

Water testing:
San Diego county voted to temporarily pay to monitor the cleanliness of beach water. 5

Weekend Surf Report

SATURDAY

Hi: 5:37 a.m. Low: 12:45 a.m. Surf: 3-10 ft Wind: 4-10 mph
7:25 p.m.

SUNDAY

Hi: 6:43 a.m. Low: 12:49 a.m. Waves: 2-4 ft Wind: 10-20 mph
7:53 p.m. 1:26 p.m.

Thursday, April 2, 2009



What happens when an elementary school is shuttered for lack of enrollment?
See story on page 3 to find out about the fate of Mission Beach Elementary that closed 13 years ago...



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Crew Classic rows in...
See page 18.

Fish farm planned for Mission Beach coast

By **SEBASTIAN RUIZ** | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Researchers from the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute propose building a fish farm as large as 30 football fields just five miles off the coast of Mission Beach. The fish farm, known as an aquaculture, would help the fishing industry keep up with U.S. demand for seafood, according to Mark Drawbridge, director of the aquaculture project.

With the U.S. importing as much as 80 percent of its seafood, a successful aquaculture could spawn an entire domestic fishing industry, Drawbridge said.

“We are looking to launch the ... project to demonstrate the commercial and environmental adequacy of the offshore [fish] farming,” Drawbridge said. “We’ve been doing research for about 30 years. The situation right now is that capture fisheries can’t keep up with the demand [for seafood].”

Hubbs-SeaWorld researchers envision farming striped bass, white bass, California halibut and California yellowtail in 24 net pens secured to the sandy ocean bottom about five miles off the Mission Beach coastline. The aquaculture could produce 3,000 metric tons of fish a year and contribute an estimated \$25 million or more annually to the U.S. fishing industry, Drawbridge said.

Local fishing industry representatives have reportedly come onboard with the project.

Bob Fletcher, president of the Sportfishing Association of California, said Hubbs-SeaWorld has addressed the local fishing industry’s concerns over location.

Fletcher said the institute did not propose build-

ing the pens in popular ocean fishing grounds frequented by local private fishermen.

“As a result of that cooperation with the industry, the fishermen are in support of the Hubbs-SeaWorld program,” Fletcher said.

Steve Foltz, vice president of Chesapeake Fishing Company, a seafood distributor based at the San Diego Bay, agreed. He said the project is a good thing all around because it would help meet consumer demand.

Hubbs-SeaWorld already operates a white seabass hatchery in Carlsbad that grows and releases “fingerlings” into the ocean and that electronically tracks the fish movement.

Catherine Miller, a representative of the San Diego Sportfishing Council, said the Carlsbad hatchery boosts the fish population that helps the local fishing industry.

Environmentalists remain skeptical but are open to the project, said Bill Hickman, executive director of the Surfrider Foundation in San Diego. His concerns include pollution from fish feed and waste, the attraction of predators such as seals and sharks and escaping fish.

Hubbs-SeaWorld researchers say the fish are native to the California coast and do not represent a threat to the ocean environment. Currents would carry fish waste away and nets around the fish farm would keep predators at bay, according to Hubbs-SeaWorld officials.

“I don’t know if we would support it, but we wouldn’t be opposed to it,” Hickman said. “If it moves forward we want to make sure it’s done properly.”

Hubbs-SeaWorld must acquire permits from the California Coastal Commission before it can begin construction within a few years.



Fishing nets enclose farmed fish, an operation similar to the aquaculture proposed five miles off Mission Beach coast by Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute.

Courtesy photo



An activist protests San Diego Unified School District’s plan to share principals among small elementary schools to save money outside a board meeting on March 24.

Courtesy photo

Principal-sharing plan sparks protest

By **SEBASTIAN RUIZ** | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Pacific Beach Elementary will have to share a principal with another small elementary school of less than 500 students if a plan adopted by the San Diego Unified School District’s (SDUSD) board of trustees comes to fruition. Twenty schools across the district face sharing principals.

The plan, adopted in early March, also eliminates magnet school busing and increases class size, among other measures trustees said will save the district an estimated \$34 million.

Dawna Deatrick, president of Friends of Pacific Beach Elementary, said the PB Elementary staff, part-time counselor and part-time nurse already fulfill multiple roles. Cutting a principal’s time would affect the school’s organization.

“Without a principal, there’s nobody to lead the school,” Deatrick said.

Lisa Bonebrake, a member of the Bird Rock Elementary Parent Committee, said “half-time princi-

pals” are lawsuits waiting to happen.

“Should there be any... other emergency, we will have no principal, vice principal or counselor on site,” Bonebrake said.

By law, there must be a designated contact person at the school for emergencies, according to school board officials.

The school board made the decision to divide principals’ time without consulting principals or parents, Bonebrake said.

She said the community will help find better options so “we can keep our principals.”

Bonebrake joined more than 100 students, parents, principals and administrators March 24 at the SDUSD board meeting at the Eugene Brucker Education Center to protest the elimination of student busing to magnet schools and the plan to consolidate principals.

Sunset View Elementary School Principal Linda Parker said princi-



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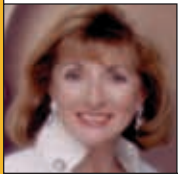
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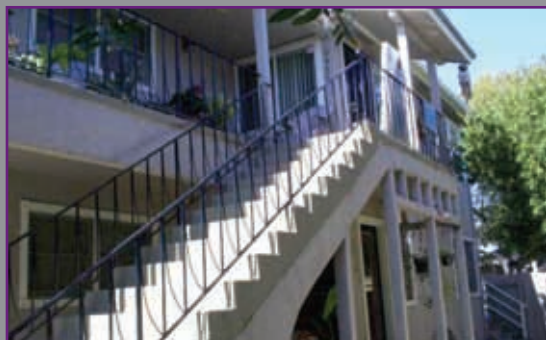


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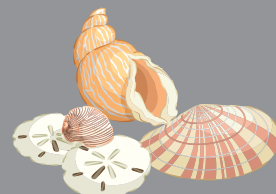
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Still standing: the fate of a shuttered elementary school

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The seemingly empty, aging school building on Mission Boulevard and Santa Barbara Place houses administrative offices. Even with a well-kept lawn and flowering landscape, it seems like a far cry from its former use as the Mission Beach Elementary School that closed approximately 13 years ago.

Elementary teacher hopefuls visit several times a week for internship and teacher training. And behind the quiet doors of the southside building, the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) department stakes its headquarters, even as administrators contemplate the future of the program.

The quiet, shuttered elementary school serves as an example of what could happen to a small school once it is closed.

The school closed its doors to students in 1996 because of declining enrollment, according to San Diego Unified School District officials. The city's elementary schools have historically suffered from declining enrollment with slight increases at some schools in years past.

Though now used for administrative offices, the 3.25-acre site could be worth an estimated \$10 million to \$15 million, according to local real estate professionals. The district has discussed selling the property in the past but there

are no current plans to sell the old elementary school, according to SDUSD Trustee John de Beck.

While the discussion has surfaced in the past, the school district must follow a protocol to sell the property that must first be considered for government uses, such as low-income housing or park and recreation use, according to California Education Code section 17459.

Any revenue from surplus property must go toward capital investments such as improving school buildings or other infrastructure, de Beck said.

"We could buy computers maybe, but no operating expenses could be covered by it," de Beck added.

The campus sits enveloped by single-family and multi-family homes. If the property ever became available for redevelopment, the surrounding community would probably prefer single-family homes rather than large apartments, said Richard Miller, chair of the Mission Beach Precise Planning Committee. And they wouldn't appreciate an extra 48 cars adding to the congestion, he said.

Neighbors don't seem to mind the relative calm that's resulted from the site's administrative uses, he said, adding that the site doesn't seem to be a target for gangs.

"I like it as a utility building for the school because it feels like open

space," Miller said. "It's the functional equivalent of green space."

And as the school district battles to close the budget gap, the fate of elementary schools with dwindling student populations seems to suggest that the property is worth more without students unless the local elementary student population replenishes.

"Admittedly, it's worth more as a capital investment, and we'll probably never use it as a school [again]," de Beck said.

VAPA holds on

Though safe for now, VAPA nearly faced elimination next year because of a school budget shortfall estimated at more than \$100 million. The program sits on a list of Plan B budget cuts but trustees have thus far chosen Plan A. In that plan, trustees voted to eliminate busing to magnet schools, share principals between small elementary schools, increase class size at the elementary level and raise the cost of health benefits for employees. The school board adopts the final budget in June.

VAPA Director Karen Childress-Evans said she is still fighting to save the program.

"[VAPA] is like a tree, something growing for students," Childress-Evans said. "If they remove VAPA, they'll pull it out by the roots."

VAPA has a \$3.1 million budget, which mostly pays for staff, Chil-

dress-Evans said. She said her department could pare down expenses, but that means potential staff cuts.

The program sends music teachers to approximately 123 elementary schools throughout the district, including the Suzuki violin magnet program at Crown Point Elementary on Ingraham Street. Crown Point Elementary also showed up on a list of small schools considered for closure or reconfiguration to save money earlier in the year. Small schools like Crown Point are more expensive to run, according to school officials.

The school board is considering

closing 12 small schools throughout the district as part of "Plan B: back-up reductions," among other cuts that may be needed to save another \$34 million, according to SDUSD documents.





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Defendant convicted in Bub's stabbing

By NEAL PUTNAM | BEACH & BAY PRESS

A jury convicted Matthew David Thornton on March 24 of attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon after Thornton allegedly stabbed Clifford Riek 17 times outside Bub's Dive Bar on Garnet Avenue on March 9, 2007.

Thornton, 27, of San Diego, faces a maximum term of 24 years in prison for stabbing Riek, 28, in the neck, face and back. Riek survived the assault.

The jury, comprised of seven men and five women, also convicted Thornton of committing battery with serious bodily injury, following one day of deliberations. The trial began March 16. Thornton did not testify.

Minutes before the stabbing, a security guard had thrown Riek out of Bub's Dive Bar. Riek could not identify Thornton as his attacker as he testified he was too intoxicated to remember much of what happened that night. Riek said he did not know why the security guard had ejected him from the bar.

William Guerin, an off-duty El Cajon police officer, happened to be inside the bar just before Riek

was stabbed and testified he identified himself as an officer to Thornton, who then fled. Guerin chased after Thornton, who dropped a knife. Guerin asked someone to stay with the knife, but lost Thornton. San Diego police officers arrested Thornton shortly afterwards.

Deputy District Attorney Allen Brown argued that Thornton's DNA was found on the knife, along with the victim's blood. A mixture of Riek and Thornton's DNA was found on the knife handle. Thornton was also cut with the knife and received five stitches on his forearm after he was arrested and taken to a hospital.

Thornton's attorney, Brian Funk, asked for an acquittal, saying that security cameras showed it was impossible for Thornton to have stabbed Riek. He argued that there was "evidence that it was more than one person." He said security cameras suggested a man with a knife wore different clothing than Thornton, and the off-duty police officer was chasing another man, and not Thornton.

Funk said eye-witness identification is "the least reliable" method in observation, and cited memory gaps by the victim and

others.

"It's a bar fight," said Funk, saying others had joined. Funk said Riek antagonized bar staff and was ejected because "he was being a jerk that night."

Patrick John Barreiro, 26, of Oceanside had pleaded no-contest in July 2007 to punching Riek that night, but not to using a knife. A judge originally charged Barreiro with felony assault and ordered he spend 180 days in jail, but the sentence was dropped to a misdemeanor charge and Barreiro only spent one night in jail. Barreiro was also fined \$360, ordered to perform 20 days of public service work and barred from drinking alcohol for the next three years.

Thornton has a robbery conviction from 2004 in Vista Superior Court, which could increase his sentence. Thornton's latest trial was delayed so long because his attorneys kept changing; Funk was his sixth lawyer. Thornton went on trial in November 2008 on assault, battery and burglary charges in an unrelated case involving a disturbance in an Oceanside home, but the jury deadlocked and a mistrial was declared.

San Diego Superior Court Judge Kerry Wells set sentencing for Thornton on April 24. Thornton remains at the George Bailey Detention Facility on \$400,000 bail.

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County votes to fund beach water testing

By ADRIANE TILLMAN | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The cleanliness of beach water will continue to be monitored since the County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to pay for a scaled-down version of the program at its March 24 meeting.

Supervisor Greg Cox urged the board to fork out \$150,000 to monitor beach water from April 1 to Oct. 31 since the state cut off money to counties for testing due to the freezing of Prop. 13 funding. In 2000, voters had approved Prop. 13 to sell \$1.97 billion in bonds for clean water purposes.

The county will only sample water at 19 shoreline sites weekly instead of the previous 57 sites when the state funded \$302,000 for the program. The county chose specific sites for continued testing where bacteria levels had exceeded state standards in the past, as well as ones that are popular and used most often.

Along Mission Bay, the county will test water for total coliform, fecal coliform and enterococci at six sites: Tecolote (playground watercraft area), Leisure Lagoon, Visitors Center (shoreline), De

Anza Cove (swim area), Campland and Bonita Cove eastern shore. In Pacific Beach, water testing will continue at Tourmaline. In Ocean Beach, the county will test at the San Diego River outlet or Dog Beach. In La Jolla, the county will sample water at La Jolla Cove and Torrey Pines (Penasquitos Lagoon outlet). Along San Diego Bay, water will be monitored at Shelter Island and Tidelands Park (Coronado bayside).

"Environmental health executives have analyzed the data and concluded with confidence that reduced testing will still meet the threshold required to protect the public health," wrote Cox in a March 16 letter to the board urging members to fund the program.

Once the state releases funding for the beach water monitoring, the county plans to reevaluate the program to determine whether to return to testing 57 sites or continue its abridged version of only monitoring the most polluted and popular spots.

The county cannot accept all the responsibility for the beach water monitoring program, Cox stated in

his letter to the board. He said the county must "engage the coastal cities, the Unified Port of San Diego and agencies that discharge wastewater in discussions leading to development of a formula for shared funding responsibility."

County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price had originally said the board would not take from its general fund to pay for the program.

Last issue the supervisor told the Beach & Bay Press "We can't afford to just continue to absorb [the state's] bad debt," and that the county "will have to let [beach water monitoring] go by the way-side if [the state doesn't] fund it."

However, Slater-Price has since been reassured that the state would return the funding, pending the sale of the bond, after Cox traveled to Sacramento to discuss the issue with the State Water Resources Control Board.

"We don't see it as a backfill but more as a bridge loan in order to not miss a window of opportunity," Slater-Price said. "Spring break is here, the weather is warming up and everyone is heading to the beach."

PRINCIPAL

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

pals develop relationships with students, staff and parent organizations. She said dividing a principal's time between two schools would affect the quality of education and those relationships.

"The reality is that a principal of two schools... will be at each school less than half time, yet remain responsible for both full time," Parker told trustees during the meeting.

Barnard Elementary is a magnet school with fewer than 400 students. The district currently buses students from across the district because some parents can't transport their children.

"If the buses stop, the options stop," Barnard Principal Edward Park said.

But while options for students and families are under threat, the SDUSD Board of Education seems to have plenty of options.

Instead of sending pink slips to teachers and possibly rescinding them later, the board proposed to cut programs such as magnet school busing, according to SDUSD board member John de Beck, who represents schools in many of the beach communities.

He said the board decided on the proposed plan to satisfy San Diego County Department of Education deadlines. The school district reports to the county and needs to show a "fiscally solvent" budget, de Beck said. The board needs to review decisions on issues like sharing principals, he said.

Sharing principals, he said, is "impractical" at some small schools like Bird Rock Elementary. The school is close to capacity with more than 400 students.

He added that the school board should determine which schools share principals on a case-by-case basis instead of all small schools bearing the brunt.

Getting rid of magnet school busing, de Beck added, may

require canceling entire magnet programs at schools that bus in a large number of students.

"This is a serious budget year," de Beck said. "So [the communities] need to tell us their views."



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Mission Blvd. condo project violates parking code

The large project going up on the corner of Pacific Beach Drive and Mission Boulevard places high-density condominium/rental housing with inadequate parking in an area where parking is already very difficult. The Pacific Beach Planning Committee unanimously rejected the plans for the development – in large part due to parking concerns. It was appealed to the City Council which approved it with a resolution that stated “parking will be according to code.”

We measured the spaces on the working construction plans: 29 spaces were almost a foot-and-a-half narrower than code requires. The city employee who had signed off on the parking stated that he had the power to change or waive the code, even after the City Council resolution. He also said the builder could not have built this project if the city hadn’t allowed the spaces to be narrower than permitted by the code because they wouldn’t have been able to fit all the spaces needed.

That is precisely the point. This project was shoehorned in and should not have been built to this density. It would have been better to have fewer bedrooms and the correct number of full size parking spaces. “Parking according

GUEST COMMENTARY

James M. Larson
Friends of Pacific Beach

to code” was not an incidental part of the approval process. It specifically reflected the concern of the neighborhood over chronic parking problems, which it seems this project will make even worse.

Parking is a critical problem in the beach area. The oversize vehicle ordinance has been put on hold and the neighborhood parking task force has been suspended. These undersize parking spaces will drive everyone who has a larger vehicle onto the neighborhood streets where we already have a major parking problem.

I would also suggest that these proposed condos will end up as winter mini-dorms. Do the math. Three students (at least) per unit in 17 units with 51 cars plus commercial parking and visitors fighting for 48 spaces, almost half of which are undersized.

It’s also peculiar that this project was approved when the previous structure, Mission Bay Market, was subject to periodic flooding. The plans show that the Mission Bay Market floor was higher than the proposed floors of the new

commercial structures. This area floods every few years and we have photos showing it deeply flooded. Look at the pad of the house behind it. This is the elevation needed to prevent flooding. A heavy winter rain and high tide will also put their entire parking lot underwater.

I’m feeling pretty frustrated because we haven’t gotten a clear answer from the city explaining how they can violate the building code and a City Council resolution. Apparently the city engineer does not have to follow the parking code or a City Council resolution but he can go ahead and make “reasonable accommodations” as long as the project is “substantially conforming” to the building and parking codes.

Parking codes are not technicalities and exist for a good reason. The fact that the city has arbitrarily waived its own rules about parking in the beach impact area will have a definitive, real-world adverse effect on the quality of life in this part of Pacific Beach. I would expect the developer to want to maximize his return and bend the rules wherever he can. I’m most disappointed in the fact that no one in city government takes responsibility for decisions that run contrary to the interests of its own neighborhoods and citizenry.



Small
World
Eve Anderson

My nice quiet neighborhood...It’s not far from a main street, but in my garden I can hear the birds: hummingbirds diving and chirping, mockingbirds performing musical acrobatics and tiny finches, peeping and hopping through the trees like Disney wind-up toys.

I should say, “Hear the birds again.” Three years ago, my neighbor up the back hill decided to rebuild; one wall remained. The pool was also to be retiled. First came demolition equipment. (Hammers, crow-bars, saws.) Cement was removed. (Jackhammers, tile saws.) KA-THUNK, into the dumpster. One full year (tile saws, nail guns, drills) and his lovely house was completed.

The dumpster moved – next door! That back yard received French drains (backhoe, jackhammers) and stone walls (tile saws).

In 2007, my neighbor across the street remodeled inside (dumpster, tile saws, drills). Last summer I hit the trifecta: That neighbor rebuilt her back yard (cement trucks, jackhammers, saws); next to her, they gutted the house (dumpster, tile saws, drills); and my neighbor to the west redid her kitchen (saws, drills).

NOTE: Anyone nearby considering remodeling, one word: fugetaboutit.

Home (not so) sweet home... “Guess what? We bought a house in Spring Valley!” our friends announced proudly. Greg and I raised eyebrows to each other. How could this be? They were self-employed and always seemed to be short of money.

“Our mortgage guy says it will cost the same each month as our rent – he says we can do it.” For two years they did do it, adding \$4,000 in landscaping in their spare time. And then the mortgage reset. Instead of \$2,000 a month, they needed \$3,300. Meanwhile, their work – along with their income and the value of the house – slid south. Last summer they lost the house.

Were they upset? “We’re renting a bigger place for only \$1,900,” he said, obviously relieved. “And when something goes wrong, we call the landlord.”

Another set of friends, also self-employed, refinanced their home. With (gulp) Countrywide. They bought equipment for their business. And bingo! Their mortgage reset. They’re desperately trying to rework the loan to save the house they’ve owned and improved for 10 years.

It’s one thing to read statistics. So many foreclosures, so many people behind in payments. But it’s painful to watch friends – good, hard-working people who in better times created employment for others – struggling.

On the other hand...Both of my kids are house-hunting. With prices so low, now they can afford to look.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To my mother

Last month, March, was the month of awareness for battered women. Today there are women’s shelters, women’s support groups and most of all, admission that women get battered by men.

In 1970, 39 years ago, in San Francisco, my neighbor called the police because her husband was hitting her. They told her they were not allowed to interfere because it was a “domestic issue.”

Sixty years ago, you (my mother) were a battered woman with four kids. The only way out was to leave the kids behind, and you could not live with your conscience in doing that. And you found strength to endure it for 20 years.

Today you are 90 years old – very alert, intelligent and a beautiful woman.

Sierra Wysling
Pacific Beach

Correction:

The Feb. 5 poll should have stated people voted 78 percent no and 22 percent yes to the following question: “Do you agree with SDUSD’s decision to end the JROTC marksmanship training at Mission Bay High School?”

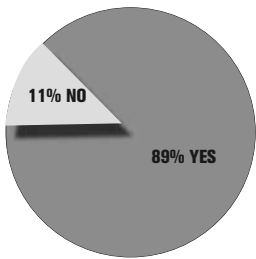


poll

WE ASKED:

Do you support people’s rights to openly carry unloaded guns in San Diego?

300 people voted.



NEW QUESTION:

SDUSD chose Plan A over Plan B to solve the budget crisis. Do you agree with SDUSD’s decision to go with Plan A?

Visit www.sdnews.com to read about Plan A and Plan B.

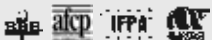
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OPINIONS Signed letters to the editor are encouraged. All letters must include a phone number for verification. The editor may edit letters for clarity and accuracy. Letters should be 350 words or less. Views expressed are not necessarily the views of this newspaper or staff.

SUBMISSIONS Letters and photo submissions are welcomed. Those accompanied by an addressed, stamped envelope will be returned. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity.

DEADLINES All content must be received by 5 p.m. on the Thursday prior to publication.

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NEWS**briefs**

Birthday boy found dead

Celebrating his 21st birthday, Michael David Mayfield was found dead in a hot tub on March 31 at Point Resort & Spa on Mission Bay, according to the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office.

Mayfield was last seen swimming in the resort's pool and hot tub early Tuesday, March 31 as he and his friends celebrated his birthday that night.

The cause of the man's death had not been determined by press time. The medical examiner performed an autopsy on Wednesday, April 1.

Car crashes into house, pot spills out

Police found approximately 70 marijuana plants in a Pacific Beach home after a man suspected of drunk driving crashed into the house on Morrell Street on Sunday, March 22 at approximately 4 p.m., according to police officials.

Police arrested an uninjured, 63-year old Timothy Woodhouse after he drove into the house. He may have hit several vehicles along Garnet Avenue as well, according to police.

Officers found the pot plants, along with several grams of the substance "no longer in plant form," when checking the home for injured persons, stated San Diego Police Department spokeswoman Mónica Muñoz, via email. The residents were out of town at the time of the accident.

Police obtained a search warrant and confiscated the plants. An arrest warrant has also been issued for a resident of the house.

PBTC: Word on the street

Visit www.sdnnews.com for full story

Tired of trash blowing down your street? Sick of the graffiti tags? Fed up with the same old pot-holes? Help is just a few clicks away.

Residents can fill out a request form online on the city's website www.sandiego.gov by clicking on the Public Works and Street Division links. If you see someone spraying graffiti, call 911 to report the incident.

Got solutions to fixing the budget crisis? Facing an estimated \$54

Reading to the dogs



Sophia Renee Piña reads aloud to dog Pepper. The first and third Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. a couple of dogs walk calmly into the children's section of the Birdie Taylor Library in Pacific Beach. They are there to listen while children read aloud to them. The dogs are certified as therapy canines and are part of the program "Wagging Tales" that encourages children reluctant to read aloud to read to dogs. Dogs never criticized the reader for making mistakes or reading too slow. The program is free and open to all ages. For more information e-mail Helene Sherman at hbnsd@san.rr.com.

Story and photograph by Cynthia Hedgecock

million in budget cuts, the city is seeking input and creative ideas from residents. Call the San Diego Speaks hotline at (619) 226-6934.

Councilman Kevin Faulconer will hold a State of the District address on Monday, April 27 at the Old Town Theatre. The city will hold a budget meeting from 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. on Monday, April 20 at the Ocean Beach Recreation Center, 4726 Santa Monica St.

Street sweeping delinquents continue to frustrate PB residents. Activists have often said the city's budget crisis could be dramatically reduced, if not solved, by issuing tickets to the numerous illegally parked cars that take up precious beach space and prevent street sweeping.

Additional enforcement is on the way, said Ronald Lacey of Mayor Jerry Sanders' office. Lacey said the city is hiring additional officers to enforce parking regulations, littering and other infractions that negatively affect the quality of the ocean and beaches.

Pacific Beach Town Council will hold its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15 at the Taylor Library, 4275 Cass St. For more information www.pbtowncouncil.org

Prepare for California least tern

In spring, the endangered California least tern flies to shore to nest on sandy dunes and hatch its young. Open sandy dunes have disappeared, however, into flat, populated beaches and developed cliffs. Along Mission Bay, at Mariner's Point, the invasive Devil's Thorn and Filaree create a vegetative blanket, an unsuitable habitat for nesting least terns, and the birds have not appeared for the past two years. Instead, they started showing up at Dog Beach in Ocean Beach, a less protected site, explained Audubon spokesperson Jim Peugh.

The San Diego Audubon Society hopes to bring the California least tern back to Mission Bay by pulling the invasive plants and setting up least tern decoys to attract the real bird. The group will host its last habitat restoration efforts to prepare the 11-acre site at Mariner's Point on April 11 from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are encouraged to show up with work gloves, weeding tools and clippers, and are advised to wear long-sleeved shirts and bring water.

The least terns may arrive as

SEE BRIEFS, Page 8

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BRIEFS

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

early as April 15 and leave as late as Sept. 15. They prefer a sandy habitat to raise their young because the chicks are sand colored and camouflage into the soil. The adult birds are white with black markings. The open, sandy dunes make it easier for the adults to spot predators, while the invasive vegetation provides a place for predators to perch in wait for the chicks.

“[The California least tern] is endangered because of habitat loss,” Peugh said. “There used to be dunes everywhere. The terns would nest in one dune and if a predator came along, they could move to another dune. Now there are only a

few places that are open enough that they can actually nest on them.”
Directions to Mariner’s Point: From Sea World Drive heading west, exit onto West Mission Bay Drive (going north). Continue over the bridge and then take a left on Gleason Road (across from the Bahia Hotel). Take an immediate left onto Mariners Way and proceed to the end of the road.

Clean PB Day

Pacific Beach Town Council holds a “Clean Pacific Beach Day” the first Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers meet at the PB library on 4275 Cass St. Tools, gloves and trash bags will be provided. Youth under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call (858) 483-6666 or email pbtowncouncil@sbcglobal.net

Get to know Discover PB

Discover PB will host an open house on April 14, 6-8 p.m. at the Catamaran Resort Hotel. Meet the group’s new executive director, Andy Hanshaw, hired on March 3. Hanshaw was previously a development officer for San Diego State University’s five-year, \$11 million fundraising campaign for the Alumni Center that is now under construction. He has also worked for business improvement districts in downtown Phoenix and downtown Portland, Ore.

Indoor playhouse opens

Imagine your child jumping from a pirate ship into the freezing ocean, swimming onto the shore of a moat and scaling the wall of a medieval castle like a hero.

Kid Ventures indoor play village and parent café at 5066 Santa Fe Drive provides the toys, clothes and setting for children to let their imagination, literally, run wild.

Kid Ventures celebrates its grand opening at the play village in Pacific Beach on Saturday April 4, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parents, grandparents and lazy babysitters are invited to bring the little ones for a day of play, and join in themselves.

“We call it edutainment,” said creator and owner Debbie Fricker-Solomon. “It’s a whole family interaction for both the kids and parents.”

The 6,000-square-foot indoor

Pink is in the air



Emily Goerss gazes at the pink, vintage dress she wore to the prom in the 1950s. Goerss, who recently moved back to Pacific Beach after 41 years away, consigned three vintage dresses to Cream of the Crop consignment store at 4685 Cass St. that are displayed in the window, now selling for \$260. “I’ll let somebody else have the fun,” Goerss said.

ADRIANE TILLMAN | BEACH & BAY PRESS

playhouse includes a large-scale toy fire engine, a grocer, a library and, of course, the pirate ship and

castle. A disco room complete with mirrors and a disco ball rounds out the party.



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Monday Lobster Nights: Embrace the start of the week with a menu that offers three different lobster preparations. Mondays, 5:30 to 9 p.m. Three-Courses, \$40 per person.

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The Art of Fashion Meets Culinary Passion: Learn to prepare Steamed Black Mussels, Ruby Red Ahi Tuna and Caramelized Apricot Cake then enjoy each of the items during a three-course lunch. Saks Fifth Avenue will be present with models, product displays and special discounts! Wednesday, April 29. 11:30 a.m. demonstration. 1 p.m. lunch. \$65 per person. Limited seating available.



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Chiropractic center offers health lectures

Mission Beach chiropractic will hold free lectures and meditation sessions throughout April on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. featuring Dr. Valerie Lunnon and Dr. Hillari Hamilton.

On April 14, vaccines will be discussed. On April 21, there will be meditation. On April 28, a lecture will be given about healthy backs, stretching and nutrition.

All events take place at Mission Beach Chiropractic, 2990 Mission Blvd, Suite 101.

RSVP at (858) 539-7227.

Easter egg hunt

An Easter egg hunt will take place on Saturday, April 11, 10-11 a.m. at the PB Recreation Center, 1405 Diamond St.

The day will include crafts, face painting, hot dogs, refreshments and a recycling fair. Age divisions: 10:15 a.m., 2 years and under; 10:30 a.m., 3-4 years; 11 a.m., 5-6 years; 11:30 a.m., 7-9 years; noon, 10-12 years; 12:30 p.m., all ages. For more information call (858) 581-9927.

PB rec center offers spring camp

The Pacific Beach Recreation Camp will host a day camp for children 6 to 12 years old April 6-10 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The camp costs \$125 for the week or \$35 per day.

Mission Beach

Robotics team takes on world championships

By ADRIANE TILLMAN | BEACH&BAY PRESS

For the past six years seven middle-school students have worked together to program a robot to perform hundreds of tasks out of a house in Mission Beach. This past year, the students have wired their robot to help alleviate global warming through tasks like turning off the lights, burying carbon molecules and rescuing stranded polar bears.

Unfortunately the robots are not large enough to impact real global change – they’re made from Legos and wired with touch, light and ultrasonic sensors – but the project is sending the students to Atlanta to compete against peers from as far away as China who have also built global warming-busting robots.

The project is a worldwide student competition called First Lego

League and the Sandy Lego Beachbots team, based in Mission Beach, beat 50 teams in the Southern California Tournament last December to become the tournament winner to progress to the world championship in Atlanta.

Brennan, 14, Ciara, 12, and Nadya Dooley, 11, have been competing for the past six years under the guidance of their coach and mother, Ming. The children are home schooled and live in Mission Beach most of the year. (The family also owns an off-the-grid home in Arizona and travels to India once a year where their father teaches meditation).

Students from across the county comprise the rest of the young team: Rachel Brown, 13, of Clairemont, Sarah Hempton, 11, of Scripps Poway, Collin Metcalf, 14, of Mission Hills and Brannon Smudz, 12, of Poway.



Ciara and Brannon Dooley prepare their Lego robot to perform 14 tasks that will compete in the world championships in Atlanta in late April. Photo courtesy of Ming Dooley

“I think it’s a wonderful program because they’re exposed to all aspects of real life,” Ming said. “They get to do research, work with other people, deal with time management and deadlines and have to present their work on their own...it teaches them a lot of inde-

pendence and problem solving skills.”

The league’s theme this year is climate connections and the students must wire their robot to perform 14 missions in 12-and-a-half

SEE LEGO, Page 17

Beachbots need your help!

The Sandy Lego Beachbots may have made it to the First Lego League world championships but getting there is not cheap. Each contestant must pay \$1,000 to enter the competition, plus pay airfare and hotel fees. The team plans to raise \$7,000 to \$10,000 to assist their journey, and is calling on the community for sponsorship.

Enter a raffle drawing to win a massage, a martial arts membership, cranial sacral treatment and more. Drawing will take place April 11. Buy \$5 tickets online at www.sandylegobeachbots.org or call (858) 344-9143.

Mail a tax deductible donation to 830 Pismo Ct., San Diego, CA, 92109. Make the check payable to Southern California Regional Robotics Forum.

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“Nail Your Prayers to the Cross” You are invited to a time of prayer and meditation. Come and “nail” your written prayers to the Cross!

Good Friday Service: April 10th 7pm
“Cherishing the Old Rugged Cross”

Easter Sunday: April 12th 6:30am Sunrise Service
“Victory in Jesus”

Easter Breakfast: 7:45am
Sunday School: 9:15am
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Message by:
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• Please complete at least 50% of the ballot. • One ballot per person. • Limited to 92109 (you do not need to live in 92109 to vote, all votes are welcome) • Ballots must be postmarked, submitted online, or hand-delivered, by **5/15/09**

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DINING & RESTAURANTS

Overall Restaurant _____
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New restaurant _____
Breakfast _____
Lunch _____
Dinner _____
Take-out _____
Sunday Brunch _____
Family restaurant _____
Restaurant with Wine selection _____
Beer Selection _____
Sports Bar _____
Place to People Watch _____
Pet Friendly Restaurant _____
Best Place to Dance _____
Live music _____
Happy Hour _____
Best Comfort Food _____
Late Night Eatery _____
Place to go on a Budget _____
Place for a Birthday Party _____
Most Romantic _____
Best Ocean View _____
Appetizer _____
Burrito _____
Burger _____
Fish Taco _____
Desserts _____
Margarita _____
Martini _____
Specialty/Trademark Drink _____
Pizza _____
Salad bar _____
Sandwich _____
Steak _____
Sushi _____
Seafood _____
American _____
BBQ _____
Vietnamese _____
Thai _____
Chinese Restaurant _____
French _____
Greek _____
Irish _____
Italian _____
Mexican Restaurant _____
Bakery _____
Bar _____
Cafe _____
Catering _____
Coffee shop _____
Juice Bar _____
Donut Shop _____

Bagel Shop _____
Deli _____
Ice cream / frozen yogurt _____
Vegetarian/Vegan _____
Patio dinning _____
Early Bird Special _____
Bartender _____
RETAIL
Antiques _____
Art gallery _____
Bookstore _____
Chiropractor _____
Furniture store _____
Place with unusual gifts _____
Auto repair _____
Bank _____
Hotel _____
Children’s apparel _____
Men’s apparel _____
Women’s apparel _____
Best place to buy jeans _____
Eye wear _____
Swimsuits _____
Jewelry store _____
Shoe store _____
Dry cleaners _____
Florist _____
Grocery store _____
Travel agency _____
Pet hospital /Vet _____
Hair salon _____
Day spa _____
Health club _____
Yoga facility _____
Senior living facility _____
Tanning salon _____
Printer _____
Nails _____
Shipping/Packaging _____
Dentist _____
Pharmacy _____
Stylist _____
Plumber _____
Electrician _____
Contractor / Construction _____
Optometrist / Ophthalmologist _____
Bicycle shop _____
Scooter / Motorcycle _____
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All the doctors are in the house

Healthcare center opens to offer the traditional and alternative

By ADRIANE TILLMAN | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The Pacific Beach community toasted glasses of champagne and applauded the opening of the \$2 million Renew Integrative Health Center on March 26, located on Balboa Avenue, that offers patients a mix of traditional doctors, eastern medicine and alternative therapies.

Patients can visit the doctor for an earache, the chiropractor for neck troubles, the acupuncturist for pain treatment and the marriage therapist to work through personal issues all under one roof where staff can share information about patients.

“We’re able to communicate a lot more easier,” said chiropractor Robert Buechel. “Instead of doing a report we can go to the doctor and talk about the case. We’re able to pass along information in the fastest way possible.”

Buechel is also the clinic director who first envisioned the integrative model and built the business with his wife, Stacie, who is expecting their second child.

At Renew’s opening on March 26, Buechel joked, albeit truthfully, that the clinic had contracted three attorneys to ensure the center’s approach to healthcare didn’t avail itself to lawsuits. For the past three to four years, Buechel said he’s worked with consultants and attorneys to set up the health center.

“There’s not a lot of models out there,” Buechel said. “We’re kind of breaking ground for other practices to set up this way.”

Buechel said chiropractors often act as primary care physicians for patients and that understanding what other practitioners do helps him know how best to refer a

patient to another specialist, if necessary, plus keeps him abreast on other medical fields.

“You need to know when to refer a patient,” Buechel said. “So knowing what they do and how they do it and how it fits into your patient’s health helps.”

The chiropractor and his wife put together the team of specialists who came from as far as Washington, as well as Poway, Hillcrest and La Jolla. Dr. George Weiss is the center’s medical doctor and pain specialist who runs a wellness and longevity center in La Jolla.

Buechel, 38, had previously worked as a chiropractor for 10 years on both Garnet Avenue and Fanuel Street, and graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic. He said he wanted to help people just like his father who was a medic in the Navy.

The health center received a small business loan from the county, administered by Temecula Valley Bank, in 1997 to purchase the property on the corner of Balboa Avenue and Olney Street. Altogether it cost \$2 million to purchase the property and renovate the building that had formerly been an office for another medical practitioner. Buechel and his partners had to put forward 10 percent as part of the loan.

Community leaders praised the opening of the center, and the dedication of the Buechel couple. City Councilman Kevin Faulconer said the center demonstrates Buechel’s care for others.

“[The health center] makes a statement of your dedication to Pacific Beach, of your dedication to the quality of health and your dedication to doing it right,” Faulconer said.



Staff and doctors introduce themselves at the opening of Renew Health Center on March 26. Clinic director Robert Buechel stands second from right.

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YMCA Camp Erdman's traditional Resident Camp is ideal for girls and boys 6-15 years of age, and offers activities such as; archery, athletics, swimming, arts & crafts, high ropes, and nature classes. Specialty camps include; surfing, horsemanship, creative arts, skateboarding, rock climbing, English as a second language, leader in training and the Hawaii Teen Experience. Register online at www.camperdman.net or call 808.637.5615.

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Claytime Ceramics Camps offer a good balance of indoor and outdoor activities. Children begin their day with a walk by the tidepools (one block away from the studio), followed by warmup exercises at the studio.

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Call 858-539-2003 for more information or to enroll today, or see their website at www.watersportscamp.com.

YMCA of San Diego County

YMCA of San Diego County operates three distinct camps. All of our camps are mission driven, focused on the four core values of the YMCA; Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. Your child will enjoy our safe and nurturing environment, all while having fun and making friends at our ACA accredited camp. Action packed days are followed by our legendary camp fires and skit

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YMCA Camp Marston is an activity based camp. Your child can choose from the 40-ft. climbing tower, archery, drama, arts & crafts, swimming, mountain scooters, and much more. YMCA Camp Surf is located near Coronado where water sports are supplemented with traditional camp activities. YMCA Rain-tree Ranch allows campers to learn many aspects of horsemanship while also enjoying dips in the pool, nature hikes, and arts & crafts.

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For Camp Surf contact Zayanne at zgardner@ymca.org or 619.423.5850.
For Marston & Raintree Ranch, contact Simon at mtngroups@ymca.org or 760.765.0642.

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One concern of parents sending children to computer-based camps is how active the experience will be. Will the whole day be spent in front of the computer? How can I balance my child's interest in technology with my desire for them to have a physically active camp experience? One option is to sign up separately for computer-based camps and for sports camps. The costs, however, can add up quickly. An alternative is to consider programs that balance the two areas with very unique experiences. Students looking to combine an interest in filmmaking with an interest in skateboarding can participate in a weeklong camp called Skateboarding and Filmmaking with the Digital Media Academy (DMA). Teens visit three skate parks and receive instruction from experts while also capturing the action on film. In a state of the art classroom studio, students learn to edit and integrate special effects to create a skateboarding video. This camp will be offered at UCSD. DMA also offers a Surfing and Filmmaking camp at UCSD. Students improve surfing skills and create a video.

For more information on these camps, including dates, and on other DMA camps for kids and teens, please visit digitalmediaacademy.org or call 866-656-3342.

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The Bishop's School's Summer Session. June 22 to July 22, 2009 for students in grades 5 to adult. Summer session offers morning and afternoon classes for credit, enrichment, preparation, and review. Fun special programs include SUPERCAMP, Science Camp for girls only,

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Julie Zedalis, Director of Summer Session, at zedalisj@bishops.com or (858) 459-4021, Ext. 773. Come celebrate summer and learning on Bishop's beautiful campus in La Jolla.

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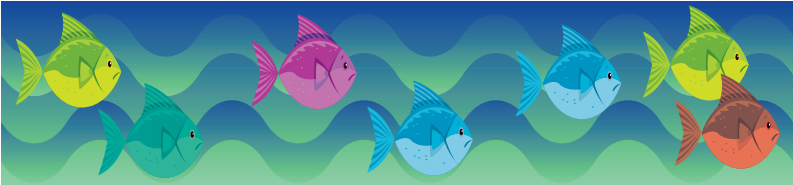
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Nike Baseball Camps

Director of the camp is Head Baseball Coach, Dan O'Brien. Coach O'Brien enters his 13th season as head coach of the UC San Diego baseball team in 2009. Serving as Lead Instructor for this week of NIKE Camp is Assistant Coach Michael Oseguera. Campers will train on the beautifully groomed fields of UCSD. Tri-

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and Science Camp. Art Camp teaches children drawing and painting techniques, including T-shirt and hat painting, as well as craft-making such as origami, puppetry, castle building, and more. Our exciting Science Camp will have tons of hands-on experiments, gooey concoctions, and scientific investigations. Children will head into outer space, learn why and how to "Go Green," and enjoy a Safari adventure! Each 'scientist' will wear a lab coat and keep detailed records of their observa-

tions and findings. Game Camp helps students develop strategies for play, use their creativity, and strengthen math skills. Campers will learn and play Chess, Backgammon, Boggle, Chinese Checkers, and student-created board games. Weekly Camp Dates are June 15-August 14, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Extended care is available. Call 619-223-3663 for more information or visit the website at www.warren-walker.com

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Our free programs include weekly Wells Book Clubs, Storytime, and Community Spotlights.

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 4656 Mission Blvd. P.B. 858-274-2473	Nightly Specials: 1/2 Price Wings \$1.50 House Sliders!	HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY!	1/2 OFF HUMP DAY: 1/2 price Wings and Apps!	5:30-Close \$8 Bud Light & Bud Light Pitchers!	Nightly Specials: \$4 Han Vodka & Red Bull 6pm - Close!	College Football \$3 So Ju Margarita's ALL DAY!	Nightly Specials: 5:30- Close 1/2 price wings \$8 Bud/Bud Light pitchers
 FIREHOUSE AMERICAN COUNTRY & LOUNGE 722 Grand Avenue 858-274-3100	Nightly Specials: Mandatory Mondays + open Wii play \$3 beers & 1/2 off specialty drinks 9 - CL	Nightly Specials: 50 cent ribs. beer & a shot \$6	Nightly Specials: Top Chef/Project Runway in high def. 1/2 off bottles of wine ALL NIGHT	Nightly Specials: \$3 Thursdays \$3 wells, drafts and bottled beers	Nightly Specials: \$3 Firehouse drafts ALL NIGHT	Every Saturday DJs all night	Every Sunday Daytime DJs
 4190 Mission Blvd 858-273-4668	Mon-Fri Happy Hour (3-6pm) drink specials all day, every day – food specials						
 LATITUDE 32° PUB & GRILL 5019 Cass Street P.B. 858-273-0501	Military Monday: 20% off + \$9.99 Crab legs	Nightly Specials: Trivia with Candace & JoAnn – All you can eat wings for \$12.99	Wings Day: 10 boneless wings & fries for \$5.99	Nightly Specials: Happy Hour – All Day	Fiesta Friday's: \$3 Corona, Corona Lite + Pacifico – 1/2 price nachos. Patio Only.	Nightly Specials: Come and visit your favorite Hooters Girl	Nightly Specials: Kids Eat Free
 809 Thomas 858-270-1730	\$5 Lunch Specials, Mon-Fri 11am-3pm Mon-Fri Beer Clock Starts 11am @ \$1.75 until 3pm @ \$2.75, also Happy Hour 3-6pm. * \$5.99 Recession specials dine-in only.						
 PACIFIC BEACH ALE HOUSE 721 Grand Ave. 858-581-BEER	Daily Specials: \$5.99 Recession Special 4-10pm* Homemade Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans	Daily Specials: \$5.99 Recession Special 4-10pm* Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes and Veggies.	Daily Specials: \$5.99 Recession Special 4-10pm* Italian Night & Garlic Bread BYO Wine, No corkage fee	Daily Specials: \$5.99 Recession Special 4-10pm* Mongolian Chicken + Rice	Daily Specials: Mon-Fri 11am-3pm \$5 Lunches, PBR Pitchers \$6.50 50 cent Pool 7-days-a-week	Serving Breakfast 9am-1pm 8 Flat Screens. Mimosas Lunch + Dinner + Beer Specials Grill Open Until 10pm	Serving Breakfast 9am-1pm 8 Flat Screens. Mimosas Lunch + Dinner + Beer Specials Grill Open Until 10pm
 4343 Ocean Blvd. 858-272-SURF	Nightly Specials: Happy Hour 4pm –Close	Nightly Specials: \$2 Tacos and \$5 Tequila Happy Hour 4pm –7pm	Nightly Specials: \$5 Whiskey Drinks Happy Hour 4pm –7pm	Nightly Specials: \$6 Burger and a Beer Happy Hour 4pm –7pm	Nightly Specials: 25% off bottles of wine	Every Saturday \$9 Coors Light Pitchers and \$2 Mimosas Happy Hour 4pm –7pm	Every Sunday \$9 Coors Light Pitchers and \$2 Mimosas Happy Hour 4pm –7pm
 TONY ROMA'S RIBS • SEAFOOD • STEAKS 4110 Mission Blvd. 858-272-7427	Open Wii play	All-You-Can-Eat Crab With hushpuppies and salad + crab races at 10pm.	Uncorked 1/2 price bottles of wine 5-10pm + \$5 Martini Madness at 10pm.	Thursday Special \$3 U-Call-Its from 9pm – close.	Friday Special \$3 U-Call-Its from 9pm – close.	Breakfast (9am – 1pm) with Build Your Own Bloody Marys and Tropical Mimosas.	Breakfast (9am – 1pm) with Build Your Own Bloody Marys and Tropical Mimosas.
	Nightly Specials: Beer Pong 9pm to Close .25 Wings and Industry gets 50% off bill	Nightly Specials: 1/2 off Appetizers 6pm to close	Nightly Specials: Goldfish Racing 9pm to close	Nightly Specials: \$3 U Call it 8pm to close DJ Tony A NO Cover	Nightly Specials: \$3 Drafts, \$3 Tacos NO Cover	Nightly Specials: Badgers Football DJ Tony A \$3 Drafts, \$3 Tacos NO Cover	Nightly Specials: Karaoke with DJ Franqueray Reverse Happy Hour 10pm to Close – \$3 U Cal it
	Happy Hour: Monday – Friday 4 – 6pm \$2 off Bud Light or Hefeweisen Pitchers \$3 off 14 oz Bud Light or Hefeweisen \$3 off well drinks or well wines \$3 off all appetizers \$6.99 basket of 12 wings \$6.99 basket of 4 ribs Fridays Join us for Live Music						
	Daily Special: Happy Hour 11-4					Daily Special: Happy Hour 11-4	Daily Special: Happy Hour 11-4

LEGO

CONTINUED FROM Page 9

minutes. Each mission receives points and the team with the highest points wins.

“All of the missions are related to rising sea levels, climate change or stopping global warming,” said Brennan Ming.

Through the project, Ciara Ming has also learned Dreamweaver and Photoshop to design the group’s website, www.kidskeeptheearthcool.org, and most of the website is written by the young students.

There’s also a second part to the project: research. After watching An Inconvenient Truth and The 11th Hour, perusing the Internet and reading reports, the students arrived at their research thesis: Eat a burrito and save the earth. The students found that more than 27 million animals are slaughtered each day, which accounts for 18 percent of all greenhouse gases compared to the transportation

sector’s 14 percent impact, according to the United Nations 2006 report.

“There are tons of articles out there about this,” said Brennan Ming, who was raised vegetarian. “I’m actually surprised that so few people know about it.”

At the last robotic competition, the students donned chef hats decorated with carrots and celery, warmed vegan pizza in a solar oven and educated the judges about the ills of the meat industry.

On their website, the group encourages supporters to pledge not to eat meat for a few days. The students sell buttons and stickers that read “I eat less meat/stop global warming” with a slash across an image of a cow.

The students plan to take their project one step further by asking the Mission Beach Town Council to install educational posts about global warming on poles around Mission Beach.

“The students are getting a real education in city politics,” Ming said.

BRIEFS

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

Participants must register in advance. For more information call (858) 581-9927.

Clean up Crown Point

Assemblywoman Lori Saldana’s office will host its sixth annual “Creek to Bay” cleanup at 3700 South Crown Point (off Ingraham Street) on April 25 from 9 a.m. to noon. The assemblywoman will not be present herself but her staff will attend. RSVP at <http://www.creetobay.org/index.php/cleanup-sites>.

Donate used goods

Pacific Beach Women’s Club will collect used clothing, household

goods and furniture to benefit the Salvation Army’s Adult Rehabilitation Program on April 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. at 1721 Hornblend. For more information call Patty Barnhill at (858) 270-6264.

City, county officers graded on environmental voting

Four leading environmental groups have released report cards on the environmental voting records of the city and county of San Diego, with county supervisors receiving an average mark for their efforts and their city counterparts scoring somewhat higher.

The League of Conservation Voters San Diego, San Diego Coastkeeper and the local chapters of the

SEE BRIEFS, Page 18



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Regatta brings top rowers to Mission Bay

BY PAUL DOUGLAS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The 36th annual San Diego Crew Classic rowing regatta returns to Mission Bay on April 4 and 5 when the colorful spectacle will send thousands of athletes out to compete for trophies and tradition. The races launch at 7:30 a.m. both days on the east side of Crown Point and continue until 5 p.m.

Top universities and club teams from throughout the country will send their eight-person boats to compete. Local university crews from USD, SDSU and UCSD will each compete in the preliminary events Saturday that will shape their weekend tournament.

The hopeful colligates will race against crews from UCLA, USC, Notre Dame, Stanford, USC, Washington, Georgetown, Harvard, Purdue, Princeton, Yale and Texas to name a few.

USD's Toreros and Lady Aztecs women crews will compete for the Women's Cal Cup, starting in separate heats Saturday morning. But they could go head-to-head in the finals. The SDSU and USD men's crews will also fight for the same varsity Cal Cup.

With just 300 athletes at the inaugural Crew Classic in 1973, the competition now draws more than 3,500 competitors to Mission Bay, representing more than 100 teams, from Washington to

Minnesota to Massachusetts and Florida. More than 20,000 friends, family and fans are expected to participate in the festivities.

Six teams line-up their "shells" for the start of each race under the sky chair ride at SeaWorld, and the roughly seven-minute races finish in full view of fans on Crown Point Shores. Races start every 10 minutes. Fans can watch the races on huge projection screens near the alumni tents. Most races are decided by just 10 feet. The San Diego Rowing Club (SDRC) on El Carmel Point and the ZLAC women's club on Pacific Beach Dr will compete. The historic SDRC was founded in 1888, and the women founded their own all-women's club "ZLAC" in 1892. Junior-team members of SDRC and ZLAC who have earned crew scholarships will return to Mission Bay to represent their universities on familiar waters.

Championship finals for the Jesop-Whittier Cup for women and the Copley Cup for men will run mid-morning on Sunday. Overall the event will include 90 races.

Crew competition dates back to the mid-1800s and is the oldest intercollegiate sporting tradition in America. Collegiate rowers achieve the highest academic performance and graduation rates of any sport, according to the US Rowing Association, founded in



Crew teams row neck in neck, racing to the finish at Crown Point Shores. The 36th annual San Diego Crew Classic regatta returns to Mission Bay on April 4 and 5.

Courtesy photo

1872. Modern 62-foot, carbon fiber "shells" and oar materials challenge the disciplined athletes to excel even more in the human-powered sport.

Teams are classified as Collegiate, Jr. Varsity, Novice, Junior, Club or Masters. Some classes are further divided into light weight crews; women in the team must be under 130 pounds and men under 160. Crews race in their class except for the "open" events where colleges and clubs can go head to head. Eight-oared crews carry a coxwain to steer and keep the team paced as they battle their competitors.

Tickets cost \$7 or \$10 for a two-

day pass. Guests under 13 and active military, policemen and fire fighters are admitted free. There is a fee for parking near the gate, but free parking is available in the lots on Vacation Isle by Ski Beach. A free ride by Cloud 9 Shuttle is available from the lots to the gate.

Guests can bring a lounge chair or blanket for seating, since there is plenty of grass or sand for race viewing. No personal tents, bottles, bikes, skateboards or dogs are permitted inside.

Crew Classic event information is available at www.crewclassic.org.

BRIEFS

CONTINUED FROM Page 17

Surfrider Foundation and the Sierra Club gave the city council and Mayor Jerry Sanders an overall grade of B-plus regarding issues impacting local waters and coastal habitat over the last full year. "The 2008 San Diego Water Quality Report Card" includes information on the city's votes on water and wastewater rate increases, urban runo

ff issues, the beach alcohol ban and coastal protection funding. Five current and former council members scored in the A range.

"The 2008 San Diego County Environmental Report Card" assesses the county board of supervisors on their actions during 2008 related to water and air quality, land use and renewable energy. The average grade was a C, with supervisors Pam Slater-Price and Greg Cox receiving the highest marks, at B-minus.

The report cards, released Feb. 26, were prepared by Strategic Community Consulting, a student-managed firm based at the University of California, San Diego. This is the first year the groups have issued an assessment of the county's actions; the city's report card is the seventh such document. The reports mark the first time all four groups have jointly released their findings.

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Bush charged in lacrosse fight

Former Padres pitcher Matt Bush, a Mission Bay High graduate, has been charged with four misdemeanors of battery after allegedly assaulting Granite Hills students during a lacrosse practice on Feb. 4 in El Cajon.

San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis filed four misdemeanor battery charges against Bush. If convicted, Bush could face up to four years in jail and a \$2,000 fine. Bush is scheduled to be arraigned on April 28 at 8 a.m. in Superior Court in El Cajon.

Bush was allegedly intoxicated when he assaulted the high school lacrosse players who sustained minor injuries, according

to Lt. Steve Shakowski, spokesperson for the El Cajon Police Department.

After the incident, the Padres shipped Bush off to the Toronto Blue Jays to be traded for another player or cashed out, which has yet to be determined.

The Feb. 4 mayhem is the third altercation that Bush has been involved in since being taken No. 1 in the 2004 MLB draft. Two weeks after the draft, Bush was accused of felony assault and misdemeanor trespassing that stemmed from a nightclub altercation near the Padres spring training facility in Peoria, Ariz. Last summer, Bush was involved in another fight near Peoria.



Matt Bush no longer wears the Padres uniform.

Padres' new CEO aims to ease cost burden for fans

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN | BEACH&BAY PRESS

As the San Diego Padres franchise prepares to launch its 41st campaign amid recessionary times, the new CEO has said that his first season will be marked by formulas that make games and concessionary goods easier on the pocketbook.

More than a month before he was introduced as Padres CEO and vice chairman on Thursday, March 26, Jeff Moorad stressed the importance of the affordable baseball experience, especially as it affects families.

"It is critically important,

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: This is a jewel of a franchise.

Jeff Moorad
CEO, SAN DIEGO PADRES

whether it's concessions, merchandise or the baseball experience itself, that it is affordable — not only to the businesses that support the club, but especially to the indi-

vidual families and those who bring kids and experience baseball," he said during a conference call in February. "Affordability has got to be the theme that rings true, and that certainly will be the theme as the new ownership group transitions in."

Several businessmen, including former NFL quarterback Troy Aikman, recently took control of 35 percent of the club from John Moores, who retains the franchise chairmanship. Moorad anticipates that his group will own 100 per-

SEE PADRES, Page 20



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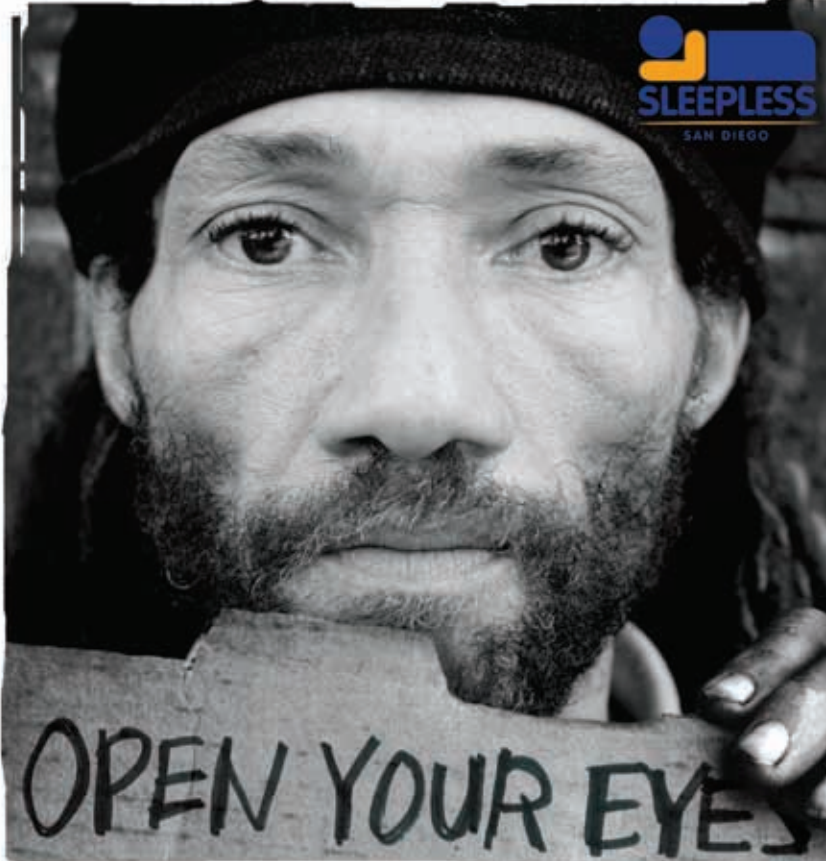
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MUSICcalendar

By BART MENDOZA | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Rockabilly Shakeout

April 3, 9 p.m.
Tio Leo's, 5302 Napa St.

Rockabilly is still alive with each generation bringing new energy and rhythm to the dance floor like Friday's shakeout on April 3 at Tio Leo's. Los Angeles based guitarist Pep Torres and Floyd Burney & The Ship-Shapers will play, plus the regular DJ's. As excellent as those artists are, as long as the performers can keep up a beat that's right for swing dancing, croon with some degree of accuracy and sport a '50's era Elvis or Johnny Burnette look, the crowd will take them to heart. For fans of rock 'n' roll's original spirit, The Rockabilly Shakeout can't be beat.

Wirepony

April 5, 8:30 p.m.
O'Connell's, 1310 Morena Blvd.

Without a doubt, guitarist Patrick Dennis is one of the hardest working men in San

Diego's music community. Restless by nature, Dennis has been a part of numerous top-rated groups since the late 1980's, including the MacAnany's and The Truckee Brothers. More recently he played with Steve Poltz's backing band The Cynics. On April 5 at O'Connell's, Dennis takes on yet another musical persona as the frontman with rock trio Wirepony. Notably Tan Sister Radio will open the show, featuring Dennis's son on vocals.

Dead Man's Party

April 11, 9 p.m.
Cane's, 3105 Ocean Front Walk

Tribute band Dead Man's Party pulls off a rather original version of its predecessor, the quirky, eighties' band Oingo Boingo. Not content to merely perform their namesake's music, Dead Man's Party strives to recreate the whole experience of an original concert, including stage props. Their secret weapon is frontman Rob Elfaizy who bears an uncanny resemblance to Oingo Boingo frontman Danny Elfman. Fans

wary of Dead Man's Party ability to replicate the original band should rest assured they have the ultimate seal of approval; four members of Oingo Boingo have sat in with the group during their performances.

Tomcat Courtney

April 15, 7-11 p.m.
Turquoise Café-Bar Europa, 873 Turquoise St

Bluesman Tomcat Courtney is one of the few San Diego musicians that can be described as a living legend. Courtney was born in Texas in 1929 and arrived in San Diego in 1971 when he built the foundation of the local blues community. Numerous musicians of note have passed through his bands over the years, including Buddy Blue, Mark DeCerbo and Robin Henkel, though today the 80-year-old guitarist generally performs in solo mode. Ironically, after decades as a local mainstay, the

release of his 2008 album, Downsville Blues, has brought Courtney well-deserved, worldwide attention. While he is no longer one of San Diego's best kept musical secrets, he remains one of the top practitioners of Texas Blues and a riveting live performer.

Ryan Bingham

April 15, 8 p.m.
Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue

A relative newcomer to the music biz, Bingham is already an alternative country music sensation who made his first splash in 2006 with his self-released album Dead Horses. He soon signed to Lost Highway Records, releasing his major label debut, Mescalito, the following year. With recent appearances on the Tonight Show and Late Night with Conan O'Brien, Bingham is on the rise. Indeed, this show is a warm-up for his



Patrick Dennis takes center stage for the rock trio, Wirepony, on April 5 at O'Connell's.

Courtesy photo

appearance two nights later, alongside Paul McCartney, at the massive Coachella Music Festival. If you're at all a fan of country music, this is show you won't want to miss. It's likely that Bingham won't be playing intimate rooms like this for much longer.

SPORTSbrief

San Diego Charger Girls hold auditions April 5

The San Diego Charger Girls will

hold auditions for the 2009 squad on Sunday, April 5 in the Jenny Craig Pavilion at the University of San Diego.

Applicants should complete a form (available at www.chargers.com) and include a

non-returnable photograph of themselves (5" by 7" or larger, black and white or color, head shot or full body shot) and send to: San Diego Charger Girl Auditions, P.O. Box 609609, San Diego, CA 92160.

PADRES

CONTINUED FROM Page 19

cent of the club by or before 2014.

The total sale could peak at \$500 million. Moorad owns 40 percent equity in his group of 12.

The team payroll ranges between 70 and \$80 million.

"I think the fan base can support [such a payroll], and to the extent that they do, that's certainly what we'll do," he said March 26.

"I've said it before, and I'll say it again: This is a jewel of a franchise."

The Padres, which won National League West titles in 2006 and 2007, lost 99 games in 2008, their

worst finish in 15 campaigns.

Key players such as pitcher Trevor Hoffman and shortstop Khalil Greene have departed the club.

The Padres kick off their 2009 season at Petco Park with their home opener Monday, April 6 at 4:05 p.m. against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

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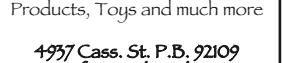
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Fri-Sun 1-5pm	6015 Cam. de la Costa	5BR/3BA	\$4,480,000-\$5,150,876
Sat 1-4pm	1590 Coast Walk	5BR/6BA	\$8,500,000
Sat 1-4pm	7666 Hillside Dr.	4BR/5BA	\$4,990,000
Sat 1-4pm	2610 Inyaha	6BR/7BA	\$5,750,000
Sat 1-4pm	6120 Avenida Chamnez	5BR/5BA	\$3,995,000
Sat 1-4pm	7902 Costebelle Way	4BR/4BA	\$3,500,000
Sat 1-4pm	245 Prospect #3	2BR/2BA	\$1,499,000-\$1,699,000
Sat 11am-4pm	7536-7544 Draper	3BR/2.5BA	\$799,000-\$899,000
Sat 1-4pm	1591 Loring St.	4BR/4BA	\$1,749,000
Sat 1-4pm	5511 La Jolla Mesa Dr.	4BR/4BA	\$1,795,000
Sat 1-4pm	331 Playa del Norte	5BR/5BA	\$2,950,000
Sat 1-4pm	5730 Dolphin Place	5BR/5BA	\$8,500,000
Sat 1-4pm	1475 Caminito Solidago	3BR/3BA	\$795,000
Sun 1-4pm	6570 Avenida Mirola	3BR/2BA	\$1,545,000
Sun 1-4pm	7555 Eads Ave. #4	2BR/2BA	\$975,000-\$1,100,876
Sun 1-4pm	1353 West Muirlands	3BR/2.5BA	\$2,450,000-\$2,795,876
Sun 1-4pm	7575 Eads Ave. #207	3BR/3BA	\$999,000-\$1,050,000
Sun 1-4pm	1591 Loring St.	4BR/4BA	\$1,749,000
Sun 12-3pm	342 Playa del Sur	4BR/4BA	\$2,495,000
Sun 1-4pm	5511 La Jolla Mesa Dr.	4BR/4BA	\$1,795,000
Sun 1-4pm	331 Playa del Norte	5BR/5BA	\$2,950,000
Sun 1-4pm	7916 Paseo del Ocaso	3BR/3BA	\$2,385,000
Sun 1-4pm	5730 Dolphin Pl.	5BR/5BA	\$8,500,000
Sun 1-4pm	1228 Cave St.	3BR/3.5BA	\$1,195,000
Sun 1-4pm	7265 Calabria #23	2BR/2BA	\$479,000
Sun 1-4pm	3894 Radcliffe Lane	3BR/2.5BA	\$459,000
Sun 1-4pm	9740 Keeneland Row	4BR/2.5BA	\$985,000
Sun 1-4pm	5524 Waverly Ave.	5BR/5BA	\$2,199,000
Sun 1-4pm	5435 Parkview Dr.	4BR/5BA	\$1,700,000
Sun 1-4pm	7271 Carrizo	5BR/6BA	\$4,250,000
Sun 1-4pm	5721 La Jolla Hermosa	3+1BR/3BA	\$1,895,000
Sun 1-4pm	1663 Bahia Vista Way	\$2,895,000	4BR/3BA
Sun 1-4pm	7703 Via Capri	4BR/2.5BA	\$1,800,000
Sun 2-4pm	6929 Fairway Rd.	3BR/2BA	\$2,850,000
Sun 11am-4pm	7536 Draper	3BR/2.5BA	\$799,000-\$899,000

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Sun 1-4pm	1590 Coast Walk	5BR/6BA	\$8,500,000	Elaina Nieman • 619-742-2343
Sun 1-4pm	7129 Fay Ave.	3BR/3.5BA	\$1,695,000-\$1,795,000	Peggy Weinbrecht • 858-243-2304
Sun 1-4pm	7666 Hillside Dr.	4BR/5BA	\$4,990,000	Margot Jahn & Andrew Domby • 619-665-9914
Sun 1-4pm	9660 Blackgold	4BR/6BA	\$6,995,000-\$7,995,000	Niloo Monshizadeh • 858-518-4209
Sun 1-4pm	6120 Avenida Chamnez	5BR/5BA	\$3,995,000	Ozstar De Jourday • 619-248-7827
Sun 1-4pm	3940 Gresham #224	2BR/2BA	\$1,150,000	Penny Shipley • 619-852-8139
Sat 11am-2pm	3955 Gresham	3BR-3BA	\$699,000-\$709,000	Ted L • 858-273-2121
Sat 1-4pm	1411 Oliver Ave.	House 3 Units	\$1,115,000	Susan Ronis • 858-274-9548
Sat 1-4pm	3940 Gresham #224	2BR/2BA	\$1,150,000	Penny Shipley • 619-852-8139
Sat 1-4pm	5524 Waverly Ave.	5BR/5BA	\$2,199,000	Katy La Pay • 858-232-7456
Sun 1-4pm	1411 Oliver Ave.	House 3 Units	\$1,115,000	Susan Ronis • 858-274-9548
Sun 12-2:30pm	2415 La France	3BR/3.5BA	\$825,000	Team Fuller • 619-226-8264
Sun 12-4pm	4040 Riviera Dr.	3BR/3BA	\$699,000	Rob M • 858-273-2121
Sun 11am-4pm	3955 Gresham	3BR-3BA	\$699,000-\$709,000	Terry M • 858-273-2121
Sun 1-4pm	4678 Morrell St.	3BR/3BA	\$499,000	Joann Mockbee • 619-200-8194
Sun 1-4pm	1626 Law St.	3BR/2BA	\$799,000	Dan Ryan • 858-454-7344
Sun 1-4pm	730 Santa Rita Place	3BR/2BA	\$1,228,000	Lawrence Tollenaere • 858-740-1011
Sat 11am-4pm	1150 Akron St.	4BR/3BA	\$825,000	Robert Realty • 619-852-8827
Sat 11am-4pm	1345 Clove St.	3BR/3BA	\$825,000	Robert Realty • 619-852-8827
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Sun 1-4pm	1689 Froude St.	3BR/2BA	\$875,000	Cindy Wing • 619-223-9464
Sun 1-4pm	2164 Hist. Decatur Rd. #162BR/2.5BA	3BR/1.5BA	\$499,000	Cindy Wing • 619-223-9464
Sun 1-4pm	1246 Savoy St.	3BR/3BA	\$987,000	Cindy Wing • 619-223-9464
Sun 11am-4pm	3345 Lucinda St.	3BR/3BA	\$2,000,000	Robert Realty • 619-852-8827
Sun 11am-4pm	1150 Akron St.	4BR/3BA	\$825,000	Robert Realty • 619-852-8827
Sun 11am-4pm	1345 Clove St.	3BR/3BA	\$995,000	Robert Realty • 619-852-8827
Sun 1-4pm	4403 Govenor Dr.	3BR/2BA	\$525,000	Cathy Nakanote/Keystone Rity • 858-361-4041
Sun 1-4pm	4206 Caminito Cassis	3BR/2BA	\$875,000	Gina Frager Hixson • 858-405-9100
Sun 1-4pm	1823 Neale St.	3BR/2BA	\$750,000	Sarah Pollard • 858-361-661

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THOSE PROPERTIES IN BOLDFACE LOOK FOR THEIR ADS IN THIS ISSUE. DEADLINE FOR THE OPEN HOUSE DIRECTORY IS NOON ON TUESDAYS.

Chris Love Coastal Properties



OPEN SUNDAY 12–3PM



4007 EVERTS #2 • \$1,395,000

■ Enjoy unobstructed bay views from this gorgeous and remodeled single-level condo. Panoramic bay views from kitchen and living area with travertine floors, cherry cabinets and granite. Comes with 2 below-ground garage spaces plus 3 storage lockers. Washer and dryer hook-ups in unit.

OPEN THIS WEEKEND



3528 BAYSIDE WALK UNIT 1–3 • \$1.399M–\$1.920M

■ Custom designed bay front condo triplex with pano water views! Sand-side 3BR/2BA with exclusive bayside walk entertaining patio. 4BR/3BA second floor unit with enormous great room + water view balcony. 4BR penthouse has bay views which are 2nd to none on Mission Bay, and exclusive roof top deck.

OPEN SATURDAY 11:30AM–2PM



3330 BAYSIDE WALK • \$1,199,000

■ Wonderful single level, ground floor, end unit on the bay in North Mission. Gorgeous views from the living, kitchen/dining areas and master bedroom. Surrounded on the south and east sides by a spacious patio area that takes full advantage of the gorgeous views of the bay, boats and waterfront activities. This home has been remodeled and well maintained.

JUST REDUCED



OCEAN FRONT WALK • \$1.89M–\$2.095M

■ Price reduction on the Ocean Front! Two new custom Villa Townhomes on the sand. 2BR/3BA, 1,200 esf beach front unit with exclusive courtyard, fountain, cookstation & volleyball courts. Upstairs 2BR/3BA, 1,400+ esf penthouse unit with panoramic water views for miles. Top notch construction!

NEW CONSTRUCTION



TOULON COURT • \$2,395,000

■ Breathtaking 4BR/3.5BA home in North Mission. This new construction home has water views from every room in the house, and one of the most spectacular roof top decks in Mission Beach. This property has been maximized to the fullest with 2 master bedrooms. Control 4 tech, custom sun shades, built in 42" HD flatscreen/blue ray, Ipod dock, Boston bass speakers, elevator and 2-car epoxy garage.

NEW LISTING



OLIVER AVENUE • \$725,000

■ Gorgeous Zen garden detached “cloud condo” home on a quiet Pacific Beach Street. 3BR/2BA, 1,550 esf, new apples, paint, lighting, fence and more. Private entertaining patio, lush landscape, built-in BBQ cookstation and 2-car gar + space.



BRIGHTON COURT • \$949,900

■ One unit is sold, but available ground floor town home best value in South Mission! Solar Ready Townhome! Cool ocean waters and white sand beaches at the end of the most coveted S. Mission Cts. 2BR/2.5BA, 1320 esf + exclusive landscaped courtyard plumbed for a cook station.



BAYSIDE WALK • \$3,200,000

■ Gorgeous Bayfront condo that feels more like a single family home. Enjoy living in this beautifully remodeled and turn key home with panoramic bay views from the brand new kitchen, living room and master bedroom. Den may be used as an optional 5th bedroom. Relax and watch the boats from the spacious patio deck with Jacuzzi spa. Attached 2-car side-by-side garage including an extra parking space



LA PALMA • \$1,199,000

■ Wow! One of the best prices on the bay! Exclusive bay front townhome in PB with gorgeous unobstructed views of Sail Bay, Seaworld fireworks & city lights! 3BR/2BA, two-level home perfect for a primary residence or 2nd home. Complex offers tennis/pool & spa + onsite property mgr. 100% owner occupied. Extremely quiet and private. Seller to credit \$80,000 for decorating allowance.

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