Lai named chair of SDCC board

SEE PAGE 2

County expands COVID vaccination availability

SEE PAGE 6

Supporters of former President Trump confront a line of police during a protest in Pacific Beach earlier this month.

PHOTO BY JOE ORELLANA

‘SAN DIEGO CAN DO BETTER THAN THIS’
Resident react to PB protest

SEE PAGE 4
Lai named chair of San Diego Convention Center board officers

The San Diego Convention Center Corporation recently announced that hospitality executive and entrepreneur Elvin Lai will serve as chair of the 2021 officers of its board of directors.

Lai is a fourth-generation owner-operator of the Ocean Park Inn hotel in Pacific Beach, which is currently being reimagined for a spring 2021 debut. “My top priority as the incoming chair is to build and execute a strategic recovery plan,” Lai said. “Knowing the vital role the San Diego Convention Center plays in our region’s economy, I am dedicated to ensuring the sustainability and success of this organization for our community’s benefit.” Lai assumes his leadership role during the COVID-19 pandemic, with SDCC continuing to serve as an emergency shelter in support of Operation Shelter to Home to assist individuals experiencing homelessness. Lai is the immediate past president of the San Diego County Hotel-Motel Association and played a leading role in establishing the Pacific Beach Clean and Safe program. Recognized by the Asian Business Association as Outstanding Entrepreneur of the Year, Lai is a serial entrepreneur, with four businesses in three different sectors.

A graduate of the University of San Diego, Lai’s greatest passions are building the relationships, supporting the growth of San Diego’s tourism industry, and working to better the community for future generations.

In addition to serving as a shelter since April 1, 2020, SDCC has supported other essential activities, including hosting a super polling location for the 2020 Presidential General Election. With the distribution of vaccines now underway, industry professionals expect convention activity to resume this year.

MISSION BAY WETLANDS

At PB Planning Group meeting, Andrew Meyer of San Diego Audubon Society said progress is being made in efforts to expand environmental protections and enlarge wetland habitats in Mission Bay. “The Regional Water Quality Control Board recently approved a project for new planning for wetland restoration in Mission Bay,” Meyer said. “The City has funded and approved a scope of work over the next 1 ½ years for Mission Bay that includes Campland, De Anza Cove and the mouth of Rose Creek.”

During the pandemic, Meyer added SDAS has been writing a lot of grants. “We’ve also applied for two grants to do some research on the economic value of marshes,” he said. “As times change, and sea levels rise, we will be doing a cost-benefit analysis along with UC San Diego.”

PB PROTEST FALLOUT

During the latest PB Planning Group meeting, District 2 community representative Monique Tello told members of Community Collaborators, a loose-knit group of PB civic organizations, that police and government were restricted in dealing with the recent violent public protest on Mission Boulevard.

“You do not need to pull a (City) permit to hold a protest,” Tello told collaborators at their January Zoom meeting. “Most times protesters are not required even to notify the police department before they gather.”

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This month’s feature: Gordon & Smith Surfboards

Scott’s SPOTLIGHT

I often get met with surprise when people learn that I grew up here in PB since there aren’t too many “locals” anymore. It got me thinking, there’s a lot of interesting people and businesses in our community that people may not know about if they are new to the area. So, each month I will be spotlighting someone within our community that I think has an interesting story to share.

Gordon and Smith/G&S was started in a garage in PB back in 1959 by Larry Gordon and his cousin, Floyd Smith. 62 years later, it is still owned and operated here in PB by two of Larry’s kids, Debbie and Eric, who took over the family business in 2014.

Debbie still lives in North PB where she raised her 4 kids and Eric is a staple in the linesups between Pomp House and Little Point. With so many changes to the surf/skate industry during G&S’s storied 62 year history, they pride themselves on taking original tried and true designs and integrating them with modern technology to remain “Retro Relevant”.

They’ve maintained their dad’s playbook and mantra of “making people better surfers”, which is apparent when you order a still hand shaped surfboard from them. They will personally walk someone through their order, giving their customers a true “custom ordered” experience.

When I asked them what they miss most about their youth in “old school PB” and what they like most about current PB, the answer was actually the same; they miss the family dynamic that was prevalent here in PB when they were kids but was absent for so long. At the same time, they’re stoked on the recent resurgence of families living in PB, organ and seeing longtime friends of theirs from PB, their kids and grandkids still living here.

Before I left their foam dust and vintage picture covered office, I asked them what would worry say about the surf biz today and how PB has changed, and I told him he’d laugh and say “well, we’ll have to show up tomorrow to see what happens next.”

An awesome PB success story helmed by an innovative and universally respected local family.

If you know of someone you think has an interesting story, send me an email scott@isellbeach.com with their info and why you think they would be a good person/business to spotlight and we will consider them for a monthly spotlight.

Read More Online at sdnews.com
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<th>Location</th>
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<td>LA JOLLA Country Club:</td>
<td>Enjoy infinity pool &amp; panoramic ocean views</td>
<td>Exquisite hillside estate with dual masters and guest quarters</td>
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<td>Approved plans for new construction Live 5 homes from the beach!</td>
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Gregg Whitney
858-204-6161
info@BillionairesRowLaJolla.com
CalDRE #01005985
Residents react to ‘disgusting’ Pacific Beach political protest

By DAVE SCHWAB

Shock, anger, and disgust were the primary reactions of local leaders and residents to the culture clash that turned violent between supporters of former President Trump, white supremacists, Antifa, and police on Jan. 9 along Mission Boulevard.

“I view this as more than a culture clash,” said Pacific Beach environmental activist Karin Zirk, who witnessed the event. “We have white supremacists emboldened by President Trump trying to overthrow governments of all sorts and create a whites-only nation. This is the largest danger to our democracy since the Civil War.”

San Diego Police declared an “unlawful assembly” that Saturday around 2:30 p.m. due to acts of violence that erupted during the assembly led by supporters of former President Trump. Witnesses reported people threw rocks, glass bottles, and eggs that also hit some police officers.

“There will be consequences for those who bring that kind of behavior to our city. I am asking for the public’s help in identifying anyone who was seen committing acts of violence in Pacific Beach,” said Mayor Todd Gloria.

Police reportedly fired pepper balls at crowd members to counteract ensuing violence in the large gathering that spilled onto the boardwalk. Some witnesses claimed police were largely unresponsive in reacting to the scuffle as it developed.

PB resident Erin Smith, who was at the event with her 66-year-old mother, said they attended to be “in solidarity to stand up against groups that promote white supremacy and to let them know their dangerous antics will not be tolerated.”

The Smiths claimed harsh treatment from both police and protesters alike during the demonstration, which led them to conclude: “The community, all of San Diego, needs to open their eyes to the very real problem we have here with neo-Nazis and domestic terrorists...San Diego can do better than this. We just need people to be aware of the severity of the issue.”

Kathy Archibald of Pacific Beach was disgusted with the protest.

“I found it disgusting that pro-Trump extremists would feel comfortable rallying in PB after pro-Trump extremists attempted to violently overthrow the government in Washington, D.C.,” she said. “Violence and racism must be confronted head-on, with honesty and accountability, whether in politics, law enforcement, or elsewhere.

“I feel comfortable rallying in PB pro-Trump extremists would much more harshly than the pro-democracy protesters waving their flags and coming into Pacific Beach as a conquering army because, make no mistake about it, the white supremacists who drank the Kool-Aid and believe the election was rigged, view what they did on Jan. 6 as successful. And they are trying to replicate it all over the country. I also felt that the police were treating the pro-democracy protesters much more harshly than the pro-Trump [protesters].”

Michelle Papalote of PB SouthWest Central praised the conduct of police during the demonstration.

“The San Diego Police did outstanding work,” she said. “Their response was organized, professional, and kept PB from a potential storm of chaos.”

Peaceful protests are protected by the First Amendment and the police department will always facilitate these events,” reacted San Diego Police Department PIO Lt. Shawn Takeuchi. “However, violence of any kind will not be tolerated.”

“We need to be openly and proudly anti-racist, and we need to hold our law enforcement accountable,” Smith added. “They are here to serve us and protect us.”

Otherwise, we will never get past this.”

Marcella Bothwell, MD, president of the Pacific Beach Town Council and development chair for PB Planning Group, said: “I don’t understand why our community was chosen to have this activity from outside groups. I asked our board members to not get involved if possible.”

Added Bothwell: “Our participation is like oxygen to these organizations and violence only hurts our community. Our businesses have enough to worry about keeping their livelihoods afloat and don’t need to spend time boarding up their windows. It seems that even if they (protests) start peaceful, they don’t end up peaceful. Please take your protests elsewhere.”

Katie Matchett, president of nonprofit beautifulPB, pointed out the need for keeping public protests peaceful.

“One of the essential roles of public spaces is to allow room for public discussion on the important topics of the day,” she said. “But for that discussion to be effective, everyone must feel safe and welcome in our public squares. People who come to our streets with the express purpose of making others feel unsafe, or silencing particular opinions, harm our community.”

Added Zirk: “As someone who was present for parts of Saturday’s events, I felt threatened by the Trump supporters waving their flags and coming into Pacific Beach as a conquering army because, make no mistake about it, the white supremacists who drank the Kool-Aid and believe the election was rigged, view what they did on Jan. 6 as successful. And they are trying to replicate it all over the country. I also felt that the police were treating the pro-democracy protesters much more harshly than the pro-Trump [protesters].”

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Recurring flooding issue at Mission Bay High is a ditch

By DAVID SCHWAB

Whenever it rains significantly, the parking lot at Mission Bay High School gets flooded due to sediment-filled concrete drainage ditches nearby.

It’s a vexing and recurring problem that Pacific Beach Planning Group board member Scott Chipman has been working for years to try and resolve.

“The issue of regular flooding at MBHS goes back at least 15 years, maybe even longer,” Chipman told PBPG during a recent presentation. “So far, the area ditches have been cleaned out twice. And it’s taken a borderline act of Congress to get them cleaned out each time. To me, the goal is not only to get these ditches cleaned out now but to have a permanent solution.”

But, it turns out, there’s a “catch” to finding a permanent solution to cleaning out MBHS drainage ditches. Under current environmental law, filled-in ditches are considered to be wetlands, which means cleaning them out comes at a price.

“City land-use planners told me, the way the law is written, cleaning out the ditches requires mitigation,” said Chipman. “That means, you have to buy land or have some land set aside, whenever you take away vegetation from the ditch. And it (vegetation) is regenerating its presence every time we don’t clean it.”

Pointed out Chipman, “What happens when the ditches are not kept clean is vegetation starts to grow and debris collects and that slows the water down, so when you get a quarter-inch of rain, the parking lot at MBHS, and the bus drop-off zone, is flooded to depths as much as two feet.”

And, according to Chipman, it also doesn’t help that the City has a stormwater priorities waiting list. “They only clean about 10 ditches per year,” he said, adding the waiting list can exceed 100 ditches.

“MBHS is grateful for the City’s attention to the storm drain on the west side of our campus,” said principal Ernest S. Remillard. “During my time as principal, the City has come out a few times to address the overgrowth causing the flooding issue. When the appropriate care is given to the drain, we see fewer bugs around campus, no impacts on parking and campus access, as well as less homeless encampments in the overgrowth.”

The long-term solution Chipman has proposed includes:

– Continuing to pursue drainage ditch cleanout ASAP.
– After cleaning create a volunteer cleaning crew of PB Town Council/residents so the concrete ditch cannot be considered freshwater.
– Ask for assistance from the Pacific Beach Town Council and Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary Schools for a community plan to keep the concrete ditch clean.
– Request assistance from District 2 Councilmember Jen Campbell’s office to pursue PB Drive realignment and drainage undergrounding.

Chipman contends cleaning out the ditch, realigning the road and undergrounding, drainage would resolve the problem.

“It would eliminate flooding of MBHS and significantly reduce mosquito problems while providing a grade-separated bike/pedestrian path for two blocks,” he concluded.
County expands COVID-19 vaccination availability to ages 75 and up

By JOSÉ A. ÁLVAREZ

Due to a slowing of appointments at COVID-19 vaccination sites, the County of San Diego on Jan. 18 expanded the category of those eligible to include those aged 75 and up.

“We took this action today to add individuals 75 years of age and older because they are at the greatest risk,” said Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer. “It remains our intention to expand vaccines to those 65 and older the week of Jan. 25, contingent of vaccine availability.”

These new requirements apply to the Petco Park Vaccination Super Station and other Point of Distribution sites providing County vaccine. More information is at coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine and reservations can be made at vaccinationsuperstationsd.com. Only Health Care Workers (Phase 1A, All Tiers) and those 75 and older (Phase 1B, Tier 1) can visit vaccination sites.

1. Health care workers are encouraged to first contact their doctor or healthcare providers to request the vaccine, but if none are available, then they should make an appointment for a County site.
2. Appointments are required: walk-ups and drive-ups without appointments will be turned away.
3. Do not schedule an appointment if you have COVID-19, or are sick. Please follow CDC guidance for those situations.
4. Medical professionals administering the vaccine will be wearing personal protective equipment.
5. Wear a mask.
6. Acceptable forms of proof to be presented at the County’s Vaccine Super Station:
   - Employee ID badge with photo
   - Signed letter from their employer on facility letterhead and a photo ID, or a payment stub or timesheet from their healthcare employer or in-home supportive services with a photo ID.

A nurse prepares a COVID-19 vaccine to be administered at Petco Park.

In 2020, more San Diegans dying because of meth

By NEAL PUTNAM

Record numbers of San Diegans are dying because of meth, according to new figures that show the highly addictive drug’s increasingly harmful impact on the region. A total of 546 San Diegans died from meth last year, 63 more than the previous record of 483 set in 2018.

This is the key finding in the San Diego County Methamphetamine Strike Force’s latest report, which was recently released outside the County Administration Center. The 2020 report card shows the leading indicators of meth problems in the region.

According to the Medical Examiner’s Office, the people most impacted by meth are those 45 years of age and older, which represented 319 of the total meth-related deaths. The reason is that people in this age bracket tend to have had chronic cardiovascular disease, which itself could have resulted from long-time methamphetamine abuse.

The 2020 Meth Report Card also shows:

- There were 13,020 emergency room visits due to methamphetamine in 2018 compared to 12,926 in 2017. Data from 2019 won’t be available until 2021.
- A total of 6,591 people were admitted to County-funded treatment programs due to meth abuse last year, vs. 6,906 in 2018.
- 59% of adult arrestees tested positive for meth in 2019, compared to 57% in the previous year.
- 11% of juvenile arrestees tested positive for meth in 2019, compared to 10% in 2018.
- Meth arrests for selling and possession of meth increased to 11,313 in 2019 vs. 10,156 the year before.

Grannick spoke via a computer feed from her Florida home and appeared on a video screen before San Diego Superior Court Judge Kenneth So.

Longley, 41, was found dead on July 4, 2016, near the Robb Athletic Field tennis courts in Ocean Beach. He was attacked while asleep by Guerrero who hammered a railroad spike into his head.

So ordered the life terms to run without the possibility of parole. He also imposed an additional sentence of 143 years.

Guerrero pleaded guilty in January 2020 to four counts of first-degree murder as well as two arson counts in which victims had been set on fire. He also pleaded guilty to eight counts of attempted murder and assault of other homeless people.

The motive for all of the attacks was a hatred of homeless people, Deputy District Attorney Makemae Harvey told the judge that one surviving victim who asked Guerrero why he assault-ed him said Guerrero answered “because you’re a bum.”

The sentencing was delayed because of the coronavirus outbreak. Other delays occurred when Guerrero was found mentally incompetent to stand trial and was sent to a state mental hospital for treatment.

Guerrero gets four life terms plus 143 years for four murders

By NEAL PUTNAM

Four consecutive terms of life in prison were handed down Tuesday to Jon David Guerrero who killed three homeless men in Ocean Beach, Mission Bay, and downtown plus a woman in North Park.

The sentencing of Guerrero, now 43, ends the nearly five-year case involved attacks upon mostly homeless people that occurred in 2016.

“You took a piece of my heart that I’ll never get back,” said Linda Gramlick, the mother of Shawn Longley, to Guerrero, whom she referred to as “a monster.”

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DRE #01440201
Bicycle retail and repair shops in La Jolla and Pacific Beach are faring better than most during the pandemic. But now there’s a new problem: supply.

“A kind of double-edged sword,” said Jason Millard, manager of California Bicycle, a 45-year-old bike shop at 7462 La Jolla Blvd. “We’re extremely busy. But at the same time, there’s a huge lack of inventory across the nation. That has put quite a few bicycle stores out of business.”

“In March 2020 when the lock down happened, we were slow,” confided Greg Heath, general manager of Bicycle Discovery at 742 Felspar St. in PB. “I was sure we were going to have trouble finding enough business. But as we went into about the one-month mark (mid-April), people started pouring in the shop, looking to get back on bikes and get outside.”

Millard of California Bicycle put the current bicycle supply shortage into perspective.

“The supply train has been broken in the industry as a whole,” he said. “Pretty much every bike manufacturer was sold out of every bike they make by mid-year last year, “ he said. “Having been in business 45 years, we have a huge stockpile internally of bicycle components that’s kept us afloat,” Millard said. “I don’t want to say we planned for this. But we planned for this.”

Heath talked about how Bicycle Discovery coped.

“We started adapting how we ordered everything just to try our best to keep all our customers riding, and get as many new bikes in as possible,” he said. “As production started back up, we started getting more bikes in. Although, there are some types of bikes that are still difficult for everyone to get. The whole cycling industry got a large boost, but the sudden growth in sales means the more complicated bike builds (high-end road bikes/mountain bikes) have long lead times and people are usually buying in advance to make sure they get what they want.”

Millard, too, is coping as best he can with the shortage situation.

“As of right now my company is still not able to deliver a lot of bikes and we probably won’t see them until August of this year,” he said adding, “It affects all of us in the industry. Nobody’s immune. It’s the vendors being out of product, which produces a trickle down effect. If they don’t have it – we don’t have it.”

Added Millard of the shortage, “It’s definitely a negative. A dozen times a day I get people ready to plop down money, but we have no bikes to sell them.”

“The supply shortage has even impacted Millard’s in-house bike repair shop. “It’s become a full-time job just to access components like gears and brake pads to repair bicycles,” he said.

Fortunately, California Bicycle was prepared.

“In March 2020 when the lock down happened, we were slow,” he said. “We remained steady all (last) year and going into the new year. We are now making sure we are doing whatever we can to keep the shop full so customers can get what they want. Cycling is a hit right now because it’s outdoors and COVID-safe.”

So customers can get what they want.

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Heath sees better times ahead, though the road seems a bit uncertain.

“Never in my years as a manager have I had so many bikes that were on order, but that’s the new way we are running things to make sure we have enough for everyone who comes in,” he said. “We remained steady all (last) year and going into the new year. We are now making sure we are doing whatever we can to keep the shop full so customers can get what they want. Cycling is a hit right now because it’s outdoors and COVID-safe.”

Bike shops in La Jolla and Pacific Beach rolling along despite shortages
Spectrum recently opened a one-stop shop in La Jolla serving consumers’ multifaceted electronic needs. This is an experience store where people can come in and really look at all our devices and try them out,” said Pam Collazo, Spectrum’s senior manager for communications, about the new La Jolla store at 8843 Villa La Jolla Drive, Suite 203.

“Our Spectrum store’s team is here to help our local customers who need support in getting and staying connected during these uncertain times,” said Pattie Eliason, Spectrum senior vice president. “They are working to make our new store in La Jolla a safe, convenient environment to add or manage services, shop for devices and accessories, or make payments while ensuring we adhere to current local and state health and safety guidelines.”

The Spectrum store gives consumers in the La Jolla area a convenient option for adding or managing their Spectrum Internet, TV, mobile, or voice services. It offers the latest devices and accessories compatible with Spectrum Mobile, devices and accessories compatible with Spectrum Mobile, and combines low-band coverage now reaches 230 million people with high-band, ultra-fast millimeter wave service available in 61 cities and counting.

Inside the new La Jolla store at 8843 Villa La Jolla Drive.

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The Spectrum store gives consumers in the La Jolla area a convenient option for adding or managing their Spectrum Internet, TV, mobile, or voice services. It offers the latest devices and accessories compatible with Spectrum Mobile, which is designed to provide customers the highest quality experience at great value, including access to next-generation 5G service where available. To help protect the safety of customers and employees, and in accordance with CDC guidelines and state and local orders, social distancing is required in the La Jolla Spectrum, with occupancy of the store managed by employees. Spectrum stores are cleaned and disinfected regularly, with frequent cleaning of high-touch areas and hand sanitizers available storewide.

Collazo noted that Spectrum and Time Warner Cable merged about five years ago. She said Spectrum now serves the county north of Interstate 8, while Cox Communications serves the county south of Interstate 8 and in East County.

She added La Jolla’s new Spectrum store is ideally situated in the Shops at La Jolla Village Mall, which includes a Whole Foods. “It’s near the Paper Source on the CVS side of the mall with plenty of parking,” Collazo said. She added: “Customers can go in the store and sign up for all our services, Spectrum Mobile, TV, internet, and phone. There’s a kiosk where they can pay their bills using credit cards, checks, or cash.”

Two new product offerings at Spectrum include:

Spectrum’s senior manager for communications, about the new La Jolla store at 8843 Villa La Jolla Drive, Suite 203.

“Call Guard, a feature for both Spectrum Voice and Spectrum Business Voice customers that automatically blocks malicious robocalls and sends caller ID alerts for other suspicious telemarketing calls. Through their voice portal, customers have the ability to view which numbers have been blocked, add additional blocked numbers, add allowed numbers to ensure important calls are delivered, or turn off the Call Guard feature.”

– Spectrum Mobile now offers Samsung’s new lineup of 5 series phones, the Galaxy S21, Galaxy S21+, and Galaxy S21 Ultra. The Galaxy S21 and S21+ feature a new design, a pro-grade camera, and the most advanced processor ever in a Galaxy device. Additionally, Spectrum Mobile’s nationwide 5G service now reaches 230 million people and combines low-band coverage with high-band, ultra-fast millimeter wave service available in 61 cities and counting.

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KAYAK CLEANUP
Any kayakers out there want to do some good? The San Diego River Park Foundation is looking for people with kayaks to help remove trash from sensitive habitat at the San Diego River Estuary at a “B.Y.O.-Kayak Cleanup” on Saturday, Jan. 30. Kayaks will be sent out in three shifts: 8:15 a.m.-9:15 a.m., 9 a.m.-10 a.m., or 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Please indicate which shift you would prefer when you RSVP. For more information and to RSVP, email volunteer@sandiegoriver.org.

Space is limited and volunteers must bring their own kayaks. SDRPF staff will be enforcing COVID-19 health and safety measures to provide a safe volunteer experience for participants. If you have questions or concerns, email volunteer@sandiegoriver.org.

MICKELSON JOINS FARMERS OPEN
San Diego native and three-time Farmers Insurance Open winner Phil Mickelson has committed to compete in the 2021 tournament, set for Jan. 28-31 at Torrey Pines Golf Course. Mickelson joins a field that currently includes 16 of the top 50 players in the Official World Golf Rankings and 16 players among the top 30 in the 2020-21 FedExCup points standings. There are also five past Farmers Insurance Open winners committed, as well as six players who have accounted for 14 major championship victories.

Other San Diego products committed to the Farmers Insurance Open include Rickie Fowler, Charley Hoffman, Jamie Lovemark, Kyle Mendoza, Pat Perez, Xander Schauffele and JJ. Spaun. The field is not final until the commitment deadline on Friday, Jan. 22 shortly after conclusion of play in that week’s tournament.

LA JOLLA SYMPHONY
With the COVID-19 pandemic impacting everyday life, the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus has once again re-imagined its 2020-2021 season. Titled “Stay Home With Us,” the reimagined program will combine some of the lively conversation, fascinating ideas and extraordinary music. The six-part monthly series will prepare a lively menu of musical encounters featuring interviews, solo performances and selected pre-recorded works from the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus archives. Join from your living room, or maybe from the kitchen, as you prepare a meal and enjoy a glass of wine or listen as you walk on the beach or on the trails.

Productions will also be aired Feb. 19, March 19, April 16, May 14, and June 18. Series subscriptions or individual event tickets can be purchased by visiting lajollasymphony.com, by phoning the Box Office at 858-534-4637. PB LIBRARY OPEN
“We’re still offering contactless book holds and pickups,” PB head librarian Christina Wainwright told the PB Planning Group, adding that the library is not yet open inside for patrons. “If you want to use library services inside you have to go to the La Jolla or Point Loma libraries,” she said. Wainwright added the PB library continues to host its “Books Like Us Winter Reading Challenge,” which rewards prizes for people of all ages keeping logs of hours they’ve spent reading books. For more information about the reading program and other available services visit sandiego.gov.
La Jolla filmmaker documents COVID fight in America’s hardest hit city

La Jolla resident Adam Raby’s film projects in 2020 were put on hold. But on Dec. 31, Raby was offered a chance to be at ground zero in the fight against the COVID-19 panic.

"Empowering a Billion Women contacted me and said, ‘Hey, we know you’re from California and we got this opportunity to do some filming in El Centro, are you interested?’" Raby said.

"Empowering a Billion Women (EBW, ewb2020.com) is an organization made up of a global network of women leaders who advocate for women’s health and prosperity. In the early months of the pandemic, EBW was tapped by the U.S. Health & Human Services (HHS) Department to use its network in procuring PPE. It’s latest role in the COVID fight — and the reason it reached out to Raby — is a public information campaign in El Centro, informing residents about the availability of monoclonal antibody treatments (MAbs).

"When President Trump got diagnosed with COVID-19, they took him to Walter Reed in a helicopter, and as soon as he landed they gave him this treatment," Raby said. "It was only available to certain people at that point, it wasn’t available to anybody, real or fake. I use antique textiles so my finished work will look like faded colors."

Each month she spends hours looking through magazines for ideas. She said to let history inspire you and finished by mentioning that you should always push yourself.

"I gratefully to the artist Paul Klee, which doesn’t make sense because I don’t make abstract art or use vivid colors. I use antique textiles so my finished work will look like faded colors. When I go to museums I look at things that aren’t on my list such as how did they use light and sometimes the frame is as good as the art. Picasso is great to look at for the composition and use of color.

Other inspirations she talked about were graffiti and street art along with Japanese fashion, style, and art. These are marvelous ways to spur your imagination.

Safeguarding your time and limiting daily distractions are additional methods she talked about for inspiration and creativity. She is a lifelong learner and experiments even if it is messy. While working she watches fashion shows and art documentaries for added creativity.

One of her favorite inspirational exhibitions was Guo Pei at the Bowers Museum. This Chinese fashion designer creates the most intricate details in her work. Guo Pei is truly exceptional. Marty-O also enjoys Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto, who is known for his avant-garde tailoring.

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Pacific Beach student band grows up into talented musicians

By DAVE SCHWAB

Pacifc Beach Elementary School teacher and par- ent David Sandler was an aspiring musician in his youth who only took his calling so far. Now, as informal manager of his son Evan’s up-and-coming band, Go Heads, Sandler hopes to see them all go where he never went before.

“I grew up playing piano and 30 years ago I was in a band named Cool Beans where we wrote all-original music and played at the Coaster Saloon and the Beachcomber,” said Sandler. “But we never did anything with it.”

“Thirty years later, I was teach- ing my son and his friends, whose band literally just started from a talent show act. I ended up haul- ing them all over to my house after school, and I would teach the songs that I played, a lot of my original music. And it just started from there. Then they started writing their own music.”

The Go Heads consist of Evan Sandler, Kory Watson, Noah Kapchinske, Drew Tolley and singer Brianna Eckenrod. The five young people are all serious about their music, say with the Preservationists, under the tu- nelage of music instructor and MBHS alumnus J.P. Balmat. The five young people are all serious about their music, say

“Our sound has matured since then,” said Kapchinske, adding he’s been playing guitar since age 8 and has studied under popular, high-profile local blues guitarist Robin Henkel. “I was first inspired to pursue mu- sic from hearing Johnny Cash and old country and rockabilly music. Then I got turned on to roots, jazz and blues. I really appreciate a lot of genres. I’ve been into bluegrass stuff lately.”

“When we explore the inter- relation of various scales and harmonic devices I’ll ask him of what her singing means to her. Ecknerod said: “It’s this great form, experience, it’s something that comes from you. It’s your voice that’s inside of you, just a way to express your- self. When I was little I would zone out and start singing. I guess I didn’t sound too bad.”

“[Brianna] sang a capella in our Pacific Beach Elementary variety show.” David Sandler said, adding he was impressed. “I said, ‘She needs to be in these kids’ band.’ She was 9 or 10 years old.”

“I started playing guitar in second grade,” said Watson, noting David Sandler “asked me if I wanted to play bass. I said, ‘Sure.’ That’s how it happened.”

“[Watson’s] also a great sax player and player and plays with the Preservationists,” added David Sandler. Of his guitar student, Kapchinske, blues-guitarist Henkel said: “Noah is talented, humble and enthusiastic. He’s polite and considerate. That, combined with his strong apti- tude for music, is probably why he’s doing so well.”

Henkel added Noah, as a gui- tarist, “gets it.”

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“Almost all of us were in Pacific Beach Elementary’s band,” pointed out Evan Sandler, discussing his musical taste. “Blues music is huge with all these amazing influences that really blends well with our style.”

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Henkel added Noah, as a gui- tarist, “gets it.”

“When we explore the inter- relation of various scales and harmonic devices I’ll ask him to compose something using those ideas,” Henkel added.

“Each week he shows me a new tune in music notation with a demo-recorded version. He’s not just a guy in a band mov- ing up quickly. He’s becoming a composer and arranger.”

David Sandler’s more than a manager to his son’s band. He added he’s not living vicarious- ly through them, but rather de- lighting in guiding them down their own musical path.

“These kids are such a part of me,” he said. “They save my life in a way. I felt so emp- ty after my era ended. I was going to school and getting my teaching credentials and master’s degree and starting a family. That just seemed to disappear for me. These kids just brought it back for me. It just fills my whole life to have them in my life.”

Concluded David Sandler: “Their music is such a part of me now I could never have imagined. They just went above and beyond. They’re so talented, so smart, so articu- lated. You always want your kids to be better than you. These kids are far better than I ever was.”

View a clip of the Go Heads performing at youtu.be/ FNHjTmdXXZI.
The pioneering scientist, who is recognized as a leading expert in their area of study, has been elected to several prestigious societies, including the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. Their work on climate change and oceanography has been widely cited and has contributed significantly to the understanding of Earth's systems.

Dr. Watson's research has focused on understanding the processes that control ocean circulation and the role of the ocean in the Earth's climate system. They have conducted extensive field work in the Arctic and Antarctic regions, and their studies have helped to refine our understanding of how the ocean impacts climate change.

Dr. Watson has also been a vocal advocate for the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and the need for a more holistic approach to ocean science. Their work has had a significant impact on the field, and they continue to be a respected and influential figure in oceanography.

In addition to their scientific contributions, Dr. Watson has also been actively involved in science policy and outreach. They have served on numerous advisory committees and panels, and they have been a regular contributor to public forums and media discussions on ocean science topics.

Dr. Watson's achievements have been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the National Medal of Science and the Japan Prize. Their contributions to the field of oceanography have had a lasting impact, and they continue to inspire scientists and students around the world.
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Two students from Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary School advanced to the county-wide competition level for the National PTA’s Reflections Art Program. Fifth-grader Alarycia C. and fourth-grader Aaron C. both submitted artwork in the visual arts category in a school-wide competition, which earned their pieces “Awards of Excellence” from the Barnard PTA. Their artwork again received “Awards of Excellence” from the San Diego Unified Council of PTAs and advanced to the Ninth District PTA competition, where they competed with artwork from throughout the county in December.

Reflections is the largest and oldest arts education program of its kind, and more than 300,000 pre-K through grade 12 students nationwide create original works of art each year in response to a student-selected theme. This year’s theme was “I Matter Because...” and Barnard’s students produced an array of introspective, imaginative, and thoughtful pieces.

For information on Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary School or to find out about the District’s School Choice program, visit barnard.sandiegounified.org.
**JUST LISTED ON WATERFRONT - 1 BEDROOM CONDO**

**4767 Ocean Blvd #409**

Enjoy panoramic ocean and coastline views from this waterfront condo in North Pacific Beach’s premier building, The Capri by the Sea. Well maintained direct waterfront 1BR home features a kitchen with breakfast bar that opens to your living and dining room with Juliet balcony. Comes with 1 parking space in secure garage. Incredibly rare highrise building with CC&R’s that permit vacation rentals with a minimum 3 night stay. Bldg has 24/7 security, elevators, pool/spa, sauna, and rooftop deck with BBQs. **Offered at $859,000**

**JUST LISTED CONTEMPORARY BEACH HOUSE**

**824 Kingston Ct**

Situated on the sunny side of a desirable N. Mission Beach court, this contemporary 3BR/2BA beach house is exceptionally spacious and beautifully designed. Ground floor features 1BR, 1BA, open concept kitchen with island, dining area, and living room facing courtside patio with privacy hedge. Second floor enjoys 2BRs, 1BA, and family room with gas fireplace, balcony, and desk nook. Side-by-side 2-car garage + 1 more parking space is a must at the beach! Central AC, in-ceiling speakers, skylights, & more. **Offered at $1,595,000**

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- **Kate Sessions Area**
  - **VIEW HOME COMING SOON**
  - **3/2 + Studio/1BA w/ Pool | $1,895,000**

- **1261 Diamond Street**
  - **JUST SOLD w/ MULTIPLE OFFERS**
  - **Sale Price: $1,710,000 | Represented Buyer**

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**READERS CHOICE AWARDS 2020**

**VILLAGE NEWS**
A sabbatical leave which turned into a permanent relocation to California

By Natasha Joselewitz, Ph.D.

In 1979, Herman was due for a sabbatical leave. My friend, Alice Sargeant, Dean of a Catholic college in Washington, D.C., where I taught on weekends, told us about her house in La Jolla, a village in Southern California. She did not have any renters that winter and would let us have it at a reasonable price. We accepted the offer having no idea what was in store for us, but we were ready for a warmer winter. It turned out to be a lovely house right on the beach. Herman swam in the ocean all winter long saying that the Pacific Ocean was warmer in the winter than the Atlantic Ocean was in the summer. Alice had written to some of her friends asking them to welcome us, so we were ready for a winter and spend time with friends. It was a center of medical research, and three universities. We gave several lectures together. It was wonderful to have our backyard. San Diego Zoo. My grandchildren learned to swim in our pool. We spent Fourth of July fireworks from our own right.

I happened to be sitting next to Jonas Salk. When he found out that I was born in Paris, France, he jumped up from his seat, took me by the hand and led me to a quiet room. He picked up the phone and called his wife Françoise Gilot who was in Paris. No matter that it was three o’clock in the morning in France, he woke her up and said he wanted to introduce her to his dinner partner and handed me the phone. I apologized for the hour. We talked in French. I suggested we continue our conversation when she returned home a few days later. We met for lunch. She is a fascinating woman; she had written a book My Life with Picasso and had two children by him and is a painter in her own right.

I shared some of my poems with her, which I was planning to send to a publisher. She loved them and offered to illustrate the book, and so she did. Our book, Is This Where I Was Going? (published by Warner Books in 1983) was very successful with many printings. We gave several lectures together. It was wonderful to have a friend with whom I could speak French. It is strange how language can stimulate a different subject — gender equality as a human right.

Natasha Joselewitz is the author of 21 books. She currently resides at White Sands Retirement Community in La Jolla. Copyright © 2022. Natasha Joselewitz. All rights reserved.

Marilyn Adler Lindberg joins La Jolla Community Center board of directors

Marilyn Adler Lindberg, former university lecturer, author, teacher, entrepreneur and marketing specialist was recently named to the board of directors at the La Jolla Community Center. Lindberg’s background includes lecturing for Queens College in New York City and UCSD Rady School of Business on communications.

She founded several companies including Creative Targets Inc. in New York City. Lindberg also has been active in San Diego. She recently inspired Well Lean Foods and created a STOP the Spread of COVID 19 campaigns with the Tribune and Fox News.

“We are delighted that Marilyn will be joining our board,” said Ruth Yansick, CEO of the La Jolla Community Center board. “Her vast skills span from entrepreneurship, marketing, PR, fundraising, and communications and we look forward to her contributions as we develop our 2021 plan of action for growth and development of the Center.”

Lindberg, who joins the 11-member board said she looks forward to contributing her skills and entrepreneurial success as a board member and has “a passion for launching unique fundraising projects for nonprofits and initiating cause-related marketing campaigns.

The La Jolla Community Center provides a range of services and programs for adults and seniors including virtual classes and events. For additional information, visit ljcommunitycenter.org.
Kate Sessions Park was originally a 2 acre park named Color Park that was founded by Kate O. Sessions but was never completed before her death in 1940. Her brother Frank proposed to the City to rename the park Kate O. Sessions Color Park to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of her birth. The City did better and donated 79 acres of Pueblo Lot 1785 naming it Kate O. Sessions Park in her honor.

PB Fun Fact:

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DRE #01397371

796 NEPTUNE AVE.
2 BD | 1 BA | 1,147 sq.ft.
Asking Price of $3,995,000

Charming Beach cottage on a large lot with lower seawall and upper bluff caissons. From the moment you open the front gate you can see the beautiful blue ocean water. This single level home sits on an irregularly shaped lot resulting in almost 60’ of frontage on the Ocean which gives you even more panoramic views and a lush grass west yard. The east side yard is spacious, very private, and beautifully landscaped, with room for future home expansion. Only 11 lots to Beacons Beach access. www.796neptunave.com

JUST SOLD

2491 WILBUR AVE.
4 BD | 3 BA | 3,246 SQ. FT.

Looking for a home with tons of potential and some of the best views in PB? This property is calling your name! Nestled in a quiet and secluded part of East PB, this unpolished diamond features multiple living spaces with views, two of which are on the second floor with 180 degree views from North PB to the mountains, a large kitchen, 3 bedrooms downstairs, 2 bedrooms upstairs, a pool, a 2 car garage and endless possibilities.

Asking price of $1,299,000

JUST LISTED

839 REED AVE.
5 BD | 5 BA | 3,045 SQ. FT.

Quality, elegance and coastal living at its finest! No expense was spared on this 2018 custom-built home that is 1 block to the ocean. Enjoy 10’ coved ceilings, an expansive yet cozy great room, gas fireplace with an antique mantle, and large dining area with French Doors leading to a quaint side patio. The kitchen is an entertainer’s dream, and it includes a Viking 36” Professional Series stove, a 48” Subzero fridge, an abundance of storage space, double islands and a large slider leading to the back patio, creating a cohesive indoor/ outdoor experience. Other bonus features are an oversized laundry room, secret “safety room,” a second floor ocean view deck and a 3 car garage plus additional carport parking space. The studio companion unit above the garage can be used as a rental for an additional income stream or is perfect for family and out-of-town guests to stay in while visiting.

Sold for $2,775,000 Successfully in escrow in 4 days & sold within 11 days of coming on the market.

JUST SOLD

839 REED AVE.
5 BD | 5 BA | 3,045 SQ. FT.

One of the highest compliments for us to receive, as REALTORS®, is for another REALTOR® to hire us to sell their own home. That was the case in this scenario; the owners were REALTORS® that recently moved out of state and came to us for help. After only 4 days on the market, we had an accepted all-cash offer with a quick 7-day close of escrow!

SOLD for $2,775,000!