



Caitlin Seyfried

A movie plays at Neptune Movie House's drive-in.

Continued from Page 12

Stott's didn't predict.

"People can bring their dogs, people with little kids can bring the kids without worrying about them disturbing other people, and people who smoke can come now. And, of course, people who are still afraid to go out," Stotts said.

Before buying the theater, Stotts owned the Pioneer Market in Long Beach.

"I grew up working with my parents in our old store and I just couldn't do that at Pioneer with my son as a single mom. I saw this as a better fit," Stotts said. "It's family-run. We have a couple of employees and we're all really close. It's a much different pace."

Since purchasing the theater, Stotts has worked on several building upgrades. She has also planned special movie watching events for movies.

"It took seven months and then we were really busy. We started to do events. We had a 'Frozen 2' event. We all dressed up. I had people lined up all the way to the parking lot and I had to tell them 'no seats left,'" Stotts said.

The theater also held an event for the release of "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker."

"The high school came and played 'Star Wars' music down in the theater before it started," Stotts said.

Pacific Integrated Martial Arts led "jedi training." The theater also had face-painting and everyone dressed up.

"People were asking when we were going to do more events. They were looking forward to them but then COVID hit, of course," Stotts said.

Stotts' continues to host events to make the theater a community space. She looks forward to hosting future ones.

On March 29, the theater hosted a fundraiser at the drive-in for the Foss family of Astoria, who lost their house in a landslide in January.

Stotts plans to host a concert outside in May.

"It's an AC/DC tribute band. They were supposed to play at the Liberty last year and then everything shut down. I'm working to get everything set up out there but I think we got it," Stotts said.

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