Despite pandemic, holiday traditions continue in Pacific Beach

By DAVE SCHWAB

The holiday season is full swing as Pacific Beach continued its long tradition of decking Crystal Pier out with wreaths, lights, and a Christmas tree, along with a window-decorating contest, while promoting local small businesses. Unfortunately, some Pacific Beach traditions such as the parade and Santa Run were canceled.

CRYSTAL PIER TREE, WREATHS

Holiday cheer on Crystal Pier by Discover PB highlights local businesses and their holiday spirit on the historic pier. Wreaths decorated by Pacific Beach businesses will hang along the pier the entire month of December for all to enjoy. Crystal Pier will be lit up as usual this year. Thanks to a partnership between Crystal Pier Hotel, Discover PB and Big Josh Foundation, holiday lights and the community’s beloved tree will return again this year and will be on exhibit now until Jan. 1.

SUPPORT LOCAL SHOPS

Discover PB, the community’s business improvement district, urges everyone to celebrate the season by shopping small with your favorite local retailers. “While shopping local is always important, as we move into new stay-at-home orders right before what is the most important season for many of our local businesses, it is more important than ever,” said Sara Berns, Discover PB’s executive director. “We know it will take a little more effort and being careful, but there are a lot of ways to still shop local this holiday season. Our retailers are still open with limited capacity and many service providers (hair salons, barbers and personal services) will offer gift certificates.”
Find your perfect Christmas trees in Pacific Beach and La Jolla

By DAVE SCHWAB

“Tis the season for seasonal Christmas tree shopping and Pacific Beach and La Jolla have two of the best outlets: Christmas Tree Country in PB and Mr. Jingles Christmas Trees in La Jolla.

CHRISTMAS TREE COUNTRY

“This is our 28th year,” said Bruce Bertagna, co-owner, along with Alex Baker, of Christmas Tree Country at 870 Garnet Ave, in the lot adjoining Diner Eyes. “We’ll be open through Christmas Eve.”

For fall and Halloween, Bertagna and Baker convert the lot into a pumpkin patch to sell pumpkins. “We close for a couple of weeks and then do Christmas trees,” said Bertagna. “During the off-season, we do paid parking.”

What’s special about Christmas Tree Country

“Our trees are cut and then shipped that day so they’re here at 2 or 3 p.m. at the latest,” said Bertagna. “During the off-season, we do paid parking.”

Bertagna attributes his company’s reputation, long tenure, and enduring appeal to hard work on the part of him and his staff as well as the attention they pay to customers.

“Over 28 years, we’ve strived to provide good customer service and make sure everybody is happy with their trees,” he said. “We’ve always been good at replacing them or refunding their money if there’s a problem. We’ve stuck around for customer satisfaction – and it’s paid off. We have lots of people that come back every year.”

For more information, visit pbchristmastreecountry.com.

MR. JINGLES CHRISTMAS TREES

A one-stop-shop for anything and everything Christmas, Mr. Jingles at 6710 La Jolla Blvd, offers six different tree types, as well as fresh garland and wreaths anywhere from 8 to 60 inches. Guests are greeted by team members when they arrive who will explain the tree types and sizes offered.

Once you select your tree, the team will apply a stand with a custom fit water bowl so your tree can drink water to stay fresh throughout the season.

“If you have your own stand, make sure to bring it and we will put it on your tree,” states the company’s website at mrjinglesechristmas.com. “Once the stand is applied, we will make sure the tree is straight and that we will help you. We will then deliver the tree to your vehicle with twine to ensure a smooth and safe ride home.”

“Our comprehensive delivery package includes stand application, transportation of goods, set-up, and installation. Our Jingles delivery team will give you a call once they have an estimated time of arrival inside your booking window and once they arrive,” the company said. “If you plan on coming into one of our locations to select your tree you can set up delivery at the register.

If you want Mr. Jingles to pick out a beautiful tree for you and have it delivered, go to the order online tab to place your order.”

And Mr. Jingles has gone all out to ensure safety during the pandemic. Safety precautions and health protocols include:

- Employees wearing masks at all times.
- Employees receiving daily temperature checks and questionnaires regarding any COVID 19 symptoms
- Social distancing required at all lots.
- A designated sanitization employee sanitizing highly touched areas on site.
- All customers must wear masks at all times.
- Sanitation stations are located throughout all lots.
- Mr. Jingles is a second-generation family-owned Christmas tree business since 2000 operating 10 locations nationwide. Its Christmas Trees are hand-picked premium-grade trees shipped from Oregon, Washington, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Canada. Mr. Jingles Christmas Trees are cut and loaded only a day or two before shipping to ensure the freshest trees possible for our customers.

Added Mr. Jingles: “Additional items such as wreaths, garland, tree bags, stands, lights, ornaments, and tree preservatives are also available.”

COLDWELL BANKER

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

PHOTO BY DAVE SCHWAB

PHOTO BY DAVE SCHWAB

Shoppers check out trees at Christmas Tree Country in Pacific Beach.

CHRISTMAS TREE TIPS

– Have the right space for your place: Before you head out to pick this year’s perfect tree, you must be certain of where you want to place it in the space available. To avoid spots near heat sources such as radiators, fireplaces, heating vents, and even sun-drenched windows. Also, try to hack the tree into a low-traffic area to avoid accidental bumping and possible safety issues. Measure space dimensions you have to work with carefully.

– Know what you want: Each tree species is a little different, so to find the best types of real Christmas trees, you need to match trees to the needs and wants of your household. If you have children, you might lean toward pines or fir with soft needles instead of spruce trees, which have sharp needles that can hurt when you step on them. Some things to consider when choosing the right type will be the color, shape, and feel of a tree. Some trees are dark green and others have gray or white hues. There are trees with tight branching patterns and some with more spaces. One thing to remember is that if the tree looks very full while absent of ornaments, it may be difficult to decorate.

– Consider all angles: When picking one out, step back 5 to 8 feet and check the tree from several vantage points. Look for a densely branched tree with good shape, color, and fragrance. The trunk should be straight for nearly 6 feet and should not be visible through the foliage.

– Check freshness: First, check the trunk, it should have a slight stiffness to it. Bend a needle in half with your fingers; fresh fins should snap, while fresh pines bend and should not break. To find the best Christmas tree that will last the longest, gently grab the inside of a branch and pull your hand toward you. The needles should stay on the tree. Alternatively, gently tap the cut end of a tree on the ground; if a few needles fall off, it should be fine. If a lot of needles fall off, keep searching for a different tree.

– Bring along a tape measure: Take the tape measure with you when you shop. You’ll need it to measure the trees you consider so you don’t take home a 7-inch diameter tree trunk for your 5-inch diameter stand or a 99-foot tall tree if your ceilings are only 8 feet.

– Test the tree: When shopping, test the tree by giving it a slight shake. A few falling green needles aren’t uncommon, but falling green needles mean the tree is dry.

– Look for a fully symmetrical shape: You can sacrifice a bit of perfection if the tree will be displayed in a corner. Be wary of branches near the ground that may have to be removed to fit into a tree stand.

– Feel the tree: The needles should be flexible but snap when bent sharply. Trees with stiff needles that are losing their color should be avoided. Also, avoid a tree with needles that pull off easily.

– Be certain your vehicle can safely transport the tree: Bring rope or bungee cords to secure the load adequately. Take care to protect your vehicle because tree branches and resin can mar the finish.

1815-1817 Missouri St.
Duplex listed at $955,000

2BR/1BA and 1BR/1BA updated units each with their own private yards and huge patios, separate laundry, 2 car parking. 1 furnished unit - short-term rental possible.

Marianne & Sven are wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas with many blessings in the New Year!

Marianne Kendall
mkkendall@zcox.net

1858.488.4900 | 4090 Mission Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92109

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Country Club: SOLD $4,512,080
La Jolla Alta: SOLD $2,200,000
Beach & Barber: SOLD $1,850,000

Bird Rock: SOLD $5,500,000
La Jolla Alta: SOLD $2,850,000
WindanSea: SOLD $2,200,000

Country Club: SOLD $6,275,000
La Jolla Heights: SOLD $2,050,000
Muirlands: SOLD $1,850,000

La Jolla: SOLD $5,500,000
La Jolla Alta: SOLD $2,080,000
Bayside: SOLD $1,250,000

La Jolla Shores: SOLD $3,150,000
La Jolla Heights: sold $2,460,000
Beach & Barber: SOLD $1,300,000

La Jolla: SOLD $3,850,000
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Billionaires Row: Gregg Whitney & Team
Info@BillionairesRowLaJolla.com
New stay-at-home order rattles residents and businesses

By DAVE SCHWAB

Coastal residents continue to be sharply divided over California’s handling of the COVID crisis, as a state-mandated stay-at-home order is now in effect here for at least three weeks.

San Diego is being factored in as part of the Southern California region, rather than being considered individually as a county.

The new state rules governing stay-at-home orders are triggered when fewer than 15% of beds are available in intensive care units for regional hospital networks. Once stay-at-home orders are triggered for a region, the state will order the closure of all hair salons and barbershops, bars, breweries and distilleries, casinos and indoor playgrounds.

Those orders also call for restaurants to be limited to take-out and delivery only, while retailers must prevent customers inside their stores to 20% capacity during the busy holiday shopping season.

Schools with waivers will be allowed to remain open, along with "critical infrastructure."

Some beachfront residents reacted with a sense of resignation to the "critical infrastructure."

Ed Gallagher of PB was also of Pacific Beach. "We are going to get the necessity?"

"Many workers are out of benefits with no savings. They have had reduced shifts. Yet, we leave the beach and boardwalk open where no one is wearing a mask, and close our dining spots. We should refuse to follow the state's direction."

"These closures also demonstrate the urgent need for more outdoor venues to safely recreate: more "slow streets," more pocket parks, more permitted outdoor boot camps. Finally, our mayor and City Council should seize the crisis/opportunity to demand state and federal funds to build a much much wider boardwalk so that all walkers, joggers and bicyclists can safely recreate simultaneously to improve their health, not risk their health."

Scott Chipman of PB was also critical of the state’s handling of the public health crisis.

"The state should provide medical guidance but not mandates and closings. The negative impacts of lock downs are now exceeding the impacts of the virus."

But others felt differently.

Meanwhile, county supervisors voted unanimously to make San Diego County’s $20 million Small Business Stimulus Grant program available to all businesses affected by COVID-19 safety restrictions.

Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, who proposed expanding the business aid, pointed out that “expanding this economic stimulus program will provide bridge funding to support businesses and their workers while the restrictions to slow the spread are in place.”

As of Dec. 8, new infections and hospitalizations from the coronavirus continued to surge in San Diego County, which reported its third-highest daily total of COVID-19 cases on Dec. 7 with 1,998.

It was the seventh consecutive day with more than 1,100 new cases and the 15th time in the last 18 days. A record 2,287 infections were reported Friday, Dec. 4. The cases reported Monday bring the county’s cumulative total to 94,169, with the number of deaths at 1,162.

The 11-county Southern California region’s available ICU capacity was 10.39% as of Monday. It was 12.5% Saturday and on Sunday it was at 10.3%.

San Diego County had 24% of its ICU beds available on Monday, a 5-percentage point improvement over Sunday as non-COVID-19 ICU patients decreased by 39.

Outdoor dining, such as at Bub’s at the Beach on Garnet Avenue, will be closed for three weeks during the new stay-at-home order.

“Outside dinning. Look at all the money invested in these spots by our merchants.

“A one-size-fits-all-approach makes no sense,” he said. “All gyms, bars, restaurants, salons are not alike. Many now have COVID-safe ventilation systems and other processes in place to allow them to safely operate. These closures also demonstrate the urgent need for more outdoor venues to safely recreate: more ‘slow streets,’ more pocket parks, more permitted outdoor boot camps. Finally, our mayor and City Council should seize the crisis/opportunity to demand state and federal funds to build a much much wider boardwalk so that all walkers, joggers and bicyclists can safely recreate simultaneously to improve their health, not risk their health.”

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COVID-19 vaccine: Who is getting it first?

By JOSÉ A. ÁLVAREZ

The novel coronavirus vaccine is expected to arrive in San Diego County soon. Distribution of COVID-19 vaccine will be done in phases. The vaccine allocation was determined by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the distribution of all vaccines.

**PHASE 1A, 1B AND 1C**

The County is expected to get about 28,000 doses of a vaccine made by Pfizer in the next few days, after it receives emergency use authorization. Critical care health workers will be the first people to get it, followed by long-term care facility residents and employees. As other pharmaceutical companies receive emergency use authorization, more vaccines will arrive in the region.

The initial distribution will not be sufficient to vaccinate all people in these populations. However, the state anticipates the second round of vaccines to follow about three weeks after the first round.

If the ACIP approves the remaining recommendations, and once people in the first two groups in Phase 1A are vaccinated and more COVID-19 vaccine doses are available, they will go to essential workers (Phase 1B). These are people who work in education, food and agriculture, police officers, firefighters, correctional officers and transportation workers, among others.

After that, the priority will be to vaccinate adults with underlying medical conditions and people over the age of 65 because they are at higher risk of developing serious complications from COVID-19 (Phase 1C).

**PHASE 2**

Immunizations will then be available to previous and young adults under the age of 30 and then for critical workers not included in Phase 1 or Phase 2.

“Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?”

The Pfizer vaccine coming to San Diego County is administered via two shots in the arm and research has shown that it’s about 95% effective.

The vaccine is safe, but about 10% to 15% of people may have some side effects such as fever, fatigue, headache and muscle pain. These

The commission raised eight questions, and not one of them has been changed in any way since the last meeting,” Thickstun said adding, “Short-term rentals are currently illegal under the (City) municipal code.”

Andrea Schlageret, Ocean Beach Planning Board chair, described the current compromise proposal as “a giveaway to investors who may or may not be residents of San Diego.” She suggested Short-term rentals should be channeled away from residential areas and into commercial zones.

Back in October, following a presentation by Molina, commissioners had asked City staff to address several questions they had concerning licensing and implementation of the proposed ordinance before returning to them for final action.

The issue will be now forwarded to the City Council – which will have five of nine new board members – for review and action sometime next year

**PHASE 3**

The final phase will be people of all ages who live in the United States. The phases could be revised as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices determines if some groups are at higher risk from COVID-19 and therefore would need to be vaccinated sooner. The CDC anticipates that by June of 2021, everyone wanting to get vaccinated against COVID-19 should be able to do so.

“&C’s COVID-19 Vaccine: Who is getting it first?”

By DAVE SCHWAB

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L&G Projects, a modern contemporary art gallery in La Jolla

By DAVE SCHWAB

George “Theo” Theodorakos of L&G Projects is paving the way for other boutique art galleries in La Jolla.

Having opened last December, L&G Projects joined the rich mix of a dozen or more art galleries in the Village that includes Africa & Beyond, Alcala Gallery + Bauer’s Rare Books, The Artful Soul, Contemporary Fine Arts Gallery, Cosmopolitan Fine Arts, Joseph Bellows Gallery, K Nathan Gallery, La Jolla Art Association, The La Jolla Gallery, Madison Gallery, Mangelsen Images of Nature Gallery, Martin Lawrence Galleries, Thumbprint Gallery, Tasende Gallery, and Siamak Art Gallery.

Theo has more than 10 years of experience in the art industry and has traveled the world, most notably France, Greece, and Italy. He realized it was possible, and essential, to create a gallery that not only showcases talented unknown artists but also curates the most personal experience possible for clients.

Admitting COVID’s outbreak in March forced him to “pump the brakes” a bit on his opera -

Theo noted his art gallery at 1111-1113 Wall St. is small compared to some others.

“It’s about 500 square feet, a boutique,” he said while adding, “But if more gallerists feel confident opening up these smaller spaces in La Jolla, then we would have a really great gallery presence: It would become a melting pot. There are more little galleries like mine popping up featuring other artists. That allows more flexibility to the galleries, and La Jolla, in general.”

Though small in stature, L&G Projects makes up for it by having vaulted ceilings and lots of wall space. “I’ve utilized the space really well,” Theo noted.

L&G Projects assists first-time to long-term collectors in building both private and corporate collections. It is a full-service firm that can research and acquire artists from all sources for collectors.

Theodorakos was born in Pensacola, Fla., in a family rich with Greek heritage and culture. Theo became interested in black-and-white photography at a young age. Afterward, he had immense and varied exposure to the arts in a myriad of forms.

He grew up in San Diego, but La Jolla is where he cut his teeth to long-term collectors in building both private and corporate collections. It is a full-service firm that can research and acquire artists from all sources for collectors.

George “Theo” Theodorakos in his L&G Projects gallery.

“Some gallery owners come at it strictly as a business,” he said. “I do it for the art. I’m more of an artist than a gallerist. I’m a salesperson. But the art should sell itself.”

Off the beaten path in more ways than one, Theo noted when people visit his gallery they’re “seeing something different than what you normally see on Prospect. I’m not following with the neighbors, or what the next gallery over, is doing. I’m pulling in artists exclusively, where I’m their only representation in the United States.”

Theodorakos also views the relationship between him and the artists he exhibits differently.

“There is a partnership there,” he said. “My personality is very supportive. They create. And then my job is to sell it. They believe their art can sell. I opened my gallery believing their art will sell in my space.”

What does Theo like best about owning an art gallery? “I love interacting with the collectors,” he concluded. “At the end of it all, they become my friends.”

Contact: landgprojects.com.

Where: 1111-1113 Wall St.

His attitude about art collecting is also unique.

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Where: 1111-1113 Wall St.
Taking you to om at new yoga center in North PB

by Jack Gates

Mind over matters. It may be the best remedy during these anxious, stressful, and uncertain times.

“Deep breath. Calm your consciousness. Strengthen your body,” explained Toni Crawley, manager at the new Tyto Yoga and Wellness Center in North Pacific Beach. “More people right now are adopting the physical, mental and spiritual practices of yoga.

“We have a global pandemic, social unrest, and political division. There’s a lot of tension. Yoga is a moving meditation, a way of aligning your energy and getting a smoother ride during this bumpy anxiety roller coaster.”

In May of 2020, as COVID cases were escalating, Crawley took over the 961 Turquoise St. property, in the heart of the North PB Turquoise business district. She had no way of knowing the hurdles she would face.

“I worked with the owner and remedied the inside of the building and the outdoor courtyard. We started new yoga classes in August. Ever since, it’s been a challenge to satisfy County and State COVID health restrictions. But we’re opening and attracting more students every month.”

Crawley has hired a dozen yoga instructors. They teach different types of yoga and there are different class levels, from beginners to experienced. For women and men. Ages range from the 20s to 70s.

Crawley added: “Right now, we hold classes outdoors in the courtyard area, with colorful sails overhead to protect from the sun. Everyone is socially distancing. There are morning and evening classes during the week and on weekends. Currently, we have a new student special, 30 days of unlimited classes for $30.”

What’s behind the Tyto (tie’-toe) name? The manager explained: “The letters stand for, Taking You To Om. Om is the vibration and sound of the universe. Om is the main mantra of yoga.”

Crawley added that Tyto is also a genus of birds, including owls. “Owls are my spirit animal, there are owl statues all around, wisely watching over the property.”

Besides yoga, Crawley has also hired a massage therapist, an acupuncturist, also a Pilates and meditation instructor. Colon hydrotherapy is also offered. “My goal is to create a holistic wellness center for the mind, body, and soul. I want students to learn and listen to their bodies, find what works for them, and, above all, to feel good right now.”

Lifestyle trends come and go, but yoga has survived for thousands of years. And in 2020, Crawley said her reward is seeing how yoga is lifting stress away during this unpredictable pandemic. One student told her, “Going to yoga every day has got me through it.”

“If you’ve ever considered yoga…” Crawley smiled and said, “Now may be the time to make your move.”
BIRD ROCK BAKERY HONORED

Wayfarer Bread & Pastry at 5525 La Jolla Blvd. in Bird Rock was honored by being named one of America’s 10 Best Bakeries by Food & Wine Magazine. “We are humbled to be on this list with such admirable company,” said Wayfarer founder Crystal White. “I’ve looked up to many of these bakeries as inspiration and it’s incredible to be included among them.”

Wayfarer Bread is a small neighborhood bakery focused on selling naturally fermented breads hot and fresh, directly to the community. Though primarily a bread bakery, Wayfarer also provides pastries and sandwiches on fresh bread in the afternoon.

For 16 years, White has worked her way through kitchens, honing her skills and narrowing her focus. In 2010 she co-founded and managed Proof Bakery in Los Angeles. Most recently, she worked her way up through the bread department at the world-renowned Tartine Bakery in San Francisco. The culmination of this experience has prepared her to launch a concept of her own.

FISH TACO CHAMP

The winner of Pacific Beachfest’s 2020 Best of the Beach Fish Taco Contest is City Tacos. It was a close competition, but the newest contestant squeaked out in front to clinch the title beating long time favorites. Discover PB congratulates the City Tacos.

For more information, contact PacificBeach.org.

PB POP-UP BUTCHER SHOP

A chef-driven butcher shop specializing in Japanese Wagyu beef is opening a pop-up location having taken over Pacific Beach’s Isabel’s Cantina at 966 Felspar St. Chef Steve Brown opened his first Swagu Chop Shop this past summer in Imperial Beach. Brown began selling his Wagyu beef on Dec. 9 in PB. He also hopes to revive his Cosecha wagyu tasting dinners at Isabel’s, once the dining ban is lifted.

WINDOW DECORATING

The winner for the Discover Pacific Beach’s year-end Window Decoration Contest is Prospect Home Finance at 875 Garnet Ave.

MB TOY DRIVE & BEACH CLEANUP

Draft San Diego is announced it is working with the Mission Beach community in hosting Toys for Tots toy drive and beach cleanup this month. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to Draft, Plunge Pool or Mission Beach Rentals now until Dec. 11. For each donated toy, you can receive a reward, like a day pass to The Plunge, discount on your next visit to Draft, or rent one get one at Mission Beach Rentals. Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the beach cleanup on Dec. 12.
COVID POSITIVE PEOPLE MAY JOIN CLINICAL TRIAL
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SD BLOOD BANK NEEDS PLASMA
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Plasma donations from those who have recovered from COVID-19 are needed to help others who are currently fighting the virus. This is because their plasma has developed antibodies against a virus. Anyone previously diagnosed with COVID-19 can sign up at sandiegobloodbank.org.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

LA JOLLAN JOINS PGA BOARD
John McNair, chief golf officer at IC Resorts in La Jolla, has joined the PGA board of directors as District 11 director for the PGA of America. McNair will represent the Aloha, Northern California and Southern California PGA Sections by fulfilling the remaining year-long term of Bill Trojanowski, PGA. Afterwards, McNair will serve a full three-year term on the board. A distinguished PGA member with more than 25 years of experience, McNair served as president of the Southern California PGA Section from 2015-16.

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DEADLINE JANUARY 10TH
ArtsBusXpress now brings students on virtual field trips

By DAVE SCHWAB

Thanks to nonprofit ArtsBusXpress, schoolchildren can now go on virtual field trips without ever having to leave their homes or classrooms.

Our mission has been to provide funding for field study trips to the arts and sciences for the students/educators in San Diego County,” said Patricia F. Smith, co-founder and board member of ArtsBusXpress based in Torrey Pines Business Park in Sorrento Valley. “To date, we’ve sent 220,000-plus students on a ride. Because of COVID, we’ve pivoted to funding virtual, interactive (and personal) field study trips.

Added Smith: “We’re now collaborating with several educators and nine venues in San Diego County to create 60 Virtual Field Trip Experiences. More venues are joining us each week.”

Smith noted current virtual field trip venues presently include La Jolla Playhouse, Living Coast Discovery Center, New Village Arts, Rueben H. Fleet Science Center, San Diego Air and Space Museum, San Diego History Center and the San Diego Model Railroad Museum, San Diego ZOO/Safari Park and Walter Munk Foundation for the Oceans.

Tapping into the educational potential that they would have if they want to go into that kind of research,” said the Preuss instructor. “My students are now creating works of art based on what they learned about research at the Walter Munk Foundation. We are planning several more field trips.

ArtsBusXpress’ motto is: Enriching students one field trip at a time ... with or without the bus. ArtsBusXpress president Ted Pena said COVID forced them to adopt a new business model.

“When COVID hit, we lost 50 (field trip) busloads of kids,” he said. “So we had to pivot. Fine tune our business model to enrich students one field trip at a time. And now it’s with – or without the bus.”

Six outbreaks were confirmed. Six new community outbreaks were confirmed on Dec. 2 through Dec. 8. One in a retail setting and one in a food/beverage processing setting.

• The order will last for at least three weeks or until the region’s ICU capacity meets or exceeds 15%. The order will be assessed by the state after the three-week period.
• Community Setting Outbreaks:
  • Six new community outbreaks were confirmed on Dec. 2 through Dec. 8. One in a retail setting and one in a food/beverage processing setting.
• In the past seven days (Dec. 2 through Dec. 8), 67 community outbreaks were confirmed.

ArtsBusXpress now brings students on virtual field trips to the arts and sciences, or to museums and zoos,” Pena pointed out. “We’ve been busy finding and collaborating with partners to offer teachers a selection of up to 55 different virtual field trips that are designated as live, interactive, and personalized for classes of up to 40 kids.”

For more information, visit artsbusxpress.org.
Pacific Beach residents remember popular postal carrier

Discover Pacific Beach’s long-time executive director Sara Berns is moving on.

“I’m leaving for another non-profit,” said Berns, who’s accepted a position with San Diego Fireman’s Relief Association and Firefighter Aid. “The opportunity just kind of presented itself and I’ve been here 13 years. It will be good for the organization moving forward to restructure and I’ve been here 13 years. It will be good for the organization moving forward to restructure and think about the community. There are many groups involved in PB. We’ve got to find someone that’s collaborative, and willing to be a part of this community.”

Brent noted COVID and health restrictions imposed because of the pandemic “have had a disproportionate effect on small-business owners, the live event industry and our restaurants and retailers versus the big boxes.” She added her replacement “will have to work to get relief out to small businesses, help them get loans.”

Having had to cancel all of its in-person fundraisers this year, Berns noted Discover PB is operating at about half of its standard budget moving forward into 2021.

Added Berns: “The next person is going to be looking at the job and figuring out how we are going to change the way we gather and fundraise. Our business membership’s needs have changed. The bottom line for the position is to help our business members, and figure out how best to advocate for them.”

Brents added that the new executive director could also get help move forward into the pandemic.”

By DAVE SNOWAN
Local women form Legacy13 to make a positive difference

By DAVE SCHWAB

A locally based women’s mastermind group is branching out to make a difference by connecting with other women and networking to champion gender-, racial-equity, and other social causes.

Known as Legacy1, the group was formed in 2016 and meets twice monthly. The first meeting involves the group giving presentations on timely topics to learn more about them and/or take action. Those topic discussions sometimes prove so informative they’re turned into informational community workshops. The second monthly group meeting sets and shares goals.

Legacy1 was begun by a small core group, which recently opted to add a second sister group with three members. The group’s core now includes Pacific Beach dentist Janelle Bacino.

“Cindy and I decided to start this group in 2016 after a women’s empowerment march,” said Andrea Esajian of her friend and co-member Cindy Phillips. After that, the pair, whose husbands are business partners, reached out to other women they knew who were community leaders and doers.

“We didn’t want it to be just friends of ours,” said Phillips. “We wanted to reach outside of our comfort zones and outside of our close circle of friends. We wanted to find other women in our community who wanted to be impactful and positive.”

Phillips noted that giving back is one of Legacy’s “strongest core values,” adding “we often partner with the nonprofit my husband and I started called Equal Footing Foundation, equalfootingfoundation.org. EFF is a nonprofit created by members with a shared passion for sports, health, and wellness which strives to help underprivileged children lead more active and healthy lives.

“From there we started a group of six women to meet monthly and set goals and support one another and really join forces to make an impact in our community and really uplift one another,” said Esajian.

“We would like to expand, not just for the sake of expanding, but to make sure we stick to our core values and provide members with the opportunity to have a big impact,” said Phillips. “We hold fundraisers and events that give back to the community. We’re looking to start adding some sister groups and try to make ourselves even more impactful in the community.”

“Legacy13 has been such a positive experience,” agreed Esajian. “It’s been important for us to give this support system to many other women.”

Charitable and fundraising events that have been held by Legacy 13 include a blanket and book drive for Rady’s Children’s Hospital, fundraisers for local women-owned businesses, school supply drives, donations to the Monarch School for the Homeless, and donations to Tiffany’s Place and Generation Hope benefiting sex trafficking victims of all ages.

Workshops presented by Legacy13 have covered a plethora of subjects including feminism, domestic violence, bullying, sex trafficking, internet intelligence, financial literacy, and LGBTQ issues.

“Our first workshop we had talked about feminine leadership and modern-day gender bias,” noted Phillips. “We were so moved by another presentation that we did our own fundraiser and raised $10,000 that was donated to San Diego’s first home for minor victims of sex trafficking.”

“We had a big fundraiser with pop-up vendors where we invited local women-owned businesses, and we invited women and men from the community to shop and learn about them,” said Esajian. “We have a silent auction, sell raffle tickets, and we raise money for that cause each year.”

Legacy does not currently have a website but does have a Facebook page and Instagram account @legacy13.womenrising.

Legacy13 members Brittney Osbahr, Odette Gonzalez, Cindy Phillips, Andrea Esajian, Kim Goodwin, Sanam Ansari, and Amy McNicholas at the group’s most recent ‘Collective Hearts’ fundraiser where they raised $10,000 for minor victims of sex trafficking.

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San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott recently filed a civil enforcement action to shut down a La Jolla Farms short-term vacation rental property located at 9660 Black Gold Road. The complaint alleged that the property owners, owners and neighbors, were in violation of state and county COVID-19 public health orders. The oceanfront mansion has been the subject of at least 30 calls to the San Diego Police Department, causing officers to expend more than 173 hours at the property to investigate nuisance activity. Most of the incidents involved raucous parties, some of which had over 100 attendees.

About a dozen of the party complaints attended by the City Attorney have been dismissed by Superior Court judges due to the property’s inability to prove that the situation was becoming more pronounced as the COVID-19 pandemic progressed. The City Attorney’s office assembled evidence from investigations by SDPD, the Code Enforcement Division of the City’s Development Services Department, the County Health and Human Services Department, and the City Fire Marshal.

Neighbors forced to endure loud parties, health and safety violations during COVID party mansion

party in progress. Partygoers questioned by police admitted gunfire during a fight that had occurred earlier. Police found shell casings outside the property and a neighbor found an additional gun during the next day and turned it over to police.

At another party, the San Diego Fire Department received a call to unplug a seriously injured man. When police arrived, they could not locate the man. The next day he was located at a local hospital and admitted that during the party he was doing pull-ups on the bathroom clothing rack when it came out of the wall and struck him causing a one-inch head laceration.

Other complaints to police involved:
• Fires on-site;
• Assault;
• Underage drinking;
• Theft.

In addition to dangerous conduct, inspectors found health and safety, building, and fire code violations, including:
• Mosquito larvae in standing water requiring immediate treatment;
• Multiple electrical violations, leaving electrical wires exposed and unprotected throughout the property;
• Excessive vegetation capable of being ignited causing the property to be deemed a fire hazard;
• Glass pans missing from the foyers, which is covered with plywood.

During the investigations, inspectors also observed the following conditions:
• A tennis court filled with debris, torn fence coverings, and a broken tennis net;
• A swimming pool containing debris;
• Dead plants and weeds throughout the grounds, which could create a fire hazard;
• A partially empty koi pond emitting an offensive odor and a gargoyle filled with dead plants;
• A gazebo with a dilapidated roof containing broken branches and dead leaves with trash;
• A garage filled with stacked mattresses, broken furniture, and other storage;
• Broken steps with large piles of dead leaves;
• Soiled rugs with cigarette burns;
• Damaged sinks, bidet, tiles, and doorknobs.

Despite these conditions, Defendants advertise the property for more than $900 per night on Airbnb with photographs showing the property in a pristine condition, which constitutes a violation of California’s False Advertising and Unfair Competition laws. The current Airbnb listing reads “Cliffside 8 Million Dollar Beach Mansion w/ Ocean Views... Germ Free-Superior Cleaning – wall to wall windows with breathtaking views swimming pool – BBQ – tennis and basketball court – pool table – cozy & quiet...” 7 bedrooms, 12 beds, sleeps 16.

In addition, Defendants have been operating a business without the required business tax license in violation of the San Diego Municipal Code.

Concerns about the property were brought to the City Attorney’s Office by SDPD and neighbors who reported that the situation was becoming more pronounced as the COVID-19 pandemic progressed. The Office of Assembly evidence from investigations by SDPD, the Code Enforcement Division of the City’s Development Services Department, the County Health and Human Services Department, and the City Fire Marshal.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnnews.com
By DAVID SCHWAB

In her spare time, Pacific Beach environmental activist Karin Zirk is active writing fiction.

The print version of Zirk’s second book, “Falling From The Moon,” came out via Talk Story Publishing right before the pandemic hit. Her novel, which follows the quest of a 25-year old character searching for her vanished father, leads to Friends of Rose Creek, collectively,” said Zirk, who has always felt very culpable. “I feel like I have committed a crime,” she said. “I think, although it’s hard to do it, to get it out of my system.”

That is really how the novel came into being. It was my attempt to sort through it all.”

About her writing, the author, who has a doctorate in mythology, noted, “We all have mythologies, perspectives on the world based on our upbringing, our culture and the era in which we live. All of these things have an undercurrent of mythological themes. Think of it as an iceberg that is more than meets the eye.”

Zirk characterized her second novel as a “hope-based narrative.” She added, “When we function as a community and function toward the betterment of everybody, we have hope in happy endings.”

Will there be a sequel? “It ends at a jumping-off point where the two main characters can see their futures,” answered Zirk of her new novel.

Of what she hopes readers will take away from her novel, Zirk said, “I would hope that this book gives people new perspectives on life and humans and communities. I would also hope that this book inspires people to maybe think outside the box for solutions.”

Zirk’s novel, “Falling From The Moon,” is available from your local independent bookseller. It can be ordered directly from Indiebooks supporting indie bookstores.

Watch Karin’s talk, “The True Price of Activism,” for a short reading and to learn about the inspiration behind her new novel on YouTube at youtu.be/ baiEPayq1UY.

Karin Zirk’s second book, ‘Falling From The Moon.’

By DAVE SCHWAB

Pacific Beach environmental activist writes inspired novel

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Destroyed ancient Temple of Bel now open for virtual exploration

UC San Diego Library has digitally reconstructed the world-famous temple in Palmyra, Syria to preserve the cultural heritage for future generations.

Five years after its destruction, the ancient Temple of Bel in Palmyra, Syria has been digitally reconstructed by the UC San Diego Library’s Digital Media Lab (DML) using cutting-edge 3D methods and artificial intelligence (AI) applications. Inspired by a past collaboration between the Library and UC San Diego’s Levantine Archaeology Laboratory, this project has resulted in the digital preservation of more than a dozen lost relics, sculptures, frescoes and paintings, all made publicly available on the Library’s Digital Collections website.

Destroyed in 2015 during the Syrian civil war, the Temple of Bel has been called the most important temple in the entire Middle East (along with Lebanon’s Baalbek) and served as one of the best-preserved examples of ancient art and architecture, attracting more than 150,000 tourists annually. Through the use of more than 3,000 publicly available digital photographs taken over the course of a decade, the Library has successfully recreated the structure using Pointcloud, an online viewing platform.

“This project underscores the Library’s commitment to engaging in collaborative efforts to better understand how the university can support emerging teaching and research formats,” said Roger Smith, interim associate university librarian for scholarly resources and services at the UC San Diego Library. “It also allows the Library to better plan for our role in acquiring, preserving and sharing scholarship while incorporating new media and data formats.”

The digital photographs used to create the virtual rendering of the Temple of Bel were sourced from open access repositories such as the #NEWPALMYRA project, the Roman Society, Oxford University and many individual tourists, then populated into Pointcloud, which allows users to interactively explore the once massive temple compound. Additionally, artificial intelligence applications were used to isolate the temple’s important features from other elements that may have appeared in the images, such as tourists, weather conditions and foliage.

“This new technology has allowed the Library to combine image data from many different sources,” said Scott McAvoy, manager of the Library’s Digital Media Lab. “For example, a photo from a Polish tourist visiting in 2010 can be combined with a photo from a Japanese tourist visiting in 2015 to extract 3D features. These images have provided the basis for the reconstruction of this site—without them, we would not have been able to embark on or successfully complete this project.”

To view the UC San Diego Library’s digital recreation of the Temple of Bel, visit http://lib.ucsd.edu/templeofbel. The web viewer is currently supported by desktop versions of Chrome, Firefox and Microsoft Edge — virtual reality is supported through Firefox WebVR.

UC San Diego community members interested in using Pointcloud technology to access, analyze and visualize their data are encouraged to reach out to DML manager Scott McAvoy at DML@ucsd.edu.
The 1970s were a wonderful time to be in academia. I was well ensconced as a faculty member in the Whittomere College of Business and Economics (WSBE) at the University of New Hampshire. The years in Durham, N.H., were happy ones for Herman and I; we did everything together. He was unswervingly supportive. I was integrated into the university and had the freedom to be innovative, both on my home turf and away.

In 1979, a representative of WSBE, what they were working on. My secretary showed him the outline of my course on women working in organizations. He started our session with “I did not like your book. I do not know why you are writing the book. I know, I was signing a contract with ‘I did not read your book.’” The ensuing laughter eased much as he does, he doesn’t like it.” The ensuing laughter eased the tension in the audience. I had imagined I was taking the backlash from the men who had enjoyed the priva-

The Women’s Movement brought to the workplace in droves. I was thrilled but also confused about women entering the workforce in droves. I wanted to help and accepted consulting opportunities with various government agencies such as the FBI, the CIA, the California Chiefs of Police, and U.S. Postal Service, as well as in industry including General Dynamics, Teledyne Ryan, National Cash Register (NCR), General Motors of Canada, etc. I was surprised that I was considered to be an expert in this new field. However, at that time, there was no one else specifically dealing with women integrating into formerly male-dominated organizations. Often there was initial hostility from the men, who were asked to attend my workshops.

I started writing humorous verse to help relax the atmosphere, for instance, these two lines: “He taught her everything he knew. Now that she knows as much as he does, he doesn’t like it.” The ensuing laughter eased the tension in the audience. I had compassion for the men, who had to learn new behaviors and deal with their confusing feelings, to help them accept women as colleagues in the workplace. Using humor in poetry is a wonderful stress reducer.

Natasha Josefowitz is the author of 21 books of business and poetry. She currently resides at White Sands Retirement Community in La Jolla. Copyright © 2020. Natasha Josefowitz. All rights reserved.

Women in management in the 1970s – changing the business culture

'1 was thrust into the limelight as one of the early feminists dealing with issues encountered by women working in organizations.'

By Natasha Josefowitz, Ph.D.
The first artificial Christmas Tree wasn’t a tree at all. It was created out of goose feathers that were dyed green. The first artificial Christmas trees were developed in Germany in the 19th century, due to a major continuous deforestation. The feather trees became increasingly popular during the early 20th century and finally made their way to the US.

**PB Fun Fact:**
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