San Diego Unified to adopt new standards to protect students, staff

UC SAN DIEGO EXPERTS SAY REOPENING SCHOOLS HINGES ON MASKS, VENTILATION, SOCIAL DISTANCING

By Dave Schwab | The Beacon

San Diego Unified School District leaders predicted resuming in-class instruction is months— not days or weeks— away while pointing out the region presently is nowhere near meeting scientific standards required to reopen schools.


SDUSD, of which the Point Loma, La Jolla and Mission Bay school clusters are all a part, enlisted scientific experts from UC San Diego to address what conditions would be required to physically reopen schools in a way that is safe for students, teachers and staff.

"This is the biggest adaptive challenge that any of us have ever experienced," said Cindy Marten, SDUSD superintendent.

La Jolla and Mission Bay school clusters are all a part, enlisted scientific experts from UC San Diego to address what conditions would be required to physically reopen schools in a way that is safe for students, teachers and staff. SDUSD superintendent. "There are so many things not within our control with the pandemic. But what is in our control is making good decisions, and making them together." Marten added schools will be ready to reopen when conditions in the community allow them to do so. She announced the purchase of more than $1 million in personal protective equipment (PPE) and said the district has received some 200,000 masks in child and adult sizes from the state, along with 14,000 bottles of hand sanitizer.

SDUSD board president Dr. John Lee Evans said the new health standards reflect the board’s commitment to let science dictate the pace and process for reopening schools.

"The health and safety of our students and staff have been at the heart of every decision we have made since the start of this crisis," Marten added.

SEE SCHOOLS, Page 11
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Agent Spotlight

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Since becoming a REALTOR® over 30 years ago, Ed has always been among the top in his field, which has earned him honors, such as the President Elite award, being Top 1 percent company wide, and Top Listing Agent of The Year for all of San Diego at his former brokerage. Having been in the industry for so long, Ed has been through every fluctuation in the real estate market, he has always found ways to adapt, whether in a down market or booming economy. Ed has specialized in historical and architecturally significant homes for the last 25 years, selling numerous properties by renowned architects such as Irving Gill, Richard Renau, Cliff May, Charles, Edward Qualls, William Haberdash, and Emma Brook Weaver, just to name a few. His love and passion for older homes and architecture is evident throughout his marketing and specialized programs for maintaining historical properties.

Whether it’s surfing or working, Ed always practices being kind, genuine, and straightforward which is why he felt Willis Allen, as the epitome of class, was the right match for him. He has traveled all over the world to chase waves, but believes there is no place like home in San Diego, Ed currently lives in Point Loma with his two daughters who are both honors students at High Tech High.
Residents concerned about Airbnb guests and parties spreading COVID

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

Concern is ramping up that some coastal short-term rentals are hosting gatherings and parties without guests wearing masks or social distancing.

Many short-term rentals operating in our residential areas here at the beach have shown to be consistent hot spots throughout the pandemic for large gatherings and uncontrolled parties with complete disregard for public health orders and safety precautions,” said Brian White, Pacific Beach Town Council president. “It’s irresponsible that our City leadership has allowed this problem to occur.”

Venus Molina, chief of staff for District 2 Councilmember Dr. Jennifer Campbell representing the Mission and Pacific beaches, disputed the notion that short-term renters are mostly to blame for not practicing COVID health protocols in beach areas.

“The majority of the people who are not wearing masks and having parties are our own constituents,” Molina said. “The number of vacationers who are there who are bad actors, compared to the number of residents who are actually having parties – it’s very slim.

Pacific Beach resident Tom Coat emailed City Council members months ago expressing his concern about the COVID threat posed by some short-term vacation renters.

“I requested that the City of San Diego prohibit vacation rentals during the pandemic as other cities had done,” Coat said. “I had just passed by a house on Soledad Mountain where five cars were parked in the driveway and on the street. All had Arizona license plates.”

Added Coat: “Why, I asked, were we allowing visitors from other states to come to rent homes in the middle of our neighborhoods while, at the same time, the County Health Department was asking residents not to have family or group gatherings in their own homes?”

Pointing out that, “This has been a concern for some time,” Coat argued, “The fact that Pacific and Mission beaches are now considered hot spots for surging numbers of COVID cases certainly reinforces these concerns.”

Added Molina: “It would be great to see the data on testing results. Also, we’ve spoken to the [short-term rental] platforms and, they’ve gotten hit tremendously by COVID. Nobody is really traveling. [Rentals] are not really up and running again.”

Molina pointed out virus testing remains a huge problem. “The key factor is testing and getting back the results, which is very slow right now. We really need to work on getting more and faster testing in order to control the spread of the virus.”

Greg Knight was a recent victim of a physical assault by an unidentified short-term renter in his Mission Beach neighborhood. He said there have been huge crowds again this summer in Mission Beach, despite the fact that large gatherings are being discouraged during the COVID resurgence.

“People in Los Angeles and Arizona and other communities are saying, ‘Let’s go to Mission Beach,’ we’re seeing a lot of that,” claimed Knight, who insisted that, “on the boardwalk between Mission and Pacific beaches, it is physically impossible to social distance.”

Knight claims a few summer Mission Beach visitors are observing proper health protocols. “I’d say, on a good day, about 20% are wearing masks,” he said, adding, “I can guarantee there are no Airbnb health protocols going on.”

Johannah Mechanic, owner of SeaBreeze Vacation Rentals in La Jolla and president of Share San Diego, disputed the claim that short-term renters are to blame for COVID health protocols not being observed at the beach.

“There’s zero proof, or data, to prove short-term travelers are more responsible for infractions than residents,” he said. “That has been a sound bite from anti-short-term rental people trying to denigrate responsible tourism from day one.

“There is an anti-tourism group that wants to lift the droverbridge and not allow any tourists in,” continued Mechanic. “They’re looking for anything negative to say about short-term rentals. First, it was that short-term rentals went about avoiding housing. Then it was prostitution rings run out of houses. Whatever the hot topic is of the day – they grasp at. Now it’s COVID.”

Knight contends turnover rates are high that there is sufficient time for rental operators to properly clean in-between clients, and he also claims short-term renters tend to bend the rules more in San Diego because they don’t live here and don’t have to suffer the consequences.

Read more online at sdnews.com
We knew we had to do something.

Molina: Absolutely not. We knew there was going to be strong opposition, that people felt very strongly about the issue, and that they wanted us to wait until after the election. People have asked us to step up and take this issue on, as it was daunting.

We have been meeting with folks who came into our office over the last year. Expedia was working on their memorandum of understanding (MOU), and we wanted to hear from our constituents as well in another round of meetings. We met with the Save San Diego Neighborhoods folks, and the OB Town Council to get a temperature check on where they were at and they were in the same place that they had been: they don’t want them. But it’s not the wild wild west, we knew we had to do something.

Councilmember Campbell’s chief of staff discusses short-term rental plan with Venus Molina, chief of staff to District 3 Councilmember Dr. Jennifer Campbell.

The majority of folks really want to see something happen.

Q. Tell us how the council member’s compromise proposal arose.

Molina: People don’t know this is not our MOU. The MOU is between two outside parties. These are the terms they agreed to. [Campbell] was a coalition builder. It’s up to the City Attorney now to work on a draft and finalize the new (STR) ordinance. We still want to get as much input as possible from everyone on this new ordinance.

Q. Why didn’t you wait, as some have suggested, until after the November election to unveil this compromise STR proposal?

Molina: In the new year we’re going to have five new council members who will have to start over being educated on this and other very complex issues. The council members that are still there now understand the issues.

They are very much aware of it and have been living with it for years. We want to get this done now versus waiting for the new council, which would be another year. People want to see this now.

Q. Why is the municipal code pertaining to short-term rentals not being enforced?

Molina: Enforcement right now is not realistic. If we could do that, we would have. You’ve seen the (STR) platforms come after the City Council to have a referendum and to recast their last policy (on STR reform). So they’ll (platforms) sue the City, and it will take many years to get a decision from the City Attorney. San Diego is one of the top STR markets. The STR industry would fight for this market.

Also, you can’t take away from people something they’ve been doing for years, taking away their income. If we (City) said, “We’re going to shut you down,” we would most likely get sued by the platforms and they would probably win. That’s what our attorneys have said to us.

Q. Some are alleging that the council person was opposed to short-term rentals in residential single family neighborhoods, but has since reversed herself. Your reaction?

Molina: [Campbell] didn’t understand at first why the municipal code could not be enforced. There is no way you could enforce the code now as it exists and not get sued by the (STR) platforms. We need to better define them (STRs) in the code, then create enforcement around them and regulate them.

Q. What is good about the council member’s compromise STR proposal?

Molina: The STR platforms and the union usually do not like each other. These two unions could sue or referndize or take down any proposal we could come up with. Now you have two opponents working together to figure something out and come up with a compromise that works for everybody. Now, this (MOU) gives us something to work with. Now we have to fill in the blanks and bones of this structure (new STR ordinance) to come up with a compromise that works for everybody.

Q. Your reaction to the claim that short-term rentals are intrinsically bad and counter-productive because they take away from the housing stock depriving permanent residents in the midst of a housing crisis?

Molina: This new agreement we are proposing would cut the number of STRs by 70%, and re-lease that housing back into the market for rental and for sale, so we would have more housing for permanent residents. Reducing it by 70%, that’s a huge win. We’re trying to run with that before they (platforms) change their mind. This is a pretty good deal for us.

The stance of Save San Diego Neighborhoods and sympathizers on short-term rentals is this: They’re illegal in residential neighborhoods and laws on the books prohibiting them should be enforced. Period.

The hot-button issue, which dates back years along the San Diego coast, was like a hurricane picking up steam recently when District 2 Councilmember Dr. Jennifer Campbell surprised most with her compromise proposal on a new set of rules and regulations to govern the short-term rental industry.

To some, Campbell’s proposal seemed more like a betrayal than a compromise. They are contending the council member reversed her campaign pledge to oppose STRs in neighborhoods. They also allege she wasn’t acting in good faith by negotiating with some -- but not all -- of the stakeholders behind the scenes.

“The community was left out of the process. We were ignored,” said Brian J. Curry, past chair of Pacific Beach Planning Group. “We feel that once again we (residents) have no voice when we should be the primary voice they (local government) listen to and address.”

“It’s their (government’s) job to listen to us, we’re their constituents, not Ellis Islands,” said Sunday Morning Concurred Pacific Beach Town Council member and honorary PB mayor Cathie Jolley. “They should be talking to us, the people.

“The thing is we don’t have a mayor that has the political backbone to actually enforce the code,” said Brian White, Pacific Beach Town Council president. “And we’re three months away from electing a new mayor. We shouldn’t be trying to rush an ordinance through in the form of a backroom deal. It’s disingenuous to rush this through now.

“Short-term vacation rentals today are likely illegal,” contends attorney Corey Briggs, who is running for City Attorney in November.

“There’s no statute of limitations on when a City fails to enforce the law. Laws don’t grow stale due to lack of enforcement.”

“Enforcement needs to actually happen,” argued yoga instruc-
tor Nicole Turner, a PB homeowner living near a short-term rental. “Right now there’s no enforcement.”

“This really does affect communities and neighborhood housing adversely,” argued John Thickstun, a La Jolla attorney and board member of SSDN, a nonprofit advocacy group.

“The implication has been that there needs to be something added to the code to solve the problem of short-term rentals in neighborhood residential zones. And the fact is, the municipal code states that uses that are not enumerated in the code are prohibited.”

It was the reaction of Jan Goldsmith, San Diego’s previous City Attorney, that the status of STRs in residential areas in the municipal code was somewhat murky because the language in the code was too vague.

But present City Attorney Mara Elliott has had a different take.

“You can’t rush two sets of short-term rentals that are currently not defined or regulated in San Diego, they are not a permissible land use under the San Diego Municipal Planning Code,” said in a 2017 memo. “Short-term rentals in San Diego should be defined and regulated in a clear and comprehensible manner that respects the rights of property owners and protects our neighborhoods.”

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Notable women of San Diego

Commemorating 100 years of the 19th Amendment when women took the vote

By KAREN SCALON

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex...” goes the text of this celebrated passage.

Women’s suffrage ended on Aug. 18, 1920, culminating nearly a century of protest. Though she took the vote, other rights granted continued to evolve — to live free from violence, slavery, and discrimination. The right to be educated, own property, and earn an equitable wage.

Interestingly, German-Jewish immigrant Louis Rose, who settled the community of Roseville in Point Loma some 150 years ago, showed himself to be an early feminist. He claimed joint ownership to property to women. How startling!

A number of well-known women of San Diego began to assert themselves beyond the kitchen. For instance, humanitarian visionary Kathryn Marston.

SOUTHERN BELLE SAVES SURFING IN SAN DIEGO

An extrovert known as Miss Billy Riley of Oklahoma burst on to Shelter Island’s entertainment scene when tourism efforts were flailing. Through evolving monopolies of the 1960s — Windsong, U.Scale, Half Moon, and Humphrey’s — Miss Billy became the first woman manager of a major hotel and eventually part owner. She served as the first female president of the San Diego Hotel-Motel Association, director of San Diego Chamber of Commerce, and strongly advocated the construction of Ocean Beach Fishing Pier.

Miss Billy will be remembered for defending the 1966 World Surfing Championships when city officials uttered disdain for the whole affair.

“Five years earlier, surfers had misbehaved during a similar event,” she said, “and the city was forced to consider the future of surfing in San Diego generally.”

“I gathered a bunch of those 200 surfers in the parking lot of Bali Hai and told them you’re going to have a rough time in our city — people think you’re a yummy bunch. We expect you to conduct yourselves honorably to represent the surfing industry.” As it was, surfing greats Kimo McVay, Nat Young, and ‘the Duke’ Kahanamoku took to the waves in Ocean Beach, while speculators crowded the new pier.

In downtown’s Gaslamp District, Billy’s name appears on the outside bronze plaque of the Horton Grand Hotel. “We’d heard that the old Horton Hotel and Kahle’s Saddlery were being torn down and felt the urge to preserve what we could,” she said. “Some of us moved sections of those buildings into storage in an old garage on Island Avenue, brick-by-brick, windows, and everything. And when the time came, we, and other investors, recreatted a hotel.” The Horton Grand is a testament to Miss Billy’s tenacity and goodwill.

THE CITY’S HISTORY PROFESSOR EMERITA

Iris Engraström, Ph.D., has taught thousands of students at University of San Diego over 49 years as a professor of American history. In turn, she says, “These students have themselves become teachers and authors. They serve as politicians, city planners, national and state park employees, mayors, and in other positions of leadership. Teaching others is truly a gift that keeps on giving.”

Engraström is San Diego’s first pictorial history of San Diego, first published in 1980 and reprinted three times in revised editions. “This factual account,” she says, “tells a complete story of San Diego beginning with the indigenous population and continuing through the Spanish, Mexican, and American periods.”

Other notable women were to be recognized at this year’s Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties, an annual two-day conference. But “Remarkable Women 1920-2020” fell by the pandemic wayside. The Congress is scheduled to reconvene, fingers crossed, on Feb. 26-27, 2021, when the contributions by women over the past 100 years will be celebrated.

By DR. DENA RISO, Au.D.

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 photographed by James Sweet and Janet Doreet Corey

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES SWEET AND JANET DOREET COREY

Newspaper clipping of Celia Sweet and her speed boat, Relue.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES SWEET AND JANET DOREET COREY
Mother’s Saloon has returned under new ownership and likely with a new name and other fine-tuning changes.

Tom North, previously a bartender, owns North Properties in San Diego. He has joined with local bartenders Sabrina Stuphin and Jason Micozzi from Lucy’s to reopen the pub at 2228 Bacon St. Mother’s closed two months ago after a lease extension between previous owners Colin and Shelby Wickersheims, who owned the pub for a decade, fell through.

Lucy’s of 1906 Bacon was sold the first of the year by Mary and Bobby Cooper to local industry investors Todd Brown, Sean Green, Patrick Gallahue, and Ryan Dhu. The Coopers have since retired in Las Vegas.

“My two partners and I have teamed up, we all trust each other and there’s a really good dynamic,” said North, who tended bar 10 years ago. He has been in real estate for 15 years with his own brokerage for the past five years.

“I heard through the grapevine [Wickersheims] was thinking about moving on, and we were happy to be given a chance to negotiate a lease with the owner of the building,” said North. “I think they had a good feeling that we were not a big corporation trying to scoop it up.”

Giving kudos to the Wickersheims’ stewardship, North noted, “Colin was very helpful and very supportive across-the-board. He built it up, and wanted to pass it on to someone who would make it work.”

North pointed out his new ownership group plans a few changes. But obviously, right now, they’re just thankful to be reopened with outdoor dining and take-out.

“We have a full kitchen and a 2,000-square-foot parking lot in the front that the City has allowed us to open with table service,” he said adding, “We decided we wanted to put our own touch on it.”

Saying the partners have been “back-and-forth” on a prospective new name, North added, “It’s got a great name already, but we’d like to do our own thing.”

Long-range, North characterized a rooftop deck and a permanent front patio as “potential things on the horizon.”

Meanwhile, said North, “We’ll probably give it a facelift, paint the outside, though we have no major plans (for a change) right now.”

Presently, the new ownership group is trying to keep things, like the menu, simple. “The taste of the food is phenomenal, and we’re adding an item here and there,” North said.

The 50-item menu of the restaurant-bar has been pared down significantly and currently features “big-seller chicken wings and cheeseburgers,” said North. “We’ve got chive tacos, tacos, burritos, fish tacos, and carnitas. We’re doing breakfast as well now on weekends with quiche, eggs Benedict, and chilaquiles. We’ve also got some salads.”

Reopened about a month, North concluded, “We’re pretty happy to be allowed to do what we’re doing.”

In the 1960s, what became Mother’s hosted burlesque clubs such as the Red Garter and the G Lounge. The building later opened as a live music venue and nightclub called Dream Street, which operated for nearly 20 years.

Immediate past owners, the Wickersheims, both are involved in other businesses. Colin owns a graphics lab in the Midway warehouse district, GraphicLab Promotional Products, with a contract to sell military apparel at 3450 Kurtz St., Suite B. Shelby is a local salon hairstylist.

New ownership revives and expands Mother’s Saloon

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By DAVE SCHWAB / THE BEACON

City Council adopts economic relief measures for small businesses

Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer won unanimous City Council approval on Aug. 4 for two measures that will offer greater opportunity for small and disadvantaged businesses to stay in business and follow public health orders during these difficult times.

Together these measures aim to reactivate the local economy safely and inclusively by allowing more business owners affected by the state’s indoor activity restrictions to operate outdoors while also specifically allocating funding to support historically underserved businesses hit hardest during this pandemic.

“Mom-and-pop shops, especially in communities of concern, are struggling to keep up with changing rules despite doing everything they can just to survive this economic crisis,” Mayor Faulconer said. “Whether it’s allowing a barber to set up shop in a parking lot or providing a grant that helps a restaurant make payroll, we know small changes can make a big difference between closing for now or closing for good.”

EXPANDING OUTDOOR BUSINESS

The first measure cemented Faulconer’s executive order allowing businesses – including gyms, churches, barbershops, nail salons – to expand their operations into private parking lots, sidewalks and on-street parking. As public health experts continue to promote outdoor settings and physical distancing as two key tools to help slow the spread of COVID-19, this measure provides an innovative solution to allow more businesses to operate safely.

“This emergency ordinance will allow barbershops, hair salons, gyms, fitness centers, and faith-based groups to bring their operations outside. I am honored to co-sponsor creative solutions like this which will help businesses get back up and running in a safe manner. Employees can return to work and families can again participate in programs and support our businesses, if they so desire,” said City Councilmember Chris Cate, chair of the Council’s Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

The ordinance now allows the following services to operate on private parking lots, sidewalks and on-street parking:

• Personal services: hair salons, barbershops, nail salons and massage establishments
• Gyms, physical fitness centers, and instructional studios
• Places of religious assembly

Read more online at sdnews.com

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The parking lot in front of Mother’s Saloon has been converted into outdoor seating. COURTESY PHOTO
The large gatherings at Ocean Beach Veterans Plaza usually during and after the Farmers Market on Wednesdays has become the latest battleground in the fight to enforce social responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

And the mood turned angry and ugly on Aug. 11 at an afternoon press conference staged by District 2 Councilmember Dr. Jennifer Campbell. In response to a recent appeal by OB Town Council requesting City leaders do a better job of enforcing public health orders in the fight to contain the coronavirus in the beach community, Campbell set up a public event at Veterans Plaza. It didn’t go as planned.

Earlier that morning, City staff had installed an orange fence surrounding the grass at Veterans Plaza as a symbolic barrier to discourage groups from gathering. That fence was torn down shortly thereafter by a couple of angry people alleging it was an overreaction to the situation and suppression of their personal freedoms.

Then during the press event, a couple of crowd members yelled out claiming transients, not local residents, were “the real problem,” and lastly a homeless group gathering illegally. Other members of the crowd chanted in blaming the police of harassment.

Campbell, after being repeatedly interrupted by onlookers, finally shouted out a stern message. “This is a life-threatening situation and this is a worldwide emergency caused by the worst virus in the history of medicine,” she said. “People who come here with no masks and no distancing are being deadly sick. Every day more San Diegans are dying. So we have to get tough.”

Added Campbell, “If this situation that happened last Wednesday (Aug. 5) happens this Wednesday, there’s going to be a lot of clampdowns. The county has a rule: No more than 10 can get together. Therefore the sheriff should be arresting people who aren’t wearing masks or distancing. Behave or you’re going to be in big trouble.”

Prior to Campbell’s address, two Ocean Beach board members, speaking on their own behalf, addressed the problematic gatherings.

“If there is no compliance the City could possibly shut the park down,” said OBPC President Mark Winkle adding, “You would be taking space away from and hurting the community because they’re not allowed to use it. So our position would be to educate people to understand there’s compliance. And then if there isn’t — go to the next step.”

The next step was discussed by Joel Day, the City’s senior advisor for COVID response and recovery. “People coming together in groups is against the public health order and we’re really concerned about community spread,” said Day. “It’s not just about the people who want to get together in the (Wednesday) drum circles. It’s about people who could be exposed through asymptomatic transmissions. We’re trying to work with Obeceans to take individual responsibility: That’s what it’s all about.”

Day said San Diego Police Department and county officials would be present Aug. 12 at Veterans Plaza to educate people about the rules in place against groups gathering, noting a fine of $1,000 could be imposed for any way we can stop the craziness.”

Asked if public health warnings weren’t falling on deaf ears, Winkle responded: “No one has actually reached out to this group and said, ‘We’re giving you an opportunity to behave in a way that’s responsible.’ I think the town council would agree that is something we’d like to see happen first. And then, if that fails, then we’ll have to step forward with something else.”

OB had concerns about the gathering at Veterans Park long before COVID started,” said Andrea Schlager, OBPC chair. “Now with COVID, there is just another, more deadly, concern that the OB community has gotten no help in solving.

“So it’s concerning to see our own council office insinuating that the Ocean Beach Main Street Association’s legally permitted Farmers Market is in part to blame for encouraging this illegal gathering. Let’s be clear, every time OBMA, OBTC, or any other community group throws an event we have unpermitted street vendors setting up shop to profit from these ventures — sometimes selling less than legal wares, but always there without paying any of the fees required from the other vendors.”

“I am appalled at the situation,” said OBPC member Tracy Denner. “I think all the unlicensed vendors are taking advantage, turning that section of OB into a swap meet and they are snubbing their noses at OBMA, who run a legit farmers market every Wednesday with vendors who pay for the use of the space and the cleaning of the street. Aside from the unlicensed vendors, the fire performers, buskers and DJs are a menace.

“They have turned that area into one big alcohol and drug fest and they have zero respect for the community. All this and the police can’t do a thing but keep the peace. OB is struggling, and many of the residents feel like there is no support or any way we can stop the craziness.”

The large gatherings at Ocean Beach Veterans Plaza usually during and after the Farmers Market on Wednesdays has become the latest battleground in the fight to enforce social responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

And the mood turned angry and ugly on Aug. 11 at an afternoon press conference staged by District 2 Councilmember Dr. Jennifer Campbell. In response to a recent appeal by OB Town Council requesting City leaders do a better job of enforcing public health orders in the fight to contain the coronavirus in the beach community, Campbell set up a public event at Veterans Plaza. It didn’t go as planned.

Earlier that morning, City staff had installed an orange fence surrounding the grass at Veterans Plaza as a symbolic barrier to discourage groups from gathering. That fence was torn down shortly thereafter by a couple of angry people alleging it was an overreaction to the situation and suppression of their personal freedoms.

Then during the press event, a couple of crowd members yelled out claiming transients, not local residents, were “the real problem,” and lastly a homeless group gathering illegally. Other members of the crowd chanted in blaming the police of harassment.

Campbell, after being repeatedly interrupted by onlookers, finally shouted out a stern message. “This is a life-threatening situation and this is a worldwide emergency caused by the worst virus in the history of medicine,” she said. “People who come here with no masks and no distancing are being deadly sick. Every day more San Diegans are dying. So we have to get tough.”

Added Campbell, “If this situation that happened last Wednesday (Aug. 5) happens this Wednesday, there’s going to be a lot of clampdowns. The county has a rule: No more than 10 can get together. Therefore the sheriff should be arresting people who aren’t wearing masks or distancing. Behave or you’re going to be in big trouble.”

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Claytime’s Outdoor Camp

With Distant Learning, kids are home all day! If, for your sanity and your child’s, you’d like them to be involved in skill developing creative activities such as: Mosaics • Ceramic painting • Canvas painting • Clay hand building • Acrylic on wood • Jewelry making • Fabric painting, and much more, then Claytime’s Covid Camps may just be the answer!

Outdoors! From our Stores shaded back yard to the Santa Cruz beach and grassy area by OB beach.

Age range: 5 to 16
Time: 3 hours per camp. 9 to 12 or 2 to 5.
Price: $50 per day and $200 all week (M-F).

Outdoor Camp

SAN DIEGO VISITORS SPENT OVER 6 BILLION DOLLARS LAST YEAR. Did your business get its fair share?

To reach this growing market, advertise your business in our Annual Visitors Guides.

For more information call: (858) 270-3103 x117

HURRY! DEADLINE AUGUST 28TH!

OUTDOOR DINING IN OCEAN BEACH

Breweries & Restaurants are Open!

Safeway Cafes • Food Dining • Pedestrian Plazas

www.OceanBeachSanDiego.com #OutdoorDiningOB

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

 Closet Celebrates 22 years!

Closet is celebrating 22 years in San Diego this August. This year, for every shopping bag refused at time of purchase, we contribute $1 to a chosen local organization of the month. This month we have chosen DETOURempowers.Org. DETOUR is a mentoring program for girls of color. Our vision is to see equity and inclusion for teen girls of color in higher education and priority sector employment.

CLOSETSIGNATURE.COM online shop launches August 22, 2020. We are so grateful for the support from our customers, visitors, previous & current team members.

Thank you for shopping with us! Follow us on Instagram @ClosetSignature. We also love to empower women and one way is through teaching financial literacy, call for a free consultation 619-786-1678.
NEW PARTNER FOR SPORTS ARENA BIDDER
Erik Judson of JMI Sports, a key member of the development teams for Petco Park and SDSU West stadium, has joined the Midway Sports & Entertainment District team as the project moves through the final stage of City of San Diego's competitive bidding process for redevelopment of the Sports Arena site. Judson and his JMI Sports team will lead the development of a plan for a potential new arena at the site as an alternative to MSED's plan to refurbish and modernize the existing arena.

"Through our outreach process, we've gained valuable insight into our plan, and the community persuaded us to explore the potential for a new arena," said David Malmuth of MSED. "People love the 12-acre park and creating a home for the San Diego Loyal Soccer Club. But some asked, 'What about a new arena?' Our challenge has been economic viability without a taxpayer subsidy. While we are still committed to that goal, we agree that a new arena might make sense. So we're including a new arena as an option, with Erik taking the lead."

MARGARITA MONDAYS
Point Loma Fish Shop is kicking off August with a new Margarita Mondays. Guests can enjoy $2 off any of the location's specialty margarita mixes. There are many options to choose from including Frozen Margaritas, the classic House Margarita, Spicy Margarita, and a Strawberry Margarita. And don't forget about the Spicy Peach Margarita, a blend of tequila, triple sec, peach puree, jalapeño, fresh lime juice, and signature Fish Shop margarita mix, served over ice with tajin rim. Pair any margarita with Fish Shop's tacos, or build-your-own taco, salad, plate, or sandwich. The special runs all day long.

POINT LOMA SUMMER CONCERTS RETURNS IN 2021
Canceled this year due to COVID, Point Loma Summer Concerts board reports the same lineup will return in 2021 when the annual summer concert series resumes. Musical acts which will be returning include Elton-The Early Years, Cassie's 90s Mix, Mighty Unbreakables, 24K Magic, Tribute to Bruno Mars and Pine Mountain Logs. This year was to have been the 20th season of Point Loma Summer Concerts. The family-friendly concerts have been a huge source of joy, community pride and community collaboration. For more information, visit plosomusic.org.

NEW BREW AT STONE
In early 2020 Stone Brewing launched the Stone Pilot Series to trial beers for a coveted spot on its national year-round lineup. Midway through the year, the second release in the series has proven itself worthy. Stone has made a mix of Stone Michelada Mix. Not in the any-excuse-to-drink-a-beer business, Stone has made a mix of tomato juice, hot sauce, peppers and spices. The 32 ounce mix is available at shop.stonebrewing.com. It will soon be sold in stores alongside Stone Buenaveza Salt & Lime Lager.

POLITIFEST RETURNS TO LIBERTY STATION
Politifest is a regional public affairs summit produced by Voice of San Diego. This year’s summit will take place virtually during the week of Sept. 29 through Oct. 1. It will examine the races and ballot measures through a future-facing lens: How will each of the candidates, policies, and ballot initiatives affect the future of our region? What are the implications for work, education, our communities and our wallets?

Politifest focuses on issues affecting San Diego communities. During election years, the event focuses on candidates and ballot measures. In non-election years, it focuses on the most important topics that drive public policy and community conversation. Politifest features a robust schedule of debates, panels and one-on-one interviews with experts, and provides a platform for residents to raise their voices, ask tough questions and delve into important issues. It serves as a crash course in politics and policy and provides insights into how our local government works.

RAIN, WIND, AND FIRE...
“The three menaces to any chimney, fireplace, or stove.”

Every year there are over twenty thousand chimney / fireplace related house fires in the US alone. Losses to homes as a result of chimney fires, leaks, and wind damage exceeds one hundred million dollars annually in the US.

CHIMNEY SWEEPS, INC., one of San Diego’s leading chimney repair and maintenance companies, is here to protect you and your home from losses due to structural damage and chimney fires.

Family owned and operated and having been in business for over 30 years, Chimney Sweeps Inc. is a fully licensed and insured chimney contracting company (License # 976438) and they are certified with the National Fireplace Institute and have an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

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.
Evans said, “We closed classrooms before the rest of the state realized it was the right thing to do. We made that decision to save lives. In the same way, our new health standards go farther than the rest of the state, and it is the right thing to do, because it will save lives. These metrics will help lead our continued planning for an eventual safe reopening.”

Dr. Howard Taras, UC San Diego professor and consulting pediatrian for San Diego Unified, who oversaw the expert panel, noted of the new health protocols, “We should not be opening all our schools fully until our public health system is where we’d like it to be in terms of the prevalence of the disease, and getting efficient testing and contract tracing. Masks or face coverings are more critical now than we ever thought before.”

Taras noted San Diego has a long way to go in combating the pandemic before it will be safe to start reopen schools.

“The case rate in the county today is 110 per 100,000 people,” he said. “It has got to be under 100 per 100,000 for 14 days. Taken together, the metrics represent the strictest reasonable conditions for safety when operations eventually resume.”

Under new health protocols being adopted by SDUSD, once school resumes, masks will be required for all students and staff on San Diego Unified campuses.

“The advice we heard most clearly from the public health experts is that going back to school must be a community-wide effort,” said board vice president Tashina Barrera. “Everyone has to hold themselves accountable to the highest safety standards if we truly want to get this virus under control so our students can get back to school. That means: wear a mask, practice social distancing and maintain good hygiene, because we truly are all in this together.”

Concerning reopening for distance learning in the fall, new Point Loma High School Principal Kelly Lowry said, “We’ve been engaging in conversations with staff about what distance learning is going to look like structurally and instructionally. We know you can’t teach the same way that you did before with small groups of kids in front of you.

“We’re discussing different ways of instruction for different subjects. Whether you’re (teacher’s) spending time with students live online, or if you give them assignments to do, then go over it with them and reinforce and make sure of what they’ve learned.”

Lowry gave one example. “An art teacher, their students may not have all the different supplies they need that they would have in the classroom. So they will have to look into resources available online to paint or draw virtually.”

Added the PLHS principal: “This is new for all of us. None of us thought we’d be online instructors. But we’re telling teachers it’s OK to try new things, make mistakes and learn from those mistakes, ask questions and collaborate with each other.”

Conditions for full reopening of San Diego Unified schools:

(As of Aug. 1; to be revised under consultation as science advances state criteria)

• 14-day case rate of <100/100,000; measured using date of illness onset with a 3-day lag, calculated with County of San Diego data;
• Testing positivity rate of <8% of positive tests as a percent of total tests; measured using specimen collection date in a 7-day period with a 7-day lag;
• Less than 10% increase in the average number of confirmed COVID-19 patients hospitalized;
• Availability of ≥20% of staffed ICU beds and of ≥25% of ventilators. Additional (primarily County) criteria:
• Fewer than 7 outbreaks over a 7-day period;
• More than 70% of investigations are completed within 24 hours of identification;
• Community outbreaks: fewer than seven new outbreaks in community settings in a 7-day period;
• Contact tracers make a first contact attempt for 70% of all close contacts in new positive cases within 24 hours of identification;
• No household outbreaks:
• Number of new outbreaks in community settings in a 7-day period;
• Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses and COVID-like illnesses reported within a 14-day period;
• Hospital capacity: less than 80% capacity for all hospital beds in the county;
• PPE supply: more than 50% of hospitals have at least a 22-day supply of PPE;
• Homeless population: temporary shelter available for more than 15% of homeless population.

School infrastructure and supplies:
• All adults and children in school buildings wear a face covering or mask, unless eating, or the person is alone in a room;
• Face shields, disposable gloves and gowns provided for those who have anticipated contact with stool, urine, saliva, blood of students;
• For health office staff who are assessing and managing with students with symptoms, they will be given surgical-style masks and face shields and with fit-tested N95 masks, as available in community, as per Cal/OSHA regulations;
• Rooms that do not have good natural ventilation and no MERV 13 filter in the HVAC system equipped with portable air cleaners, with proper ‘clean air delivery rate’ (CADR);
• All public spaces reconfigured to allow for physical distancing measures, including appropriate signage and barriers as needed;
• Isolation areas for students, staff with symptoms, they will be given surgical-style masks and face shields and with fit-tested N95 masks, as available in community, as per Cal/OSHA regulations;
• Doors that do not have good natural ventilation and no MERV 13 filter in the HVAC system equipped with portable air cleaners, with proper ‘clean air delivery rate’ (CADR);
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SAN DIEGO AIRPORT ADDS NONSTOP ROUTE
San Diego International Airport (SAN) will add once daily, nonstop service to Santa Barbara via Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) on Alaska Airlines beginning Nov. 20. This is a new route and the 29th desti-
nation Alaska services from SAN.

The city of Pacific Beach marks the fifth new mar-
ket added by Alaska Airlines in 2020. Service to Red-
wood, Ore. and San Luis Obispo began in June.

Alaska Airlines announced service to Cancun, Mexi-
co, beginning Nov. 20 through April 12, 2021 and Fort
Lauderdale, Fla. beginning Nov. 21. Service to Missoula, Mont. will begin March 11, 2022.

PURE WATER FLOWS FORWARD
In a major step toward reaching the City’s water efficiency and in-
dependence goals, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer has announced the City is seeking construction bids for the North City Pure Water Facility as the first of several bids for the Pure Water Program, which is expected to deliver more than 1,000 green jobs aiding in the regional economic recovery effort. This milestone marks the beginning of Pure Water San Diego’s phased, multi-year approach using proven technology to clean recycled water to produce 30 million gal-

dons of safe, high-quality water a day. With the completion of Phase 1, the Pure Water program will provide one-third of San Diego’s water supply by 2035, a critical component of Faulconer’s landmark Climate Action Plan. More information about Pure Water San Diego and the request for bids is available at sandiego.gov/ecp/about/contracting.

SUDOKU PUZZLE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

GARDEN DESIGN & MAINTENANCE
$50 Consultation with John Wilde

Office/ Retail Hours
Mon-Sat 10am-6pm

Best Landscape
Consistent Winner
Starting at sunset each night, Friday, Aug. 21 through Sunday, Aug. 23, and Wednesday, Aug. 26, the Old Point Loma Lighthouse at Cabrillo National Monument will be illuminated with purple and gold lights to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the 19th Amendment. The park will be open until 8:30 p.m. each night for visitors to enjoy the lights, learn about women’s history, and take photos. Aug. 26 will mark exactly 100 years since the 19th Amendment became law, ensuring that gender equality is protected and preserved.

The right to vote is fundamental to democracy, which must be preserved and protected even today. The Old Point Loma Lighthouse was one of the first eight lighthouses built on the West Coast in the 1850s. At lighthouses across the United States, women were hired as lighthouse keepers, often when their husbands became ill or died. These women were paid the same amount as their male counterparts for equal work, becoming one of the first examples of pay equality in the federal government.

The Old Point Loma Lighthouse at Cabrillo National Monument never had a female lighthouse keeper, but women did serve as assistant keepers, including Maria Israel, who served alongside her husband, Robert Israel, from 1873 to 1876. “The park’s history covers many centuries, from the Cabrillo expedition in 1542 to WWII coastal defense history. From the 1800s, the Old Point Loma Lighthouse represents a story of equal pay for women in the United States, so we are using it as backdrop to illuminate other stories of women’s history, including the ratification of the 19th Amendment during the Forward Into Light event” said Cabrillo National Monument Superintendent Andrea Compton. Led by the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission, Forward Into Light is a nationwide initiative to light up structures in American communities with the suffrage colors of purple and gold the night of Aug. 26. Purple signifies unwavering steadfastness to the cause, while gold signifies the flame of the torch leading the way. Cabrillo National Monument joins many other organizations and agencies in this collaboration, including support from the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation and the Women’s Museum of California.

“We are using this event to celebrate women’s history, including the ratification of the 19th Amendment, during the Forward Into Light event.”

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Point Loma

NEW ESCROW
Wooded Area
Point Loma

NEW ESCROW
La Playa
Point Loma

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