Surfers, walkers, and runners came out to La Jolla Shores on April 27 to enjoy the re-opening of the beaches.

PHOTO BY DON BALCH
Civic leaders praised the City’s decision to construct a roundabout and other traffic-calming improvements at Foothill Boulevard and Loring Street in Pacific Beach.

The announcement came shortly following yet another recent auto collision at the needlestem crossing.

Construction of the estimated $2.4 million project is set to begin the third quarter of 2021, with completion anticipated in the fourth quarter of 2022.

The Foothill and Loring Roundabout project consists of a large, complex roundabout, significant storm-drain improvements, water-quality elements, and ADA/accessibility upgrades to meet the needs of the residents in the area, cyclists, and drivers.

Rand concurred the project is a huge step forward for safety.

“Route 51 was going to remain with us for a while,” said County’s highway maintenance workers comprise 35% of those who normally commute to work every day by public transportation.

The conference came in response to a March 17, 2020, conference, Circulate San Diego, which found near-elimination of the San Diego region’s transit ridership comprises essential workers and finds that 35 percent of usual transit ridership are essential workers.

The report noted those 16,000 essential workers comprise 35% of those who normally commute aboard MTS and North County Transit District vehicles, according to pre-pandemic data.

According to Circulate San Diego, a regional nonprofit transit advocate, nearly 2% of the region’s essential workers do not have a vehicle and rely on public transportation to get to work. The report stated that 16,000 essential workers of the region commute every day by public transportation.

“Let’s shut everything down.”

Noting he believes “social distancing is going to remain with us for a while,” said Schupp.

“They are being outstanding in giving direction to us, helping us to make decisions every day,” said Circulate’s Parent said their report was issued two weeks before the stay-at-home order to control the COVID-19 crisis which has since been lifted.

Schupp admitted there were some difficulties initially in responding to the COVID-19 crisis which has since been lifted. He went on to say, “We’ve been working through the future in providing lots of hand sanitizer. We’re really encouraging people to wear masks or hand sanitizers that really covers your nose and mouth.”

Foothill and Loring intersection will get its roundabout

By Dave Schwab

PB community planners and activists engaged with the roundabout effort were elated by the news of proposed roundabout construction.

“The construction of this roundabout cannot come soon enough, and in fact, we want this thing built yesterday,” said Brian Smith, president of Pacific Beach Town Council. “Hopefully, the valiant efforts of local petitioners will also prompt the city to install additional traffic-calming measures and flashing crosswalks along Foothill Boulevard to make it less dangerous for families and children crossing the street.”

Added Phillipp: “As of now the anticipated design costs are fully funded. However, full construction funding has not been identified. As is standard for all projects, the timeline is subject to change.”

Phillip said this problematic stretch of roadway has been evaluated numerous times, listing past improvements, which have included edge line striping, curve warning signs, oversize speed limit signs, electronic speed signs, a road diet between Loring and Beryl, and prohibition of use by trucks over five tons, as well as removal of the free-right-turn for eastbound traffic on Loring at Foothill Drive.

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LA JOLLA Lower Hermosa: Rustic Mediterranean Villa COMING SOON! 6bd/4.5ba. 4,034 sf. $3,950,000 - $4,295,000

LA JOLLA Lower Hermosa: Development opportunity w/ approved plans for a Contemporary Estate on Camino De La Costa Agent: Natalie McGhie. $5,250,000

NEW LISTING! LA JOLLA Heights: 2 masters, quiet & serene 4bd +1 Opt./4.5ba. 3,777 sf. $1,950,000 - $2,100,000

LA JOLLA Shores: your escape from the Hustle & Bustle 3bd/3.5ba. 2,494 sf. $3,495,000

LA JOLLA Hidden Valley: Quaint ranch style. PENDING! 4bd/3ba. 2,372 sf. $1,699,000

LA JOLLA Muirlands: One of the best views in La Jolla! PENDING! 4bd/3.5ba. 3,401 sf. $1,950,000 - $2,100,000

MISSION BEACH: 2nd & 3rd Fl Bayfront home, 1st time on Market! Designed by Bokal & Sneed Architects, interesting interior angles NEW LISTING! 2bd/2ba. 1,280sf. $1,298,000
San Diego stays ‘classy’ with beach and bay re-openings, mayor says

As City-operated beaches re-open for some uses following the County of San Diego’s revised public health order, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer was joined by the San Diego Police Chief David Nisleit, Lifeguard Division Chief James Gartland, and Randa Coniglio, president and CEO of the Port of San Diego on April 27 to provide an update on the first day of limited coastal access.

“Today you stayed classy, San Diego, because you followed the beach rules developed by lifeguards and public health officials,” Faulconer said. “We’ve all seen beaches around the country reopen to pandemonium. Today the nation saw San Diego acting like America’s Finest City. This was just the first day, so we are continuing to ask for the public’s cooperation and compliance.

On April 30, Gov. Gavin Newsom closed Orange County beaches after thousands of people crowded those beaches – especially in Newport Beach – last weekend. But the current regulations for San Diego beaches remain.

PUBLIC HEALTH RULES
• Physical distancing must be followed in accordance with state, regional and local orders to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.
• Face coverings are strongly encouraged. Starting on May 1, face coverings will be required by the County of San Diego when within six feet of a non-household member. “San Diegans are doing their part and it’s important we keep going,” said Nisleit. “Let’s continue our commitment to physical distancing, wearing face coverings and saving lives. Working together, we’ll be able to beat this virus and prevent more cases in our communities.”
• “Lifeguards have been met with good cooperation and have not had to issue any citations since the beaches reopened. We have received good compliance with warnings and public addresses alone, and we want to encourage the public to keep abiding by these guidelines,” Nisleit added.

STILL CLOSED
• Boardwalks.
• Piers.
• Parking lots.
• Fiesta Island.

NOT PERMITTED ANYWHERE
• Gatherings.
• Non-physical distancing activities.

Also starting May 1, some restrictions will be relaxed for parks and golf courses if they can enforce social distancing. Operators of a park or golf course need to create and post a plan for how they will do that. If they maintain social distancing:
• Parks can reopen parking lots, with limitations.
• Park visitors can sit, lie down, picnic if they practice social distancing.
• Members of a family or household can play active sports, such as basketball.

STAY AT HOME ORDERS
• Everyone needs to stay home except to take care of essential needs or go to an essential job.
• Practice social distancing. Keep at least six feet away from other people unless they’re household members. Avoid gatherings of any size.
• You should wear a face-covering when leaving home. Cloth facial coverings don’t have to be medical grade but should cover your nose and mouth. Homemade masks, bandanas, scarves, and neck gaiters are OK since you can wash and reuse them.
• It is strongly recommended you stay home, unless you need medical care.

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NEWS

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FRIDAY - MAY 1, 2020
BEACH & BAY PRESS / LA JOLLA VILLAGE NEWS

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La Jolla groups hire attorneys to oppose UC San Diego project

By DAVE SCHWAB

Reacting to UC San Diego’s controversial proposal to build five new multi-story buildings on-campus, two La Jolla groups opposed have hired legal representation, joining three other civic groups in banding together to try and have the project paused.

La Jolla Shores Association City advisory group and Black Horse Homeowners Association, have both retained attorneys to represent them in ongoing negotiations between the university and La Jollans. Residents are arguing the Future College Living and Learning Neighborhood project’s bulk and scale is excessive and will lead to unmitigated impacts on traffic and access that must be more fully addressed.

The project, proposed on a parking lot adjacent to La Jolla Playhouse, is designed to provide residential life and administrative space for a new undergraduate college, with approximately 2,000 undergraduate beds, classrooms, an estimated 1,200 underground parking spaces, and a conference and retail space.

The new development, consisting of three nine- to 11-story buildings located along the campus edge, and two taller 16- and 21-story buildings located in the interior of the site to the east, would have a conference on top of one of the buildings and a public market at ground level.

“Because of the current national health emergency, our cooperation with La Jolla Community Planning Association, La Jolla Shores Association, La Jolla Traffic & Transportation and La Jolla Town Council postponed the co-hosted April 2 LJCPA meeting,” said the four groups in a joint letter to the university. “We are hopeful that we can catch this same event with the UCSD presentation of the project to the community at the May 7 LJCPA meeting.”

A second letter signed and sent by LJSA president Janie Emerson to the university recently concludes with the four-groups joint letter, but it goes one step further in asking essentially for a “time-out” on the project, to allow continuing negotiations between both sides.

“The LJSA wants to reach out to you while all of us are now under mandatory sequester in our homes,” said Emerson. “Obviously, current events have everything on hold … A suspension of this FCLLN Project timeline will allow LJSA, the Community and UCSD to continue safe and open discussions on this project, and how to move forward together. In addition, such a suspension is an indication of good faith to the community by UC San Diego.”

Answered university spokesperson Leslie Sepuka: “Everything UC San Diego does is motivated by its academic and research mission, with a specific focus on meeting the needs of our students. The university is under state mandates to increase enrollment, which has resulted in the campus adding more than 8,000 undergraduate students in the last eight years.

“This growth places a responsibility on the campus to provide appropriate infrastructure and facilities, with student housing being of significant importance. The primary driver of our current development plan is accommodating a student population that already exists.”

The university proposed a meeting on April 2 hosted by LJCPA which was postponed due to safety recommendations, continued the university’s response. “The university is working toward presenting at a future meeting, with the date and format to be confirmed. [The project] will be considered for approval in a meeting with the UC Regents, with the date to be confirmed. During the pandemic, the university has continued to share information on the project through online channels and the media, and continues to receive feedback from the community online, via email and on the phone.”

Email commplan@ucsd.edu. There is also a feedback page on PlanDesignBuild.ucsd.edu.

Some La Jolla residents and groups are insisting that continuing university “creep” into surrounding neighborhoods is causing traffic congestion imperiling public safety. A few, like LJSA’s Emerson, argue the university’s current plans for the development are out of step with the times.

“They shouldn’t be doing dinosaur thinking with these huge concrete buildings,” she said. “They should be doing something really cutting-edge, like having online classes taught by professors from all over the country and world. We need new thinking for the future. That’s how UC San Diego got started, by the Revelle’s doing something really different. Their (universities) mission is to teach and educate, not construct buildings housing people.”

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If you suspect a gas leak: immediately evacuate the area and call 1-800-411-7343 or 911 from a safe place. Your safety is our highest priority.

Get more tips at sdge.com/safety

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Follow us on:
Homelessness on City streets drops by 12 percent in annual count

F
ollowing innovative ac-
tions that made San Diego
the only major county in
the state to see homelessness de-
crease in 2019, a new report shows
the number of people living on City
of San Diego streets dropped by 12
percent in 2020. Mayor Kevin L.
Faulconer and the Regional Task
Force on the Homeless (RTFH) an-
nounced April 28.

Faulconer will be joined this af-
fternoon by City Councilmember
and RTFH Chair Chris Ward and
RTFH CEO Tamera Kohler to detail
the continued downward trend
in homelessness throughout the
region and to highlight the steps
the City of San Diego has taken to
make an impact, including recent
actions to assist even more home-
less individuals amid the corona-
virus pandemic.

Conducted annually by the
RTFH, the count captures the
number of individuals experi-
encing homelessness on a single
night, including those living on
the streets, in parks, canyons and
riverbeds. It also inventories those
currently in shelters.

The Jan. 23 count found that
approximately 2,283 individ-
uals were unsheltered, a 12
percent reduction compared to
the 2,600 people counted last
year. Unsheltered individuals are
the most visible segment of the
homeless population and includes
those who traditionally can be the
hardest to shelter and house.

In total, 4,887 individuals were
experiencing homelessness in the
City of San Diego according to the
2020 count, a 4 percent reduction
when compared to the 5,082 in-
dividuals counted last year. That
figure includes a 5 percent in-
crease in the number of people in
shelters and transitional housing,
a positive sign that indicates more
are being connected to supportive
services that help to end the cycle
of homelessness.

San Diego County was the only
major Continuum of Care jurisdic-
tion in California that saw a drop in
homelessness in 2019, a trend that
continued this year with another
decline of 6 percent in the region.

The City has taken steps in re-
response to the coronavirus pan-
demic to continue to reduce home-
lessness during the crisis, includ-
ing enacting a temporary eviction
moratorium and sheltering in the
San Diego Convention Center
of additional individuals
who were living outdoors.

Operated by the City, County,
RTFH and San Diego Housing
Commission, one of the core
missions of “Operation Shelter to
Home” at the convention center is
to find permanent housing for
individuals. Case managers and
housing navigators are focused on
identifying the most appropri-
ate exit strategy for shelter clients
and working to end their cycle of
homelessness, with the goal of de-
creasing the number of individu-
als experiencing homelessness
in San Diego even further.

READE MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com
Could prohibiting vehicle habitation worsen the COVID-19 pandemic?

By DAVE SCHWAB

A disabled-rights attorney is calling for the City to end its moratorium prohibiting vehicle habitation throughout most of the City, warning policies punishing people without housing and forcing them into crowded shelters or safe lots will worsen the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This strategy runs counter to recommendations of public health experts asking people to shelter in place,” argued Ann Menasche, a senior attorney with Disability Rights California. “The CDC advises that encampments can lead to loss of the vehicle through towing and impoundment, resulting in unsheltered homelessness.”

Menasche has filed a class-action suit against the City attempting to overturn a new ordinance approved a few months ago making vehicle habitation illegal almost everywhere in the city other than designated “safe lots.”

She recently sent a letter to the Deputy City Attorney demanding emergency action to alleviate disproportionate harm to vehicle inhabitants during the ongoing health crisis.

Said Menasche in her letter, “The City’s policies have placed people who use their vehicles for shelter in an exceptionally perilous position… it is essential that they are allowed to shelter in place in their vehicles and to maintain sufficient physical distance from other vehicles while having access to adequate sanitation, running water and healthy food.”

Added Menasche, “Our clients also need access to other necessities including places to charge medical equipment such as c-pap machines, and access to the internet to allow them to receive up-to-date information about the pandemic, no longer available to them due to closure of public libraries and coffee shops… the City has refused to issue a moratorium on all ticketing under the Vehicle Habitation Ordinance and Oversized Vehicle Ordinance, and to end impoundments of vehicles used for shelter.”

Instead, the City has made a bad situation even worse by closing the park and beach parking lots, thereby denying access to public restrooms and showers utilized by people sheltering in vehicles, and to the free gray water disposal dumps in Mission Bay which RV owners depend upon for safe gray water disposal.”

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnnews.com
Continuing to take steps to deliver relief to San Diegans affected by COVID-19, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer joined District 2 Councilmember Jennifer Campbell and mobility advocates on April 29 to introduce a “Slow Streets” pilot program to repurpose certain public streets, create more outdoor space and encourage safe walking and cycling while still following public health rules for physical distancing and facial coverings. “COVID-19 has forced us to rethink everything we do and how we go about our daily lives, and what we need right now are more safe spaces for San Diegans to stretch their legs with a walk or a bike ride,” Faulconer said. “This pilot program is about creating more space outside your place by closing a few streets to give people room to be active and maintain their physical distance from others trying to do the same.”

The “Slow Streets” pilot program begins Thursday with several changes that make it safer for San Diegans to walk and bike by creating more space for physical distancing and reducing congested foot traffic at parks, beaches and outdoor trails. The changes include:

- Creating slow streets: The City will close select streets to thru traffic to prioritize pedestrian and cyclist use to prioritize cost-effective transportation for essential workers during a time of economic strain and decreased transit service. This includes temporary barriers and signage. It allows residents to move about their neighborhood while practicing social distancing.
- Reopening commuter bikeways: The City will reopen key bikeways as transportation corridors to connect essential workers to their jobs. This includes major commuter bikeways like the SR-56 Bikeway, the San Diego River Bikeway from Ocean Beach east to Mission Valley, Rose Creek Bikeway, the SR-52 Bikeway and Murphy Canyon along I-15 and Lake Hodges Bridge.
- Enhanced pedestrian street crossings: The City will replace existing buttons with larger buttons that can be pushed with a forearm or elbow to eliminate touching contaminated surfaces. The City has also already changed the signals to a shorter default time in key areas to reduce wait times.
- Communicating right-of-way and pedestrian safety: The Transportation & Storm Water Planning Departments will develop a public education campaign to increase pedestrian awareness and safety practices for shared roadways that adhere to social distancing requirements.

“It’s time for San Diego to take positive steps to ensure our residents can get the exercise and outdoor time they need,” Campbell said. “That’s why implementing these common sense ideas will make everyone feel safer if they’re out walking, running or riding their bikes.”

Slow streets will be installed at Diamond Street from Mission Boulevard to Olney Street, Adams Avenue over the I-805, Howard Avenue from Park Boulevard to 33rd Street and a portion of 56 Bikeway, the San Diego River Transit service. This includes temporary barriers and signage. It allows residents to move about their neighborhood while practicing social distancing.

The City’s Sustainability, Transportation and Storm Water and Planning departments worked closely with the community and transportation stakeholders to develop this plan. Organizations included the City of San Diego Mobility Board, Circulate San Diego, San Diego Bicycle Coalition, BikeSD and the Climate Action and Planning Departments.

“Transportation is essential for everyone during the COVID-19 crisis,” said Maya Rosas, director of policy for the Climate Action Campaign. “The mayor’s slow streets initiative will create the space needed so that San Diegans can access their essential jobs or essential needs while physically distancing and staying safe.”

Since the stay-at-home order went into effect, vehicular traffic has reduced significantly and alternative modes of travel have become increasingly popular. Several areas have seen more than 1,000 pedestrian trips per day and greater biking by families and people of all abilities.

The National Association of City Transportation Officials recently published a set of rapid response tools for cities to manage the COVID-19 crisis that included relieving crowded spaces like trails and parks by opening certain streets to walking and bicycling. The list also suggests other measures San Diego is implementing including clearing around use of pedestrian walk signals and shared roadways, and expanding space for walking near congested streets and sidewalks.

“We’re pleased to see this initiative move forward with input from front-line essential workers and community advocates,” said Andy Hanshaw, chair of City’s Mobility Board. “Safe, outdoor space for employees to access their jobs and essential needs by biking and walking is critical during this time. These include the existing bike lanes and sidewalks that also make these connections. We look forward to helping identify additional streets that build on this network.”

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“This initiative is a big deal and first great step for reimagining our streets to make them safer for all people, not just cars,” said Matthew Vaslilakis, co-director for policy for the Climate Action Campaign. “Through slow streets, San Diego is showing its commitment to our Climate Action Plan, public health and clean air, as well as safe streets. Kudos to the mayor and City Council.”

Just two weekend markets in the city of San Diego have re-opened under the new rules, one in Hillcrest. Generally smaller weekday meet and incudes of the Pacific Beach Tuesday Farmers Market, don’t have the reserves to cover the operating losses that result for farmers and vendors and far more staff and equipment required under current operating conditions. Discover PB and the market’s director continue to monitor changing COVID-19 health recommendations and public agency orders, and look forward to reopening the market safely as soon as feasible.

Feeding San Diego at Dewey Elementary

Feeding San Diego announced the expansion of the Feeding Heroes initiative to provide additional hunger-relief services to military and veteran families throughout San Diego County at new sites, including Dewey Elementary, 3251 Rosecrans St., and Armed Services YMCA at 11 a.m. on Mondays. Amid the growing need for food assistance, San Diego is home to the largest concentration of military and veterans in the country, including 14,500 active-duty service members with 260,000 military dependents. The total is expected to grow by 15,000 within the next three years as five additional ships will be homeported in San Diego.
from a litter of Chihuahuas currently living in a foster home. With springtime upon us, the baby season is approaching, and SDHS expects to see an influx in animals over the coming weeks, from cats and dogs to wildlife. As the community responds to the impact of COVID-19, animals are still entering SDHS’s care daily. It’s anticipated, in the coming months, they will see an increase from about 800 to well over 2,000 animals being cared for each day.

**POINTE LODA SUMMER CONCERTS CANCELED**

The Point Loma Summer Concerts board has decided to postpone the 20th season of the Point Loma Summer Concerts until the summer of 2021. “Being proactive in protecting the safety of the Point Loma community is our top priority during this unpredictable time,” said concert organizers. “We thank our sponsors, volunteers, and vendors for making the concerts happen – and we thank you, our fans, for your enthusiastic support.”

Special thanks from organizers went out to sponsors who already stepped up to support the concerts this year: Presenting Sponsor: Willis Allen Real Estate; City of San Diego Arts and Culture; Mayor Kevin Faulconer; Junior Stage Sponsor: City Council District 2 – Councilmember Jennifer Campbell; County of San Diego – Supervisors Greg Cox and Nathan Fletcher; Exclusive Sponsor: Dorothea Laub; Exclusive Sponsor: Point Loma Association; Stage Sponsors: Anderson Plumbing, Heating and Air; Sound Sponsor: Point Loma Nazarene University; Field Sponsor: Warren Walker School; Field Sponsor: Bay View Senior Living; Safety Sponsor: Ryan Family Charitable Foundation; Shuttle Sponsor: Ryan Family YMCA; Band Co-sponsors: David P. De Rosier DDS; Katherine Walker; and Dr. Grant McGann, McGann Facial Design, among others.

**SAN DIEGO COMIC-CON CANCELED**

Comic-Con International announced on April 7 it is canceling this year’s San Diego Comic-Con in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 celebration, which had been scheduled for July 23-26, would have been the 51st iteration of the convention, one of San Diego’s largest and most lucrative conventions. In 2019, more than 130,000 people attended. Organizers said the event will return next year to the San Diego Convention Center from July 22-25.

“Recognizing that countless attendees save and plan for its conventions each year, and how many exhibitors and stakeholders rely upon its events for a major portion of their livelihood, they had hoped to delay this decision in anticipation that COVID-19 concerns might lessen by summer,” event organizers said in a statement.

“Continuous monitoring of health advisories and recent statements by the governor of California have made it clear that it would not be safe to move forward with plans for this year.”

**SMALL-BUSINESS SURVEY FOR CITY RECOVERY TASK FORCE**

Mayor Faulconer and Supervisor Cox created an advisory group tasked with preparing recommendations for our region’s economic reactivation and recovery. The Downtown Partnership’s president/CEO Betsy Breiman was asked to sit on the Responsible COVID-19 Economic Reopening (RECOVER) Advisory Group, and she needs business owners’ input working together to craft this plan.

So business owners are being asked to respond to a survey, which will be used to form the task force’s recommendations found at surveymonkey.com/r/QBYLMLT.

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**BRIEFS**
A local real estate agent warned the coronavirus pandemic will likely be the fatal blow for many beach retailers already stressed by online competition, while short-term rental investors are finding themselves “with no money coming in.”

“I know of many businesses that are shutting down completely,” said Tony Franco of The Franco Realty Group, a commercial real estate retail and office broker specializing in Pacific, Ocean and Mission beaches, and the only firm representing the 92109 ZIP code.

“Many businesses are getting grant money too – and it won’t be enough. Barber shops, hairdressers, massage parlors, smoke shops, clothing stores, gyms, restaurants, bars, and more non-essential businesses are being crushed.”

Noted Franco, “Co-working space was such a promising industry, and then we was immediately crushed.”

“Here’s another situation with unemployment insurance.”

“Now many surviving business owners are burdened with unmotivated workers since individuals can collect just as much money from not working, if not more, for going on unemployment,” Franco said predicting. “Unemployment rates will never be the same again.”

Amazon was already a major blow to the retail industry and the COVID-19 virus is the knock-out punch,” Franco offered another prediction.

“Unless government officials immediately open businesses back up, I doubt 50% will make it without some sort of relief from the landlord,” he said.

“The sad part is the landlord does not get a break on their mortgage or from paying property taxes. For apartments, offices, and retail buildings, Pacific Beach should expect to see landlords contributing less money towards construction projects on their building, as they also struggle from not receiving their scheduled rent.”

Added Franco, “Vagrants have been breaking into many of the commercial buildings during the lockdown and vandalizing the spaces.”

A possible solution was also offered by Franco.

“In order to stimulate the economy and to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we need to loosen up on ABC restrictions. The Alcohol Beverage Control and local law enforcement officials should allow for more ABC licenses to come into PB. When restaurants are allowed to open for business again, health officials will probably require them to operate at half the seating capacity. Meanwhile, the popular tree-covered Mission beaches, and the only firm representing the 92109 ZIP code.

“The plan is to re-open by the end of June,” said Fig Tree marketing spokesperson Kevin Becker. “But all that’s going on, who knows? That’s the date we’re shooting for.”

Fig Tree Café opened in 2008 on Cass Street near Sapphire Street in North PB. Owner Johan Engman then started two other Fig Tree eateries, one in North Park and one at Liberty Station. Engman is also the owner/founder of the Breakfast Republic restaurant chain.

“Since Fig Tree PB was his first restaurant here, Engman is taking this time to update the original dining area of booths and tables,” explained Becker.

Before the temporary shutdown, the cozy and quaint café had drawn big crowds, especially on weekends. Usually, there were lines and a wait to seat customers. Becker added, “The unique breakfast/lunch creative California cuisine will remain once the café is re-opened. Maybe some new items, Engman is working on that. But visually, the indoor/outdoor area will look totally different, very updated, and unique.”

While the Fig Tree Pacific Beach and Liberty Station will remain the same name, the Fig Tree Café in North Park is closed down and will re-open as a Breakfast Republic restaurant. “Pacific Beach already has a Breakfast Republic on Mission Boulevard,” Becker pointed out, “so we wanted to keep the Fig Tree the same name because it’s so popular and customers are used to it.”

But customers will have to wait until late June, at least, before lining up again at the Fig Tree Café. “We’re excited about the renovation,” said Becker, “and we hope we can re-open, our customers will be excited too.”

Down time means renovation time for Fig Tree Café

By JACK GATES

W hat the Fig is going on? Fig Tree Café in North Pacific Beach is temporarily closed down and kicking off a major renovation. While many PB restaurants are only serving take-out food during the pandemic, the popular tree-covered Fig Tree Café is taking this time to update the original dining area.

“The plan is to re-open by the end of June,” said Fig Tree marketing spokesperson Kevin Becker. “But all that’s going on, who knows? That’s the date we’re shooting for.”

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Fig Tree Café, which opened in 2008 on Cass Street, is updating the original dining area. PHOTO BY JACK GATES

‘Loosening up’ alcohol license restrictions may help local economy and businesses

By DAVE SCHWAB

Join Junior Theatre virtually this summer and experience the wonderful world of Performing Arts!

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For more information, contact Summer Explorers Director Erica Hurley at summer@gillispie.org or (858) 459-1773.
1. Mother’s Day is a time to honor a mother, ______ or even a special aunt.
2. Soon after the death of her mother (in May 1905), a woman named Anna Jarvis urged people to support the idea of a national ______ for moms.
3. Anna wanted people to show respect for ______ and to give thanks for all the work that mothers do for us.
4. She gave out her mother’s favorite ______, the white carnation, a custom that spread to many states.
5. Her home ______ of West Virginia was the first (in 1912) to have an official Mother’s Day celebration.
6. On May 9, 1914, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson declared the first ______ Mother’s Day to honor mothers whose sons had died in war.
7. Mother’s Day is celebrated on the second ______ in May (U.S., Canada).
8. A beautiful, historic building in West Virginia was named The International Mother’s Day Shrine and Museum. They hold teas and programs to promote the ______ of mothers (and other women) to our country.
9. Businesses promote the ______ of cards, flowers, jewelry and other gifts for Mother’s Day.
10. Although it is nice when children give a gift, it is even more special when they take the ______ to write a letter or to do something special with their moms.
11. Often families attend religious services, have picnics or do ______ get-togethers or calls.
12. Can you ______ a breakfast, write and decorate a card or plan an activity for your mom’s special day?

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**Happy Mother’s Day!**

I made a funny card for my Mom!

I love Mother’s Day! I was wondering how this lovely holiday for moms began, so I went to the library to do research to find out. I searched web sites on the computer. I found beautiful books full of stories and pictures. To find out what I learned about Mother’s Day, read my clues below, then fill in the crossword puzzle.
The current crisis gives us time to reassess and redirect our lives

By Natasha Josefowitz, Ph.D.

How can I write about anything without mentioning the coronavirus? On one hand, a different topic would be a good diversion from the incessant onslaught of bad news; on the other hand, how can I not say something about how to manage and cope and how it is affecting all of us?

Seldom in our lives are we made to stop short in our tracks about how to manage and cope how can I not say something about the coronavirus? On one hand, a different topic would be a good diversion from the incessant onslaught of bad news; on the other hand, how can I not say something about how to manage and cope.

These questions come up again when one must choose a profession or a mate and decide whether to have a child, where to live, which friends to have. They may also come up when there is a tragedy such as a death, a divorce, or serious illness. But in the routine of daily living, we don’t wonder about life’s purpose either because it has been resolved or we have set it aside because we have no time to deal with existential questions.

Now surrounded by death, anxiety, and fear not only for our loved ones, but for ourselves, we suddenly have time on our hands to ask ourselves the same questions: What is important? What is not? Where are we going? What else is there to do that we could or should still do?

I feel like Thoreau in his cabin in the woods away from the turbulence of civilization. This gift of time is both awesome and unexpected. What is new is to be free of pressure because someone one is waiting, something has to be done, there is somewhere to go, and always something that has to be dealt with right away. We have the time to again ask questions that have been set aside for so many years.

There is time to just sit quietly and think, without feeling rushed or even guilty that I am actually doing nothing but simply contemplating. There has seldom been a time for this luxury, because there was always some kind of action needed. Today there is no action possible as there is nowhere to go and nothing that needs to be done within a specific time frame.

So I’m doing what I needed to do all these years and had procrastinated—looking through all the drawers and shelves, discarding items not used in a long time and no longer needed, reams of my writings that are no longer relevant. It has been a dream of mine to be a minimalist, which I had never achieved; perhaps this time is now… A time for reassessment, what is important and what is not important among the things I thought I was attached to. In this time of isolation, we realize that what is truly important are all the relationships we have with others. The importance of family, friends, and love, of caring for each other is coming through during these days while we are shut in. It is heartening to receive phone calls from distant friends I haven’t heard from in years who want to know if I’m okay, as well as family members I had neglected who are now in touch again. Friends are sending jokes and sharing stories via email—all ways to stay connected.

Being well into my 90s, death is certainly closer. This is the time to reassess what I still need to do before my demise. My life has turned out amazing beyond all expectations. Yet, I have had my share of losses—my parents, my younger brother, my husband, my son, and most recently my son-in-law. I am pondering my legacy. It is not about the books I have written or the classes I have taught. I am having raised children, who have raised their children with a social consciousness, who are doing good things for the planet and its inhabitants. Perhaps this is the only true legacy.

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SCHOOLs

School district’s ‘core mission’ remains the same, even with online changes

by DAVE SCHWAB

It was revealed during an April 23 Zoom conference with the San Diego Unified School District hosted by Assemblyman Todd Gloria, that the temporary transition into distance learning caused by school closures due to the coronavirus is likely to be a prelude of things to come. Not saying students will never eventually return to brick-and-mortar classrooms. But noting distance learning was already an important part of the curriculum. And, that it is almost certain to increasingly become a larger part of education’s future.

The conference was called to answer public questions about distance learning, which had a soft opening in early April and officially began with grades now counting on April 27.

“Our schools are still in session, and our kids are still receiving an education, just in a different setting,” said SDUSD superintendent Cindy Marten during the conference. “What hasn’t changed is our core mission. This crisis may change everything we know about our regular routines. How we face this crisis may change how we operate. But it doesn’t change who we are. And who we are is about how to reach each student. If we can’t reach them, we can’t teach them.”

“At the state level, we’re trying to allow the data to drive our decision making on these emergency orders,” said Gloria who added, “Returning to the classroom for the remainder of the school year is extremely unlikely.”

“That doesn’t look like it’s going to happen,” agreed Marten. “It’s been widely discussed.”

Gloria asked how long-distance learning will last.

“No one of us has a crystal ball,” replied Marten. “From the beginning, SDUSD has continued our food and nutrition programs for students, and gotten ourselves up and running with distance learning.”

However, Marten pointed out, “As hard as we try, as connected as we can get, it distance learning is never the same as learning in the classroom with a teacher.”

Added Marten: “We believe there will probably be a need for some type of summer school. But what does that look like? How do we make up for the learning loss during the time that schools were closed? We just don’t know how long this is going to last.”

Shifting to graduating high school seniors, Gloria noted, “At the state level, we’re trying to allow the data to drive our decisions on graduating high school seniors. What can you tell us about them?”

“We did not want to concede that this year was over,” respond- ed Marten. “We thought, ‘Let’s get to work here.’ It really does matter for our students to get their grades so that they can graduate. No student will be issued an academic grade that was lower than what they had before the outbreak.”

Continued Marten: “We don’t want people to be disadvantaged by this. We want to make sure that they are able to continue learning, though we know the environment has changed.”

SDUSD soft-launched its distance learning program on April 6. Leading up to the return of graded instruction, the district provided teachers with the professional resources they needed to shift their work online. At the same time, computers were distributed to students allowing them to reconnect with teachers during the soft launch period.

SDUSD was the state’s largest district to announce a plan to return to formal graded instruction. For the three-week period between April 6 and April 24, stu- dents received credit for work that was done, although the material was not graded. On April 27, grad- ed instruction resumed for tradi- tional schools, and will resume on May 11 for year-round schools, for the remainder of the academic year.
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BEACH & BAY PRESS / LA JOLLA VILLAGE NEWS
Get some exercise and culture by taking Pacific Beach’s mural tour

By DAVE SCHWAB

Pacific Beach residents looking to occupy themselves while waiting out the coronavirus “pause,” may be interested in taking beautifulPB’s self-guided murals tour for a fun afternoon.

There’s nearly 50 to choose from, not even counting painted crosswalks or decorated utility boxes.

BeautifulPB is a public non-profit charity formed by Pacific Beach residents, businesses, and property owners collaborating to create a sustainably beautiful beach community.

The group is implementing a number of community projects and programs moving toward the realization of a PB EcoDistrict.

There is a descriptive map with bios of murals artists and their work at beautifulpb.com. The map was done by Hilary Dufour, a GIS specialist.

Beach & Bay Press recently went on a mini murals bike tour of some of the more high-profile murals on Garnet Avenue and scattered elsewhere throughout town.

The murals art tour was conducted by beautifulPB volunteer Leslie Dufour, a self-professed art “nerd.”

“I have tried to tell a lot of people that we have the work of an artist whose work is in the Smithsonian and in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art permanent collection,” said Dufour. “But I don’t think a lot of people know that.

“Pacific Beach is lucky to have the work of so many talented and devoted artists. Hopefully, we will see more of their work, from important mid-century art to work by the most creative and respected street artists, when this period is over.”

Added Dufour, “When you learn more about the artists, you really learn about what inspires them, and it makes it much more meaningful.”

Having personally interviewed most of the artists on the tour, which presently features 46 murals, Dufour said: “The idea was to add more information to the map link so that people could do their own tours. People can do whatever they want. They get the map and then decide what to do. Once they get more information about the artists they’re going to say, ‘Wow.”’

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Muralist creates Quarantine Dreams artwork in La Jolla

Local muralist Hanna Daly was hired earlier this year to paint a wall mural in La Jolla. Then the coronavirus hit and, like many others, she found herself temporarily out of work.

But she went ahead and finished painting the mural on the Fresheria building at 627 Pearl St. anyway. “With the downturn, we were able to just put it on hold,” said Daly, noting her work has largely been paused by the pandemic. “But then we decided, ‘Why not just voluntarily paint a mural for fun?’”

Daly presented her proposal to the building’s owner, the Murillo family, who’d commissioned her work, about still doing the mural. “They were happy to pay for her supplies while she was donating her time, along with her assistant Carli Mitchell.”

“I was told to do anything I wanted as long as it was fun and colorful,” said Daly, which satisfied her.

She noted, “I’m into positivity, keeping everything good and uplifting.” What the artist ended up doing she described as “a massive explosion of color. People just love color because it gives them so much joy. People just loved seeing this wall done in blue and purple, the organic way it turned out.”

“The artist’s latest mural painting was truly free from and evolved as it developed.”

“Street art is great because people walking by give you ideas: It’s fun,” said Daly. “As you chat with locals, it (mural) changes as the day goes on.”

The Fresheria mural took a total of about 10 hours to paint. Daly described it as “super long,” running some 100 feet and being 15-feet square. “The highest parts were really hard to get at with a paintbrush, so we had to improvise and use a ladder to paint the top,” she said.

Daly was inspired to become an artist early, actually painting her first mural in her bedroom as a pre-teen.

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The Quarantine Dreams mural on the side of Fresheria in La Jolla.

By DAVE SCHWAB

Muralist Hanna Daly and her assistant Carli Mitchell.

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Great location in North Pacific Beach that borders La Jolla, is within the La Jolla school district, and enjoys immediate proximity to Gelson’s Grocery Store and many more conveniences. Property is a corner lot of 7,216 sqft and consists of 5 residential units including 4 one-bedroom, one-bathroom apartments and 1 two-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment. There is alley access on the south side and off-street parking on the north side currently configured as five parking spaces.

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Contact David Mannis at (858) 750-5631 or david@sdcnn.com
Pacific Beach woman celebrates 100th birthday with parade

By DAVE SCHWAB

Plans to celebrate Virginia Wilmoth Beck’s 100th birthday Monday, April 27 with a big party were scuttled by the pandemic. So family and friends switched to the next-best thing: a drive-by parade.

“We had a whole room and 100 people coming to the Harbor House in Seaport Village, but we had to cancel that because, obviously, you can’t have a party like that right now,” said Virginia’s granddaughter, Adele Spivak. “So we decided to have a car parade for her. Everybody is going to drive up the hill in north PB.”

Added Spivak, “Everything’s going to be decorated, and we’re going to have her sitting in a chair watching the parade.”

Spivak noted her grandmother “doesn’t know anything about it.”

Statistics show, though the proportion of people reaching 100 is slowly increasing over time, it’s still extremely rare. Now roughly one person in every 6,000 reaches their 100th birthday. Fifty years ago, only one person in every 67,000 reached the century mark. Only 0.0173 percent of Americans today live to age 100.

Even at 100, Adele pointed out her grandmother continues to be very aware and engaged.

Adele was Virginia’s first grandchild, born in 1920. Virginia is the mother of two, the grandmother of seven, the great-grandmother of 14, and the great-great-grandmother of two.

In addition to sailing, water skiing, fishing, and camping, Virginia also managed during her long life to develop and pursue an interest in genealogy.

After retiring from the San Diego Unified School District, where she was the head librarian at Memorial Junior High School, she traveled and explored the North American Continent with her husband in an RV. During these years she traced her and her husband’s ancestry, which led her to join the Daughters of the American Revolution; a service organization devoted to helping local citizens and servicemen.

As a retired librarian, Virginia continues to volunteer her time once a week as a docent for the San Diego City Library Downtown. She helps with their rare books and genealogy departments.

Spivak said her grandmother’s list of friends “is endless. All who know her love her. Her long and selfless life, and her strong and abiding support of those friends and family, will always be a hallmark of her life.”

Virginia moved to San Diego with her parents at the age of 3. She is an only child. She grew up in the North Park and Downtown areas while her parents owned and operated a restaurant downtown.

She is also an alumna of San Diego High School and San Diego State University. She is also an active member of the San Diego Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Before becoming a San Diego School District Librarian at Memorial Junior High School, she had worked at both the San Diego Courthouse and the San Diego Post Office.
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