CITY TAKES STEPS TO OPEN LADERA STAIRS

Surfers Izzy Poulin and Trevor Borello walk up the Ladera Street stairs on Sunday, Aug. 26. The stairway has been closed and chained-off since a Feb. 13 cliff landslide, but it’s still used regularly by surfers. The City Council recently allocated $1.8 million to stabilize the cliff and repair the stairs.

THOMAS MELVILLE/PEOPLE'S BEACON

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OB group trying to bring back mermaid
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Keep the party going with Sunday Fundays
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Judy Kettenburg-Chayka  
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‘Mermaid team’ plays siren song in hopes of luring another nautical nymph to OB

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACH

A group of Ocean Beach residents want to see the missing mermaid that suddenly appeared — before mysteriously disappearing — returned or replaced.

An effort is underway to resurrect the homemade mermaid, originally manufactured in Arizona, which earlier this year sat atop towering Ross Rock at Sunset Cliffs before it was removed.

Replacing the nautical nymph has become the personal mission of longtime Ocean Beach MainStreet staffer Claudia Jack.

“People call me almost every day asking, ‘What happened to the mermaid?’,” said Jack, who, after thoughtful replies, “She’s out taking a swim.”

Jack once had a 7-year-old girl call him, “Mr. Mermaid.”

“People call me almost every day asking, ‘Where did she go?’” said Jack, who playfully adds, “I once had a 7-year-old girl call me Mr. Mermaid.”

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An Obecian identifying himself as Ross Rock, but somewhere on Newport Avenue. She added other community members have volunteered to help create Vera.

Jack said the idea is to have Vera built in time for December’s OB Christmas parade.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

Marina the mermaid caused a stir while perched on Ross Rock at Sunset Cliffs in June.
**RAZOR SHARE SCOOTERS ENTER THE SAN DIEGO MARKET**

There’s a new entrant to the dockless vehicle scene in San Diego: Razor Share scooters. Razor Share will debut Thursday, Aug. 30 with a community pop-up event from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the corner of Harbor Drive and Market Street near KC BBQ and the bike path. Residents can test out Razor Share scooters and receive a free helmet.

Razor’s e-scooters have been custom designed from the ground up to provide a better shared-scooter ride. The scooters have cushioned front air tires, a wide deck big enough for two feet side-by-side, a UC-compliant lithium ion battery, and a rigid steel frame. “We’re thrilled to be joining this vibrant community,” said Danny Simon, COO of Razor USA. “Our specially designed shared e-scooters create a better shared ride for San Diegans and make the experience convenient, safe and fun.”

To celebrate the launch of Razor Share in San Diego, riders will receive the first three rides for free, up to 15 minutes a ride. As a part of Razor’s commitment, Razor local team members will charge, inspect and maintain scooters every evening to help maximize performance and safety.

Razor has been at the forefront of mobility innovation since 2000 when they reimagined the scooter to become a global phenomenon. Razor then launched their first electric scooter in 2003. Since then, Razor has been one of the world’s leading producers of electric scooters.

**PRELIM HEARING FOR MAN CHARGED WITH SETTING FIRES**

A judge set an Aug. 29 preliminary hearing for a man accused of setting 10 fires that damaged six cars in Ocean Beach including a classic MGB. The arsonist put a box inside his 1979 convertible and then set the box on fire. The interior was destroyed, and Stavish said he only had liability insurance.

“I wish to restore the interior and once again get this classic back on the road,” wrote Stavish.

The first fire was set in an alley near Bacon Street and Cape May Avenue. The other fires were set on Newport Avenue, Niagara Avenue, Santa Monica Avenue, Spray Street, Long Branch Avenue and Muir Avenue.

Police initially estimated the damages as $23,000. Barring was arrested on Spray Street and Long Branch Avenue and was allegedly in possession of a butane lighter which had been stolen from a barbecue area outside someone’s home.

He is also charged with two counts of attempted arson. Eleven counts are felonies and he is also charged with a misdemeanor count of recklessly causing a fire.

No apparent motive has been discussed in court. One resident told a television news reporter that he recognized Barring as a guy who was often seen walking around in the area, sometimes singing to himself.

---

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Dr. Elizabeth Kolesniky graduated from Villanova University and The Pennsylvania College of Optometry and has been practicing in San Diego since 2003. She frequently lectures colleagues on contact lens innovations. She enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband Chad and her dog Winston.

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SUNSET CLIFFS STREET FAIR IS ON FOR SATURDAY

There have been many rumors – positive and negative – about this event, but the street fair is scheduled to take place on Saturday, Sept. 1. Reporter Judy Curry talked to the City planners, SDPD, street fair organizer Richard Aguirre, and others, to get the scoop.

Since this is an inaugural event, it has been scaled down from the original plan. Sunset Cliffs Boulevard will not be closed off; only the 4700 block of Point Loma Avenue will be closed from Ebers to the east side of Sunset Cliffs. There will be one stage and it will feature a variety of bands and musicians throughout the day.

There will also be a DJ playing music at different locales on the block. The plans for a beer garden have been discontinued, and more emphasis will be placed on ‘all age’ visitors. There are approximately 100 vendors that will be participating, and a variety of handcrafted articles, food venues, street paintings, and games will be offered.

A permit has been issued for the street fair by both the City and the Health Department.

The hours have also been scaled down to opening at 10 a.m. and closing at 6 p.m. Members of the Sunset Cliffs Merchant Association and the ‘Garbage Beach Club’ want to preserve the area so that others may enjoy it for years to come. The support that they receive from attending this street fair will aid in the preservation of the area.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY LAUNCHES NOISE COMPLAINT APP

The Airport Authority has launched a new app that provides members of the public an easy-to-use, no-cost option for submitting an aircraft noise complaint. The app is part of an upgraded Airport Noise and Operations Monitoring System, uses near real-time flight tracking (5-minute or less delay), which is the most accurate data of aircraft movement that is available from the Federal Aviation Administration.

The upgrade complements the airport’s existing WebTrakTM flight tracking system, which allows the public to monitor the movement of flights and air traffic patterns and submit a complaint to the airport directly from the website. For more information, visit san.org/AirportNoise.

INDUSTRY BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Taking their talents from some of San Diego’s top restaurants to the stage, five local bands will compete in the “Industry Battle of the Bands” benefiting the California Restaurant Association’s student scholarship program at Humphreys Concerts by the Bay on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

Doors open at 5:15 p.m. with the first band, Rick Ales and the Esquires with Ross Rizzo of Bernardo Winery, starting their set at 6 p.m. Richard Walker, backed by Rick Ales and the Esquires, will play at 6:30 p.m.; followed by Gypsy Wolfe of Karl Strauss at 6:45 p.m.; Jaynes Gastropub at 7:15 p.m.; and SEEDHEADS of Mkle Fleur at 8 p.m. The winner will be announced between 8:30 and 8:45 p.m. and will then take the stage for a special encore performance.

Tickets are available at californiarestaurantassociation.com.

BRIEFS

At Ocean Beach Surf & Skate

Ocean Beach Surf & Skate, 4940 Newport Ave., will hold a signing for Jim Kempston and his book titled, “First We Surf Then We Eat,” from noon to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 1. Kempston is a president of the California Surf Museum, former editor and publisher for Surfer magazine, and a lifelong surfer who has written a cookbook about the amazing dishes he’s found while traveling the world. There will be books to purchase and free food to give out with the purchase of a book.

CHURCH PROGRAMS OFFERED

All Souls’ Episcopal Church, 1475 Catalina Blvd., has announced a new Thursday afternoon community offering for children and youth. “Thursdays on the Point” offers programs for young people from transition algebra through high school, including professional art and choral music instruction, Christian education, and after-school child care with homework help. Programs are offered between 1 and 5:30 p.m.

For information and to register your child, visit allsoulspointloma.org/thursdays.

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THURSDAY · AUGUST 30, 2018
THE PENINSULA BEACON
Nati's restaurant sale still not complete

Dr. Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

The ongoing saga in the sale of Nati's Mexican Restaurant took a strange twist this week when the Peninsula Beacon learned the sale has apparently not been completed as previously reported.

Information obtained from a Point Loma resident, who was a regular patron of Nati's, and works with property titles as part of their job, supports this claim. Speaking on condition of anonymity, they described checking on the title to the Nati's property last week and finding the owner listed as "Nati's Inc.,” the same designation on the title since the early 1970s.

The supposed new owners of the property have been extremely secretive about purchasing the property for a reported price of $5.7 million. When last questioned by a Peninsula Beacon reporter, the alleged purchasers would not confirm the purchase but promised "a press release" to explain their plans.

Swirling rumors have mentioned a new outlet for the Pop Pie Co., currently located at 4404 Park Blvd. in University Heights. The owners of this restaurant were confirmed as the purchasers by a relative of Nati's previous owners. Pop Pie Co. founders are Steven Torres and Gan Suebsarakham.

This pair has also announced a new venture, Stella Jean’s Ice Cream, adjacent to Pop Pie Co., set to open this month.

Other rumors have the purchasers planning to erect a condominium or apartment building on the site, which includes the shops fronting Nati's patio, the parking lot and building to the west adjoining the parking lot.

The new owners had originally promised previous Nati's owners they planned to first remodel the restaurant before re-opening with the sale-included original recipes and employees. That, however, never happened and the restaurant was closed on June 7, reportedly after the close of escrow had taken place.

Since the closing, a paid parking station has been set up in the Nati's lot with prices of $5 per hour. A padlock hangs on the red wrought iron gate from the parking lot.

Google announces initiative to help veterans find jobs

Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced a grant for new tools and resources to help service members transition into civilian jobs at an Aug. 27 press conference at the United Services Organizations Council of San Diego in Liberty Station.

The $2.5 million grant will enable the USO to incorporate the Google IT Support Professional Certificate into their programming. The IT Support Professional Certificate is a first-of-its-kind program with interactive content, developed by Google, and which provides a direct route for those who successfully complete the program to get their information into the hands of employers.

"One out of three transitioning vets end up with civilian jobs well below their skill levels,” said Pichai. “Starting today, vets searching for jobs will be aided by a special occupational code that will match their military career skills with jobs in San Diego.”

Service members can now search “jobs for veterans” on Google by entering their military occupational specialty code (MOS, AFSC, NEC) to see relevant civilian jobs that require similar skills to those used in their military roles.

The announcement was part of the tech company’s Grow with Google initiative to help create economic opportunities for American service members.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com
Sunset Cliffs stairs and bluff project repairs at Ladera St. causes controversy

By Dave Schwab | The Beacon

A City decision to spend emergency funds for coastal repairs would ordinarily be celebrated.

But in the case of the Ladera Street stairs in Sunset Cliffs, it has instead stoked a public debate over government accountability, cliff erosion and beach access.

On Aug. 6, the City Council allocated $1.8 million in Regional Park Improvement Funds for the Ladera Street Beach Access Stairway Emergency Project. That stairway has been closed and chained-off since Feb. 13 when a cliff landslide impaired access to the beach below.

However, due to its being deemed an “emergency,” the stairwell project has been fast-tracked, which hasn’t sat well with nearby Sunset Cliffs neighbors.

The response from Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council, a citizen’s advisory group for the 68-acre Sunset Cliffs Natural Park, was immediately negative.

The same day, the Council voted for emergency Ladera repairs, SCNPC voted unanimously to recommend that the City do a full environmental impact review of the emergency Ladera Street stabilization proposal before moving forward.

The group also recommended that the City consider moving the coastal access farther south for Garbage Beach access, instead of pursuing the emergency proposal for bluff stabilization at the Ladera Street access.

“I know they had closed the stairs and were trying to figure out what should be done,” Swanson said. “But we did not know until Aug. 3 that emergency repairs were a docketed item for Aug. 6. They called it an emergency. But it happened in February.”

Swanson said community planners’ ire was raised when they learned the project had already received all the necessary permitting to do stairwell repairs, and could move forward soon, because it was declared an emergency.

City spokesperson Alec Phillip said repairing the Ladera Street staircase is actually not part of the present scope of work because “damage to the hand railing, not the stairs, was minor and the stairs can be reopened in the future.”

This project was triggered when portions of the bluff collapsed onto the stairs below, and once complete, it will mitigate the geologic hazard adjacent to the stairs for increased public safety, and to ensure emergency personnel have adequate access to the beach,” Phillip said.

The scope of work, said Phillip, will remove any potential loose material from the vertical cliff face, and grade back only the portions of the bluff that overhang the vertical face. “A consultant is on board to evaluate the drainage in the area to determine if the drainage is affecting the bluff stability,” he said.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

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Shop & Dine OB Card
A new program to support community businesses has launched in Ocean Beach. The OB Shop & Dine Rewards Card promotes small, locally-owned businesses and encourages customers to shop local. The card, which sells for $30, will give cardholders discounts at any participating local business through 2018. To purchase a card online or see what deals are offered visit oceanbeachsandiego.com/resources/local-news. Cards can also be purchased at the OB MainStreet Association office, located at 1868 Bacon Street, San Diego, CA 92107.

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Crushing it on Sunday Funday

Where to keep the weekend party going at the beach

By ANDREW EAKES | THE BEACON

Yes, Sunday Funday is a thing. A few years ago, avocado toast and long, mimosa-fueled brunches took over Sundays. But now, brunch has expanded into day drinking, DJs, and dancing into the evening as a way to extend the weekend party and make the looming work week more palatable.

How does it all work? First, organize your squad. Sunday Funday is a group activity. Second, pick out a spot and make sure bottomless Bloody Marys – as well as various food options that include a lot of bacon – are on the menu. Other things to consider: outdoor deck or patio with a scenic view, music options – live band or DJ-infused, flexibility to “go with the flow,” and plenty of space for all the group Instagrams.

Now that you’re ready for a Sunday Funday, check out our list below of some amazing places to stretch the weekend out to its full potential.

Ocean Beach

Raglan Public House (1851 Bacon St.): After a Saturday night of drinking, Raglan Public House may be the fried-and-greasy fix you are craving. Best known for the delicious burgers including their lamb burgers, fish ‘n’ chips and chicken pot pies. Sunday Funday gets a little crazier with the addition of $1 mimosas from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Voltaire Beach House (4934 Voltaire St.): There is really no place better in OB to get a Sunday Funday going than Voltaire Beach House. This dog-friendly, open-air restaurant offers bottom-less mimosas for $14.95, pitchers of sangria for $10 and their Cutwater Spirits Fugu vodka Beach House Bloody Mary for $8. For a larger appetite, bite down on their Short Rib Hash, a mix of braised short ribs, breakfast potatoes, fried eggs, sautéed onion and tomato hollandaise.

Wonderland Ocean Pub (5083 Santa Monica Ave.): Who doesn’t want to soak up their Sunday Funday with one of the best ocean views in OB? Wonderland offers just that. Some of their breakfast favorites include the O’Burrito, shrimp and goat cheese omelet and eggs and enchiladas. On Sundays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., they offer $12 bottles of champagne, $10 Greyhounds (Fugu Vodka by Cutwater, fresh grapefruit juice and agave nectar) and $10 Aperol Spritz (Aperol, champagne and soda water).

OB Noodle House (2218 Cable St.): How good is this place? So good that they opened a second location to accommodate the busy crowds. From shrimp spring rolls to wings to their crispy chicken noodle dish, it is hard not to completely love this place. Because it is so busy the atmosphere can be loud, but an overall exciting experience. Be sure to call ahead on Sunday Funday for a reservation as all drafts are half off.

Point Loma

Bali Hai (2230 Shelter Island Drive): If you are willing to spend the money, this place will not disappoint. For $44 per adult and $20 per child, you will get one of San Diego’s best champagne brunches to get your Sunday Funday going. You will not only get endless champagne for mimosas, but you will also get a seafood bar with shrimp, ceviche and crab legs, prime rib, salad bar, fish of the day and the rest of your traditional breakfast items. The view of downtown isn’t so bad either.

Pizza Nova (5050 N Harbor Drive): Just off the coast at the Fisherman’s Landing, this cozy unknown spot is great for an unsuspecting Sunday Funday. Overlooking the marina, they offer happy hour everyday from 3 to 6 p.m., which includes a $4 beer of the month, $2 off all small plates, drafts, wines and well drinks and $6.50 mini pizzas. Get your Sunday Funday going with $4 Bloody Marys and mimosas from open to 4 p.m.

Breakfast Republic (2865 Sims Road suite 106; and 4839 Newport Ave): The Liberty Station spot is a great way to get some drinks going, enjoy some breakfast and get outside for a spectacular Sunday Funday. A good way to get the morning started is with a White Peach Bellini with Gloria Frit Zombie prosecco or one of their build-your-own kombucha flights.

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Points beat Bulldogs, lose to Wildcats

By: Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

After a heartbreaking last-second loss to El Camino in their season opener, Point Loma head football coach Mike Hastings wasn’t sure how his team would respond in its next game, the home opener last Friday night against top-10 rated Ramona.

Let’s just say Hastings is a happy man today:

The 2018 Pointer team scored both early and late en route to a 41-27 win against the favored Bulldogs as both teams evened their records at 1-1.

“This was a huge game,” Hastings said. “The kids came out and played with passion. I was happy to see them bounce back after that bitter pill at El Camino.”

The Bulldog offense is guided by QB Derek Diamond, a baseball pitcher, who recently played in the All-American Classic at Petco Park, making him one of the elite prep players in the country. Diamond threw two costly strikes during the football game, however, that were caught by Pointer defenders and returned for touchdowns.

The first one had to hurt badly, coming on the first play of the game, for Ramona. Diamond set up to throw a gem over the middle when Dogs defender Tristan Shafer stepped in front of the intended receiver, swiping the ball and damping to the score. Before the game was one-minute old, the hosts jumped out to a 7-0 lead.

“That was amazing, a pretty good way to get started,” Hastings noted.

Then, with the Pointers clinging to a slim 34-27 lead with just over three minutes left in the game and the Bulldogs threatening, Diamond tossed another jewel to the Pointers. Kaden Gill stepped in front of an out-route ball and his “pick six,” covering 42 yards untouched, gave Hastings and Pointer fans an opportunity to take a deep breath and savor the moment.

Gill also scored twice from his running back position to lead the Pointer charge.

Another game highlight for a sizable Pete Ross Stadium crowd was a 65-yard touchdown pass Gill picked off. The Bulldogs added one more score before Gill’s pick ended scoring.

“It was great to get the win and get the school spirit going before the start of school,” Hastings said.

El Camino 17, Pointers 16

A Wildcat field goal with 3.1 seconds left in the game devastated a Pointer team that had outplayed their opponents throughout the game.

They took an early lead when Andy Medina’s field goal put three points on the board.

The Wildcats broke an 82-yard touchdown run in the second quarter to take a 7-3 lead that stood for some time. In the third quarter, Pointer Zac Makis picked off a Wildcat pass and returned it to just outside the hosts’ 20-yard line.

On the next play, QB Trey Cobb lofted a pass into the end zone where Skinner used his height advantage to leap and catch the ball as the Pointers took a 10-7 lead.

Scores by both the Pointers and Wildcats left the Dogs with a slim 16-14 lead after missing one PAT. While trying to run the clock out in the fourth quarter, the Pointers finally had to give up the ball, the Wildcats only having 32 seconds left and about 65 yards to cover.

Unfortunately, they covered most of it before kicking the game-winner.

Next up: at Otay Ranch (1-1) Aug. 31, 7 p.m. The Mustangs have defeated Valley Center and lost by three to San Marcos. Last year, they were 8-4 and undefeated in the Metro-Mesa League. They went to the Div. II semifinals before losing to Ramona.

Extra points

■ Admission prices for Pointer home games are set by the City Conference (San Diego Unified School District). Changes this year mean adults (13 and older) and students without an ASB card pay $7. Children 5-12 and seniors 65 and older pay $2. Kids under 5 years of age are free. Playoff game prices are set by CIF.

■ All three Pointer teams now have 1-1 records. The freshman team defeated El Camino before losing to Ramona while the JV team defeated Ramona after a loss to El Camino.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com
THANK YOU, 2018 SUMMER CONCERT VOLUNTEERS

PLHS Instrumental Music
Jaden Gamon, Dylan Garza, August Hayes, Estelle Villarreal, Melody Hursado
Faria Villarreal, Cady Johnson, Tatyana Torres, Carmelina Cedillo,
Princess Labrador, Maddie Holtkamp

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS
Jackie Callan, Keri Sartell, Kevin Wilde, Ryan Burger, David Shuler

US BANK
Jaime Egan, Shelley Naumann, Tammy Carroll

Special Thanks to MADCAPS
who set up and cleaned the field each week!

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