used...

To Help Almost Every Health Problem Ever Experienced By A Human Being!

Dr. Lytle believes (as do many other people) low-level laser therapy will become the medicine of the future. If you hold a low-level laser device against the skin of your body and turn it on, you will be able to see the laser light... but... you will not be able to feel it. There probably won’t even be a sensation of warmth. Laser light is as gentle as the kiss of a butterfly. But, from a healing point of view, it is quite possible it is more effective than drugs or surgery.

Low-level laser therapy is not just the medicine of the future. For many people who know about it, it is the “medicine” they use now. The problem of trying to explain the healing powers of low-level laser therapy is...

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What you have just read is a very simplistic (almost childish) explanation of low-level laser therapy, of how it works, and what it can do for you. But this is something that needs to be explained to you much more accurately by a real expert.

This is information which just might help relieve you of any disease and might possibly save your life and the life of your loved ones. And best of all, you can ...

Get This Information Absolutely FREE!

Dr. Larry Lytle himself has written and compiled a FREE REPORT in which he explains to you exactly how and why low-level laser therapy works. Dr. Lytle will show you some unbelievable “before” and “after” pictures of people who have benefitted by this amazing new therapy.

For some people, a free report and information like this can mark the beginning of an entirely new life... pain-free and full of energy. For others, it can make the difference of living a healthy life compared to a low-energy life of sickness and disease.

And, for those who live with enormous pain every day... this free report could truly guide them to a miracle!

But even if you are not sick, not injured, or not in pain, you should still order this report. After all, it is 100% free. And almost nobody lives out their life without having at least some kind of sickness or injury.

Wouldn’t it be nice to know that, if you do become sick or injured, you will at least know where to go to find some sort of answer to your problems that don’t involve dangerous drugs!

Dr. Lytle is a remarkably young man in his 70’s. His life’s mission is “To Make A Difference In Humankind” and he has devoted his life to the accomplishment of that goal. He passionately believes low-level laser therapy is an important health management tool that can benefit nearly everyone that uses it.

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On May 6, La Jolla Village News columnist Natasha Josefowitz will be speaking at the La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Blvd., on the seven steps of healing after loss. Her talk begins at 7 p.m. For more, call (858) 459-0831.

Respect. A word out of my childhood. We used to sign letters “Respectfully yours.” “Respect your elders” was a frequent admonition. What happened to that word? I don’t hear it used very much anymore. I looked it up in the dictionary and found synonyms: consideration, appreciation, politeness, graciousness. The antonyms: disdain, disregard, disrespect, bad manners.

Does this lack of use of a word signify a reduction of the behavior it represents? Is there less “respect” in the world today and more “abuse”? That latter word never figured in our language a generation ago, but today it’s on every front page, from child abuse to spousal abuse to abuse of power in government or in the military.

Adults respond more positively to polite children, so it is a distinct advantage for children to be polite. Teachers prefer them, other parents like them, store clerks serve them better. So it is up to parents to raise polite children. This is first done by modeling courteous behavior at home, with each other and with strangers, and then by insisting children do the same.

But respect is not only polite behavior toward others. Respect also is listening attentively, taking into account the opinions of others, being sensitive to others’ feelings.

Self-respect is an important component, for it is only when we believe that we have value that we can see others as having value and thus reduce bigotry and discrimination. So to get others to respect us, we need to show them respect. It is called “reciprocity.”

People tend to behave the way they are expected to behave by others. They rarely have trouble showing respect to people in authority. But it is equally important to show the same respect to one’s colleagues and especially to one’s subordinates.

Do we respect our suppliers as much as our clients? Do we show the same courtesy to the errand boy or girl as to the company president? Can we find a kind word for the harried waiter, for the cleaning lady who comes after hours to sweep up our offices, for the bumbling newcomer in our place of work?

Our present environment is not conducive to teaching respect. There is violence on TV and in newspapers as well as at athletic events. There are stories of harassment against women, children and minorities. We are not taught to respect other people’s religious or political beliefs or value systems. There seems to be less and less respect for human life—not only the life of others but also one’s own (to wit: suicide bombers targeting civilians in shopping malls and athletic events). A lack of respect for others’ religions and different ways of life make acceptance of each other impossible. We cannot live in harmony with people we don’t respect.

There is little we can do as individuals about the present situation in the world, but we can start at home and at work. Hold open a door, give up a seat, listen well, consider the opposite opinion, disagree quietly giving reasons for the disagreement, request instead of demand, be patient, wonder what it’s like to be that other person, say “please” and “thank you.” You too will create reciprocity and start living in a world of your own making, where there is consideration, appreciation, graciousness and respect—at least in your own backyard.

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As a nurse, she had seen patients in the hospital who didn’t have anyone around to advocate for them. She dreaded the idea of developing a serious health problem and finding herself all alone. She asked the care manager for recommendations about how to find a good elder law attorney to help update her will and other estate documents. Most importantly though, she wanted to establish a relationship with a care manager who could visit her regularly, accompany her to doctor’s appointments and make sure her wishes were always followed.

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Prudential Dunn Realtors, an independently owned and operated broker, has been serving beach and inland communities for 40 years. President and CEO Patrick Park, who’s operated the firm for 36 years at 4538 Cass St., said there’s no secret to his success.

“We’ve been fortunate to have had some very good agents and associates through time who sincerely have their clients’ best interests in mind — and that’s what it’s all about,” Park said, noting a property purchase is “the largest asset in people’s lives in most cases.”

Prudential Dunn specializes in residential, investment and commercial properties, including lots and land. With about 50 agents countywide, the firm’s listing base varies from waterfront properties to vacant land, including some of San Diego’s larger estates.

The firm is a member of Prudential Relocation Services (PRS), one of the largest international relocation networks, and it can draw on the expertise of in-house Prudential Financial, a division of Wells Fargo Advisors & Liberty Mutual Insurance representatives.

Park said his real-estate firm has changed with the times, which he noted have changed dramatically.

“The industry as a whole is a lot more time-sensitive than it used to be,” he said, pointing out that partly because “People in the millennium generation, and other generations, want answers very quickly. You need to get it (information) to them on mobile apps or whatever.”

Like many other industries, he said, the Internet has revolutionized how real-estate companies do business.

“Being online has become so critical because you really don’t know where your buyer is coming from,” Park said, noting that the market has become increasingly more international, drawing prospective buyers from around the globe for San Diego properties.

Citing one recent example, Park said a fixer-upper in La Jolla that sold for well above the property’s estimated value range drew offers from China, Canada and Mexico while being sold to a Texas real-estate broker.

Park hailed value-range pricing as a key to the continuing success of county real-estate sales.

“Prudential brought value-range pricing to this country from Australia in a market that was not doing well,” Park said, adding that listing property in a range rather than as a flat rate allows “wider exposure with respect to those listings.

“If you have a condo listed at a fixed price of $501,000, anybody looking up to $500,000 is not going to see your condo,” he said. “But if it’s value-ranged at $475,000 to $525,000, you’re going to pick up somebody looking in that range. It’s a very good feature of the San Diego city and county markets and throughout Southern California.”

Real-estate prices are rebounding nicely from the downturn of a year or two that are prices are recovering,” he said. “As an example, our average sale price last year was in the mid-$400,000s. This year, the average has been more than $550,000, though not for the same properties.

Park speculated San Diego’s notorious nice weather — and bad weather elsewhere — may have something to do with escalating San Diego real-estate values.

“It shows that San Diego is still America’s finest city in every way, shape or form,” he said.

Regardless, Park said his modus operandi isn’t about to change.

“We’re going to keep doing it till we do it right,” he said.

For more information, visit www.prudentialdunn.com.

An ounce of prevention

Charles Schevker & Natasha Alexander

Regardless of the reasons, the decision to place your house for sale on the market can be exciting. However, amid the enthusiasm, some people may not consider the financial obligations that must be satisfied from the proceeds of the sale, and as a result they can be faced with unpleasant surprises or embarrassment. Worse, they may not have the available resources to complete the sale.

Calculating the estimated net proceeds (with emphasis on estimated) is relatively simple, and you can do it easily yourselves or ask for assistance from your real-estate agent. The key, however, is to have the relevant information available. We advocate attempting this simple exercise before listing your home for sale, not once it is in escrow.

The place to start is with the selling price. The problem is, prior to placing your house for sale, you do not yet know the selling price — you only know the intended list price. As a conservative estimate, however, you may want to consider more than one scenario for the selling price.

Above asking price?
Congratulations!

Perhaps scenario number one is that your house sells at your list price, number two is that it sells at 5 percent less and number three is that it sells at 10 percent less. You have to determine for yourself what scenarios best fit your belief system. Should your house sell above your asking price, consider that a windfall.

Next, deduct all items of debt obligation secured or collateralized by the house and any expenses associated with closing costs from service providers like escrow, title, any agreements between buyer and seller with regard to items prorated or any concessions; delinquent or arrears of property taxes; mortgage payoffs balances to any firsts, second or private lenders; liens, judgments and any other attachments; and, of course, anything else of a special nature that might apply.

Interestingly, there are people disillusioned to thinking that they can quietly sell their houses and escape from their obligations.

Knowing the estimated net proceeds from the sale of your house is something you will likely want to know. Having this information will help you guard against 1) hiring a lot of service people if you cannot close the transaction because of insufficient resources or 2) accepting a buyer’s offer and subjecting yourself to possible legal action due to insufficient resources.

Agents take the brunt of the blame

If you are selling your house short (meaning for less than the amounts owed) and assuming your sale is not a bank-approved short sale, then you will want to know how much cash will be needed to close the transaction.

Further, if you will need to add cash to close the transaction, you will want to notify your lenders and show proof of your ability to satisfy the debt to avoid a delay in closing.

Unfortunately, real-estate agents, not being aware of the seller’s financial situation, are sometimes unable to provide warnings of pending problems and, with the seller subsequently accepting a buyer’s offer, suddenly discover they are in trouble. These problems transfer to many other parties involved in the process, not just the seller.

Real-estate transactions usually involve large sums of money and can often be very complicated.

Worth a pound of cure

Many disastrous outcomes have their root causes in situations not known by the real-estate agent, yet all too often the agent has to work triple-time to help resolve them, and at the end-of-the-day the agent becomes the lightning rod for all things gone wrong. Unlike other professional service providers who charge handsome fees regardless of the outcome, real-estate agents get paid only when the client crosses the finish line.

Taking a few minutes to perform simple tasks like calculating the net proceeds might save an enormous amount of time and money and avoid a lot of aggravation. We recognize that most people in today’s world are time-limited and occupied by so many other tasks. However, buying and/or selling a home is not a constantly recurring activity, and it is one that requires broad thinking and proactive participation.

We strongly urge everyone to consider having a consultative process with their selected real-estate agent in hopes that an open discussion will unveil some key considerations.

― If you have any questions about real estate in San Diego, send your inquiries to WeSellLaJolla.com or Charles Schevker or Natasha Alexander at Oschekwer@sdre.com.
Hummingbirds: Eating on the fly

By LINDA MARRONE

Hummingbirds are tiny garden jewels, nature's ways of saying "thank you" for planting flowers. Their jewel-like beauty is created by colorful iridescent feathers, which have a prism-like construction that changes hue as they dart in and out of the sunlight.

Hummingbirds need flowers to survive, since their quick movements and high metabolism require them to consume two to three times their body weight in flower nectar and small insects every day. An average garden flower has 2 to 4 milligrams of nectar, which means that hummingbirds must visit thousands of flowers each day to extract the 50 grams of nectar they need. Small insects are also on their protein menu, which is great for insect control.

The smallest birds on the planet, hummingbirds live between three and five years and fly 25 to 60 miles an hour. Their wings beat at about 80 beats a second, and they have the unique ability to hover and fly backward, but they can't walk, only perch.

Territorial and very protective of their feeding area, these tiny creatures will aggressively fight off the competition. They do not have the sense of smell and are attracted to flowers by their color; red is said to be their favorite.

Five species of hummingbirds common to San Diego include Anna's hummingbird, which is quite common. Costa's, rufous, Allen's and black-chinned hummingbirds can also be found locally. The males are more colorful than the females. The male Anna's hummingbird has a magenta or red throat, and he is one of the few hummingbirds that sings to attract a mate.

One frequents my flowering peach tree, and he can be quite noisy — in a very nice way.

While a feeder filled with sugar water will lure the hummingbirds, the feeder should be viewed only as a supplement to their diet, because sugar water lacks the nectar "pollen" proteins found in flowers. Pollen proteins keep the birds healthy and benefit their immune and reproductive systems.

Some experts believe that hummingbirds will only occasionally feed from feeders and will rely on flowers for the mainstay of their diet. However, others believe that feeders create unhealthy and dependent "wino" birds. If you have a hummingbird feeder, do not color the sugar water with red food dye. I have feeders in my garden, and I notice that the birds feed on both flowers and the feeders.

The best way to invite hummingbirds into your garden is with nectar-producing flowers and a water source. Flowering plants, such as alstroemeria, azalea, California fuchsia, daisies, delphinium, foxgloves, fuchsia, impatiens, lobelia, morning glory, nasturtium, nicotiana, penstemon, petunias, phlox, rosemary, sage, salvia, trumpet vine and tuberous begonias, will attract hummingbirds to your garden. An added treat is that these flowers attract butterflies.

Plant seasonal varieties of annuals and perennials with different blooming cycles to ensure a steady supply of flowers throughout the year. Their favorite flowers in my garden include foxgloves in the spring; fuchsia, petunias and Mexican trumpet vine flowers in the summer; and camellias during the winter months.

Once again this spring, I am enjoying a mother Anna's hummingbird sitting in her nest, and we are eagerly awaiting her eggs to hatch. Having had many hummingbird nests in the garden over the years, I always wonder if the babies who grew up here are the ones who come back to visit me when I am working in the garden.

— Linda Marrone is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker, and she specializes in historic real estate. She is a historic homeowner and co-founder of the Secret Garden Tour of La Jolla. Her garden was featured on the tour in 2001. You can take a tour of Linda's garden on www.LindaMarrone.com.

The hummingbird's wings beat about 80 beats a second, and they can hover and fly backward (when they're not at rest among the leaves, like the little guy above).
La Jolla, LJCD sluggers are making a pitch for the playoffs

By DAVE THOMAS

Two area scholastic baseball teams look to make their pitch at winning their respective league crowns this spring.

At La Jolla High School, head coach Gary Frank’s Vikings had a recent record of 6-5, paced to date by the likes of pitchers Tim Holdgrafer (.2-2, one save, 2.82 ERA, batting .286), Sam Schneider (.3-1, 1.15 ERA), Luke Bucon (1-1, 1.95 ERA), Weston Clark (.419 batting average), James Whelan (.348, two saves, 3.23 ERA), Brett Volger (.250, 4 doubles, strong defensive play) and Alex Elnoplos (.281, strong play at third base).

“Our goal as a team is to improve every day,” Frank remarked. “If we play to our abilities, we will have a good chance to compete for a Western League title and make a good run in the Division II playoffs.”

At La Jolla Country Day School, the Torreys, under head coach John Edman, were recently at 5-5 as play heated up.

“Right now, Alfonso Rivas is pitching very well for us,” Edman said. “He is 1-0, with a save, and has given up no earned runs in 10 innings while striking out 14 and walking only one.” Brennan Rubin, only a freshman, is 2-1 for us on the mound with a 1.71 ERA.”

Offensively, Edman said, “Brandon Wachs is leading our offense with a .480 average and six RBIs, while Keaton Weisz is hitting .444. Dylan Robertson is off to a very good start on the mound and at the plate. He is 1-0, with a save, and has given up no earned runs in 10 innings while striking out 14 and walking only one.”

While Edman said the team’s goal is to win the Coastal Conference, he expected it to be “a very competitive conference this year. It should be a lot of fun.”

The Bishop’s School was also asked to provide information for this story.

Three scholastic softball teams hope to be a hit this spring

The pursuit of league and CIF titles is on three scholastic softball teams’ radar.

Under head coach Art Schiele, The Bishop’s School’s Lady Knights entered mid-April with a record of 6-0. To date, Bishop’s has been led by the likes of junior catcher/third baseman Sabrina Moreno (.667 batting average, 21 RBIs, 4 doubles, three triples, one home run), junior catcher/shortstop Aida Ayala (.471, 16 RBIs, two doubles, two home runs) and freshman center fielder Livy Schiele (.706, 21 RBIs, four doubles, three triples, 6 stolen bases).

“Our goal coming into the season was to win a league championship and win CIF Division IV,” Art Schiele noted.

At La Jolla Country Day School, the Lady Torreys, under head coach Lissa Lewis, were sporting a 4-7 record recently. But LJCD has been led by some big bats to date, including those of seniors Taylor Johnson (who will be attending the University of California) and Emil Springer (who will be playing for Brown University next year).

“Our pitchers (senior Jacqueline Nelson and sophomore Kayla Magid) have been working hard, with defense right behind them to give their support,” Lewis said.

At La Jolla High, the Lady Vikings, under head coach Anthony Sarain, were sitting at 3-10 recently. Key players to date have included junior catcher Stephanie Alvarez (.500, 2 triples and a home run), junior pitcher Katja Sarain (third in San Diego section, with 58 strike-outs on the mound, batting .343) and freshman shortstop Linda Brown (.425, with a pair of home runs).

“We have had a lot of injuries in key positions,” Sarain said. “Our goal is to get healthy and make the Division IV playoffs.”

Spikers at Bishop’s, La Jolla are looking to net titles

With an eye on CIF gold, The Bishop’s School and La Jolla High School boys’ volleyball teams are looking to secure as many wins as possible in April league action.

Heading into mid-April, Bishop’s, under head coach Jacqueline Bernardin, sported a 4-1 record.

According to Bernardin, key players to date have included Scotty McPherson (senior, outside hitter), killer leader and athlete of the week Owen Gallahue (freshman, setter/right side-starter, with great leadership), Alec Swanson (junior, libero) and fellow junior outside hitter Chris Alleyn.

“Our goal coming into the season was to win a league championship and win CIF Division IV,” Bernardin remarked.

At neighboring La Jolla High, the Vikings, under head coach Dave Jones, came into mid-April with a mark of 5-6 overall (2-2 Western League).

“Considering the fact we only returned two starters (and two to three additional players) from last year’s CIF championship roster of 18 players, we are off to a great start,” Jones said. “We also don’t have a single senior on our roster this year, which means we’ll be even stronger next year.”

“That said, we don’t have to wait until next year for good things to happen; we’ve got a committed group of focused players who will be ready to push any team we play this season.”

La Jolla’s two returning starters are its current kill leaders-captains, Joe Palaetala (middle blocker) and Jack Chapman (outside hitter).

Junior Austin Jerberg is a strong middle blocker and outside hitter, while sophomore Jake Northrup plays just as well in the middle or on the right side, according to Jones.

“The versatility of so many of our players gives us options many teams only dream about,” Jones said. “Two more accomplished sophomores, Curran Robertson (libero) and Gavin Sette (setter), are cornerstone to our success as well.”

As of early April, La Jolla was the only team in Western League to even take a set off of Scripps Ranch High School, recently sitting in first place at 6-0 in Western League.

“With so much new blood on the varsity roster, it’s been inspiring to see all of our guys play at high levels in both practices and competitions. Even our newest players are stepping up to the challenge, working hard in practice and adding to the excellence of our strong tradition in men’s volleyball at La Jolla High School,” Jones said.

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Print and Internet are one on newly launched website

By DAVE SCHWAB

The “voice of La Jolla” — and his listeners — are doing the talking now on Ron Jones’ newly launched Voice of La Jolla Community Internet radio station.

Jones, who does online audio news briefs on San Diego Community Newspaper Group’s (SDCNG) website at www.sdnews.com, has already seen proof of the predicted local and national interest in www.volj.net or voiceoflajolla.com, which launched April 1.

“It’s interactive, it’s entertaining, it’s full of content,” Jones said of the cutting-edge www.volj.net, which features interviews with celebrities, musicians, artists, local business and government leaders or simply neighborhood personalities with great stories to tell.

“Our mission is to inform and entertain you as we explore our unique town while generating a stronger sense of community,” Jones said. “It’s brand new. There’s nothing like it anywhere combining local music, business promotion and news audio and video interviews.”

Jones said local merchant-sponsors are enthused about the fresh advertising platform VOLJ offers. Jones said his ambition with VOLJ is to “bind the neighborhoods of La Jolla together in an entertaining fashion.”

The radio personality and newscaster said his website offers an array of options and outlets for listeners to find out what’s going on in their world, like hearing about what new businesses are opening while receiving timely interviews about prominent community leaders or even “just a neighbor.”

“We can market La Jolla as a destination vacation spot, or tap into a search engine to get advice about lodging, restaurants or other (local) services,” Jones said, adding his online interviews offer “a taste of the people of La Jolla. The names you see in news, now you can hear their real voice and get a real handle on their personalities.”

SDCNG publisher Julie Main agreed.

“Ron is a perfect fit for our papers, summarizing the news in an audio version while developing video content,” said Julie Main, whose publications include The Peninsula Beacon, Beach & Bay Press and La Jolla Village News. “It’s something which adds to our print product, allowing people to go online to hear this local voice, reporting on local events and great interviews. It adds a personal touch, allowing listeners to get a real flavor of the community. It’s a good partnership. We have some good stuff in store for our readers and listeners.”

An idea floated by La Jolla Village Merchants (LJVMA) Business Improvement District to develop a Monopoly-style game to promote the business community is gaining traction.

“This is really exciting as a way to get the (LJVMA’s) name out,” said BID board member Trent Bonner, adding, “We already know everybody’s going to want Boardwalk. It’s going to make a little bit of money for us too.”

Others agreed. “It’s going to be fun,” said LJVMA executive director Sheila Fortune about the development of LaJollaopoly. “We should be able in the next week or so to put a (game) program together with the street (names) and come out to the community to sell that.”

The support kept coming.

“You could make Prospect (Street) one side of the board; I’m OK with that,” said LJVMA president Claude-Anthony Marengo. “Hopefully it will create some synergy and give us some seed money to start the next big event for us that we can promote and make money on,” Fortune said.

In other action, Fortune said the concept of Haute La Jolla Nights, monthly weekend events held in the past to promote La Jolla Village, is being rethought.

“We’re trying to put together more quarterly events,” she said suggesting the Haute concept might be more effective if done differently and less frequently.

“My idea is a sidewalk stroll with businesses having competitions, make it fun with art displayed by galleries and a children’s section for sidewalk (chalk) art,” Fortune said. “Merchants could bring their goods out onto the sidewalk, bring their own entertainment, just really make it more like a street festival that’s free.”

Fortune said the first or second week in June has been targeted for rolling out the inaugural quarterly Haute La Jolla Nights.
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