Pros, cons cited after OK of minimum-wage hike

Will raising the city’s minimum wage to $11.50 an hour by Jan. 1, 2017 make San Diego more affordable for those with lower incomes, or will it ultimately harm workers by costing them a chance at jobs?

That’s the question to be answered after a measure was adopted July 15 by San Diego City Council, which plans to boost the city’s minimum wage to $9.75 in 2015, $10.50 in 2016 and to $11.50 in 2017.

The new ordinance would also require employers to provide five paid sick days a year. Council has voted to direct staff to begin confering with the city’s labor unions as to the methods under which the wage will be raised.

City Council President Todd Gloria, who spearheaded the push for the minimum-wage increase, characterized it as “a reasonable compromise.” Gloria had originally proposed that the wage be $13.09 an hour.

Gloria warned possible opponents of the wage hike that “there may be better ways that they can spend their time and money than opposing a pay increase for those who need it.”

Harris marks 100 days in office with outreach, tangible changes

During his first 100 days, District 2 City Councilman Ed Harris has attended 39 community meetings and events, organized three Town Hall forums and overseen numerous street and other infrastructure improvements, as well as engaging residents face-to-face to facilitate better outreach with city government.

Reflecting back, lifeguard-turned-Councilman Harris noted he’s come a long way — with a ways to go — until he relinquishes his seat in December to Councilwoman-elect Lorie Zapf.

“I am driven by the opportunity to improve our quality of life and by the potential to make a difference in our community,” Harris said.

PB strip mall's complete overhaul finalized, ready for surprising lineup

The musical chairs in the Staples-anchored strip mall at 1650 Garnet Ave. between Jewell and Ingraham streets has stopped, with five businesses taking their “seats” and demolition beginning Aug. 1 for an anticipated May 2015 reopening.

Kristen Victor, president of nonprofit beautifulPB, said she’s been told by redevelopment project architect Carrier Johnson + Culture that two businesses formerly in the mall — Staples and San Diego County Credit Union (SDCCU) — will be returning along with the addition of Trader Joe’s relocating from 1211 Garnet Ave., a Walgreens pharmacy and PetSmart.

Two businesses previously in the mall, Empire Beauty Supply and Salon and Daisy Cleaners, have moved across the street to the property that once housed Pacific Coast Bicycles at 1637 Garnet Ave.

PB lifestyles: a smokin' hot entertainment alternative

If you’re looking for an offbeat entertainment alternative while you’re down at the beach, check out a hookah lounge.

And if you’re so inclined, there are about a half-dozen lounges to choose from in Pacific Beach.

One choice is Pharaoh’s Café Lounge at 976 Garnet Ave.

Formerly Zanzibar Café, Pharaoh’s spent six months completely remodeling the retail space, which was “resurrected” and reopened three months ago as a full-on restaurant-lounge.

Pharaoh’s serves up food, smoke and beer and wine in its own unique, exotic style.

“People come here for a night out a hookah lounge. If you’re looking for an offbeat entertainment alternative while you’re down at the beach, check out a hookah lounge,” owner Frank Shamas said.

Frank Shamas is the owner of Pharaoh’s Lounge.
SANDAG seeks public input on trolley plan document, new environmental wrinkle

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) invites public comment on a supplemental environmental document for the Mid-Coast Trolley extension project that will evaluate a previously unidentified impact on San Diego’s fairy-shrimp population.

The fairy shrimp is a federally listed endangered species. Pacific Beach would be nearly at the center of the proposed route between the downtown Santa Fe Depot to the south and the UCSD and Westfield UTC areas to the north, should the plan be ultimately approved.

The 45-day public comment period for the document, available at sandag.org/midcoast, ends Sept. 2.

The report, a supplement to the draft supplemental environmental impact statement/supplemental environmental impact report (SEIS/SEIR), discloses impacts to a fairy-shrimp population that lives next to a set of railroad tracks during surveys in 2014. The impact statement was circulated for review and comment from May 17, 2013 through July 17, 2013.

The locally endangered San Diego fairy shrimp reaches a length of about an inch and is named for the fairylike movements it makes when swimming.

Comments on the latest supplemental report are limited to the analysis of impacts to fairy shrimp. Responses will be provided in the final SEIS/SEIR, along with responses to comments received on the previously released draft SEIS/SEIR. The SANDAG board is expected to take action on the document later this year.

Comments may be submitted in these formats:
- U.S. mail: Leslie Blunda, Mid-Coast Project Development Program Manager, San Diego Association of Governments, 401 B St., Suite 800, San Diego 92101.
- Email: midcoast@sandag.org.
- Fax: (619) 699-1905.
- Voice mail: (619) 595-5620.

The project would be funded in partnership by SANDAG (using a regional half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements) and the Federal Transit Administration. New Start Program Construction is anticipated to begin in 2015, with service starting in early 2020.

Bird’s surf scoop

Summer ocean gremlins return

Well, it is officially summer, and you know what that means, right? I’m not talking about the longer days and warmer evenings. Not even thinking about the crowds and lack of easy parking anywhere within a mile of the beach.

Smaller surf and less of it? Nope. I’m talking about stingrays. The gremlins of the ocean who always appear right around noon as the tides drop out to negative lows and water temps climb up into the low 70s. These creatures are nasty, and it has already been near an epidemic year for people getting stung by them.

Beach breaks are the most likely place to run into them, but sand pockets in the reefs can harbor these little land mines as well. Though the wound that they inflict is usually just a small laceration, the pain can be a very serious thing to deal with. On rare occasions, the stingray’s barb can actually break off inside of the victim’s body, so great care must be taken to make sure none of this foreign matter is left in the wound.

Treatment for a wound is somewhat limited. It normally consists of putting the damaged area water into as hot as can be tolerated, then adding hot water at regular intervals. I have been told that the poison from the barb is protein based. Down in Mexico, the locals will squeeze lemon juice into the affected area as a way to help neutralize the nasty stuff.

Some people can handle the pain better than others, just as some wounds are worse than others. My experiences with being stung have been somewhat lucky. I’d say. The initial sensation was a quick prick and a burning sensation. As the body starts to react to the venom, I felt that burn grow quickly in intensity and start to spread up my leg. Even with a hot-water soaking, the pain remained steady for nearly three hours. The affected area remained sensitive to the touch or occasional rub for a few weeks after the incident.

In 50-plus years of ocean enjoyment, I have only been hit two times. But that’s still more than enough to remind me to stay vigilant at any time of the year while walking out to surf. I shuffle my feet as much as possible.

I know a few guys who will slap at the top of the water in an effort to scare the critters away. How effective this can be is unknown.

In any event, walk soft and slow.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) revealed it has placed another anti-SeaWorld message at San Diego’s airport.

The 20-foot-long banner is intended to discourage attendees arriving for this week’s Comic-Con International convention from visiting SeaWorld San Diego while they’re in town.

PETA has been demonstrating against the theme park for years, claiming that the animal theme park’s killer whales are mistreated.

SeaWorld has launched an aggressive pushback campaign, detailing the benefits of public education and scientific research that would not ordinarily be available in the wild.

PETA’s $24,000 banner, placed near the baggage claim of Terminal 2 at Lindbergh Field, depicts an Orca holding the foot of a man with its teeth. The man, wearing a suit and a “CEO” label, is supposed to represent the company’s chief executive.

The banner, created by Bluewater Productions — a Vancouver, Wash., producer of comic books and graphic novels — includes the text: “He will let you go if you let him go. PETA.”

“Comic-Con fans love blood and guts when they’re fake, but at SeaWorld, it’s all too real for comfort,” Bluewater founder Darren Davis said. “The Orcas are desperate to be free. That’s why trainers have been killed and that’s what we’re depicting in this campaign with PETA.”

David Koontz of SeaWorld San Diego said the theme park has its own advertising at the airport, including wall murals and on baggage-claim monitors in both terminals.

“Even by PETA’s standards, this ad is as offensive as it is tasteless,” Koontz said. “PETA isn’t concerned with actually helping animals. They are a radical organization that continues to spend its money on publicity stunts like the profane Jason Biggs video and advertising campaigns like this for the sole purpose of promoting their agenda.”

Koontz said the park’s killer whales are “healthy and happy, and thrive in our care. The real animal welfare organization is SeaWorld, not PETA, and our trainers, acclimatists, animal-care staff and veterinarians are the true advocates for animals.”

The public can get SeaWorld’s point-of-view at www.seaworld.com/truth and www.seaworld-cares.com, he said.

In May, PETA placed a wall poster in Terminal 2 in which actress and San Diego native Kathy Najimy urged visitors to avoid SeaWorld San Diego. The poster was placed at the airport after the animal-rights organization successfully sued the airport.

Staff and City News Service
After three successive years of drought, the city has issued a Level 1 alert calling for citizens to voluntarily participate in water-conservation measures, including not watering lawns more than three days a week and watering lawns or washing vehicles only before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m. during summer months.

California is mired in a long-term drought and San Diego is no exception. Noting San Diego’s annual rainfall average recorded at the official measurement station at Lindbergh Field is 10.34 inches, National Weather Service forecaster Jimmy Taeger said the rainfall amount for 2013-14, which ended June 30, was 5.06 inches. Taeger said rainfall levels the previous year in 2012-13 were 6.51 inches and 8.03 inches the year before that in 2011-12.

The forecaster said you have to go back to 2010-11 to find the last year when rainfall was at or above normal, with 12.62 inches that year.

Recent changes to the city’s emergency water regulations have established new restrictions on water use, as well as stepping up enforcement and penalties.

All water waste is prohibited in the San Diego Municipal Code. Wasting water is illegal at all times, even when no drought-response levels are in effect. Any violations of the water-use restrictions associated with drought-response levels are also treated as water waste. The city may penalize those who continue to waste water with an escalating series of penalties up to and including shutting off water service. When customers continue to waste water after being contacted by the Public Utilities Department’s conservation staff, the city’s Code Enforcement Department can step in.

Should a customer refuse to stop overwatering, fail to repair a leak or continue other water waste, a code-enforcement officer or water-waste investigator will fashion an appropriate response.

Code-enforcement officers have a variety of remedies to help ensure compliance, including issuing a warning letter, administrative citations ranging from $100 to $1,000, civil penalties up to $2,500 per day for violations, referral to the City Attorney’s Office for civil or criminal prosecution and shutoff of water service.

On July 15 California’s Water Resources Control Board voted to impose mandatory water-use restrictions statewide in response to California’s ongoing drought. For San Diego, however, permanent mandatory water-use restrictions in place since 2009 already meet elements of the requirements mandated by the state.

As a result, the state’s regulation does not require the city to make changes to its emergency water regulations but should serve as a reminder to all San Diegans that using water efficiently, and in compliance with the city’s current water use restrictions, are important to help conserve water during this severe drought condition.

“I want to thank San Diegans, who for years have done a tremendous job of stepping up to the plate to incorporate water conservation into their way of life,” said Mayor Faulconer.

“This summer, as we see temperatures climb, we must continue to be mindful of the current drought situation by adhering daily to the city’s permanent water use restrictions,” he said.

The city will continue to review the state’s decision and monitor the drought conditions throughout the state to determine if any changes to its drought response level are necessary.

In the meantime, the city’s focus will be to reduce water waste by educating residents on how to comply with the restrictions through education rather than an enhanced enforcement system focused on fines.
Mission Bay High seeks coaching applicants

Mission Bay High School is seeking coaches in the following sports:
- Football: assistant varsity and junior varsity
- Girls' basketball: head varsity and junior varsity
- Girls' soccer: head junior varsity
- Baseball: head varsity and junior varsity
- Girls' lacrosse: head varsity
- Boys' volleyball: head varsity

Contact athletic director Jorge Palacios at (619) 952-3429.

In a related note, athletic physicals are being offered at Mission Bay HS on Tuesday, August 5th from 9 to 11 a.m. The cost is $30. Cash only. All students trying out for a sport must have a completed athletic participation form available at www.missionbayhigh.com.

Varsity football starts Aug. 7. JV football starts Aug. 11. Equipment pickup is Monday-Wednesday, Aug. 4-6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Girls' volleyball, boys' water polo, field hockey, girls' tennis, and cross country start Aug. 11.

For more details, visit www.missionbayhigh.com.

HARRIS

CONT. FROM PG. 1

George Brooks had his real-estate office on the northwest corner of Garnet and Morrell. Brooks began selling real estate at the beach with the Folsom Brothers around 1910. Howard Rozelle took this photo in 1946. I remember when this building was Copy World. It’s currently a wellness clinic.

— John Fry may be reached at (858) 272-6655 or mail@johnfry.com.

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TRIAL DELAY GRANTED IN PB PEDESTRIAN'S DEATH

A Nov. 3 trial date has been set for an Air Force veteran accused of gross vehicular manslaughter while under the influence of prescription drugs in the death of a Pacific Beach man on La Jolla Villas Drive.

The defendant, Sonoran Booppanon, is accused of causing the Oct. 23 crash that killed pedestrian George Matteson, 77, and seriously injured his wife, Betty. Booppanon, of San Diego, has pleaded not guilty.

Booppanon appeared in San Diego Superior Court on July 14 with her attorney to seek a delay in the trial, which had been set for Aug. 18. She remains free on her own recognizance on the condition she does not drive.

Booppanon, 40, was driving to the La Jolla Veterans Administration hospital when she reportedly ran a red light and struck two cars and a truck at the intersection of La Jolla Village Drive and Genesee Avenue, killing Matteson. She was taking a painkiller, valium and Xanax.

SUSPECT IN 'REVENGE PORN' CASE SET FOR TRIAL

A Nov. 12 trial date was set for a Pacific Beach man who ran a “revenge porn” website, for which he demanded money from women whose ex-boyfriends put their nude photos online.

Kevin Christopher Bollaert, 28, pleaded not guilty July 16 when he appeared in San Diego Superior Court to get a trial date set on his extortion and identity-theft case.

His websites were shut down a year ago by the state Attorney General’s Office.

Bollaert’s lawyer, Alex Landon, has previously argued that Bollaert created a forum and received photos from the public, which responded to the website.

Landon maintained the website “may be distasteful,” but he questioned in court whether it was illegal.

The 27 counts of identity theft allege that Bollaert posted the names, sometimes phone numbers or identifying information about the women.

Bollaert asked for payment of up to $250 to remove the photos from another website called “change-myreputation.com.”

Bollaert was ordered to stand trial on all charges, along with conspiracy allegations, after a four-day preliminary hearing last month.

He remains free on $50,000 bond.

— Neal Patraun

SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO RANKED AMONG TOP THEME PARKS IN U.S.

TripAdvisor, the world’s largest travel site, recently released the winners in its Travelers’ Choice awards for amusement parks and waterparks, and SeaWorld San Diego made the list. Out of millions of consumer reviews, SeaWorld San Diego was ranked No. 17 in the U.S. in the TripAdvisor rankings.

Known for world-class shows, animal exhibits, rides and educational programs, SeaWorld San Diego was chosen by travel consumers as one of the top theme parks in the country to visit.

Travelers’ Choice Award winners were determined using an algorithm that took into account the quantity and quality of reviews for amusement parks and waterparks worldwide, gathered over a 12-month period.

SeaWorld San Diego is currently commemorating its 50th anniversary with “Sea of Surprises.” SeaWorld is one of the leading tourist attractions in San Diego, with more than 155 million visitors over the last five decades.

In addition to SeaWorld San Diego, five other SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment properties were determined using an algorithm that took into account consumer reviews, SeaWorld San Diego made the list. Out of millions of consumer reviews, SeaWorld San Diego was ranked No. 17 in the U.S. in the TripAdvisor rankings.

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COMIC-CON’S GROWTH IS NO LAUGHING MATTER

1970 will go down in San Diego lore as the year this year marked the first Comic-Con event, but two. The inaugural parley, held March 21, was only meant to raise funds and possibly bump up interest for a future convention. Somehow, the idea took hold immediately, and the moniker morphed into a three-day gala that August, with 300 attending discussion groups and film screenings and featuring sci-fi writer Ray Bradbury as a guest.

The rest is history, of course. San Diego’s Comic-Con International is the model for every popular-arts festival of its kind worldwide, with more than 130,000 attendees attending a colossus auditory of interviews, films, awards ceremonies and panel talks and infusing about $160 million into the local economy over its single weekend.

This year’s edition opened with a preview night on July 24 and runs through Sunday, July 27, with most events taking place in the vicinity of the San Diego Convention Center downtown.

Among the favorite events is the Masquerade Awards competition, in which the entrants run with their imaginations in designing their escapist sartorials.
Three other businesses formerly in the Staples mall — Little Caesars and Postal Annex — have left and will not be returning. CVS has an existing pharmacy across the street in the Vons shopping center.

“We learned that the project has been in design for three years,” said Victor about the project, which some feel has been shrouded in secrecy.

“Some feel that developers should have been more involved in engaging the community in this project,” Victor said.

One of those disappointed by how the Staples redevelopment has been handled is Brian Curry, chairman of the Pacific Beach Planning Group (PBPG).

Curry dashed off a letter to city planners, noting, “An applicant for a 60,000-square-foot retail center in the heart of Pacific Beach (Ingraham and Garnet) was not required to appear at the PBPG or engage in any community outreach. This situation results in an incredible disconnect on forward planning. It seems planning policy should be revisited to guarantee that the public and PBPG is consulted on any new development in PB, especially with regard to major projects.”

Victor said there were two reasons why the Staples redevelopment was not required by the city to come before PBPG for public review.

“Only those projects on the west side of Ingraham Street have to go through coastal review, and this project is on the east side,” she said. “Also because they’re (developers) knocking down the entire building and rebuilding with the same structure.”

Vicki Piazza of Carrier Johnson + Culture said the initial idea was to keep half of the building space at the Staples mall and rebuild the other half, which had to be abandoned.

“The building, built in 1962, just wasn’t equipped to handle modern big-box retail,” Piazza said, adding leases have not been signed with all five prospective tenants.

Piazza said the building will not be completely rebuilt to almost the exact specifications of the older building, but slightly smaller.

The architect said Staples has said that its new prototype store which is going into the rebuild is as much as 2,000 feet smaller than its previous space. She said that space could become available for other uses, though Staples could very well find a use for it.

Victor said the latest news about the Staples mall rebuild is a positive development.

The fact that there is 2,000 extra square feet of space possibly available, Victor said, means “that may allow us to develop that as a community group office to be used by Discover PB (BID), PBPG, PB Town Council and other civic and school groups. We’re talking about some sort of civic engagement place, a place with seating for meetings.”

Victor said a proposed Decobike bikeshare station planned to go in on the corner of Ingraham Street and Garnet Avenue could possibly be “retooled” so that it could cater to bicycle enthusiasts.

“We’re talking about possibly creating a bike shed which people could use to store and repair their bikes which could be part of the bike path that goes through PB,” Victor said.

Chris Olson, a member of both beautifulPB and the PBPG, said having community and bike centers in the middle of PB’s business district would “be like a dream come true.”

Olson said there is also talk of doing work on the stormdrains in that same area to prevent runoff from polluting the bayfront ecosystem.

Reconstruction on the Staples rebuild is expected to be completed by March 2015.

“There will be two months after that for companies to go in and do tenant improvements before opening up in May 2015,” Victor said.

There is one more thing the PB community appears to want done with the Staples project.

“We are working with the city to not let this happen again where a project this large — and this significant — does not have any community engagement,” Victor said.
Hookah lounges like Pharaoh's often sport big-screen TVs and tasty food offerings to complement the smoke experience. Photo by Dave Schwab

Supporters of the new minimum wage argue the pay increase helps the impoverished without hurting the local economy. Detractors counter that a higher minimum wage puts employers at a competitive disadvantage, causing them to hire fewer employees, thus hurting the segment of the population that the city is attempting to help.

WAGE >> CONT. FROM PG. 1

increase to their employees ... or by telling everyone you want your employees to work while they are sick.’’

The vote on the minimum-wage hike went along party lines, 6-3, said Frank Shamas of the ambiance of hookah lounges like Pharaoh's, noting

“There are many options for hookah bars now. Before, there weren’t many,” he said.

Shamas said hookah lounges are popping up all over the country. In San Diego, he said there are as many as 30 concentrated along El Cajon Boulevard alone.

A hookah is a multi-stemmed waterpipe used to vaporize and smoke flavored tobacco called shisha, which is passed through a glass water basin before being inhaled. Hookahs are an ancient smoking tradition, originating from the Persian Empire. Hookahs later spread to Egypt in the Middle East and Turkey during the Ottoman dynasty.

The smoking apparatus has since gained popularity throughout the world.

The shisha is virgin, natural tobacco with flavoring and glycerin, said Shamas. A customer can purchase 250 grams of flavored shisha in a wide variety of flavors, which costs $14 to $20. That amount of shisha will typically last a group of three people about two hours.

Hookah pipes are meant to be shared, said Shamas.

He said that’s a big part of the lounge’s appeal.

What else is appealing about Pharaoh’s is the food. Fresh fruit and fruit drinks are offered, as well as a full menu and deli. Offerings include salads, sandwiches and panninis for lunch, brunch and dinner.

“We’ll be open for breakfast soon once we’ve established ourselves here,” said Shamas.

Pharaoh’s is also a great place to people-watch, any time of the night or day, as Shamas can attest.

“It’s very social and you can meet lots of new people,” he said, adding there’s a never-ending stream of passersby to gaze at; people of every age, background and walk of life.

“It’s a younger crowd at night than it is during the daytime,” said Shamas, noting the lounge’s appeal.

“We get large groups of 20 people sometimes,” said Shamas. He offers an open invitation for guests to drop in and experience what a hookah lounge is all about.

“Come in and try it at least once,” he said. “It’s very social, very modern. The brands, flavors and tastes of the tobacco are amazing. It’s something different, something unique.”

Supporters of the new minimum wage law, went into effect July 1.

$9 an hour, the state’s minimum wage puts employers at a competitive disadvantage, causing them to hire fewer employees, thus hurting the segment of the population that the city is attempting to help.

The vote on the minimum-wage hike went along party lines, 6-3, with Democrat voting in favor and Republican voting against. Republican Mayor Kevin Faulconer and the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, led by recent past Republican Mayor Jerry Sanders, have opposed the wage increase.

“I feel the deal we reached on minimum wage was a fair compromise,” concluded District 2 Councilman Ed Harris. “I’ve seen the research and data that points to the positive impacts of raising the minimum wage and providing earned sick leave.

“By paying a livable wage, we can help avoid paying higher social service costs, and by providing earned sick leave, we support higher employee productivity in the long term.

“I don’t know how people living in San Diego can make ends meet on $1,560 a month,” continued Harris, noting, that “That’s what a full-time minimum-wage earner makes at the current rate of $9 an hour.”

$9 an hour, the state’s minimum wage law, went into effect July 1.

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They’re back! After a lengthy hiatus, long-running night spot Brick by Brick has reopened its doors under new management.

The venue has been partially remodeled and there has been no time wasted in putting together a terrific lineup, including Drum Wars: An Evening with rock legends Vinnie and Carmine Appice on July 24, The Burning of Rome on July 26 and Fuel on July 31. Plans are for the venue to feature a mix of genres, but with former members of the band As I Lay Dying, who are now owners of Brick by Brick, you can expect rock to feature heavily. The building as a music site goes back to 1975, when Jerry Herrera first opened it as The Spirit. It’s great to see the tradition of great music at 1130 Buenos Ave. continue, hopefully for many years to come.

**Vinnie and Carmine Appice:** Thursday, July 24 at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave., 8 p.m. 21 and up. $10. www.brickbybrick.com.

Theme concerts and tribute shows seem to be the popular thing at the moment, but at least one group of musicians is playfully bucking that trend and concentrating on new music with a show dubbed “Things That I Love That I Used To Hate.” Taking place at Dizzy’s on July 25, the show will feature an all-star cast, including guitarist Peter Sprague, pianist Danny Green, saxophonist Tripp Sprague, bassist Justin Grinnell and drummer Julien Cantelm. While the sets will consist of new tunes, jazz aficionados can rest assured this will be a night of stellar performances full of songs sure to inspire future themed shows and tributes.

**Peter Sprague and Friends:** Friday, July 25 at Dizzy’s, 4275 Mission Bay Drive. 8 p.m. $15. www.dizzysjazz.com.

Blues fans know they’ll have a good time at a Blue Largo show. Appearing at Humphreys Backstage Live on July 28, the band has released a pair of acclaimed albums, most recently, “I’m Still In Love With You.” But like all good bar bands, a live club setting is where it truly excels. Perfect for swinging or just enjoying the marina view at the restaurant, the band’s originals and covers provide a great soundtrack to any evening. With a set that can include anything from evergreen “Besame Mucho” to Bill Doggett’s “Honky Tonk,” this is a band that will please both blues purists and casual fans alike.

**Blue Largo:** Monday, July 28 at Humphreys Backstage Live, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. 7 p.m. $12. www.humphreysbackstagelive.com.

Postponed from last month, the debut of power trio Joey Harris, Caren and Paul Kamanski will take place Aug. 2 at the Kona Kai Resort. Mixing acoustic guitars and sweet harmonies, the trio’s music will be the perfect accompaniment to an evening on the resort’s patio with a nice mix of covers and originals. The latter will be particularly enticing, considering Harris is a former Beat Farmer with an arsenal of great songs in his catalog, while Kamanski is an acclaimed songwriter with such hits as “Hollywood Hills” to his credit. For fans of roots rock, Americana or...
**MUST HEAR**

With a lineage that can be traced back to 1964, The Farmers are one of the most important combos to ever call San Diego home. Currently featuring longtime leader Jerry Raney, alongside such local legends as bassist Chris Sullivan (The Penetrators) and drummer Joel Knak (The Hitmakers), the band is the last of the truly great bar bands, keeping the dance floor filled and the bartenders busy. Great originals mix with solid covers like Yardbirds classic “For Your Love” for a night of rock ‘n’ roll that brings back a missing element in so much music today: fun.

**THE FARMERS:** Saturday, July 26 at HUMPHREYS BACKSTAGE LIVE, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 9 p.m. $12. www.humphreysbackstagelive.com.

— Bart Mendoza

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**Luv Surf Shop Celebrates its Second Anniversary**

Mission Bay Boutique Turns Two in Style, Invites San Diego Community

Located in the heart of coastal San Diego, the Luv Surf Shop in Mission Beach, California is a beach chic boutique that offers an array of beachwear, jewelry, and accessories. In addition to their own Luv Surf Apparel, the shop carries a blend of designer goods and unique pieces from local artist and designers. The business is pet-friendly, and carries their own line of pet accessories.

“We are proud to have been a part of the San Diego community for the past two years and look forward to many more,” remarked Chris Kramer, Director of Retail for the lifestyle brand.

Luv Surf Shop has wrapped up their second year in the Mission Bay storefront and is celebrating the milestone with an anniversary event from 1-4pm on Sunday, July 27th 2014. The can’t-miss event will feature live music by Miles Ahead, complimentary eats and drinks, and discounts on fresh apparel and accessories.

RSVP at www.facebook.com/events/1440223699588734/

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Luv Surf Shop Celebrates its Second Anniversary

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**STAGECOACH DAYS: CELEBRATING THE WILD WEST IN SAN DIEGO**

- Free Event Every Saturday in July and August in Old Town - SAN DIEGO. Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is celebrating travel and transportation in the era of real horsepower during “Stagecoach Days” kicking off on July 5. Come join in the fun! The first event features a different theme each Saturday such as: Days of the Vaqueros, Women of the West, Soldiers and Citizens, TwainFest and Tast of the Past.

- The Stagecoach Days schedule is as follows:
  - July 26 — “Soldiers and Citizens” - The military has been part of San Diego since its inception. Following the Mexican American War, dragoons, the Mormon Battalion and the Boundary Commission all had an impact on life in San Diego. August 2 — “Taste of the Past” — What we eat, how we acquire it, who prepares it, how it is prepared are part of our cultural make up. This day will explore what was part of the dining experiences for people in early San Diego. While you learn about the foods of the past you will be able to sample modern tastes that evoke that time provided by the food purveyors in the park.
  - Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, with the support of the Boosters of Old Town and donation from Fiesta de Reyes, is proud to offer these free activities for adults and children of all ages. The park is located on San Diego Avenue and Twiggs Street in San Diego, and is conveniently located next to the Old Town Transit Center, with Coaster, Trolley, and MTS bus service. Free parking is available at the CalTrans headquarters, just two blocks from the park at 4050 Taylor St.

For more information, go to www.parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego or call (619) 220-5422.

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Seniors Helping Seniors Honors Client Who Served as WASP During WWII

During World War II, a select group of young women pilots became pioneers, heroes, and role models. They were the Women Airforce Service Pilots, WASP’s, the first women in history trained to fly American military aircraft. The WASP program was born in 1942 to create a corps of female pilots able to fill all types of flying jobs at home, thus freeing male military pilots to travel to the front. Thirty-eight WASPS were killed in service in World War II and about 100 of the more than 1,000 WASPS are still alive today.

Seniors Helping Seniors is proud to provide assistance to one of these brave women, Beverly Beeseyemer, and honors her service to our country as we celebrate Independence Day. Seniors Helping Seniors care-givers have helped Beverly, who turns 96 on August 25, catalog her mementos and records to provide to museum and university collection. They also assist Beverly with her club activities, drive her to appointments, and prepare meals, which Beverly describes as “the best.” Beverly has been a client for over two years, “I am so happy with the services Seniors Helping Seniors provides, they do everything and I don’t have to worry about a thing.”

“Beverly is a delight and her care-givers understand and value the sacrifice Beverly and her fellow WASP’s made during WWII,” said Sue Erskine, co-owner of Seniors Helping Seniors, serving most of central, east and south San Diego including Point Loma, Coronado and La Jolla. Call Seniors Helping Seniors at 800-481-2488. Visit them on the web at homecarebyseniors.com.
Residents divided on how to deal with homelessness dilemma

By DAVID SCHWAB

Some say eject the bad seeds; others call for compassion, better allocation of resources

Social-service providers and police officials detailed efforts to curb homelessness in Ocean Beach recently while at the same time answering to frustrated residents who feel not enough is being done to solve the problem. Both sides of the issue — including advocacy of the need for services and calls for compassion for human rights and right to right of the sometimes harassing and violent homeless squatters — were aired during a public forum hosted by District 2 City Councilman Ed Harris on July 10.

Local residents packed the Point Loma/Harvey Branch Library community room to hear from public officials and then give their own takes on the homeless situation, which some feel has gotten out of hand.

One woman said she felt like a prisoner in her own home, claiming she’s virtually had to lock herself in to keep out homeless vagrants.

Another angry resident half-jokingly suggested the homeless ought to be removed from the area and taken somewhere where their appetites for alcohol and drugs could be appeased without disturbing the community.

A local restaurant owner said he might have reconsidered locating his business into the area if he’d known the homeless problem there was so severe.

A panel of service providers on hand for the homeless discussion included Katie Standish, PATH-Connections Housing; Piedad Garcia, county Department of Mental Health; Tom Theisen, Regional Task Force on the Homeless; Milesa Petersman, San Diego Housing Commission; and Sgt. Teresa Clark of the SDPD Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.).

Standish, associate director of community engagement of People Assisting The Homeless — or PATH — a group of agencies working cooperative to end homelessness, said putting a roof over people’s heads is the first step to getting them stabilized and head back toward leading productive lives.

“We’re able to redirect folks,” said Standish of the program, which she said provides an array of services.

Clark said there’s been a 70-per- cent reduction in homelessness in surrounding communities when a comprehensive approach involving wrap-around social services is offered.

Meanwhile, Garcia said, “The main challenge for us is to coordinate the efforts of multiple agencies linking the individual with needed services.”

Garcia said it’s very difficult to house the homeless because they need to acquire the necessary identification to get the paperwork accomplished, as well as to clean up any legal warrants or financial black marks from their past.

Theisen talked about a new homeless pilot program under way currently in downtown San Diego, which he said involves a “coordinated assessment and housing placement program.”

That program, Theisen said, involves volunteers who actively count and assess the homeless to determine where they and their needs.

People can then be dealt with in a much more individualized and focused way once they’re housed and off the streets.

Details of the available programs drew responses from community members and local representatives.

“You need to take those pilot programs and bring them to our coast,” said Gretchen Kinney Newsom, president of the Ocean Beach Town Council.

“We need them right now.”

Cathy Kenton, a business owner in the Midway area, said their coastal neighborhood “has become the dumping ground” for homeless people displaced from elsewhere in the city.

“Our employees do not feel safe coming and going to work in our neighborhood,” Kenton said.

Melanie Nickel, chairwoman of the Midway-Pacific Highway Planning Group, said there are four separate types of homeless in the area: people sleeping on the streets, those living in vehicles, those who take to panhandling on medians and others who lounge in business parking lots.

Clark, of the police department’s H.O.T. team, said the key is not only to identify resources for the homeless, but to get the homeless matched up with the appropriate resources.

Theisen urged residents to be patient regarding the homelessness situation, saying, “There is no magic solution. If you want to solve the problem, you have to put the resources behind it.”

Police, social services outreach programs play key role in finding solutions

The first line of defense in efforts to control homelessness is the San Diego Police Department’s Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.).

The H.O.T. team consists of police officers, county Health and Human Services Department specialists and psychiatric clinicians from the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (P.E.R.T.), a private nonprofit organization. The H.O.T. team is available to assist the community with homelessness-related issues.

At a recent public forum hosted by District 2 City Councilman Ed Harris on homelessness issues in the Peninsula area, Sgt. Teresa Clark of the H.O.T. team told residents the key to resolving homelessness is not only to identify resources to aid those on the street, but to get homeless people to seek out those resources. No easy task, said Clark, since people at present cannot be forced to take advantage of available social services.

Clark said one objective of the H.O.T. team is “compassionate enforcement.”

“It’s hard to grab people up,” said Clark, noting, “You can’t put them all in the jail system — it just can’t handle it.”

What H.O.T. team members do, said Clark, is help homeless people “to make connections, pull them off the streets and get them more help.”

Describing enforcement as “very challenging,” Clark said one resource available for everyone to tap into immediately is to call 2-1-1.

That number is an information hub that connects people with community health and disaster services through a free, 24/7 confidential phone service and searchable online database.

“It’s just like calling 9-1-1,” said Clark, who added the 2-1-1 line allows searches for social services, including everything from substance-abuse treatment to child or elder care, food, housing and financial assistance.

By dialing 2-1-1, clients are linked with highly trained service representatives who can help provide a wide range of immediate resources to individuals and families.

A recent survey of about 1,100 homeless people downtown revealed that 62 percent were “chronically homeless,” meaning they’ve lived on the street a year or more.

About 14 percent of the homeless population are veterans, and as many as 75 percent of them are classified as having serious mental-health problems.

Perhaps surprisingly, surveys have found the largest proportionate group of homeless is in the 50-to-59 age range.

Another 12 percent of the homeless population is age 60 or older.

Two-thirds of the homeless population is from San Diego or Southern California.

A total of 92 percent of homeless people surveyed, when asked if they would move off the street and into transitional housing given the opportunity, said they would accept.

On the city’s website, the SDPD and elected officials recognize there is a fine line between homelessness as a social issue and a criminal issue.

It is noted that many homeless are on the street because of substance abuse, mental illness, or both. Often the disorder issues associated with homelessness are criminal in nature — but difficult to enforce.

Being homeless is also not a crime, although many kinds of public conduct — public intoxication, loitering, prowling, fighting, trespassing, aggressive panhandling, soliciting, urinating and defecating in public, camping or sleeping in parlors, littering, obstructing sidewalks, living in a vehicle parked on a public street, disturbing the peace by loud and unreasonable noises, using offensive words, behaving in a threatening manner — are illegal and should be reported to police.

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Tribute bands are a dime a dozen these days, but ones that can truly match the sound and look of the band they are honoring are still a special thing. Such is the case with Cheapest Trick, which manages to not only sound pretty close to the real thing, but its guitarist and drummer are dead ringers for the original musicians. The band plays a greatest-hits show, so there won’t be any surprises, but with a catalog of great songs like “Surrender” and “I Want You to Want Me,” no one will be complaining.
• CHEAPEST TRICK: Saturday, Aug. 2 at TIO LEOS’, 5302 Napa St. 9 p.m. 21 and up. Cover TBD. www.tioleos.com.
Massive post-Fourth of July cleanup targets holiday debris in the beach communities

Nearly 650 volunteers gathered at four popular beaches on July 5 to assist with the Surfrider Foundation San Diego County chapter’s annual post-Fourth of July “Morning After Mess” beach series. By midday, Surfrider volunteers had recovered 1,410 pounds of trash and 326 pounds of recyclable material that otherwise would have been washed into the sea, where it would add to the critical pollution problem devastating the world’s oceans.

Surfrider volunteers hosted four cleanups in collaboration with I Love a Clean San Diego and San Diego Coastkeeper on July 5 at the Ocean Beach Pier, Belmont Park in Mission Beach, Crystal Pier in Pacific Beach and the Oceanside Pier. These cleanup sites were chosen because of the high concentration of beachgoers and notorious reputations for post-Fourth of July trash.

Few holidays generate more trash on San Diego County beaches than the Fourth of July. Much of this litter is made up of plastic, which exacerbates the pollution problem impacting marine life in the world’s oceans.

This year’s “Morning After Mess” recovered 489 plastic bags, 983 pieces of Styrofoam and 14,796 cigarette butts. Surfrider Foundation works to prevent pollution from becoming part of the “Morning After Mess.” Through programs like Rise Above Plastics and Hold Onto Your Cigarette Butt, the organization uses education, outreach and advocacy to reduce single-use plastics and cigarette butts along the coast.

For more information, visit www.surfridersd.org, or contact email haley@surfridersd.org or (619) 929-5150.

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