New indoor guidelines
SEE PAGE 7

Mask litter a problem
SEE PAGE 5

Sports Arena development
SEE PAGE 16

Professional skateboarder Brandon Turner flies over a trash can on his board. Turner is a recovery coach at Healthy Life Recovery in Pacific Beach.

OVERCOMING LIFE’S OBSTACLES
PRO SKATEBOARDER HELPS RECOVERING ADDICTS IN PACIFIC BEACH
SEE PAGE 12
City delays full parking enforcement until Oct. 1

Due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer has directed City of San Diego staff to delay full enforcement of parking regulations until Thursday, Oct. 1. The City will continue limited enforcement until then.

Parking enforcement has been limited to holiday or Sunday regulations in the City of San Diego since March 16. During that time, the City has suspended citations for vehicles violating street sweeping parking restrictions, metered parking, time limits and yellow commercial zones. Citations have continued to be issued for vehicles parked illegally at red, white and blue painted curbs.

Prior to March, the City typically processed an average of 42,000 parking citations per month. In the month of April, the City issued 1,704 parking citations for violations of the holiday or Sunday regulations.

While restarting parking enforcement is seen as one small step toward restoring San Diego’s economy by allowing for increased turnover of customers in business districts, many residents are still working from home or dealing with job losses due to COVID-19. Extending the limited enforcement of parking regulations will provide additional relief to those residents.

Other jurisdictions in San Diego County have continued to enforce metered parking, so drivers are encouraged to review posted signage when looking for a parking space. To learn more about parking rules in the City of San Diego, and to pay or appeal a citation online, visit sandiego.gov/parking.

Street sweeping has continued throughout the public health emergency. During the limited enforcement period until Oct. 1, citations with corresponding fines will not be issued to vehicles parked in street sweeping zones. View an interactive map and street sweeping schedules by visiting tinyurl.com/cwvn5icp.

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Man pleads not guilty in fatal Pacific Beach restroom stabbing

An ex-con pleaded not guilty to a murder charge on Aug. 26 for allegedly stabbing another man in an apparently random attack in a public restroom along the Pacific Beach boardwalk. 16 days after being released from prison.

Martin Alvarez, 33, is accused in the Aug. 16 slaying of 39-year-old Michael Wagley, who was found mortally wounded at about 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 16 in the lavatory at 700 Grand Ave. The victim was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Witnesses reported seeing a man fleeting on a bicycle following the stabbing, San Diego Police Department Lt. Andra Brown said. The lieutenant said Alvarez, who matched the suspect description, was detained in the area and later arrested on suspicion of murder.

The alleged motive for the slaying was unclear, but a prosecutor said the victim had no connection to his attacker.

Witnesses reported seeing a man fleeting on a bicycle following the stabbing, San Diego Police Department Lt. Andra Brown said. The lieutenant said Alvarez, who matched the suspect description, was detained in the area and later arrested on suspicion of murder.

The alleged motive for the slaying was unclear, but a prosecutor said the victim had no connection to his attacker.

Deputy District Attorney George Modlin called the stabbing a “random act of murder” in which Alvarez allegedly attacked the victim from behind, stabbing him in the neck. The prosecutor said Alvarez then threw Wagley to the ground and stabbed him several more times.

Modlin said that following his release from prison, Alvarez failed to report to Post Release Community Supervision and committed the murder 16 days later.

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Counterpoint: Proliferation of liquor licenses not to blame for PB crime rates

By DAVE SCHWAB

Not everyone in Pacific Beach is convinced alcohol-related business is largely responsible for continuing high violent crime rates there.

"Blaming the on-site liquor licenses is crying wolf," argues PB community activist Regina Sinsky-Crosby. "If you want to blame anything for crime in PB, blame the beach. PB is an urban beach district, not some sort of suburb that needs to be 'protected,' with an accessible freeway ramp, accessible beaches, and, somehow, unlimited free parking."

Added Sinsky-Crosby: "On average 100,000 people come here on the weekends. Whenever you have more people you will have more crime. We live in a really cool, beautiful, and fun neighborhood. We're not a gated community, despite the wishes of a handful of residents." Isabel Cruz has owned Isabel's Cantina at 966 Felspar St. for about 20 years. Having had an extremely difficult time getting an alcohol license years ago, Cruz pointed out who gets alcohol licenses is just as, or more important, than the number of licenses granted.

"During our painful two-year battle, which almost bankrupted us ... the reasons for not issuing or granting any licenses are the same as they are now — over-concentration of licenses and high crimes," Cruz said. "This reasoning that licenses and high crime are connected, makes little sense once you look into it. There is little to no correlation between a nice restaurant, and the crimes committed in PB."

Added Cruz: "When we did our research, crime had nothing to do with restaurants and little to do with bars. Instead, a good percentage of the crimes were related to ticketing and enforcement against unhoused individuals. Most of the crimes were committed on specific holidays. These violations were committed by persons primarily not from PB."

Pacific Beach has ranked second behind only East Village out of 125 San Diego communities in violent crimes reported by police the past three years. Statistics from 2009 to 2018 reflect that PB's average number of violent crimes has consistently been as much as three to six times the citywide average, which ranged from 41.5 to 48.2 violent crimes per year during that time period.

Violent crimes include murder, rapes, armed robberies, and aggravated assaults, with assaults making up most of the violent crime numbers. The standard thinking has been that over saturation of alcohol licenses in PB is behind the continuing high crime numbers.

Sinsky-Crosby disagreed PB has too many alcohol licenses.

"We are not over-saturated with alcohol licenses," she contended. "What we have in PB is a saturation of humans, tens of thousands of them, coming here on weekends. When it's a beautiful sunny day, PB is where people want to be. More people, more crime. Crimes are committed by people, not alcohol licenses."

So making it harder to acquire alcohol licenses is not the answer to high crime?

"Making it harder to acquire alcohol licenses in PB will only make it less attractive for amazing local chefs and restaurants to want to set up shop," said Sinsky-Crosby. "Covid-19 continues to plague our food and beverage scene and it won't be over for the foreseeable future. The last thing restaurants and bars need is more red tape, and the last thing PB needs is more vacant commercial spaces."

Cruz concurred.

"I'm not saying there aren't a few nuisance bars (noisy, kids being obnoxious, leaving trash around) but that's probably because years ago those liquor licenses came with either late closing times, are in giant spaces or both," she said. "This has nothing to do with a nice restaurant that closes at 10 p.m."

"By holding back licensing with reasonable closing times to new operators, the powers that be have effectively created a monopoly for some of the worst offenders while making them rich at the same time. Nice businesses where responsible operators are focused on food should be allowed to have alcohol licenses. Having a cocktail with a nice dinner isn't where the problems are coming from."

Added Cruz: "There needs to be more equality for women and minorities when it comes to alcohol licensing by the beach. As it stands right now, alcohol licenses are going to one demographic, and I am not a part of that one. As far as the over-concentration of licenses, it makes sense that there will be a concentration of licenses in a business district. You can go to just about any thriving business district in the world, and you will see a concentration of alcohol licenses."

"We have the most licenses, we have the most problems," Cruz noted. "PB is an urban beach district. You can go to just about any thriving business district in the world, and you will see a concentration of alcohol licenses."

NEW OUTDOOR SEATING AT ISABEL'S CANTINA AT 966 FELSPAR ST.

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The light blue, medical-style masks have become more accessible. But unfortunately, those coverings have become an environmental enigma as people toss them on the ground.

Monahan said he recently walked up from the beach and through several alleys in Pacific Beach. “In just a half-hour, I picked up 30 masks that had been tossed on the ground. It’s become a larger litter problem than most people think.”

Those light blue, medical-style masks have become more accessible. But unfortunately, those coverings have become an environmental enigma. “Most people don’t realize those light blue masks are also made of plastic and plastic doesn’t go away. When a person litters those light blue masks, it’s like littering plastic grocery bags. It’s a huge burden on the environment.”

And even cloth masks, which are washable and reusable, are also being tossed along beaches, streets, and sidewalks. “We’d like to see people use and reuse cloth masks properly and be safe. But we also want to keep the environment safe.”

The I Love a Clean San Diego organization is holding its 36th annual Coastal Day Clean-up on Saturday, Sept. 26. Volunteers can now register to take part in the environmental event. And this year, Monahan said, one of the big enemies will be those discarded protective masks.

“We’ll be asking volunteers to keep tallies of how many littered masks they pick up, just like we tally cigarette butts. We want to get a snapshot of the widespread litter problem.”

Monahan said the group will use that information to helpfully come up with an anti-littering mask campaign. He added, “To take action and to help out is the collective responsibility of us all.”

Another issue to tackle in this extraordinary year of 2020. Anyone interested in volunteering for this year’s Coastal Clean-up Day can contact I Love a Clean San Diego at ilacsd.org or 619-291-0103.

Face coverings: Like or dislike them... just don’t be a mask litterbug

By Jack Gates

They’re everywhere,” exclaimed Ian Monahan, marketing manager with I Love a Clean San Diego. “People are discarding protective masks on the beaches, streets, along curbs, and sidewalks. And it’s not just a beach issue, we’re seeing a huge increase in PPE (personal protective equipment) litter countywide.”

It’s another by-product of the pandemic. More people might be wearing masks to protect themselves and others from transmitting coronavirus. But now more people are tossing those masks aside, leaving a trashy trail of litter on the ground.

“If people take the responsibility to wear a protective mask, why wouldn’t they take the responsibility to dispose of it properly?” wondered Monahan. “A disposable mask does not mean dispose of it on the ground.”

If people take the responsibility to wear a protective mask, why wouldn’t they take the responsibility to dispose of it properly? By Jack Gates

The County Board of Supervisors adopted a $6.5 billion revised budget for fiscal year 2020-21 after public deliberations last week. The adopted budget addresses the unexpected COVID-19 and economic crises, and also reflects calls for social justice and racial equality.

A $6.4 billion recommended budget was presented to the Board on Aug. 10 and called for an increase of $1.59 million or 2.5% over last year and $100 million to fight the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Supervisors approved additional spending on Tuesday, adding $140.1 million to the budget.

As a result, the revised $6.5 billion budget calls for an increase of $299.2 million or 4.8% over last year, an additional 24 employees for a total of 17,953.5 staff years.

The pandemic coupled with the economic downturn are slashing revenue at a time when costs are rapidly rising. Despite these challenges, the County is required by law to balance the budget.

To make up the shortfalls, the County will be dipping into its reserves.

Another $5 million will provide COVID-19 Testing, Tracing, and Treatment activities for K-12 schools.

Also, $2 million will help families gain internet access so their children don’t fall behind in distance learning.

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Helen Robbins-Meyer told the Board dipping into reserves helps everyone get through the pandemic and come back on the other side with policies and programs that allow the County to bounce back stronger and better. But she cautioned the practice cannot become the norm and discipline will be required to fix the imbalance and replenish the reserves.

“We believe this spending plan is sound and reasonable for this time,” said Robbins-Meyer. “We will adjust as necessary and collectively we will combat COVID-19, navigate the economic downturn, and begin to address the social justice and racial equity issues facing our region.”

Responding to COVID-19 remains the top priority. The new budget includes a $24 million increase for the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program to expand the program countywide. Plus, $1 million for landlord/tenant counseling services.

Another $5 million will provide COVID-19 Testing, Tracing, and Treatment activities for K-12 schools.

Also, $2 million will help families gain internet access so their children don’t fall behind in distance learning.

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Former La Jolla teacher admits to sex with student

By NEAL PUTNAM

A former La Jolla Country Day School teacher admitted in court Aug. 27 that he engaged in a sexual relationship with a female student who was 17 years old at the time.

The guilty plea by Jonathan Sammartino, 36, took place before San Diego Superior Court Judge Charles Rogers who heard the preliminary hearing in January.

He pleaded guilty to a felony count of engaging in unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor when he had sex with her in 2016. Two other sex counts were dismissed after he pleaded guilty to one count.

Sammartino faces a maximum term of three years in prison and a $10,000 fine, but he is more likely to be placed on probation with up to a year in jail, according to Rogers.

With the guilty plea, Sammartino agreed not to apply for a teaching credential or work as a teacher. He worked for a private school in San Jose at the time of his 2018 arrest and he is no longer there.

Rogers said in court he was “not inclined” to order Sammartino to register as a sex offender. But if he changes his mind, Sammartino might have to register as a sex offender for life in whatever community he lives in. He was married at the time but is now divorced.

Sentencing was set for Oct. 21. Sammartino remains free on a $25,000 bond. His mother is U.S. District Court Judge Janis Sammartino, who attended the two-day preliminary hearing.

Deputy District Attorney Martin Doyle said Sammartino violated a position of trust as there is “a reasonable expectation” that teachers do not have sex with students.

The hearing Aug. 27 was held in a mostly closed courtroom in which Sammartino appeared on a video screen and the two lawyers also appeared remotely. Audio from the hearing was live-streamed online.

The female student first reported sexual incidents while she was in college in 2018. She testified that Sammartino sometimes picked her up outside her home. She said they engaged in sexual relations in his home and car.

Iredale said his client believed the girl was 18 years old at the time. Sammartino has a doctorate in experimental psychology.

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New guidelines allow limited indoor operations for restaurants, salons

By DAVE SCHWAB

ow that San Diego is off the state COVID watchlist, the county is asking businesses and organizations allowed to reopen indoor operations under new state guidelines to review and redo their safety reopening plans to ensure they stay in compliance.

The state introduced a new tiered system recently that allows certain indoor activities to resume. However, businesses must adhere to industry-specific guidelines and follow hygiene, social distancing, and face-covering requirements.

While many sectors have been allowed to reopen, not all can operate at full capacity. Gyms and fitness centers can operate indoors but must limit attendance to 10% capacity or less.

Restaurants can open indoor dining but must limit indoor operations to 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is lower. Places of worship and movie theaters can operate indoors under those same capacity limits. Museums can open at 25% capacity.

Hair salons, barbershops and nail salons can operate indoors at full capacity but must follow safety precautions outlined by the state and county.

Under the latest health order, businesses will be required to implement a sign-in procedure, collecting contact information for patrons served indoors,” said Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., County public health officer. “This process will assist disease investigators in case an outbreak is traced to a particular business.”

Under the new state monitoring metrics, San Diego County is currently in Tier 2, the second-most-restrictive of four total tiers outlined by the state, indicating that transmission of the virus is substantial.

Tiers are based on two metrics, case rate and the percentage of positive tests. To remain in Tier 2, the county will have to report between four to seven COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents per day and a positivity rate between 5%-8%.

San Diego’s state-calculated case rate is currently 5.8 and the testing positivity percentage is 1.8%.

To move to the next lower-risk tier, the County will have to report between 1-3.9 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents per day and a positivity rate between 2-4.9% for at least two consecutive weeks.

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Restaurants, and at least one La Jolla bookstore owner, are benefiting from moving some of their operations outdoors. Sometimes it pays to be old school, noted Dennis Wills, longtime owner of brick-and-mortar D.G. Wills Bookstore at 7461 Girard Ave.

Wills is holding his own during the pandemic, pointing out some of his book racks, which have always been outside, are hot sellers now. “We have 1,000 books in our driveway for one dollar apiece and people are hanging out and looking through those books there in the open space,” he noted. “We’re selling more books outside because of this (COVID). And it’s helped inside because we’re pruning things that have been on the shelves too long. We’re constantly putting new books out there. It’s just been a happy course alteration, adaptation. It’s been a lucky break.”

Like many other businesses, Wills’ inside operations have been severely restricted.

“We’re here on a limited basis,” he said. “We have hand sanitizer at the front door. We even have masks for those who don’t have them.”

Wills is presently benefiting from two things: The seasonal migration of Arizonans and public libraries being closed due to the virus.

“On rare occasion, we’ll get someone from Arizona striding in here wearing no mask and not wanting to use hand sanitizer saying it’s a hoax,” Wills noted. “But the great majority of Arizonans have been courteous, wear masks, and ask for hand sanitizer when they’re in the store.”

Added Wills. “We even have some of the same people come in every year from Arizona and from cold-weather places like Chicago and Minnesota in January through March.”

Wills is dealing with the operating changes COVID has wrought.

“The store is not open for free browsing,” he said. “We have a little gate, and we only let a few people in at a time. If somebody is looking for a particular section, they’re happy to take them there.”

Wills came to La Jolla shortly after the 1960 founding of UC San Diego with the intention of setting up shop near the campus.

But he had to settle for 7527 La Jolla Blvd. in a structure that is now a hair salon. He moved to his present location in the early ‘90s and remodeled it, putting in new redwood ceilings.

Wills said the pandemic has given him an opportunity to spruce up a bit. “I built this place from nothing 40 years ago, and I wasn’t going to sit at home and watch TV,” he said. “I came to work every day and fine-tuned things. We built new bookcases and upgraded them. We’ve always purging and fine-tuning. There’s always something to do.”

D.G. Wills has also been notable for its guest appearances by renowned authors over the years. The list includes Norman Mailer (1995), Allen Ginsberg (1994), U.S. poet laureate Billy Collins (2001-03), Gore Vidal (2005), and several Nobel laureates including Francis Crick, a co-discoverer of the structure of the DNA molecule.

The bookstore owner said he didn’t need an SBA loan to help stay afloat. “I have low overhead,” he said. “I work here alone with some part-time help. We did get a zero-interest credit card to use.”

D.G. Wills Bookstore has also been noted for its marathon St. Patrick’s Day sessions featuring the reading of Irish literature and the playing of Irish tunes. But Wills, 74, said that all got to be a bit much. So he scaled the event back to an entirely private affair a couple of years ago.

“Future St. Patrick’s Day events will be ‘unofficial,’” said Wills adding, “The 42nd Unofficial Annual St. Patrick’s Day Open Reading of Irish Poetry and Prose will be 17 March 2021.”

Dollar driveway books prove popular for La Jolla readers

By DAVE SCHWAB

The outside racks in the driveway hold 1,000 books for $1 each. (Source photo)

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Colliers International San Diego Region announces the sale of three properties in Mission Beach: Saska’s restaurant, former Swell Coffee shop and a surface parking lot.

E3 Advisors, as receiver for American National Investments, sold the three properties with representation by Bill Shrader, Joe Brady and David Maxwell of Colliers International San Diego Region’s Urban Property Team through an auction process.

The Kansas property is located at 1768 Mission Blvd., and includes a 2,740-square-foot, fully-furnished restaurant building. OMG Hospitality Group acquired this property for $2.3 million with representation by Luis Mendoza of Century 21 Award. The owners of the San Diego-based hospitality group plan to continue operations of Saska’s in addition to their existing portfolio of San Diego restaurants and bars.

The former Swell Coffee shop property is located at 1831 Mission Blvd. Jane and Mordechai Ami Cohen purchased this 600-square-foot property for $852,000 with representation by Colliers International’s Shrader, Brady and Maxwell. The new ownership is currently negotiating letters of intent to lease the space to a new coffee shop concept.

The .07-acre surface parking lot property is located at 3814-3816 Mission Blvd. Richard and Josephine Uy acquired this property for $1 million with representation by Terry Sheldon of TL Sheldon & Associates.

“The three properties have been important part of the Mission Beach community for many years,” said Shrader. “The new, separate ownership of these properties will continue serving neighbors and visitors in the greater Mission Beach neighborhood.”

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The Saska’s property is located at 3768 Mission Blvd. and includes a 2,740-square-foot, fully-furnished restaurant building. OMG Hospitality Group acquired this property for $2.3 million with representation by Luis Mendoza of Century 21 Award. The owners of the San Diego-based hospitality group plan to continue operations of Saska’s in addition to their existing portfolio of San Diego restaurants and bars.

The former Swell Coffee shop property is located at 1831 Mission Blvd. Jane and Mordechai Ami Cohen purchased this 600-square-foot property for $852,000 with representation by Colliers International’s Shrader, Brady and Maxwell. The new ownership is currently negotiating letters of intent to lease the space to a new coffee shop concept.

The .07-acre surface parking lot property is located at 3814-3816 Mission Blvd. Richard and Josephine Uy acquired this property for $1 million with representation by Terry Sheldon of TL Sheldon & Associates.

“The three properties have been important part of the Mission Beach community for many years,” said Shrader. “The new, separate ownership of these properties will continue serving neighbors and visitors in the greater Mission Beach neighborhood.”

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Pacific Life Church

Pacific Life Church meets every Sunday, online at 10am. You can watch our services and find out more about our church on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and our website, www.pacificlifechurch.org.

Formerly Newbreak Church Pacific Beach - we are the same church, the same people, we just have a different name. You can also find video encouragements from our church staff and volunteers on our social media pages throughout the week focusing on parents and kids, hope and loving our neighbors. We love that we get to serve the community of Pacific Beach and love our town! We hope to see you, online, on Sundays!

Pacific Life Church
www.pacificlifechurch.org | 4666 Cass St. Suite 202, San Diego, CA 92109
Facebook - @pacificlifechurchsd | Instagram - @pacificlifechurchsd | YouTube - PacificLifeChurchSanDiego
Pro skateboarder Brandon Turner helping recovering addicts

By DAVE SCHWAB

Professional skateboarder Brandon Turner was a victim of early success and the excesses of his lifestyle, which ultimately led to substance abuse, run-ins with the law, and incarceration.

The now-sober Turner is back on his feet – and skateboard – helping others avoid the mistakes he made through Healthy Life Recovery, a San Diego rehab center at 4747 Mission Blvd.

Turner and Healthy Life have teamed to create a joint program that offers lessons and a supportive community for both recovering skaters and patients interested in learning the sport as a way to stay active and healthy during their recovery.

Turner, who claims to have hopped on his first skateboard at age 2, said he was a victim of too much, too soon. “I had a lot of success at an early age with sponsorships and traveling the world as an amateur skater with a team and fellow teammates putting out video projects,” he said.

But Turner got tripped up by the negative pitfalls of the skateboarding lifestyle.

“It can become a fast life with a lot of partying and the misfit mentality of being a rebel against the law and getting ticketed and arrested,” he said. “It just ended up catching up with me. Then it escalated. I didn’t realize I had become dependent on using drugs and alcohol. And then it became an everyday thing.”

Incarceration finally forced Turner to seek help and find himself. “It took some time for me to actually become humble enough to take (sobriety) suggestions from people that cared about me,” he said.

Of rehabilitation, Turner said: “It gave me a chance to integrate myself on a spiritual journey, to where I’m now being sober and going back and helping others. I wanted to open up my own skateboarding program for people like myself who were going through substance-abuse or mental-health issues, show them what I did (to recover) through my experience.”

The skateboard prodigy now works with people from all walks of life to “help them find a different outlet, a different lifestyle, showing all the positive aspects of skateboarding while living a positive lifestyle. Basically, showing them that you don’t have to throw your life away and get into trouble with the law and go to jail to be cool or validated in the streets.”

Turner now works with cli- ents on a weekly schedule taking them out skating or grabbing a bite. “We have meetings, go over some curriculum when it comes to giving them the tools to stay happy and stay sober,” he said. “We give them the power to know that they’re not alone. With community sup- port and by holding yourself accountable, you do not have to fall into the trap of self-pity or ego.”

Of his recovered lifestyle, Turner said: “I feel personally amazing and I’m constantly learning and growing. I feel like I’ve found my life’s purpose. In the past, I would be in self-pity, why is this happening to me? But now I want to give back to others and show them how I did it.”

Turner has found even greater success in the skateboarding industry the second time around.

“I’m still an active professional skateboarder,” he said. “I have a clothing line. I’m riding for a company traveling and doing video projects, and I’m staying creative in a positive way.”

For more information, visit heal-thylife-recovery.com or email brandon@healthylife-recovery.com.

The Cat Lounge in La Jolla celebrates 1,000 adoptions

The Cat Lounge Rescue and Adoption Center, San Diego’s first and only nonprofit cat lounge, achieved its 1,000 adoption mark in August. With the support of volunteers and the community, this cat rescue has saved, rehabilitated and adopt- ed out 1,000 cats before cele- brating its first anniversary in November.

“Being able to adopt out almost 1,000 cats in nine months is a huge accomplishment for our rescue community,” said exec-utive director Renee Shamloo. “We sleep and breathe rescue, often dropping everything to coordinate transporting aban- doned kittens to The Cat Lounge after hours. Reaching this level of success in such a short period of time shows us that the community wants to be involved and help us save lives as much as we do.”

Since the COVID-19 pandem- ic, adoption rates have increased for numerous San Diego animal shelters. In hopes of finding a furry friend during quarantine, locals have turned to The Cat Lounge for a cat companion. To celebrate this accomplishment and show their appreciation to the volunteers and supporters, the nonprofit cat rescue has cre- ated a “Thank You” video that will be posted on their social media platforms via Facebook and Instagram.

Founded in 2019, The Cat Lounge’s mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and adopt out cats to their forever homes. In efforts to reimagine the shelter experience, the lounge has created a cozy living room environment where cats are free to roam around and interact with the public. For more information, visit thecat- lounge.org.

Polling place site managers needed for General Election

The Registrar of Voters is seeking temporary full-time site managers to operate assigned polling places for the Nov. 3 General Election. Site managers can earn $20 per hour. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, polling places will be open for four days instead of one. The Registrar’s office will hire election workers rather than use volunteers because training is more extensive for the expanded time period. Site manager applications are available online at sdcounty.ca.gov. Site managers will be re- quired to train and lead a staff while representing the Registrar of Voters in a profes- sional, nonpartisan manner. The Registrar is seeking people who are team players, exhibit strong leadership skills and display flexibility, patience and the highest level of integrity at all times.

For more information, visit sdvote.com. For more information, call 858-565-5800 or email pollwork- er@sdvote.com.
New MAD director works to keep La Jolla ‘spiffy’

By DAVE SCHWAB

Mary Montgomery just missed out on her first try at overseeing the La Jolla Maintenance Assessment District. But she persevered. That has paid off as she was recently selected to replace retired engineer John Unbewust as district manager for the MAD and Enhance La Jolla, a nonprofit dedicated to maintaining and improving the Village of La Jolla and its quality of life.

“Nothing bigger than I thought it was going to be,” said Montgomery, noting she’ll be working with two private patios. Kitchen has granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, 2-car garage. Contact me for more details! Scott Booth 858-775-0280 Scott@iselbeach.com

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DRE #01739847

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3751 Caminito Avola

7538 Caminito Avola

714-716 San Luis Rey

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with enhanced health and safety protocols for cleaning and sanitizing, physical distancing, face covering requirements, and temperature screening. In addition, the park’s already strict health and safety measures, may be significantly limited to create even more open space for visitation that provides ample opportunity to be physically distant.

Date-specific tickets for this experience must be purchased online in advance to help manage capacity. Specific information can be found by visiting seaworld.com/san-diego/park-info/park-safety/.

SeaWorld to open with limited capacity indoor/outdoor experience

With enhanced health and safety protocols, guests can roam the park’s expansive grounds, see animal exhibits and presentations, and try a limited-time food and beverage experience with new socially distanced procedures throughout the park, paired with San Diego’s best craft brews.

And now, with new guidelines from the San Diego County's facilities have approval to open indoor zoological exhibits at 25 percent capacity. SeaWorld has announced that guests will not need to leave the park starting this weekend to be able to see the Pengiun Encounter, Shark Encounter, and Turtle Reef.

SeaWorld has launched a new park experience – Zoo Days: Bayside BBQ & Brews. This limited capacity, ticketed and reservation required experience will provide guests with the opportunity to explore the park’s property to see outdoor animal exhibits, marine life animal presentations with physical distancing measures in place, along with a variety of craft brews and BBQ.

Each ticket for this limited time experience includes park entry, access to all outdoor animal exhibits and presentations as well as a tasting lanyard to experience BBQ and paired craft beer offerings and select wines. The tasting lanyard will include six food or drink items (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) of each guest’s choice to indulge in new offerings throughout the day, while exploring the park grounds. Additional lanyards will also be available for purchase.

Zoo Days: Bayside BBQ & Brews will run Fridays through Sundays, through Sept. 27, plus Labor Day, from 11 a.m. -7 p.m.

In compliance with state safety guidelines for 2020, SeaWorld, a licensed, permitted and accredited zoo, will operate with enhanced health and safety protocols for cleaning and sanitizing, physical distancing, face covering requirements, and temperature screening. In addition, the park’s already strict health and safety measures, may be significantly limited to create even more open space for visitation that provides ample opportunity to be physically distant.

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San Diego Community Newspaper Group wins 4 first-place awards at San Diego SPJ contest

The San Diego Community Newspaper Group was honored with four first-place awards on Aug. 17 from the San Diego chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. The winners were announced via email this year due to the pandemic.

Managing editor Thomas Melville and the team that gathered together to ensure expedient correction action in this matter and encourage

LA JOLLA JOURNAL MEMBERS VANDALIZED

Two wooden benches on the 7900 block of Girard Avenue were vandalized recently with missing wooden planks as a result. The crime report has been filed and the La Jolla Maintenance Assessment District (MAID) is working with SDPD to examine the damage.

La Jolla MAID recently began a pilot project to refurbish these wooden benches in the Village, where there's a waiting list for all of the benches. In addition, they've made a catalog of benches corresponding to their location and a notation of the memorial placed on each bench. The La Jolla MAID asks everyone in the community who may have seen anything suspicious to contact SDPD Northern Division Community Relations Officer Brandon Broadus at 858-552-1613 or brbroadus@sd.sandiego.gov.

LVMA SCHEDULE NEW OFFICE

In August, La Jolla Village Merchants Association said it is looking for a new business improvement district office. “While we have been fortunate to find someone who could serve as a true main street office where people could pick up information about touring, we may have access to other publications,” said LVMA executive director Joil Rudick, who added

in the Feature Photo category for “Mud Day” (Beach & Bay Press), first place in the News Photo category for “Emotional Memorial” (Peninsula Beacon), and first place in the Sports Photo category for “LifeGuard Relays” (Beach & Bay Press).

Kendra Stitt, editor of Downtown News and Uptown News, earned two awards in non-daily writing categories. In addition, she was eyeing Upper Girard for a prospective new office site.

Pointing out many restaurants closed indoors due to COVID have moved outdoors, Rudick noted a list of La Jolla restaurants offering outdoor dining with a slideshow of their setups can be viewed at lajollabythesea.com. “We’ve got around 50 or 55 outdoor dining places in extended patio markets,” noted LVMA board member Martyn Thayer.

Rudick added parklets, now allowed by the City, are also being considered by some La Jolla merchants.

“I love it, and I know Jodi has been working to permit the parklets,” commented LVMA president Brett Murphy.

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San Diego selects developer to transform Sports Arena property

Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer announced on Aug. 29 that a City of San Diego selection committee has picked a proposal by Brookfield Properties and ASM Global to redevelop the Sports Arena property into a vibrant destination that incorporates a mix of entertainment, housing, parks, and office and retail.

“San Diego has assembled an extraordinary team with a proven track record to transform the San Diego Sports Arena. Our collective goal is to pursue a brand new sports arena that is surrounded by a thriving community that is second to none,” said Faulconer. "A redevelopment like this is a once in a generation opportunity, and I’m confident that ASM and Brookfield’s international experience will breathe new life into this area, and create a Sports Arena district that makes San Diego proud.”

The pairing of Brookfield Properties and ASM Global represents a partnership that combines global resources and expertise with more than 40 years of doing business in San Diego. Brookfield Properties is a global real estate company that specializes in the creation of sustainable and authentic places where people can learn, work, shop, and live.

ASM Global is a venue management and services company at more than 325 venues around the world including, San Diego’s Pechanga Arena, the STAPLES Center, and L.A. Live in Los Angeles, the O2 in London, the Mercedes-Benz Arena in Berlin, the T-Mobile Center in Kansas City, and more.

Brookfield Properties and ASM Global have a concept to transform the Sports Arena property into a vibrant community with acres of public parks, new homes, office space, and a modern entertainment venue – all part of an activated mixed-use entertainment district. This vision could generate approximately 1,200 jobs and an annual economic impact of more than $300 million.

The announcement comes after responding to the request for proposals (RFP) that was issued in February. Scoring categories consisted of responsiveness, a vetting of financial models, development with the community, and we are excited about leading a collaborative conversation with the community, and we plan to form a community advisory panel to help shape the project and provide ongoing input to our team. "Everyone who lives locally has an individual experience at the Sports Arena, making public engagement so important as we craft the future of this site,” said Chuck Steedman, executive vice president of strategy and business development, ASM Global. "The future of the Sports Arena site is bright as we are committed to creating a world-class destination by delivering exceptional mixed-use development and working towards a collective goal of building a new Sports Arena.”

The City, ASM Global and Brookfield Properties will now begin negotiations on the final scope of development for the area. The deal is anticipated to be brought before City Council in 2021.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

“Everyone who lives locally has an individual experience at the Sports Arena, making public engagement so important as we craft the future of this site,” said Chuck Steedman, executive vice president of strategy and business development, ASM Global. "The future of the Sports Arena site is bright as we are committed to creating a world-class destination by delivering exceptional mixed-use development and working towards a collective goal of building a new Sports Arena.”

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For a limited time, readers of this paper will receive a special discount on our full chimney cleaning and safety inspection package with special attention to chimney water intrusion points in preparation for the rainy season.
Residents concerned about increasing beach fires in La Jolla

By DAVE SCHWAB

La Jollans are raising a red flag over the recent proliferation of beach fires throughout the community.

The topic has become a matter of increasing concern, having been raised recently in both La Jolla Shores and Beach-Barber Tract neighborhoods.

Beach bonfires are only allowed within fire rings, many of which have been removed by the City over the years due to budget cuts. Beach fires outside of rings are illegal.

“Having fires at this beach is not typical,” said Dory DeFranco of the Beach-Barber Tract with its somewhat secluded pocket beaches. “I don’t know what happened this year but it’s just been crazy. The beach has been full of burnt wood chips and burnt logs, and when the tide comes in it moves them out into the ocean where they become really dangerous for people swimming, boogie boarding, and surfing.”

“We’ve seen fires increase as well as the number of hot coals on the beach in the morning,” said Holly McMillan who lives near Marine Street.

“We’ve had as many as 26 fires at the same time on the same night at Kellogg Park and Scripps Beach,” said Meinrat Andreae of La Jolla Shores. “It’s an every night event pretty much and La Jolla Shores residents are being exposed to air pollution that is worse than Beijing. It’s a health danger and a cardiac risk from particulate pollution. This is not something to be taken lightly. This is a serious health hazard and a loss of quality of life for hundreds of individuals living near the beach.”

“I’m opposed to any attempt to ban beach fires,” contended Ken Hunrichs, a member of La Jolla Parks and Beaches, Inc. “It’s an overreaction to a combination of problems including rowdiness that comes with alcohol use. Beach fires themselves are not causing the problems. It’s the combination of all the other things going on. Beach fires late in the evening when it gets cold allow people to cook and is a traditional thing. It all boils down to a lack of enforcement by the police department, for whatever reason.”

Mary Munk of La Jolla Shores pointed out that beach fires cannot be more than 12 inches above fire rings.

“A number of children have been burned at La Jolla Shores because of the charcoal in the sand in the morning,” said Munk. “We need to all work together to come up with a reasonable solution that benefits everybody. Maybe it’s not the same solution for every park.”

La Jolla Shores Association representing that neighborhood recently sent a letter urging the City to “take immediate action to limit bonfires and outdoor cooking at La Jolla Shores Beach and Kellogg Park to the use of propane fuel in order to reduce the health risk stemming from smoke pollution. With the reopening of the beaches and park in early June 2020, wood and charcoal fires have returned and with them daily particulate air pollution events.”

“Smoke pollution from beach fires is of serious and immediate concern. Limiting fires to the use of propane fuel would provide much of the same social benefits as wood or charcoal fires, but at very much reduced health impact. Such limits are, in fact, already current practice at most California beaches.”

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We are your Concierge Real Estate Company

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MENTION THIS AD FOR $2,500 TOWARDS RE/NON-REOCCURING CLOSING COSTS
I coined the term “clonal effect” for an article I wrote 40 years ago for AMACOM Management Review. It still pertains to what is going on today in terms of inequality—both in and out of the workplace.

You have identified your competencies and have presented them well, you have written the perfect resume, you were superb in the interview, there seems to be a perfect fit between you and the job you want. And yet, you were not hired. Is there anything wrong with you? No! It’s something wrong with the workplace. What is the clonal effect? It is the tendency of individuals, groups, and organizations to replicate themselves or others that are similar to them, unconsciously in who we choose to join in, so that all of us can fit in.

The clonal effect also inserts itself unconsciously in who we vote for, who we believe represents us. We are suspicious of those we can readily identify of a similar background, sharing similar values? The clonal effect also inserts itself unconsciously in who we vote for, who we believe represents us. We are suspicious of those we can readily identify of a similar background, sharing similar values?

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3443 OCEAN FRONT WALK UNIT L
2 BD | 2BA | 675 sq.ft.
**Asking Price of $1,149,000**

Enjoy sweeping Ocean views from the living room and master in this 2nd floor unit. Perfect for vacation rentals or a 2nd home with a strong vacation rental history and great common amenities. You will love the golden white quartzite flooring, granite counter tops, stainless appliances, wood cabinets and travertine showers. The Surf Rider complex features a gym for owners in addition to a large, elevated patio with in-ground spa and two large gas grills. This unit lives large and has potential to expand.

SALEM CT.
3 BD | 3 BA | 1,700 sq.ft.

Totally remodeled Ocean Front condo with panoramic views from OB to La Jolla. This home was sold for an amazing price without being listed. I sold this home through our extensive Compass network. If you are looking to sell, give me a call to learn about how I leverage my knowledge to work for you.

**Thinking of selling? We have two strong buyers that would like to buy your home:**

**Buyer need 1:**
North PB detached home with 3 bed + 2 bath under $1.6M

**Buyer need 2:**
PB detached 3 bed + 2 bath with 3 car garage under $1.8M

**JUST SOLD**

727 SAPPHIRE ST. #308
2 BD | 2 BA | 997 SQ. FT. | PACIFIC BEACH

This spacious unit across the street from Tourmaline Surf Park features cool ocean breezes, ocean and sunset views and is walking distance to shops and restaurants in both PB and Bird Rock. Designer tile, waterproof luxury vinyl plank flooring, in-unit washer/dryer hookups, an open floor plan, two ocean view decks, new sliders and windows and meticulously-chosen finishes give this contemporary, coastal-themed home a perfectly casual, yet sophisticated style! Sold in 4 days for over asking at $805,000. This is the highest sale ever in this complex.

**JUST SOLD**

924 HORNBLEND ST. #204
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,144 SQ. FT. | PACIFIC BEACH

This condo was built in 2008, is located just 2 blocks from the beach and features dual master bedrooms with walk-in closets and en suite bathrooms. The unit comes with 2 parkings spaces and extra storage and is a short walk to all that PB has to offer. Totally remodeled, it offers the true beach lifestyle! We negotiated $40,000 off of the price tag for our buyers for a purchase price of $785,000!

*Represented the buyer

PB Fun Fact:
PB staple, Mr Frostie on Garnet, was first opened in 1949, has been run by the same family since the 1960’s and is on its third generation of family members working and running the business. Personally, 5 generations of my family have gone there and/or are going there still.