FAMILY DISCUSSION

Leaders laud groups’ efforts in first State of La Jolla address

Judging from community leaders’ first State of La Jolla address Jan. 8 before La Jolla Town Council, the community is in good hands and is resolving its hot-button issues, which include promoting merchants, beautifying the Village and stanching the stench at the Cove.

Seven guest speakers — Joe LaCava, CA Marengo, Tan Lucas, Cindy Greatrex, Dan Allen, Steve Haskins and Todd Letter — clued in the community during the public forum on what’s being done by volunteer groups to improve La Jolla.

“This is the first in a series of events going on throughout the year,” said council president Steve Haskins. “Tonight, we’re focusing on organizations dealing with land-use and government.”

LaCava, president of La Jolla Community Planning Association, gave a slideshow presentation explaining what a community planning group is and does. He noted volunteer planners do the city’s business at the grass-roots level.

JOE LaCAVA

LaCava said community planners’ roles have broadened to include giving input to the city on community budget priorities. “City policy also empowers us to clarify all or part of the community plans,” he said. “That is under our jurisdiction now, not just land use.”

More than 300 people turned out for association meetings in 2014, during which 76 projects were reviewed. The association approved 83 percent of those, LaCava said.

The association president noted issues dealt with successfully in 2014 included recommendations on short-term vacation rentals, resolving a group election dispute and setting a proposed addition to wireless antennas in Cliffridge Park.

A priority in 2015, LaCava added, will be finding ways to make the La Jolla Shores Planned District Ordinance governing residential and commercial development “more predictable.”

“Together we are stronger,” concluded LaCava, adding, “With one voice, La Jolla can get more accomplished down at City Hall.”

Marengo, president of La Jolla Village Merchants Association, said the self-taxed group strives to make the Village “more vibrant for our shoppers and business.”

Noting the group has a broad cross-section of merchants, Marengo said public outreach and educating the community on what the group is and does will be a primary goal in 2015.

FAMILY >> PG. 6

Paris tragedy, triumph: Lesson isn’t lost on San Diego

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN

Don’t look now (unless you somehow find yourself duly compelled, but I’m off to France for most of July to help recast a big farmhouse near Bordeaux into a bigger live-in education and community center. The project is in the southwest commune of Brossac, and this is great for two reasons: I’ll get a hard-won taste of true rural life (Brossac, a farming town, holds just over 500), and my workmates come from around the world, true rural life (Brossac, a farming town, holds just over 500), and my workmates come from around the world, which means I’ll be that much less conspicuous amid my totally suckworthy French.

Tiny, windswept Brossac is a cultural solar system away from our local and the legendary weather – and even chilling temps can’t always lure La Jollans from the coveted seaside. Above, an annual New Year’s day polar bear plunge saw a number of hearty souls jogging in from 62-degree water as air temperatures were in the 40s; below, an unusual King Tides swell stirs a bystander’s second thoughts.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

“Pinnacle of Pancakes” - San Diego Magazine
"Breakfast 5 Best“ - USA Today

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Capital improvements, pavilion upgrade among entries on La Jollans’ 2015 wish lists

By DAVE SCHWAB

Having turned the page on 2014, La Jolla community leaders are looking toward even better times in the next 12 months. La Jolla Village News consulted with some prominent La Jollans, asking them to submit their wish lists and gaze into their crystal balls to see what they envision happening in 2015.

Traffic-calming devices like this round-about are 2015 priorities for District 1 councilmember Sherri Lightner.

SEEBE SURE TO VOTE
New development, old issues dotted 2014 landscape  

By DAVE SCHWAB

It was ring out the old, ring in the new for La Jolla in 2014 as the upscale community lost some of its storied businesses — Jonathan’s Market and Burnts Drugs among them — but will be gaining some new ones, like Boffo Cinemas, in 2015.

Meanwhile, there were some new developments with “big-ticket items” such as at Children’s Pool, the Mount Soledad Cross — none of which are likely to resolve the central issues involved: animal rights versus public beach access and the constitutionality of a purported religious symbol on public land.

A month-by-month recap of 2014 in La Jolla:

JANUARY

The city opened a gate in the Cove fence, allowing residents to access the rocks there on New Year’s eve with the hope that human access would gradually displace marine mammals and birds and help quell the smell from hell over accumulated bird and marine mammal waste.

Jerry Coleman, the voice of the San Diego Padres and the only major league baseball player to see combat in two wars, died Jan. 5.

The rechristened Audrey Geisel University House was rehabbed at an estimated $10.5 million to convert it into UCSD Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla’s home and a venue for special events.

FEBRUARY La Jolla Brewing Company opened Jan. 30 at 7536 Fay Ave. Stakeholders on short-term vacation rentals began meeting monthly and considering new regulations.

State of the City: Faulconer promises fixes for streets, Chargers standstill

Acknowledging that city streets are “creepy and dark” and that the San Diego Chargers seem headed for L.A., Mayor Kevin Faulconer promised solutions for both Jan. 14 at the annual State of the City address, his first since his election to the mayoralty last February.

In his speech before several hundred at downtown’s Balboa Theatre, Faulconer said he’ll unveil a plan this spring to double spending on street repairs over the next five years, allowing the city to upgrade an estimated 1,000 miles of roadway. He also announced he’ll propose reforms to streamline infrastructure repair so the city can tackle an estimated $2 billion backlog of projects.

On the Chargers, Faulconer said he’ll assemble a task force later this month to craft the first comprehensive proposal for a new stadium since the team declared Qualcomm Stadium unacceptable more than a decade ago. He said the task force will by the end of the year create a financing plan and decide between two possible approaches: building a new stadium on the current Mission Valley site and building a stadium downtown as part of a convention center expansion.

“At no point in San Diego’s history has the possibility of the Chargers moving to Los Angeles been more real,” he said. “My goal is that when the season ends, we won’t be talking about whether the Chargers are moving. We’ll be talking about the proposal to keep them here — where they belong.”

Faulconer also said he’ll continue efforts to triple internet speeds at San Diego’s 36 library branches and use efforts to triple internet speeds.

FEBRUARY >> PG. 5
Awe-Inspiring European Estate
4 bdr, 5.5 bath, approx 4,846 esf. Panoramic Ocean Views, wrap around decks, pool and spa, gourmet kitchen.
New Price $3,250,000 - $3,595,000

Birch Rock Sanctuary
3 bdr, 2 bath, 2,064 esf., Ocean Views.
Great Location near shops & restaurants!
$1,150,000 - $1,274,000

Pulse Racing Views
3bdr, 2.5 bath, 3208 esf, on nearly an Acre lot and 180 degree ocean & sunset views.
$1,500,000 - $1,695,000

Steps to the Beach - Windansea
Brand New Construction
3bd, 3ba, 1866 esf.
$2,295,000

Muirlands - La Jolla
4bdr, 2.5 bath, 2,665 esf.
Single level on nearly half-acre lot with Ocean Views
$1,350,000 - $1,595,000

Seahaus at Its Finest
2 bdr, 2 bath, 1618 esf.
Panoramic 180 degree ocean views.
$1,350,000 - $1,595,000
A STRONG COMMUNITY STARTS WITH A STRONG BANK.

Doing right starts right here. Community banking is at the heart of what we do. From giving customers more convenient access to their money to financing their home in the neighborhood, Union Bank® believes in acting locally.¹ We also believe that investing in local businesses helps everyone. For 150 years, Union Bank has grown strong, one community at a time.

We are proud to be part of our vibrant La Jolla community. Best wishes for the New Year.

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¹ Loans subject to credit and collateral approval. Financing available for collateral located in CA, OR, or WA. Restrictions may apply. Terms and conditions subject to change.

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Back Door Bandits getaway driver receives 180 days

The getaway driver in the Back Door Bandits hold-up of the Smashburger restaurant in La Jolla was sentenced Jan. 8 to 180 days in work furlough program and was ordered to pay $2,675 in restitution.

Thomas Abel Nelson, 24, will be permitted to work days, but he will sleep in a facility at night as part of three years’ probation, ruled San Diego Superior Court Judge Polly Shamoan.

Nelson, free on $150,000 bond, will report to the work furlough facility on Jan. 15. Shamoan barred him from being on the premises of any Smashburger restaurant, saying that workers from the venue that was robbed could be transferred to another Smashburger store.

Also sentenced Jan. 8 to probation was a robbery participant, who was 17 years old at the time but has since turned 18.

His name was not part of the public record because he was prosecuted in juvenile court. He was convicted of grand theft and was ordered to maintain a 10 p.m. curfew.

Nelson’s attorney, Michael Runkle, told Shamoan his client played “a very minor role as the driver of the vehicle” on Aug. 4, 2013. He noted his client’s parents, grandparents and girlfriend were in the courtroom audience.

Shamoan lectured Nelson about his role, saying, “You took part in robbing people (who had a gun to their face).” She added that some victims later receiving counseling. “It’s mind boggling, why you got involved with it,” Shamoan asserted.

Nelson was fined approximately $1,000 and given credit for eight days spent in jail before posting bond.

Court records say Nelson drove the black sports car owned by a black Door Bandits ringleader Ryan Patrick Churchill, 24, who received 14 years and four months in state prison on Dec. 23. Churchill plead guilty Nov. 14 to 11 robberies and two attempted hold-ups.

Another co-defendant, Duran Caldwell, 25, was sentenced Dec. 1 to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to five robberies in the series.

Also held up were a Rigoberto’s Taco Shop and the El Cotoxan restaurant in La Jolla. The robbers entered and left through the restaurants’ back doors.

-- Neal Putnam

I-5/Geneseo Avenue Interchange Project

Please Join Us

Caltrans and SANDAG are hosting a public workshop on the Interstate 5/Geneseo Avenue Interchange Project.

Construction of the I-5/Geneseo Avenue interchange is scheduled to begin in February and is anticipated to take approximately three years to complete.

The project will:
- Replace existing six lane Geneseo Avenue overpass with a ten lane bridge.
- Improve traffic flow on Geneseo Avenue.
- Enhance access to/from I-5.
- Improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity.

Construction of the I-5/Geneseo Avenue interchange is scheduled to begin in February and is anticipated to take approximately three years to complete.

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San Diego/UDOT

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Merchants group sets meetings for a better La Jolla  By SHEILA FORTUNE

When you open up your business every morning, what do you see? Clean sidewalks? Beautiful buildings? Smiling patrons? Pedestrians walking with packages? Cars moving easily through the Village? If you are not seeing this, what is your goal for 2015 to make a change?

La Jolla Village Merchants Association’s focus this year is on education. Our block captains will be out throughout the year stopping to visit our 1,350-plus merchant members to let their voices be heard while we provide information on what your business can learn and do to support

PARIS  CONT. FROM PG. 1

Paris, the Western world’s premiere historical landmark — but even as six months will have passed, both locals will opine that Paris was living and loving the horrific Jan. 7 massacre of 17 innocents and the police killings of three perpetrators of the crimes. What began as a mass murder and terrorist attack has turned Parisian newspaper morphed into the latest installment in religious fervor gone mad, with satirical cartoons of Islam’s prophet Mohammad fueling two battles of almost Shake spearean proportions. Nearly 90,000 French forces were involved in the aftermath, with French Prime Minister Manuel Valls declaring Jan. 10 that France is at “war” with radical Islam.

Charle Hebdo (“Charlie Weekly”), the paper at the center of the tragedies, normally circulates 60,000 copies every Wednesday. This week’s edition was to have rolled out the scene of a hastily arranged Parisian, a figure underscored by the nearly 4 million (about a third of Paris’ metropolitan population) who on Jan. 11 swelled the country’s streets in defiant, jubilant defense of freedom of expression the world over. Forty world leaders linked arms in a show of solidarity amid President Obama’s glaring, unfathomable absence.

Je suis Charlie, or “I am Charlie,” became the mantra of choice in Paris and in cities from Beirut to Tokyo, and “Le Marseillaise,” the French national anthem, totally hit the top of the charts. In the blink of an adult public eye, France’s 9/11 had morphed into a political Woodstock.

The upshot from the bloodshed wasn’t lost on San Diego, whose House of France in Balboa Park was the scene of a hastily arranged candlelight vigil on Jan. 8. Reportedly, the impromptu speakers included Imam Taha Hassan, of the Islamic Center of San Diego, who

said he stands alongside freedom-loving people. “The Islam I believe in is not the same faith they (the terrorists) have claimed,” Hassan said in a published report. “The Allah they chair while they take the lives of innocent people is not the same Allah I love and serve.”

Neither did the tragedies escape La Jolla, where the noted San Diego French-American School held a moment of silence on Jan. 6, as did schools across France. The private institution serves about 370 children from preschool to eighth grade; the student body represents about 40 countries, and nearly half the children are from French or French-American families.

French President François Hollande isn’t highly thought of by his people, but it’s a clinch he carried himself every inch the statesman Jan. 11, when he declared that “Today, Paris is capital of the world.” And so it has been for centuries as the signature city of about 40 peace treaties since 1229. By contrast, Brossac became a common town and has never had more than 1,200 residents.

But this is one of those cases where size, thankfully, doesn’t matter. Paris, Brossac and every French city in between stand shoulder to shoulder as this moment’s true leaders of the free world. Just as I’m elated at their courage, I am sorely shaken amid my own devastation at the attack on a free press and the loss of life.

I am rapt with anticipation of my trip and my hosts’ colossal resolve, write bold and extra-large Jan. 11 on the world stage. And even as my French is well- nown horrid and my words evade myself with pride for a nation that fuels mankind with its almost unimaginable presence, dispensing hope and humanity as freely as an impoverished world can scarce draw its last loaf.

Je suis Charlie.

Martin Jones Westlin is editor of La Jolla Village News.

FAMILY  CONT. FROM PG. 1

“The more you communicate, the more you find out what this community can actually do,” Marento said.

The association successfully dealt with several issues last year, including laying the groundwork for a La Jolla Lapidary fundraising game, lob- bying government to have the Cove treated regularly to eradicate problematic stench from animal waste and the Sparkle & Shine campaign, initiated to generate funds to clean sidewalks and do Village housekeeping.

Marento noted times are chang- ing with a new movie theater and concert venue eventually moving onto Fay Avenue, which he noted “is an opportunity for creation of an entertainment district.”

Tim Lucas, chair of La Jolla Shores Association, noted the neighborhood is struggling with ongoing infrastructure replace- ment along the Avenida la Playa commercial zone.

He said another burning issue in the Shores involves an update of the Kayak Request For Proposals, which sets ground rules for extending concessionaires’ leases. He noted upgrades to Kellogg Park’s north comfort station were sorely needed and a huge improve- ment.

“We are all volunteers, and we need help and new people,” Lucas said, imploring La Jollans to “get involved in your local areas.”

Finch-hitting for Doug Fitzger- ald, president of the board oversea- ning La Jolla Rec Center, Cindy Greatrex noted 2015 is the center’s centennial. She said a special event is planned to mark the milestone, with a daylong celebration on July 25.

Greatrex said the rec center’s role in the community is underrated.

“The rec center serves everyone from age 5 to 65 and beyond doing school programs and hosting spe- cial events, everything from 50 dances a year to youth summer camps,” she said.

Dan Allen, president of La Jolla Parks and Beaches, said the volun- teer group is involved in helping to address numerous issues, including planning improvements for the La Jolla Cove Pavilion with a restroom upgrade and dealing with the ongo- ing conflicts between seals and humans at Children’s Pool and the Cove as well as discussing Whale View Shoreline Enhancement.

“We gladly accept credit cards,” joked the community leader about the need for private contributions to

LIST  CONT. FROM PG. 1

First District councilmember and council president Sherri Lightner is excited about the new year.

“The City has several important infrastructure projects happening in La Jolla right now,” she said. “It’s refreshing to see initiatives are to- ing numerous issues, including planning improvements for the La Jolla Cove Pavilion with a restroom upgrade and dealing with the ongoing conflicts between seals and humans at Children’s Pool and the Cove as well as discussing Whale View Shoreline Enhancement.

“We gladly accept credit cards,” joked the community leader about the need for private contributions to

list of goals.

“Let’s get these projects funded and built,” implored Ahern, not- ing the Torrey Pines Corridor beautification project will also be starting in order to enhance La Jolla’s entryway.

“Privacy is an important ele- ment to the residents of this pro- ject,” Ahern said.

He noted that he foresees “the discussions on how to handle the sea lions at La Jolla Cove heating up.”

The lifeguard tower and walk- ways at the Children’s Pool and La Jolla Cove will finally be complet- ed, Ahern pointed out.

“Finally, to spice up the Village, the Plaza La Jolla on Girard and Wall Street will be completed, and I’m looking forward to the develop- ment of the movie theaters, perform- ing arts center on Fourth and the new La Jolla Museum of Contem- porary Art expansion,” Ahern said. “There is a lot happening in La Jolla.”

Further much-needed community park projects. Todd Lesser, chair of the Traffic & Transportation Committee, whose members are appointed by other community groups, discussed the role of the group that reviews matters such as setting time limits on parking and designating color-cod- ing on street curbs as well as making recommendations on street clos- ures for special events.

Haskins concluded the forum by discussing the history of the coun- cil, which dates back to 1950.

“The Town Council is an acting force in La Jolla,” Haskins asserted. He noted the next town council-sponsored public forum will focus on the community’s culture and
to replace the disgusting bathrooms,” said Ahern.

Ahern noted other plans up for consideration are the Whale View Point Project, which includes side- walk and planting along Coast Boulevard, and protection of the cobbled people’s wall and other elements of this historic venue.

Also, he said, the curved wall and seating area at Windansea at the foot of Bonair Street needs attention.

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workings with her Council col- leagues on economic development in order to attract and retain more businesses in San Diego.

Joe LaCava, president of La Jolla Community Planning Association (LJCPA), which makes land-use recommendations to the City on development projects, presented this wish list for 2015:

Refine La Jolla Shores zoning to make it more predictable for property owners and homeown- ers;

Move residential zoning in La Jolla from generic citywide zoning to zoning that incorporates the goals and objectives of the La Jolla Community Plan;

Create a better process for pro- tecting and enhancing historic properties;

Change the City’s focus from increasing regulation and com- plexity to more effective enforce- ment of the rules already up;

Find new sources of revenue to address La Jolla’s and the city’s infrastructural needs.

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Daniel Anderson has a head on some very big shoulders  

By ED PIPER

In January, La Jolla Village Merchants Association heard about an upcoming Special Olympics and approved a city plan for concrete repaving of a portion of Coast Boulevard.

The business improvement district, which represents more than 1,200 merchants in a 30-block area in the Village of La Jolla, also heard a report from representatives from the short-term vacation rental industry, which is campaigning to revamp the city’s permit system to strengthen regulations governing rentals of 30 days or less.

“The association announced it’s partnering with the 14th World Special Olympics, to be held among 7,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities from around the globe, starting July 25 in Los Angeles,” said City spokesperson Bill Harris.

City spokesman Bill Harris approached the association, asking it to sanction a short-term project to do concrete repaving of deteriorated portions of Coast Boulevard.

“That street is really narrow and we’ll do one half of the street and have one lane open, then we’ll do the other half,” said Harris. He advised that the construction project, to be performed weekdays between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. in an estimated six weeks, will “limit access to driveways and parking in that area. We’re (considering) doing this now so it won’t interfere with any big event.”

Harris said the project must be done this fiscal year, which ends July 1, in order to qualify for grant funding that may or may not be available if the project is postponed.

Board member Claudette Berwin moved that the association approve the project, asking it to sanction a short-term project to do concrete repaving of deteriorated portions of Coast Boulevard.

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12th, held July 23-26. La Jolla Village
International Fashion Film Festival was
signments had been mishandled.
residents who claimed their con-
called into question by mostly local
Piano Company in Bird Rock were
The business practices of Schroeder
City parley at La Jolla Rec Center.
Shelley Zimmerman held a commu-
Kevin Faulconer and police Chief
The fifth annual La Jolla Interna-
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February 14. Your Valentine... Have a Sweet Home...
This hero may have already cast you in his latest novel

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN

“I am not a film critic, so I waited until the holiday crowds had abated to see Disney’s film of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine’s “Into the Woods,” which intertwines several stories of the Brothers Grimm as a baker and his wife try to make their fortune. Sondheims’ genius is long enough,” he said.

The San Diego Theatre Critics Circle recently nominated the Fiasco Theatre touring production, seen at the globe last summer, for an award in its annual invitations-only ceremony, to be held at La Jolla’s Museum of Contemporary Art campus next month. Having become so accustomed to the original, I believed rightly that everything would fall short of my expectations. Indeed, Fiasco’s version was disappointing from several aspects, not the least of which was a decided lack of musical excellence. Granted, the troupe was not singers, but neither are the film stars.

The film, which I viewed Jan. 2 at Fashion Valley AMC, was more satisfying than Fiasco’s production. What Sondheim’s brilliant lyrics and music had conjured so vividly in the mind played before my eyes in the Rob Marshall-directed movie, I loved the casting – Jack (Daniel Huttlestone) so young and naive classic VW camper he lives in. One thing leads to another, with Big Mac rebuilding his life (such as it was) – but the beach park at which he lives hides a mystery that would test the mettle of a man who stands on the doorstep of right versus wrong. Everybody, Silber said, will recognize a little of the local flavor, and without much prompting, North Mission Bay Drive’s De Anza Cove, recently reclaimed by the City of San Diego, is the makeshift Mariner Beach Park; the book’s ponytail-clad Jeffrey Weiner, advocate for the homeless, is in reality Jeffrey Sicoe, president of a Cardiff youth charity; editor Julie is based on Julie Mann, dogged San Diego Community Newspaper Group publisher. There’s even a Mr. Frosty, counterpart to Pacific Beach’s Mr. Frostie on Garnet Avenue.

Our area’s tonier enclaves color the story’s core irony – that homelessness can visit just about anyone. “Some are homeless by choice,” he said, “and have been for years. I don’t think you could talk them into any other way.” However, he countered in the book’s study guide, “[N]ot everyone who needs help is willing to ask or accept it. I can relate. I realized I am like that... I didn’t realize that the person offering to help would get just as much out of it as I would.” So evolves MacDonald in this Deep Impact Publishing entry, which runs 263 pages – meanwhile, as it happens, Macdonald’s daughter Abby saves the day. Abby, 12, has had to grow up fast, in the shadow of a generation facing a world of uncertainties.

“I really liked her,” Silber said, and decided she was going to be my main character, in a way. She’s an advocate for the homeless, and I think there’s lot’s of millennials and teens making a difference in the world, and I wanted to highlight that.” The connection between Abby and Sicoe’s real-life homeless teen resource, he added, is a natural.

So is Sicoe’s writing style, as the story’s easy cadence fuels this effortless read. There’s a good supply of humanity here from a man whose quiet passion bids the world take part.

For more on Silber and the book, see leesilber.com. More information on Sicoe’s homeless teen charity is atphotocharity.com.

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Welcome, Sima Alefi, new financial advisor for Wells Fargo

With 20 years of experience in the financial industry, I recently transitioned my practice to Wells Fargo Advisors in April of 2014. My previous practice with Edward Jones was located in the Danville, bay area of northern California.

As a Financial Advisor I help manage assets for individuals, trusts, retirement plans, and businesses. I especially enjoy working with women who have been divorced, widowed or recently came into an inheritance. I feel women are often underserved due to Financial Advisors’ lack of understanding of their nuanced financial stories. I take the time to listen and try to understand where clients are going in the future. As a woman Financial Advisor, I understand the importance of having specific plans for various life events.

As a mother of two children, married for 24 years, I understand the juggler role that women have: mom, daughter, caregiver, wife, career. I enjoy educating and empowering clients to take control of their financial future by providing a plan and Investment advice. I enjoy helping couples obtain their financial goals.

Sima Alefi
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC 7714 Girard Ave. La Jolla, CA 92037
Health Briefs

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IMMEDIATELY AFTER WILL LIGHTEN

December

Cosco Sisters Bring Studio Barre to Bird Rock!

Having spent most of their lives doing everything together, going into business seemed like the next best idea for the Cosco sisters. Before Studio Barre, Lindsay found her fitness in the water surfing and practicing yoga, Jennifer, an endurance athlete, competes in Ironman triathlons and ultra-marathons annually. However, when Studio Barre became a shared passion of theirs they decided to bring Studio Barre to Bird Rock! Studio Barre offers a specialized barre class that focuses on building core strength, improving posture, and creating a dancer-like body. “Coming from opposite sides of the fitness spectrum, we felt if we could both fall in love with this type of fitness routine, we could relate to a lot of people.”

Located at 5705 La Jolla Blvd in Bird Rock, class schedule is online at studiobarrebirdrock.com. Come check out the grand opening promos and fabulous boutique! First class is free! See you at the barre!

2014

Cont. from PG. 8

The Village Halloween trick-or-treat ing, co-sponsored by La Jolla Village Merchants Association and La Jolla Real Estate Brokers Association, got bigger and better with more downtown merchant participation. Cove stench from marine mammal and bird waste at the Cove continued to be a problem and an issue of public debate. Beach-access proponents Friends of Children’s Pool filed a suit in Superior Court Oct. 10 alleging city mismanagement of the pool and violation of constitutionally protected ocean access.

November

1-5 traffic was halted for a time as UCSD students protested the Ferguson, Mo. decision not to indict a white police officer in the fatal shooting of a black teenager. San Diego City Council Nov. 18 unanimously endorsed a water recycling program to provide one-third of San Diego’s potable water by 2035, reducing reliance on costly imported water. La Jolla Rec Center celebrated its 100th anniversary. Larry Himmel, TV newcomer and former stand-up comic at La Jolla’s Comedy Store, succumbed to cancer at age 68.

Bird Rock Community Council heard complaints about “mansionization” in the neighborhood. Shores merchants and neighbors complained of disruptions caused by ongoing infrastructure replacement along the small commercial strip on Avenida de la Playa.

December

On Dec. 5, famed wildlife photographer Thomas Mangelsen visited his Images of Nature Gallery, at 7916 Girard Ave., to clue the public on his latest retrospective book, “The Last Great Wild Places.” La Jolla Community Planning Association nixed a revamped proposal for a manse on Whale Watch Way as well as voting down a proposed Alzheimer’s unit in the former Chopra Center building downtown.

The 57th installment of the La Jolla Christmas Parade & Holiday Festival delighted residents and visitors on Dec. 7. The five-month ban of humans at Children’s Pool took effect Dec. 15. Village merchants were informed by neighbors of a new problem, recycling scavengers parking their smelly, leaky open-bed trucks in nearby residential neighborhoods such as Park Row.
Harry’s Coffee Shop borrows page from Mark Twain’s book

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN

Last fall, we announced that San Diego developer USA Properties had purchased several retail buildings with adjacent land in La Jolla for approximately $6.17 million—and that one purchase involves a landmark that traces its history to a point La Jolla was coming into its own. Harry’s Coffee Shop, a local landmark for more than 50 years at 7545 Girard Ave., is among the affected tenants, and this news apparently chagrined several patrons, who’d confused this news apparently chagrined among the affected tenants, and more than one tenant recalls the sadness of

Restaurant Week or not, Crab Catcher is one of area’s best

Yet another San Diego Restaurant Week is set for Jan. 18 to 24, with about 180 countywide eateries flaunting their wares as only they can. La Jolla’s Crab Catcher is one of them—and even as its Restaurant Week, this spot holds its own any time of year.

Take the Mixed Grill, for example. Scallops, fish, prawns and vegetables are the order of the day here—in fact, this dish is so hearty that it dares you to split it. The New York steak, calamari, clam chowder and mussels get some of the biggest raves—and if you’re very nice, you might just get a complimentary glass of wine on your anniversary. Never know.

The Crab Catcher, at 1298 Prospect St., may be momentarily overlooked amid its locale, as it vies for position with staples like George’s at the Cove and The Lake. But with Restaurant Week prix fixe prices at $20 for lunch and $40 for dinner, that extra little second of thought will land you an extra-big dining experience.

The event in the central plaza of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park will host the 6th annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Jan. 18, from noon to 3 p.m. The main event will be the ever-popular pet blessing by Monsignor Mark Campbell between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

A Blessing of the Animals event has been happening in Old Town for more than 300 years. In San Diego’s past, the annual Blessing of the Beasts celebrated St. Anthony of the Desert, the Patron Saint of Animals. Activities for both animals and families make this modern interpretation of an historic event quite moving to all who partici-


eating in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

The event in the central plaza of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park will have activities for adults, children and their pets. The pet expo will have pet treats for tasting, adoption opportunities from various rescue groups and educational information on rescuing, rehabilitation and supporting the animals in your area.

A pet costume contest will take place at 2:30 p.m. featuring prizes for several categories including best dressed and best pet-owner look alike.

Participating exhibitors, lined up by press time, were Chihuahua Rescue of San Diego, Dogs on Deployment, Emergency Animal Rescue, Helen Woodward Animal Center, Parish Education and Adoption Center, Pets Into Grace Animal Hospice, Priddy Cat Precinct, Rancho Coastal Humane Society, San Diego Biker Dog and Sky Hunters. Chopper the Biker Dog will be on hand to entertain the crowd.

Sponsored by Fiesta de Reyes, the Blessing of the Animals event invites people and animals of all faiths and convictions to participate. Last year’s event attracted more than 500 attend-
ees was the highest attendance recorded in the modern event’s five-year history. From a blue tongued lizard to a wolf hybrid dog, all animals were blessed by Monsignor Mark Campbell.

Admission to this event is free. For more information, call 619-297-3100.
Art of presentation is king at University City’s Ahi Sushi

If you love Sushi, then you’re in for a treat at the new Ahi Sushi & Grill. With more than 260 items on their menu, they are sure to have all your favorites.

As casual venues go, Ahi caters to a different level of taste, chiefly because of its attention to presentation. You get a dragon roll in the shape of a dragon, a caterpillar roll that looks like a caterpillar and an orange cut to look like a bear, a rabbit or any animal that comes to the artist’s mind. Meanwhile, that giant menu includes Chinese entries as well, and you can eat them in front of a big-screen TV.

Ahi Sushi & Grill is located at 3949 Governor Drive in University City in the shopping center. For more information, call (858) 678-0288 or visit lovesushi.com. Ahi has other locations in Alpine, San Marcos and San Diego as well.

The Broken Yolk Café

The Broken Yolk Café offers a large selection of home cooked meals in a comfortable and casual atmosphere. There are more than 20 different omelets to choose from, as well as a wide variety of other breakfast favorites which include pancakes, waffles and french toast. Feel more like lunch? Try one of our juicy half-pound burgers or one of our large sandwiches.

Richard Walker’s Pancake House

An extensive menu of gourmet pancakes, waffles, crépes, and omelets, plus two specials every month, is a real wake-up call for breakfast and lunch enthusiasts. The Baked Apple Pancake is a massive, sugary concoction of cream, eggs, flour, and a touch of nutmeg mixed with sliced Granny Smith apples, imported Saigon cinnamon, and clarified butter. In addition, the Chicken Noodle Soup with handmade riblet noodles is comfort food at its best. Walker never cuts corners, using real butter, farm fresh fruits.

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Donovan’s sets the standard of fine dining excellence. A classic steakhouse. A stylish, lively atmosphere. Cordially friendly. We like to think of Donovan’s as your own special place. A place where you can celebrate with friends, family and associates. www.donovanssteakhouse.com. In La Jolla at 4340 La Jolla Village Drive in the Golden Triangle area, (858) 450-6666. In the Gaslamp Quarter at 570 K Street on the corner of 6th and K, (619) 237-9700
I Tweet, Therefore I Am

By Natasha Josefowitz, Ph.D.

Most of my friends are upset that so many people are constantly tapping their smartphones, that even during meals with others they check for messages, neglecting the people sitting next to them in order to connect with someone—or something—electronically. I have seen teenagers sitting together in groups, each absorbed in their individual phones and oblivious to each other and the world.

It is obviously a new phenomenon. This technology did not exist a few years ago. So what is the allure—maybe even the compulsion—to post messages to the world via Facebook or to tweet to one’s 500 closest friends? Is it the hope that someone will see it and respond? Or is it just to say: I am thinking and doing.

We are reaching out; and as long as we’re online, we’re not alone. It gives them the control to interact with any image at their own speed and interest.

The newness will decrease and we’ll all settle down to a comfortable level between the need to constantly interact electronically, the need for face-to-face contact, and the need for quiet, private time.

The need for face-to-face contact. We are reaching out; and as long as we’re online, we’re not alone.
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Camellia bushes are a garden's early risers

By LINDA MARRONE

When most of my garden is sleeping in January, my camellia bushes wake up and burst into bloom. Their arrival is a much-anticipated event, and the profusion of elegant pink, white, and red blossoms breathes springtime into the winter landscape. By selecting several different varieties, you can enjoy these graceful flowering shrubs in your garden from early fall through May.

Camellias come in a variety of colors, color variations and forms. Their gray bark and leathery evergreen leaves make them attractive shrubs, even when they are not in bloom. The tender new growth that appears in early spring is lime-green in color and complements the soft tones of the spring landscape. The camellia is native to China and Japan and was brought to Europe in the early 1700s. The English planted Camellia sinensis (tea plant) in America’s South around the mid-1700s to meet the growing demand for tea in their country. The Camellia sinensis bears single cream-colored flowers, and the plant’s foliage was dried and processed into both Oolong and “common” black tea. The ornamental forms of camellias found their place in American gardens starting about 150 years ago.

When selecting camellias for your garden, there are six basic forms of camellia flowers to choose from: single petal, semi-double, anemone, peony, rose double and formal double. If you go to your local nurseries during blooming season, you can choose the shrub with the flower and color you prefer. Camellias also come in a variety of sizes; some of my older camellias are more than 12 feet high.

Our climate near the coast is perfect for growing camellias. I fertilize the base but not too close to the trunk. A layer of organic mulch around and through them. Always prune before the new buds set. Never let your camellia plants dry out during the warm summer months; otherwise, they will not bloom, and the buds will simply fall off. A layer of organic mulch around their base but not too close to the trunk will help retain moisture.

Camellias prefer slightly acidic soil rich in organic matter, which you can purchase and amend to your soil before planting them. They also need good drainage and hate “wet feet.” Plant them in a sheltered environment away from heavy wind. Most varieties prefer to be in a shaded environment, but near the coast they can tolerate a little more sun, preferably morning sun.

— Linda Marrone is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker. Stories about her historic La Jolla garden have been published in local and national magazines.

CATCH ‘EM WHILE THEY’RE YOUNG

Hard to believe that these kids already have their black belts as we huff and puff our way up the stairs — but that’s the reality of it. Even better: They’ve spent a required minimum of four years before their testing for the first-degree belt. Accordingly, Pacific Karate, located at 450 Pearl St., held a testing and six-month recertification event on Dec. 17. Left to right are Aiden Canino, Michael Kamishion, Esther Kamishion, Mah Farian, master John Gehosky, Emma Holmes, Elliot Austin and Devon Canino.

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Move-in ready!

La Jolla Village Merchants Association board of directors recognized, and took a group photo of, most of the 16 winners of the group’s first holiday decorating contest, wherein merchants were encouraged to dress up their storefronts for Christmas. Winners included Flowers Jewelry, Esteban Interiors, Everett Stunz, Gallery Properties, Harcourts Prestige Properties, La Jolla Swim & Sport, La Valencia Hotel, Latte by the Sea, Legends Gallery, MOS – My Own Space, Peerless Fine Art, Richard Walker’s Pancake House, SoCal Queen, SPOT Kids, The Secret and Tijon Fragrance Lab.

FIRST AMONG MANY

— Linda Marrone is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker. Stories about her historic La Jolla garden have been published in local and national magazines.
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Home loans: Leave the suitcases of money behind

By NANCY GARDNER

Did you know that the U.S. powers that be got together with their Chinese counterparts and agreed all cash purchases by Chinese citizens in the U.S. would be reported to the IRS and to the Chinese government? No longer are Chinese buyers coming to the U.S. with suitcases of cash to spend on real estate here.

Apparent, we have similar agreements with many nations. Ask your friendly, trusted Realtor.

Earlier in 2014, we were learning Chinese at our Real Estate Brokers Association meetings. That is no longer necessary, as the cash pipeline from overseas is now reduced. Home sales have recently slowed. Cash sales in November of 2014 were 23.9 percent, down from the 28.1 percent high in November of 2013. According to the University City-based DataQuick, the median home price was down 2.2 percent in November from October of 2014 but up 3.6 percent year over year, from November of 2013 to November of 2014. At $505,000, the median home price is 18 percent below the November of 2013 rate. Cash sales in November 2014 were 23.9 percent, down from the 28.1 percent high, reached back in November of 2013. In November of 2014 were 23.9 percent, down from the 28.1 percent high, reached back in November of 2013.

Business confidence rose in November, that could herald slow and steady economic growth in spite of continued reported and unreported unemployment. Many of the unemployed have dropped off the measurement scale after not finding work for an extended time period.

You most likely would not be surprised that the Cyber, IT, and Software Industry Business Outlook Index rose to 48.6, the highest of all industries in San Diego. Sadly, retail is at the bottom of the list, at 7.7.

According to the San Diego County Apartment Association survey, the 2014 apartment vacancy rate fell to 2.3 percent, almost half the 2013 rate. Average monthly rents are also up, as are multifamily construction permits. This will help the construction industry in San Diego, which bodes well for future overall economic growth. It should also suggest to potential buyers to act now. Rents will most likely continue to increase. Check with a local lender to see how much you can afford according to Fannie Mae/Predddie Mac guidelines, and save a little for a down payment.

It’s time to buy now before prices creep up more, as we know they will. Fannie/Predddie have even tougher appraisal guidelines in store for us. Act now yourself.

A lender approved with several banks can best help you structure your loan package. The banks usually know which lender to use to get you qualified based on your unique profile and how to present your loan to you in the best light with underwriting. VA, FHA and many conventional lenders don’t require suitcases of money to get you into your dream home.

*HAPPY NEW YEAR*

We wish to thank the clients and customers who have trusted us to resolve their Real Estate needs since 1972. Whether that has been a home or condominium purchase or sale, units, commercial Real Estate or industrial property management, we were pleased to serve each of you. As we begin the New Year, we look forward to working with you in the years to come.

From the entire Klatt Realty staff...

"HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

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