Infrastructure projects continue to close streets in Pacific Beach

A coalition of regional partners, including San Diego County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), The San Diego Foundation, United Way of San Diego County and San Diego and Imperial counties Labor Council, have joined together to create the San Diego COVID-19 Community Response Fund.

As of the launch on March 16, the fund is seeded with $1.3 million, including $1 million from SDG&E and $300,000 from The San Diego Foundation. The fund will rapidly deploy flexible resources into the community to support programs and organizations addressing the effects of the coronavirus outbreak across San Diego County. Individuals and

HOW TO HELP?

Make donations to: SDFoundation.org/COVID19

organizations are encouraged to donate via SDFoundation.org/COVID19.

Hosted and administered by The San Diego Foundation, the

See FUND, Page 8

infrastructure work will continue to close streets in Pacific Beach

“Starting next week, the contractor is going to begin doing some work near the homes on Crown Point Drive,” said City spokesperson Alec Phillipp. “However, with inclement weather in the forecast, it’s possible this will be pushed back. Once the summer beach moratorium (from Memorial Day to Labor Day) hits, they’ll shift back to working on interior streets like Yosemite, Jewell, LaCima and LaMancha.”

Phillipp said this project is expected to continue construction through early next year. Regarding SDG&E construction work, Phillipp said: “This project is driven by SDG&E and overseen by City staff. The project’s footprint encompasses a good portion of Crown Point, everything south from Moorland Drive to the Ingraham Street bridge. The installation of new street lights will

Before schools closed, spring sports were off and running

SEE PAGE 16
Coastal areas receive mixed grades on Climate Action Plan report card

San Diego coastal areas, like the rest of the County, got mixed grades from good to poor in the fourth annual Climate Action Plan report card recently released by the Climate Action Campaign.

“We are winning some battles, we are losing the war against the climate crisis,” said Maleeka Marsden, the lead author of the CAC report card. “The path to a zero-carbon future will not be easy, but we will emerge on the other side with cleaner air, cleaner water, better health, and livable neighborhoods.”

The report card details how well 18 cities and the County of San Diego are implementing their climate solutions and moving toward carbon neutrality.

The CAC is a coalition of national and local climate conservation and progressive groups, state and local partners, and key allies working to protect clean air and promote action to limit climate change.

Carbon neutrality, or having a net-zero carbon footprint, refers to achieving net-zero carbon dioxide emissions by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal (often through carbon offsetting) or simply eliminating carbon emissions altogether during the transition to a post-carbon economy.

Ways to reduce the carbon footprint include: minimizing auto-driving and using public transit or other alternatives; switching to renewable energy options (solar, wind, etc.);

Reducing energy use: taking energy-saving steps by converting to things like LED light bulbs and employing smart technologies, like programmable thermostats, that automatically control temperatures cutting down on energy waste.

This year, no city earned a “gold standard” on CAC’s annual report card. The cities of San Diego, Encinitas and La Mesa received silver awards. Solana Beach, Del Mar, Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, and Carlsbad received honorable mention getting bronze awards.

Discussing countywide carbon-cutting efforts, Marsden said, “The City of San Diego is leading the region in terms of climate action, with the goal being 100% clean energy. The City is doing really well in terms of moving toward Community Choice Energy, which allows residents to have a less carbon alternative. The goal is to have 100% clean energy in the City with lower rates by 2035. To do that, we really need to find a way to slash carbon emissions drastically.”

While San Diego County cities were progressing toward achieving 100% clean energy by CCE programs, the CAC’s report card showed these gains were overshadowed by the failure to reduce the largest source of regional emissions: transportation. Most cities are also continuing to struggle to make substantial progress on zero waste, planting more shade trees and achieving energy equity.

Noting San Diego’s adopted Climate Action Plan “has a very ambitious goal to get 50%...” READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

San Diego Audubon Society names new executive director

The San Diego Audubon Society recently announced that Travis Kemnitz has been hired as the organization’s new executive director, concluding a comprehensive recruitment process. Kemnitz takes over from long-time San Diego Audubon executive director Chris Redfern, who recently relocated with his family to Boston.

While Kemnitz is new to San Diego Audubon, he’s no stranger to San Diego, having served for over 17 years with the San Diego-based Ocean Discovery Institute, most recently in the position of director of talent and culture, where he not only worked as an ardent advocate for the environment, but addressed inequities in access to science, conservation education, and careers for underserved youth.

A RISE San Diego Urban Leadership Fellows alum with a B.A. in environmental studies from the University of San Diego, Kemnitz arrives at San Diego Audubon with seasoned experience in non-profit business operations and board development, and credentials in fundraising, human resources, and program visioning.

“I’m fortunate to have spent the entirety of my professional career increasing access to immersive experiences in nature and science, and in conservation pathways for San Diego’s most deserving and underserved youth,” said Kemnitz.

“There is nothing like seeing the spark of curiosity in a child’s eye, and the sense of belief rise inside them that they can make a difference in our world. I’m delighted and honored to utilize my background to make a broader impact with the San Diego Audubon Society.”

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Scripps Health launches nurse line dedicated to COVID-19

Scripps Health has launched a COVID-19 nurse line, at 888-261-8431, that connects patients to a team of nurses dedicated to screening people with symptoms associated with the new coronavirus.

Patients with fever and/or respiratory symptoms should call the dedicated phone line first before coming to any Scripps facility. They should not just walk in and should not use the Scripps online scheduling system for appointments.

Anyone who calls the nurse line will be connected to a nurse at the COVID-19 call center who will ask a series of questions designed to evaluate the caller’s potential risk for coronavirus infection. As warranted, the caller will be connected to a provider via video chat for further evaluation.

Those determined to have a risk of infection might be instructed to go to one of three cabanas located outside our urgent care centers for further testing or if necessary, to an urgent care center or emergency room for further treatment. Other callers will be directed to the most appropriate location for further care that meets their needs.

The cabanas are located outside Scripps Clinic Torrey Pines (opened March 13), and Scripps Clinic Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Coastal Medical Center Vista (opened March 17) and only available to patients directed there through the nurse line.

Read more online at sdnews.com
Don’t panic – support local businesses and help others during this crisis

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

While halting the coronavirus is causing challenges to work from home, schools to close, or go online— and most public cultural and other institutions to temporarily shutter, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Obviously, there are a lot of things you can’t do. But hey, you can still order lunch. Just look at what you can “do.”

Send more time with your family. Take a hike. Rent a bike. Go to a dog park, rent a boat, pad-dleboard, take a walking tour, picnic on the beach, read a good book, cook, garden, clean up or fix up your home, indulge in a hobby. Above all, sit tight. Don’t panic. Enjoy life.

Beyond that, do something for the good of your community: volunteer. Food banks and non-profits, who rely on volunteers, need your help. Mama’s Kitchen, one of the numerous examples, has an emergency request out for volunteers.

The silver lining in all this may be that the reaction to the virus is bringing people — and businesses — together, in unexpected ways during an hour of need. This, ultimately, may lead to positive consequences for the future of local communities.

SHOP LOCAL

The business improvement districts of both La Jolla, La Jolla Village Merchants Association, and Pacific Beach, Discover PB, are pooling resources to get out this message: hold tight, band together in new and unexpected ways during an hour of need. This is ultimately, may lead to positive consequences for the future of local communities.

HELP OTHERS

Also on a positive note, people have begun posting on social media Facebook and Next Door pages for PB, OB, and La Jolla, saying they are willing to help out people who can’t go to the store (because they are at-risk, or seniors or both). Or even to contribute money via Venmo to help out people.

SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF FUND

Mayor Kevin Faulconer on March 18 announced a $4 million relief fund for small businesses affected by the coronavirus crisis. Small businesses may apply for zero-interest microloans to help them weather the crisis, he said.

The details of how businesses can access the fund and how much are forthcoming, Faulconer said.

The mayor also said the $4 million is the seed money for a larger relief fund, which he expects it to grow as banks and community partners work with the city to provide relief for local businesses.

According to the city, 98% of San Diego businesses have fewer than 100 employees.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Meanwhile the coronavirus outbreak, and the reaction to it, continues to escalate. On March 17, San Diego City Council ratified Faulconer’s state of emergency declaration and passed a comprehensive package of legislation to help lessen the economic and social impacts of the global pandemic on San Diego’s most at-risk residents.

The centerpiece of the legislative package is a proposal to place a temporary moratorium on residential evictions due to non-payment of rent because of financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Each of these items will come back to Council for a vote on final implementation:

- A temporary moratorium on residential evictions due to non-payment of rent resulting from a loss of wages caused by the outbreak of COVID-19;
- A temporary moratorium on evictions and mortgage foreclosures for properties owned by the San Diego Housing Authority due to non-payment of rent or mortgages resulting from a loss of wages caused by the outbreak;
- A resolution requesting the San Diego Superior Court to suspend all pending residential eviction cases during the pendency of the state of emergency related to the outbreak of COVID-19;
- A resolution requesting the San Diego County Sheriff suspend service of unlawful detainer actions and enforcement of evictions;
- A resolution calling on the Department of Homeland Security to suspend immigration enforcement in sensitive locations including hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare facilities;
- A request that San Diego Gas & Electric and any other utility provider to evaluate potential relief from late fees and utility shutoffs;
- Temporary relief funding for workers who were laid off or furloughed because of the outbreak of COVID-19 to help those workers pay rent and/or utility bills;
- A temporary moratorium on evictions for small businesses under commercial leases, who cannot pay rent;
- Evaluation of options to work with banks and lenders to halt mortgage payments or foreclosures for individuals and landlords;
- Prioritization of requests for emergency funding and support from the state and federal governments; Enforcement of the farmed Sick Leave and Minimum Wage Ordinance; A $15 minimum wage increase and enforcement of the City’s Business Tax Certificate fees;
- Suspension of enforcement of the Vehicle Habitation Ordinance; and a request that the mayor, working with the hotel association, labor partners, and homeless service providers, open hotel rooms that include provider services to unsheltered individuals and families.

READ BOOKS

The mandatory requirement for pick-up or delivery only for local restaurants is helping over to other retail businesses. In La Jolla, Warwick’s Bookstore is just one example.

“While we’ve put together a 30-day plan to continue to provide the best service during these challenging times,” said book-store owner Nancy Warwick. “For those trying to minimize time spent in public places, we are offering expanding services including free local delivery in the Village. Shores and Bird Rock areas with a minimum $20 purchase on weekdays. Orders must be received by 10 a.m. for same-day delivery.”

Added Warwick, “Call or email your order to info@warwicks.com and we will bring your purchase out to your car for pick-up. We offer our favorite products and when you purchase books online and now for phone orders. For in-store events, we do our best to get pre-ordered books.”

In other coronavirus-related news:

- The U.S. Small Business Administration has designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Discover OB and Ocean Beach have both temporarily suspended operations of their farmers markets.
- The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and County of San Diego have partnered to place handwash stations at all 53 Trolley stations, plus the UTC Transit Center amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
- San Diego Gas & Electric announced it will temporarily suspend service disconnections for non-payment of bills due to financial hardship stemming from COVID-19.

OPINION

Now more than ever, shop local

It is an utterly eerie sight looking down our city streets. Once bustling with happy diners, shoppers and bar hoppers, the empty sidewalks at both night and day are a grim reminder of just how much impact this virus outbreak is having on all our lives.

We must go on. We still must eat. We still must clean. We still must entertain ourselves and our children. In other words, we still must buy the essentials and pay for essentials, to make living possible and tolerable during these difficult times.

The instinct for many during this health scare may be to use the modern convenience of ordering products online from places like Amazon and Walmart. Or perhaps, it is to rush to big box stores like Costco or Target for essentials.

There are choices for shopping local. If possible, residents should consider the impact supporting locally-owned businesses during this time will have.

According to John Morgan Chase, 99% of all businesses in the U.S. are small businesses. One out of every five people are employed by small businesses. And this crisis is going to affect them in a much more severe way that it will multi-national conglomerates.

Of course, safety is of paramount concern and no one should be ignoring CDC guidelines. The recommendations of state and county health officials — it is there guidance we need at this time to insure that the virus does as little harm as possible to our vulnerable populations as possible.

But there are ways to support local businesses while feeling more than just a pinching from this economic inactivity.

- Order food/beverage delivery from delivery services like GrubHub, DoorDash, Postmates, etc.

The San Diego region is full of delicious dining options — it’s one of the reasons why it is a vacation destination. And many of our local restaurants are struggling right now, but are remaining open in whatever way they can to serve their customers and take care of their staff.

Since all restaurants in the county have been mandated to operate at a take-out only business at this time, patronizing in this way is the only source of income they will see to pay bills and employees. “During this time, these restaurants are partners with mobile delivery services and would love to have your business. You can use websites like Yelp for information on what delivery services each restaurant uses.”

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com
San Diego Blood issues urgent plea for blood donations

School closures and work-from-home policies have resulted in canceled blood drives. San Diego Blood Bank collects more than half of its blood supply from bloodmobiles. An additional strain on the blood supply is expected in the coming weeks.

“The U.S. is on the verge of a severe blood shortage that will lead to blood rationing and triage. We need healthy people to come out immediately,” said David Wolff, CEO of San Diego Blood Bank.

Blood Bank collects more than half of its blood supply from bloodmobiles. An additional strain on the blood supply is expected in the coming weeks. Supplies are dropping to critical levels. We are confident the San Diego community will rally around this urgent need.

It is important to note:

• Donor safety measures are in place: SDBB has been in close communication with San Diego County Health & Human Services Agency, and they are advising SDBB on proper protocols amid coronavirus mandates. Surfaces are being cleaned between donations and donors are being screened upon arrival.

• Locations are convenient. San Diego Blood Bank has 6 donors centers and will be posting active blood drives for the following day on social media.

• Appointments are encouraged so we can ensure proper staffing at locations. Walk-ins are welcome.

• Please see travel and exposure restrictions related to coronavirus.

• There is no research evidence that donating blood impacts your ability to fight infection later. While white blood cells needed to fight infection slightly decrease for a short time after donation, abundant cells remain in the event of an infection. Furthermore, donated cells are regenerated post-donation.

• Individuals are not at risk of contracting COVID-19 by receiving donated blood. Respiratory viruses are not known to be transmitted by blood transfusion, and there have been no reported or suspected cases of transfusion transmission of this virus.

For Registration & Prepayment: 619-223-6050 1863 Bacon St., Ocean Beach

Now Hiring

"As members of the community, all of us at SDG&E are privileged to have been affected, “ says Jasmine, "We stand together and support one another," said Fletcher, co-chair of the County of San Diego’s COVID-19 Subcommittee and the City of San Diego’s Task Force on the Homeless. "We stand together and step up to help in times of great need. The San Diego COVID-19 Community Response Fund will lend a helping hand to our friends and neighbors impacted by this ongoing health crisis."

"The outbreak of COVID-19 is straining our local communities and concerning for San Diegans with serious health concerns, lack of access to basic resources, and long-term economic challenges," shared Mark A. Stuart, president, and CEO of The San Diego Foundation. "The San Diego COVID-19 Response Fund will quickly distribute funds to critical needs in the region, especially for our most vulnerable residents."

"Jasmine went on to explain that donating blood impacts your ability to fight infection later. While white blood cells needed to fight infection slightly decrease for a short time after donation, abundant cells remain in the event of an infection. Furthermore, donated cells are regenerated post-donation.

"Individuals are not at risk of contracting COVID-19 by receiving donated blood. Respiratory viruses are not known to be transmitted by blood transfusion, and there have been no reported or suspected cases of transfusion transmission of this virus.

CONT. FROM PG. 1.

San Diego COVID-19 Community Response Fund will complement the work of public health officials and expand nonprofit capacity as efficiently as possible.

One hundred percent of donations to the San Diego COVID-19 Community Response Fund will go toward non-profits helping San Diegans impacted by the coronavirus. Funds will be released on a rolling basis as fundraising continues through the coronavirus outbreak and its recovery phases.

To donate to the San Diego COVID-19 Community Response Fund, visit SDFoundation.org/COVID19.

The San Diego Foundation mobilizes philanthropic resources to advance the quality of life, increase social impact and champion civic engagement. For more than 40 years. The foundation and its donors have granted more than $1.2 billion to grow the San Diego region.
The Pennant is an institution in South Mission Beach

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Timess come and go, but The Pennant in South Mission Beach, the quintessential beach bar the past 50 years, just keeps ongoing.

Dick Kovalcheck, a former tuna fisherman who bought The Pennant when he was in his 30s, has owned the institution at 2893 Mission Blvd. for 40 years.

“We’ve got a back room that I’ve leased out to a kitchen crew named South Mission Beach Grill making hamburgers, hot dogs, sandwiches, etc.,” Kovalcheck told Beach & Bay Press holding court on a recent weekday in his bi-level bar with a rooftop deck featuring cocktails and a welcoming, laid-back ambiance.

Discussing how he came to be a restaurateur, Kovalcheck said, “I was a tuna fisherman for about 10 years and got up to be a master navigator. I just got tired of floatin’ on the ocean. I caught him (then-owner Jack Elliott) at the right moment. I had saved money from the last few fishing boats I’d been on and my money was good.”

The Pennant did not have a second story, so Kovalcheck added a rooftop deck in 1980 before reopening after remodeling. Named, according to one patron, as a celebration of sports, The Pennant has remained relatively unchanged since then.

“We’re licensed as a bar,” noted Kovalcheck. “Underage kids aren’t supposed to be in here. We cannot have live, amplified music. We don’t do that much anymore.”

The “alchemy” behind The Pennant, that keeps patrons returning, is nothing mysterious.

“It’s where people come to relax after work, or whatever they’re doing, unwind a little bit, watch sports on TV, etc.,” said Kovalcheck of his establishment noting the demographics of the neighborhood have changed over the past four decades.

“Back in the ’80s and ’90s it was more of a younger group,” noted Kovalcheck. “As rents start going up and up there was more value (Mission Beach) to our properties, and there have been more short-term rentals. In 1980 you could buy a cottage for $50,000. Now it’s $500,000 to $1 million. Most of the young people couldn’t afford to stay down here.”

Why are people still coming to The Pennant?

“The ocean is right over there (pointing across the street),” answered Kovalcheck while pointing. That’s the California dream. People dress down when they come here. People are here basically to talk to their pals, or make new pals. Some people like watching sports on TV. Some people like a crowd.”

Added the bar owner, “We’re open year-round, though it gets busier during daylight savings time.”

The Pennant was anticipating getting busier for spring break — but that’s on hold after the City mandated all bars to close during the coronavirus outbreak.

“We get a lot of visitors to this resort area,” concluded Kovalcheck.

Broken Yolk launches new restaurant app

Broken Yolk, with 28 restaurant locations nationwide and 15 throughout San Diego including Pacific Beach, recently launched its own app, BYC Rewards, offering rewards and showing different locations and other features.

A few new items, including avocado toast, Sweet Trio and Bloody Mary Flight, have also been added to the menu of the breakfast diner, which has served breakfast, brunch and lunch since 1979.

“Those (new menu items) have really taken off as well as other new fan favorites,” said Broken Yolk’s marketing and sales rep, Danny Ittner.

Of the new app, Ittner said, “It’s been almost two months since we launched it, and we have about 15,000 subscribers. It’s a rewards app where you can scan your receipts and get points toward earning gift cards. There’s also an app feature that shows which Broken Yolk you are closest to, as well as all of them in the general area.”

Added Ittner, “Our new app is user-friendly, fun and simple.” He added the app will likely be updated soon to include information about delivery services.

For more information, visit thebrokenyolkcafe.com/rewards.

RAIN, WIND, AND FIRE...

“The three menaces to any chimney, fireplace, or stove.”

Every year there are over twenty thousand chimney / fireplace related house fires in the US alone. Losses to homes as a result of chimney fires, leaks, and wind damage exceeds one hundred million dollars annually in the US.

CHIMNEY SWEEPS, INC., one of San Diego’s leading chimney repair and maintenance companies, is here to protect you and your home from losses due to structural damage and chimney fires.

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For a limited time, readers of this paper will receive a special discount on our full chimney cleaning and safety inspection package with special attention to chimney water intrusion points in preparation for the rainy season.
The recent mandate that temporarily prohibits restaurants from conducting dine-in service due to the global pandemic crisis has resulted in take-out and delivery-only options at a number of popular establishments in the beach and bay areas of San Diego. They include The Fish Shop in Point Loma, Pacific Beach, and Encinitas. Takeout orders can be made at any location by calling ahead, and home deliveries are available through UberEats and DoorDash. Visit thefishshops.com for phone numbers and addresses.

• In addition, all locations of Sammy’s Woodfire Pizza, including La Jolla, have made their full menus available via takeout or through Grubhub. Postmates, UberEats, and DoorDash. Visit sammynpizza.com for phone numbers and addresses.

• Also, all selections at Fig Tree Cafe in Liberty Station and Pacific Beach are available for takeout, as are the menus at all locations of Breakfast Republic, including those in the same area as Fig Tree Cafe. Visit figtreecafe.com and breakfastrepublic.com for phone numbers and addresses.

• Sugar and Scribe Bakery in La Jolla has made its entire inventory of baked goods and breakfast and lunch dishes available for takeout. They include their curbside delivery or home delivery through Grubhub, Postmates, and Toast. Visit sugarscribe.com for details.

• Wayfarer Bread & Pastry in La Jolla is accepting same-day phone orders and online orders (with a minimum of $15) via Wayfarer Bread & Pastry on Facebook. Visit wayfarerbread.com for details.

• Lastly, curbside delivery by Square Pizza Co. in Pacific Beach is now available. Or customers can use Grubhub and UberEats for drop-off. Visit squarepizza.co for details.

HARRY’S TACO CLUB

The upcoming Harry’s Taco Club in Pacific Beach remains in a “wait-and-see” holding pattern as to when it will open. The venture is on the drawing board by John Rudolf, who also owns a string of coastal establishments such as The Venetian in Point Loma, Mike’s Taco Club in Ocean Beach, Harry’s Coffee Shop in La Jolla, and Cass Street Bar & Grill in Pacific Beach.

The new facility’s opening was due to open in early to mid-April as an annex to Cass Street Bar & Grill, which temporarily ceased operations because of the recent city and state mandates that bars, nightclubs, and restaurant dining rooms remain closed during the coronavirus pandemic. Plans will supposedly move forward once the restrictions are lifted. 4612 Cass St., 858-270-1320.

EGGIES

A rep from the Rise & Shine Hospitality Group said the imminent openings of Eggies in both Pacific Beach and the East Village have been pushed to late April or early May, depending on developments pertaining to coronavirus dining restrictions.

Eggies will operate out of shipping containers perched adjacent to Breakfast Republic restaurant, which the Rise & Shine group also operates. Menu items include egg-centric sandwichs and breakfast items served in Mason jars, such as the “French toast bake” comprising brioche, custard, whipped mascarpone, berries, and brown sugar crumb. 4465 Mission Blvd., and 707 G St., eggies.com.

MOTO MOTO PIZZA HOUSE

An ongoing partnership between Mr. Moto Pizza House and Paws/Flighth Animal Rescue was recently struck in an effort to connect homeless puppies with loving families. At all five locations of Mr. Moto Pizza, which include those in La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach, and Point Loma, mug shots of dogs up for adoption are displayed on the pizza boxes. The available dogs are updated about every 30 days. For more information visit mrmotopizza.com.

SOLARE RISTORANTE

Toilet paper isn’t the only hot commodity flying around during this current pandemic. Soup is a supreme grab as well, providing comfort to the body and soul. Among numerous restaurants transitioning to takeout and curbside service is Solare Ristorante in Liberty Station, which offers most of its menu items and four Italian-style soups under the new concept.

They include brodo d’ oss, a recipe of beef and romanesco in bone broth, accented by anchovies. There’s also minestrone with lentils, leeks, potatoes, and other veggies, and another called zuppa di zucca, which is made with organic butternut squash and a hint of white chocolate. 2820 Roosevelt Road, 619-270-9670, solarelounge.com.

OCEAN BEACH MEAT CO.

What started out as an online meat vendor promoted over social media for its Ocean Beach retail shop, where raw and prepared meats take center stage. Founders Bobby Kokinda and Shannon Nault hope to open Ocean Beach Meat Co. in June at 4583 Newport Avenue, in the 1,500-square-foot space that last housed The Village Kitchen.

“We’ll still continue selling online as long as we can,” said Kokinda. “But the store will have an expansion of cooked meats, such as beef, pork, and chicken.” The inventory will extend to the company’s signature jerky products, house-made cold cuts, raw meats, plus rubs, sauces and to-go sandwichs. Kokinda added that game and exotic meats will be available upon request. 619-405-8678, obmeatco.com.

ROCK BOTTOM BREWERY

Guarden Rock Bottom Brewery. The 20-plus-year run of the La Jolla restaurant and brew-house, which touted itself as a “tank to table” establishment, has permanently closed despite earlier rumors it would undergo remodeling. Rock Bottom had sprung onto the dining scene with several craft beers in its portfolio at a time when local breweries were scant. Its closure follows the shuttering of the Gaslamp Quarter location several years, and more recently, the closing of Gordon Biersch in Mission Valley, which fell under the same ownership of Craftworks Holdings Inc. in Nashville, Tennessee, craftworkrestaurants.com.

SUGAR AND SCRIBE BAKERY

Sugar and Scribe Bakery in La Jolla has made its entire inventory of baked goods and breakfast and lunch dishes available for takeout. They include their curbside delivery or home delivery through Grubhub, Postmates, and Toast. Visit sugarscribe.com for details.

• Also on the bakery front, Farerbread.com for details.

• Tom’s Deli in La Jolla has made its entire inventory of baked goods and breakfast and lunch dishes available for takeout. They include their curbside delivery or home delivery through Grubhub, Postmates, and Toast. Visit tomsdeli.com for details.

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• Sugar and Scribe Bakery in La Jolla has made its entire inventory of baked goods and breakfast and lunch dishes available for takeout. They include their curbside delivery or home delivery through Grubhub, Postmates, and Toast. Visit sugarscribe.com for details.

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Sixth grade Mandarin immersion students at Pacific Beach Middle School enjoy their Chinese feast.

Andrea G. and Lyla W. from Pacific Beach Middle School ASB hold a check for $250 presented as a WE Heartwarming grant by WE Charity.

**EDUCATION NOTEBOOK**

**PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE**
- The sixth grade Mandarin immersion students in Bryan Zheng’s classroom at Pacific Beach Middle School enjoyed a feast of the senses on Feb. 18, as they prepared their elaborate buffet of traditional Chinese foods. Each recipe was researched in advance and prepared by the students themselves. Handmade posters and homemade video tutorials accompanied each item. The annual Chinese food project is a much-loved tradition for the sixth-grade immersion class, not only because it incorporates the Mandarin reading, writing, and speaking skills they have been honing since elementary school, but also because it literally adds flavor to classroom learning.
- “Tasting each dish was like tasting a piece of China,” said sixth-grade student Texas Z., who selected scallion pancakes for his project. “Everyone in our class chose to make authentic Chinese foods and I sampled all of them—even the ones I didn’t think I would like. Also, it was fun to make a video of my recipe at home. Everyone in my family wanted to taste my pancakes.”
- “Bringing the project into the home and making it a family affair was an important component of the lesson. According to Zhang, engaging the students’ parents in the selection of the recipe, purchasing the ingredients, making the dish, and filming the video allows them to gain a greater appreciation for their students’ language skills and the Chinese culture. The San Diego Unified School District’s Mandarin immersion program begins in kindergarten at Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary School and continues into PBMS and Mission Bay High School, giving students the opportunity to be immersed in the language from kindergarten through high school. Hands-on, cultural projects like this one make learning fun and leave the students hungry for more.
- WE Charity encourages people of all ages to make a difference, both domestically and locally, through programs like WE Schools and WE Villages. WE Charity is financially efficient as an average of 90% of donations going directly to child-serving programs. ASB advisor, Ashley Hensen said, “ASB can’t wait to put these funds to good use to spread kindness. PBMS ASB has run various WE Campaigns throughout the school year, including a WE are Silent Campaign, raising $193 via penny wars to help fund education in rural China.

**BARNARD ELEMENTARY**
- New student registration for TK-fifth grade has begun at Pacific Beach Elementary. Please make sure to have proof of address, student’s birth certificate, and immunization record. Please call 858-488-8316 for more information and ask for Gloria Reyna.
- PB Elementary is gearing up for its annual auction—the biggest fundraiser of the year. The online portion of the auction begins Monday, March 16th, and now is the time to visit the auction site, register, and begin browsing the silent auction items online. You will have one week, March 16-23, to bid and battle against fellow parents for items. Remember to choose a catchy handle to use while bidding as everyone has a secret name so you don’t know who you’re bidding against, pbe.schoolauction.net/downandderby/signup. For questions, email pbe-downandderby@gmail.com.
- Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary School community welcomed the Chinese Year of the Rat over several weeks in January and February. Barnard students performed in Chinese New Year events at Sea World, Balboa Park, and downtown. Students from each classroom took to the stage for their families in acts that highlighted different Chinese arts, including traditional and contemporary songs and dance, kung fu, and more.
- The highlight of the celebrations was the Mandarin immersion students’ performance of dedicated parent volunteers. “I love to watch the Chinese New Year performances with my family and friends,” said Barnard first-grader Natalie M. “They are so interesting. They teach me about China.”
- For more information on Barnard Elementary or to find out about the District’s School Choice program, visit sandiegounified.org/barnard.

**WE CHARITY**
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**NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION**

**PACIFIC BEACH ELEMENTARY**
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San Diego Unified, KPBS, County schools collaborate on at-home learning plan

The San Diego Unified School District, KPBS and the San Diego County Office of Education have a plan to provide for continuity of learning for its students while schools are closed to help prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Launched on March 16, the initiative, “At-Home Learning: Where Children Matter,” includes a broadcast component with standards-aligned programming in blocks by grade level and a digital component with access to an online library of free PBS educational resources. Students throughout San Diego County will have access to these educational resources via television and online amid school closures.

“This collaboration provides students in San Diego Unified and throughout the county opportunities to continue their learning during this crisis with equity and access in mind,” said San Diego Unified Superintendent Cindy Marten. “I am grateful for this partnership that provides high-quality programming to students and teachers.”

The programming has been developed to help schools and districts bridge the digital divide and provide equitable access to learning for all students at home, regardless of access to internet or computers.

“Public media television is a public service that has the importance of children’s education embedded in its DNA. For 60 years we have been America’s classroom across all geographic boundaries, races, and income levels. Answering the call to ensure our TK through 12th grade young people have access to learning while at-home during this unprecedented time is critical to our mission and we are honored to be of service because at KPBS children matter,” said Tom Karlo, KPBS general manager.

Recognizing that teachers, schools and districts are juggling a multitude of needs during this crisis, the schedule has been built to support all students with educational programming.

“It’s critical that learning continues for all students in this time of uncertainty,” said Dr. Paul Gothold, San Diego County superintendent of schools. “Schools may be closed but our responsibility to our students’ future remains. We can’t let students who have worked so hard lose that hard-won progress away from the classroom.”

The initiative has two components:

- **Broadcast** – KPBS 2 will broadcast 12 hours of programming selected to meet the TK-12 California educational standards. The programming will preempt normal KPBS 2 programming from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. in blocks by grade level: From 6-8 a.m., grades TK through 3; from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., grades 4 through 8; and from 1 to 6 p.m., grades 9 through 12.

- **Digital** – California students and educators have immediate access to an online library of free educational resources from PBS LearningMedia, including videos, associated lesson plans, hosted training sessions and self-guided how-to resources for teachers, that accompany PBS’s trusted programs and align with current classroom standards. ca.PBSlearningmedia.org.

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Even though SeaWorld is temporarily closed to the public through the end of March, a key milestone of Emperor’s progress – ride testing – started with water-filled dummies on board the seats of one of the trains. Testing will continue for several weeks.

THE EMPEROR’S NEW RIDE

Testing on SeaWorld’s new dive coaster has begun

The roller coaster is scheduled to open this spring, and when it does, it will be the tallest, fastest, longest and only floorless dive coaster on the West Coast.

Named for the world’s largest penguin, the Emperor roller coaster will climb to 153 feet in height, and with its riders’ feet dangling in the air, the train will be suspended on a 45-degree angle at the crown of the ride before plunging down a 143-foot vertical drop accelerating to more than 60 miles per hour. Each floorless train holds 18 riders in three, six-person rows.

This new attraction will also highlight an important new animal-conservation partnership between SeaWorld and Penguins International, an organization dedicated to penguin conservation and research that will focus on penguin awareness and the conservation needs of this special aquatic bird.

The partnership will include collaboration on educational elements that will be integrated into the attraction experience to educate guests on everything from penguin behavior and the effects of climate change on their habitats, to the work that SeaWorld and Penguins International are doing to help the species.

The partnership with SeaWorld will help advance Penguin International’s conservation programs at several high-priority sites and their public awareness campaigns. A portion of the proceeds from sales of penguin merchandise will also be donated to Penguins International to support their important conservation, education and research efforts.

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Mission Bay spring sports started strong before play suspended

By DAVE THOMAS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Before the recent closing of schools for the coronavirus, a number of Mission Bay High spring sports teams were off and running.

BASEBALL

Mission Bay, under head coach Dennis Pugh, was sporting a 2-3 record as of late. “We have a much better team overall this year,” Pugh added.

According to Pugh, key players include seniors Dusty Stryker, Ian Briste, and Gabe Esquibel. Top juniors are Declan Lynch, Ian Briske, and Gabe Esquibel.

“Once we finish weaving in the new starters into our rotation, we have the potential to have a very balanced offense and defense. We have a strong chance to repeat this year as league champions and make a serious run in the CIF playoffs,” Tong commented. “Although we only have one senior this year, we seem to have a little more depth as the new players are a bit more seasoned than our average new crops. Combined with another hand-ful of returners which include a couple of dominant singles players, our team has the potential to legitimately contend for the City League Championship.”

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