



Famous television bandleader Lawrence Welk and beloved namesake of Welk Resorts.

Family-owned Welk Resorts to be acquired by Marriott Vacations Worldwide

After 57 years and four generations, Welk Resorts has agreed to a \$430-million acquisition offer.

Welk Hospitality Group has entered into an agreement with Marriott Vacations Worldwide Corporation (“MVW”) (NYSE: VAC) to sell the Welk Resorts portfolio of vacation resorts, programs and property management contracts for about \$430 million, including about 1.4 million

MVW common shares. The acquisition is expected to close early in the second quarter of 2021.

After the transaction closes, MVW intends to rebrand the Welk-branded vacation resorts in California, Colorado, Missouri, New Mexico and Cabo San Lucas, Mexico as Hyatt Residence Club properties. This will bring the Hyatt Residence Club portfolio to 24 upper upscale resorts and comple-

ment its existing locations in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Nevada, Puerto Rico and Texas. The process to integrate and rebrand the Welk Resorts properties and products will be a complex, longer-term initiative and subject to final approval from Hyatt Hotels Corporation.

“It is bittersweet after 57 wonderful years of memories and accomplishments to be welcoming a new owner for Welk Resorts. We are confident in MVW and its shared commitment to excellence. Our board and family recognized that its vision, resources and globally-recognized brand ensure the best long-term future for our valued team members and Owners,” said Welk Resorts President and CEO Jon Fredricks, grandson of the late Lawrence Welk, the beloved television bandleader who started the Welk hospitality business.

“We appreciate that Welk Resorts’ leadership has entrusted MVW to build on the solid foundation laid by generations of the Welk family and the company’s team members,” said MVW CEO Stephen Weisz. “We have been in the vacation ownership industry for decades and have deep respect for the strength of the Welk name, operation and legacy.”

Welk Resorts got its start in 1964 when television bandleader Lawrence Welk bought a motel and nine-hole golf course near San Diego as a place where he and his wife Fern could vacation with their kids and grandkids.

Since 1999, the company has been led by Welk’s grandson, President and CEO Jon Fredricks. In addition to Fredricks, Lawrence Welk’s son, Larry Welk, is chairman of Welk Resorts’ board and his great-grandson, Robert Segall, also works as a sales and marketing director for the business.

Larry Welk launched Welk Resorts’ vacation ownership business in 1985 with Lawrence Welk Resort Villas in Escondido, and, today, he is also



The late Lawrence Welk (left) and his son, Larry Welk, who for many years headed the real estate and resort business created by his father.

CEO and chairman of a sister Welk company in the real estate and entertainment business, which is not a part of this acquisition.

Also not included in this transaction is The Lawrence Welk Family Foundation, which funds non-profit organizations serving families in need and is managed by its President, and Welk granddaughter, Lisa Parker. Welk Hospitality Group is majority-owned by members of the Welk family with a 12 percent share owned by its employees through an employee stock ownership plan.

The original San Diego resort location has expanded over the years. It currently sits on 450 acres with two 18-hole golf courses, seven swimming pools, state of the art fitness center, five recreation centers, two waterslides, two escape rooms, a spa, theater, restaurants and more. There are seven more Welk Resorts in the western U.S. and Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Over the years, the company has also become known for its award-winning activity programming called Inspired For You with underwater virtual reality, escape rooms, digital printers and other innovative experiences.

Welk Resorts opened The Ranahan in Breckenridge, Colorado in early 2020 and announced management contracts with several resorts in late 2019 and early 2020 including El Corazon de Santa Fe by Welk Resorts in Santa Fe, New Mexico as well as the Eagle Point Vacation Community in Vail, Colo. Several years ago, the company also introduced its Experiences Collection by Welk Resorts, which includes an additional 16 vacation resorts available to Welk Resorts’ Platinum Owners, such as the Four Seasons and Disney Vacation Club in desirable locations from Florida to Hawaii.

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Similar to 9-1-1 calls, Text to 9-1-1 is for emergencies only. Intentional misuse of the system is a crime and is a punishable offense.

If you accidentally sent a message, send a reply clarifying there is no emergency. Cell phone reception varies by location. If Text to 9-1-1 is not available, you will receive a bounce back message asking you to call 9-1-1.

Remember: Call if you can, Text ONLY if you can’t.

Law Office of Diane Haisha-DeForest



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Board expands COVID-19 rental assistance program

By **KATIE CADIAO**, County of San Diego Communications Office

The County Board of Supervisors voted January 26 to expand the emergency rental assistance program for San Diegans who have suffered economic hardships due to COVID-19.

The County’s program allows San Diegans facing eviction or who are unable to pay their rent to apply for financial assistance. Funds can be used to cover rent, utilities and other household expenses.

The expanded program will award funds for up to six months of expenses at a time and applicants can request additional funding if they still require monetary assistance after that time. The emergency rental assistance program would also give priority to single-parent households, many of which have been hit particularly hard by the pandemic’s impact on the economy.

The program is funded by \$48.8 million in federal stimulus funds the County received earlier this month. The federal stimulus dollars will cover rental assistance needs for residents living in 16 cities in the County, as well as the unincorporated areas. The cities of San Diego and Chula Vista received their own funds from the federal government and will oversee their rental assistance programs separately.

The Board also voted to work with the state to develop a plan to allow a safe return to youth sports competitions.

Return to Purple Tier

After the state lifted its seven-week Regional Stay Home Order yesterday, restaurants, museums, theaters and other businesses are now allowed to resume outdoor operations. The state made the decision to end the Stay Home Order based on projections that show the Southern California four-week intensive care unit bed availability to be above the 15% threshold it had previously established.

While the end of the Stay Home Order is welcome news, County Health Officials urge San Diegans to keep their guard up.

“This is still a precarious period, and we urge all San Diegans to continue to follow all of the health precautions we have implemented since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer. “Please wash your hands, watch your distance, and wear your mask, and when it is your turn to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, get vaccinated.”

The County is currently vaccinating people 65 and older, as well as health care workers in Phase 1A at its vaccination sites. Appointments are required, and vaccinations are available based on supply.

More information is at coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine and appointments can be made at vaccinationsuperstationsd.com.

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Book Talk

by Lynn Clark

I have had plenty of time to read since most everything has been closed down due to the Coronavirus. Thank goodness the library still has curb service. The following is a summary of four of the more popular books I read during the holiday

Daylight -
by David Baldacci

This is the third installment of the series featuring Atlee Pine. This book was as great as the first one. Atlee is following a lead concerning her sister Mercy’s possible location, and the person responsible for her abduction as a child many years ago. She has always believed her sister is still alive.

What she finds will make you wonder if it is possible for her to save her sister either mentally or physically, and she is starting to put the pieces together about the reason for the abduction, and the disappearance of her parents. She now knows that her father is alive and possibly with her mother in hiding. She is, as always, involved in another case. This time with a fellow FBI agent, John Puller, another Baldacci character from a different series. Can’t wait for book #4.

The Sentinel -
by Lee Child and Andrew Child

Well, if you like Jack Reacher you will probably know by now that Lee Child is bringing in his brother, Andrew Child, in an effort to update and modernize Jack. The other choice was to give Reacher a fitting death and end the series.

I don’t know how this is going to change the charm of the “rough and tumble” persona of Reacher so you will have to decide for yourself if you like this new fellow. Can you imagine a tech savvy Reacher? Hmmmm..do you think he will still put his clothes under the mattress to get out the wrinkles, and only carry a toothbrush when he travels?

The Searcher -
by Tanya French

Cal Hooper is a retired Chicago policeman that has purchased a rundown home on the outskirts of a remote village in Ireland. He has some land but is not looking for much except peace and quiet, and days filled with making his new home livable.

He gets more than he bargained for when an scruffy-looking, malnourished teenager invades his privacy seeking help to locate a brother that has disappeared. He is reluctant to get involved, but once he does he realizes that the village is not as it seems, and the inhabitants have their own sense of justice.

Eight Perfect Murders -
by Peter Swanson

I found this book because it was listed in the WSJ as one of the 10 best mysteries of 2020. Swanson has several books out, and I always like finding new authors. He did not disappoint me.

Malcolm Kershaw is a bookstore owner in Boston and he specializes in mysteries. He sells most of his stock online, and he puts out a blog frequently to let his clients

know what he has in the store. His most popular blog was when he listed the best unsolved murders in fiction.

He is quite happy with his life until FBI agent Gwen Mulvey enters his store with a theory that possibly 3 unsolved murders have a connection to his list. Her questioning starts making him nervous, especially when he realizes that the names of the victims are people he knows from his past. Does she suspect him? Is there someone out there that is privy to his secrets and is stalking him?

Lots of twists and turns in this book. I really enjoyed it and I think you will also.

Hope everyone in the Meadows had a nice holiday and that you are all well and keeping safe. Hope the best in the new year for all of you.

Zoo and Safari Park reopened

In keeping with the latest guidance set forth from the Governor’s Office, the San Diego Zoo and the San Diego Zoo Safari Park reopened to the public on Saturday, January 30, ending an almost two-month-long closure that began December 7, 2020.

Guests have the opportunity to once again experience amazing wildlife with their families, stroll among diverse habitats and visit with the Zoo and Safari Park’s many unique residents, take part in fun, educational activities, and learn about ways to contribute to wildlife conservation at home and abroad.

Similar to their previous reopening plan, both parks will resume operations in stages that will start with outdoor dining only, 25 percent capacity in retail outlets, a reduced number of guests on grounds at a given time, one-way path modifications and barriers, required face coverings (regardless of vaccination status), observed social distancing practices, an increased number of handwashing and sanitizing locations, and robust cleaning routines by staff.

ZOO / See Page 5

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After

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After

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Super Crossword

TIME FOR A FRESH START

- ACROSS

1 Keys that get "tickled"

8 Mysteries

15 Longtime Volkswagen model

20 Port near Naples

21 Allay

22 Brand of deodorant

23 SkyDome national anthem

24 Harley-Davidson product

26 TV's Sajak

27 Meditation sounds

29 With 64-Across, Japan's place

30 A teacher prepares it

31 Also called

38 Nero's 111

39 Political analyst Myers

40 Devilish look

41 Black-and-white bird

44 Optical storage format for burning data

46 Put — (pranks)

47 Ranch jaunt

49 "Socrate" composer Erik

52 Black-and-white bird

54 With 112-Down, backbeat instruments

56 Billionaire Bill

57 Marking the start of, as a 133-Across

60 Homer epic

62 Mani offerer

63 Hydroxyl-containing compound

64 See 29-Across

66 Less jagged

70 Cuts down

72 Film set at Faber College

76 Life-or-death

77 Shoe part

79 County south of Niagara

80 — Pet

82 Org. backing guns

83 Like films, restaurants and bonds

86 Key of Chopin's "Raindrop" prelude

89 Less abundant

92 Suspicious

94 Bump hard

95 Choir song

96 #1 Beatles hit of 1964

98 Unbroken

100 Whaler, e.g.

102 Non-rush-hour, say

103 Pilot

105 Some Japanese cartoons

109 Uncle, in Rio

110 Pampering treatment

114 Carport's kin

117 Meal crumb

118 Sked guess

119 Dernier — (very latest fashion)

120 Bed for eggs Benedict

125 49ers' home, for short

128 Fast Amtrak train

129 Creator of Tigger and Eeyore

130 Chemical salt in spinach and parsley

131 Epoxy, e.g.

132 How some things are chiseled

133 An apt one is spelled out by combining the first two letters of nine Across answers in this puzzle

DOWN

1 14-legged crustacean

2 Move out of

3 Kansas city

4 Stimp's pal

5 Gershwin the lyricist

6 Granted

7 "Me too"

8 Bolt down

9 Sydney's state: Abbr.

10 Patricia T. O'Conner's "Woe —"

11 Really go after

12 Showy parrot

13 Corporal on "F Troop"

14 Sch. term

15 Actress Fonda

16 Bits of work

17 Alternative to Wheat Thins

18 Compound in pottery glazes

19 Compounds paired with thymines in DNA

25 Nobody — (mine alone)

28 Sizzling bacon sound

32 Munsters' boy

33 Worship

34 Japanese mushroom

35 Author Kesey

36 Fed Eliot

37 After, to Gigi

42 Israeli desert region

43 Got silver, as hair

45 Was too long, as a sentence

47 Was given no choice

48 Suffix with direct

49 Fish-on-rice dish

50 Trembly tree

51 Mellows out

53 — fruit (tangelo kin)

55 Munched

58 Not fitting

59 Less distant

61 "The way I —..."

65 Frazier fighter

67 Black-clad mercenary

68 Actor Flynn

69 Update the arsenal of

71 Hollywood's Meryl

73 Dogfight

74 "Mighty Bruins" sch.

75 Frauds

78 Old Yankee Combs

81 Stepping (up)

84 Analogous

85 Hollywood's Stiller

87 Middle Corleone brother

88 Meat jelly

89 Wear for mob quellers

90 Promise to marry

91 Beats into shape again

93 Part of BYO

97 Lots in life

99 Nothing at all

101 Paleolithic tool

103 Trim up, say

104 Adam and —

106 Gordon of "Oklahoma!"

107 Typo list

108 One fishing with a net

111 "— is an island ..."

112 See 54-Across

113 "Challenge accepted!"

115 "— Ask of You"

116 Composer — Carlo Menotti

121 "Bali —"

122 Mel's Diner waitress

123 Orbitz listing

124 Born, to Gigi

126 Rural denial

127 Go by jet

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Dawn Wilcox, 91

Dawn Wilcox, nee Margaret Dawn Elsbury Winter, died peacefully in her sleep on December 26, 2020 in the Rancho Palos Verdes home of her daughter Susan.

Dawn was born in Carlisle, England on March 18, 1929 to Charles Elsbury Winter and Margaret Pearl Winter, nee Wilson. She attended the Carlisle and County High School for Girls and then the Hunmanby Hall School, operating in Armathwaite Hall, Bassenthwaite, during the Second World War. In 1948/49, Dawn completed a translator's degree at the University of Geneva, where she met Ralph Wilcox, a US veteran of WWII, studying French on the GI bill. Dawn was only 19 and knew that her parents would never let her marry an American, so she returned to England and Ralph to California, and they corresponded for two years until Dawn turned 21. Dawn then spent one year in California before the couple was married on September 6, 1951 in St Michael's Church in Carlisle. Ralph accepted a job in adult education with the United States Forces, and for the first 15 years of their marriage, they lived in various parts of France, including Verdun, La Rochelle, Tours and Fontainebleau, where all three of their children were born, Carol in 1953, Ian in 1955 and Susan in 1958. During the 1960s, Dawn became involved in Girl Scouts, as a much beloved leader of Junior troops and then in the 1970s as a trainer for new leaders. Following her father's death, Dawn, who could not bear the thought of never seeing him again, sought and found renewed Christian faith, which was central to her life for the subsequent forty years. In 1966, the family moved to Heidelberg, Germany and in 1974, to Belgium. In 1985, Ralph retired and returned to Southern California, to Hidden Meadows near Escondido, where they built their dream house with a pool, which Dawn had spent years designing.



The couple spent nearly 20 idyllic years in Hidden Meadows, describing every day as "another day in paradise." During this time, Dawn enjoyed gardening and managed to cultivate a spectacular British rose garden. She was actively involved in the local garden club, a book club, yoga classes and regularly helped with grandchildren in Hacienda Heights, also hosting and visiting those in Princeton, NJ. After Ralph's death in 2005, Dawn stayed in her home another five years, until her macular degeneration worsened, rendering independent life impossible. The last decade of her life was divided between her two daughters' homes, in Princeton, NJ and Rancho Palos Verdes, California.

Dawn loved discovering the world and traveled all over Europe, from Greece to Scandinavia during their 35 years in Europe. A highlight just before retirement was a trip to the Holy Land. In later years, she particularly enjoyed cruises, many of them with Susan, to Bermuda, Alaska, China, New Zealand and the Baltic Sea. After retirement, Dawn returned to England twice, first in 1998 and in 2007, and she was impressed by the positive changes in her hometown but never did miss the rain! Her last cruise was to the Sea of Cortez, in honor of her 80th birthday in 2009.

Dawn's greatest joy in life was her family, and she delighted in her three children and five grandchildren, particularly enjoying playing card games and organizing special outings to museums, as well as fun trips for them, such as a trip to see the whales in Baja, California or to Catalina Island and a cruise around Hawaii in honor of their fiftieth anniversary. She was tickled pink to have participated in kindling grandson Sean's passion for science at an early age. She will be greatly missed by her 3 children Carol Wilcox Prevost (Jean Herve) of Princeton NJ, Ian Wilcox (MaryAnn) of Hacienda Heights, California and Susan Wilcox of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, her 5 grandchildren Christopher Prevost (Brenda), Ian Prevost (Nam) and Olivia Prevost Karr (Ryan), Sean Wilcox (Lauren) and Lisa Wilcox and 6 great-grandchildren Tyler, Landon, Amelia, Lily & Ralph Prevost and Audrey Karr.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Heifer, Int., one of Dawn's favorite charities.

HIDDEN MEADOWS NEWS

Deadline for local article submission:
20th of the month for the next issue.

Photographs submitted for publication should be hi-resolution (300DPI), unmodified originals, jpeg format. We cannot accept photos taken from social media sites such as Facebook.

Send drafts to Patricia Fox at:
LocalEditor@HiddenMeadows.news



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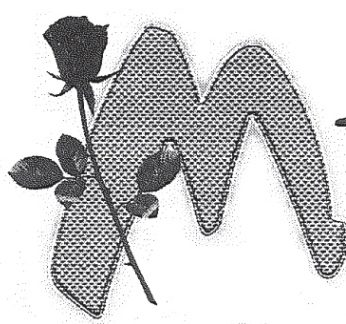
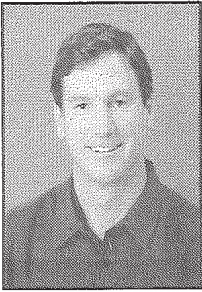
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ZOO / From Page 4

Currently, the Zoo's Guided Bus Tour, Kangaroo Bus and Skyfari Aerial Tram, and the Safari Park's Africa Tram will be unavailable. Activities that traditionally include larger numbers of guests — including some shows, tours and Safari experiences — will also be temporarily unavailable.

For added safety, both facilities will implement a reservation system, required for entry. All visitors ages 3 and up are required to have either a ticket, or a membership and a reservation. Guest tickets will serve as their reservation and must be presented to enter the Zoo or the Safari Park. Members with a valid membership only need to make a date-specific reservation, and can secure their reservation online.

For more details on the San Diego Zoo and the San Diego Zoo Safari Park reopening — including yearly membership options and important information for guests planning their next visit — go to SanDiegoZoo.org/Reopen.

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Loch Erne from patio of the Kilhevin Hotel

By Patricia Fox / Resident

This morning Cousin Leslie and I bid a fond farewell to the Ballygally Castle Hotel, its gardens, high tea, Bushmill’s whiskey laced oatmeal, and are off for the west coast of Ireland on the M1 motorway, one of the major east-west arteries across Ulster. The scenery was beautiful, green hills brightened by the vivid yellow gorse, views out over the sea, down narrow streets of small towns with their brightly painted buildings. We passed several areas where episodes of the “*Game of Thrones*” were filmed.

We had left Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom behind and were now in the Republic of Ireland. Surprisingly, there was no notice when we left the UK for the Republic. There is more notice of traveling from one state in the US to another than passing from one country to another. The only

clue to the crossing of the border was that the mileage signs and gas stations switched from miles and (Imperial) gallons in the UK to kilometers and liters in the Republic.

Our destination that night was the Kilhevin Hotel and Spa, in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh on the banks of Upper Loch Erne. The site was beautiful, serene views down the Loch, sheep grazing in the long afternoon light across the loch – a perfect place to sit out on the patio admiring the gardens while sipping our drinks.

Over the next several days, we traveled the Wild Atlantic Way, a 2500 km road which hugs the Atlantic coast from Donegal, down to Kerry and around to County Cork. We stop for Belleek. We visit Yeat’s grave near Ben Bulbin, County Sligo’s table mountain; stop at the Crafter’s Basket, a quilting shop in Cliffrony – Leslie is

an avid and talented quilter, and seeks out quilting shops where ever we travel, all over the US, New Zealand and now, Ireland.

We stay one night in Westport, a charming town on Clew Bay. Matt Malloy of The Chieftains has a pub there with Irish music every night. We are warned it will be crowded, so we go early and get good seats in the back room. The music is great and we get to meet Matt Molloy and watch him play, and then watch as he does a dance, around and with a broom.

We visited Croagh Patrick, Ireland’s most sacred mountain, said to be the mountain from which St Patrick banished the snakes from Ireland! It is

true that Ireland has no native snakes, but scientists attribute this to successive ice ages and the Irish Sea.

Every town seems to have a stone church and there are many castles along the way, some in good repair, some in sad ruins. We do the very touristy medieval banquet and show at Bunratty Castle and wander through the adjoining Folk Park recreating villages of a century or so ago.

The Cliffs of Moher were visible on the day we were there – they are often wrapped in fog. They stretch for 5 miles along the Atlantic and are 702 feet at their highest point.

We visited another Quilt Guild in Limerick, Winander House on Park



(above) Ben Bulbin from Keats Gravesite
(below) Town of Westport





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LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1987



Matt Molloy (bearded, on left) and band

Road. A class was in progress, and Leslie chatted with the owner, met an American woman who had gone to the same Los Angeles high school as Leslie, and whose parents live near Leslie. Small world!

I took a couple of pictures, and then we were off to Cork to the tiny hamlet my grandmother came from. Google maps did an amazing job of getting us there along winding byways, several kilometers on a one lane road, unpaved, with grass growing between the tire tracks, no place to pull over and let an oncoming car by, only a couple of abandoned houses... hoping we would not meet anything coming our way! If that worst happened, our plan was to present ourselves as helpless & hapless American tourists and guilt the other car into backing up the

several kilometers..After seeing only green fields, gorse and occasional cows, feeling we were hopelessly lost, we came upon a house with a place to turn around and 3 cars and 1 truck in the parking area. It was probably about 10 miles from the nearest town but felt far more remote in its sense of connection to the modern world. Reassured that we were still in the 21st century and that civilization, and maybe directions to my grandmother’s family, were nigh, I went to the front door and knocked.

The couple that lives there were very gracious & invited us in. They said that my great grandfather built a barn that had stood on their property until about 10 years ago. They shared family photos of some of my distant cousins, and talked about the



Bunratty Castle Medieval Feast and Show



Traditional Irish Village Park adjacent to Bunratty Castle

way of life and history of the area. I asked about the potato famine and if it had hit the area badly and he said yes, that many had been lost to death and emigration. His voice was angry as he spoke of those times, and said the losses then are still deeply felt. Barthy said that many people did not talk about that time, and the young people now don’t know their history. It was clear that these were still very

bitter memories for him.

I was impressed anew with the guts it takes for people living in such isolated areas where everybody knows and is probably related to everybody, to leave, land in huge & bustling communities and build a new life.

Our trip was now almost ended, with one more major stop – the Ring of Kerry.




Limerick Quilt Guild



One lane road in Cork


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