

Amazing Grace tall ship sets sail on Mission Bay

By ANTHONY GENTILE | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The waters of Mission Bay are in for a blast from the past this summer. The 1800s-style tall ship Amazing Grace began sailing in March and will set sail twice daily starting Memorial Day.

"It is a step back in time and it kind of opens your mind to the history of sailing," said Janis Denton, who operates Amazing Grace along with her husband, Steve, and son, Peter. "Being in such a natural environment with just the wind

and the sails powering you along — it's really a beautiful experience."

Amazing Grace resembles schooners used against the British in the War of Independence and the War of 1812. But the ship itself is only 20 years old, affording modern conveniences such as an engine and navigation that make it easier to get around smaller areas like Mariner's Cove.

"Even being so big, we're still very

SEE SHIP, Page 8



ABOVE: Amazing Grace sails through Mission Bay. RIGHT: Peter Denton (from left), Chip Pitkin and Janis Denton sail the tall ship during a recent excursion. PAUL HANSEN | Beach & Bay Press



PBMS students learn lessons from community

By HILLARY SCHULER-JONES
BEACH & BAY PRESS

Reading, writing and arithmetic are all well and good, but for Pacific Beach Middle School students, education extends well beyond the classroom.

As an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) school, PBMS teaches students to think about their broader roles as world citizens. To that end, the school emphasizes com-

munity and service as one of its five major focus areas, and the school has teamed up with a variety of community organizations to create opportunities for learning and interaction.

"It really extends our curriculum to the real world, and that's what we are trying to do — get the kids to see that everything is connected. Everything they learn has a purpose," said Jenny Sims, PBMS's IB coordinator.

SEE PBMS, Page 8

PBMS IN ACTION

Last year, Pacific Beach Middle School students performed 11,140 hours of community service. This year, students are working to surpass that goal through a variety of activities lead by students themselves. Activities include:

- Trick-or-treating for donations for UNICEF
- Running a "Pennies for Peace" drive to raise funds for schools in Pakistan
- Visiting a teen homeless shelter every month
- Hosting beach cleanup days
- Funding micro-loans for people around the world through Kiva.org
- Collecting soda tabs for kidney dialysis
- Raising money for earthquake-damaged Mexicali and Calexico
- Planning an eco-friendly garden



PBMS student leaders Norma Gutierrez and Hunter Ketchum stand in front of a map that displays the many service projects students have taken on this year to benefit people around the world. HILLARY SCHULER-JONES | Beach & Bay Press



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Buc Cafe provides real world experience for MBHS students

By ANTHONY GENTILE | BEACH & BAY PRESS

At most schools, students participate in an outside internship to gain professional experience. But at Mission Bay High School (MBHS), Buc Cafe and Store gives students the same opportunity right on campus.

"It puts Mission Bay students a step ahead of students from other schools – a step ahead in applying to universities and a step ahead if they're currently working, to take the knowledge they've learned in the student store and turn it around," said MBHS principal Fred Hilgers.

On April 21, San Diego Unified School District held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Buc Cafe, which has been open and fully operational at MBHS since October. The store is the first Proposition S project completed at the school.

"For all the schools that are going to be

funded by Prop S, this is going to be kind of a window into what's coming ... and how it can be diversified for each campus," Hilgers said.

Buc Cafe, located on the east side of campus, sells snacks and clothes to students and makes deliveries to teachers during their prep periods. All the profits made at the store go toward student scholarships.

"When we talk about the fabric of the school, this is just one of those strands that helps tie it together," Hilgers said.

The store is staffed by students from the business management and ownership class taught by business teacher Clark James. While running the store, students apply finance, management and marketing knowledge in a practical manner.

"Every single student in our class are interns," James said. "They're all interns

because every single student has to work in the store at one time or another. It helps them bridge the gap from education to life."

MBHS senior Ivette Salceda is president of finance at Buc Cafe and plans to study accounting in college next year. Among her responsibilities are the coordination of deliveries and daily, weekly and monthly store profit calculations.

"It's really cool because it helps me for the future," Salceda said. "It helps me put things that I learn in the classroom in test here."

Unlike most businesses, it doesn't ultimately matter whether Buc Cafe makes a profit. In the black or in the red, the store gives students professional experience that is difficult to put a price on.

"It helps us prepare more for the real world," said MBHS senior Christopher Giron. "We see things differently."



Mission Bay High School students and administrators cut the ribbon of the new Buc Café and Store on April 21.
PHOTO BY ANTHONY GENTILE | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The French Gourmet's attorney protests charges

By NEAL PUTNAM | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The owner and longtime manager of The French Gourmet in Pacific Beach have entered not guilty pleas against charges they hired illegal aliens to work for them, and the restaurant's lawyer strongly protested the proposed criminal forfeiture of the building.

Michel Malecot, 58, a University City resident who has owned and worked at the popular restaurant for 31 years,

remains free on a \$75,000 property bond he posted following his arraignment before U.S. District Court Magistrate Nita Stormes on April 21.

Richard Kauffmann, 57, the manager who has worked at the Turquoise Street restaurant for 27 years, posted \$60,000 bond after his arraignment. Both men were ordered to next appear in court on May 3 for setting of future court dates.

The restaurant business itself has also been charged and it faces a \$500,000

fine if convicted. Attorney Eugene Iredale, who represents Malecot and the restaurant, said the use of criminal forfeiture laws should only be used in drug cases.

"We think forfeiture actions should be applied to cocaine, not croissants," said Iredale on Monday. "It should be applied to crack, not Creme de Brulee."

The men are also charged with conspiracy, false attestation — which is the submission of false Social Security num-

bers— and harboring illegal aliens.

According to court records, the government informed the restaurant as early as 2005 that some employees' Social Security numbers did not match their names. The employees either submitted new Social Security numbers or were paid in cash, according to the charges. A federal search warrant was served on the restaurant in May 2008 and payroll records, computers, and other documents were seized.

Iredale said about four to five workers were determined to be undocumented and were arrested. Iredale said the restaurant has 75 employees. He said the owner and manager should not be faulted if the workers gave them false Social Security numbers.

"We intend to contest all of the allegations," Iredale said.

The men were indicted by a federal grand jury in a 16-count complaint. Each offense carries a five-year prison term.



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By **ADRIANE TILLMAN** | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Discover Pacific Beach — which manages the area's business improvement district — will host this year's bocce ball tournament from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 8 at Kate Sessions Park.

The tournament raises money for Discover PB's activities including street cleaning, restaurant walks, its website operation and promotional campaigns of the

Twenty teams are signed up so far and there are 20 spaces still available. Teams need four to five players. The cost is \$150 to register. Individuals can register for \$40 to be placed on a team.

For more information about the tournament, sponsorship or donating raffle prizes, call (858) 273-3303 or visit www.pacificbeach.org.



In Pacific Beach, Noyes Street will be resurfaced from Reed Avenue to Thomas Avenue and Felspar Street will be repaved from Cass Street to Dawes Street.

Roth said that in the past the city repaired streets with money from the gen-

The city must repave streets now instead of waiting for the problems to grow worse and more expensive, Roth said.

—Adriane Tillman

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

"Passport to the World," silent auction for Kate Sessions Elementary, 6-9:30 p.m., Soledad Club, 5050 Soledad Road, tickets available at www.idonatetocharity.org/store/FOKS2010, \$25

SATURDAY, MAY 1

Pacific Beach Library Annual White Elephant Sale, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 4275 Cass St., proceeds benefit PB Library

PBTC Safe & Beautiful Clean PB Day, 9 a.m.,
Lifeguard Tower in Pacific Beach, (858) 483-6666

Fair Trade San Diego Open Air Market, 12-4 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church, 4761 Cass St., market will feature local businesses and artisans that sell fair trade, sustainable, organic or "green" products, free

Comfort Pillow Sew-in, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Hornblend Hall, 1721 Hornblend St., volunteers will make pillows for breast cancer survivors – no sewing experience necessary, e-mail pbwcinfo@yahoo.com for more information

SUNDAY, MAY 2

Pacific Beach Library Annual Rummage Sale,
8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 4275 Cass St., proceeds benefit PB Library

TUESDAY, MAY 4

Discover PB Board meeting, noon, Discover PB office, 1503 Garnet Ave., (858) 273-3303

Mission Bay Park Committee meeting, 6 p.m., Santa Clara Recreation Center, 1 Santa Clara Place

SATURDAY, MAY 8

Beach to Brewery Beer + Music Fest, 2-7 p.m.,
Karl Strauss Brewery, www.karlstrauss.com, \$25

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

PBTC Sundowner, 6 p.m., Gringo's Cantina, 4474 Mission Blvd., (858) 483-6666

Mission Beach Town Council meeting,
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www.missionbeachtc.org

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MOTHER’S DAY 2010

Two PB moms strike balance between business and family

By ANTHONY GENTILE | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Over the years, the image of a mother has changed from a specific mold to a variety of shapes and forms, all celebrated during Mother’s Day next month. Stacie Buechel and Judy Mouzon are two Pacific Beach mothers who embody the definition of the modern mom – mothers who balance their own businesses and run a family.

Buechel and her husband, Dr. Robert Buechel, live in Pacific Beach, where they raise two sons — 3-year-old Zach and 10-month-old Ben. They have also owned and operated Renew Integrative Health Center on Balboa Avenue since January 2009.

“Integrative medicine is progressive medicine that uses the body as its own healing source,” Stacie Buechel said. “They use drugs and medication last — only as a final resort.”

Buechel also has her own business venture – Magnolia Management and Consulting, Inc. She created Magnolia Management two years ago to empower working mothers like her to develop integrative medicine practices throughout the country.

“By working and having a passion and a vision in life, you actually are a better parent because you’re a role model to your children. That’s really what my foundation is built upon,” Buechel said.

A former elementary school teacher, Buechel centers her daily schedule around dropping off and picking up Zach from school. She typically works in her home office from 8:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. and again from 8 p.m. until midnight.

“One of the biggest challenges is being present in the moment,” Buechel said. “It took me a little bit to find that when I’m with my kids, I’m with my kids, and when I’m with a client, I’m with a client — I’m just very present in each moment.”

Buechel said being a good mother starts with a woman pursuing her passion in life. She believes once that happens, everything else will fall into place.

“A modern mom is someone who looks inward and makes herself happy, and once she makes herself happy, then her family is happy and her co-workers are happy,” Buechel said. “Women don’t take the time in their lives to develop their own self-esteem and their own mission in life.”

A single parent, Mouzon finds time to spend with her



The Buechel family (from left): Dr. Robert Buechel, Zach, Stacie and Ben. COURTESY PHOTO

four children between managing apartments, working as a food demonstrator at Trader Joe’s and owning her own restaurant venture, YDUJ. These things keep her busy most of the day.

“It’s a big challenge because you have to balance everything,” Mouzon said. “You have to work enough to take care of everything financially but be on hand enough to be an effective parent.”

YDUJ is a pop-up restaurant that Mouzon will operate on the deck of the Chalkboard Deli from Thursdays through Saturdays from 6 to 10 p.m. beginning Memorial Day weekend. Mouzon tried the space out for two weeks last month and served a variety of food, including chili, grilled cheese, quesadillas and barbeque pork on a bun.

“I like to do a ranging kind of thing,” Mouzon said. “My menu would be based on whatever the items of the week I found were — not necessarily having a static menu but just kind of feeling around to see which is going to be best.”

As far as the parenting recipe to success, Mouzon said there is no substitute for spending quality time with her children. While her sons — 34-year-old Gregory and 32-year-old Charles — don’t currently live at home, Mouzon’s two daughters live with her — 22-year-old Morgana and 18-year-old Mahalia.

“I’ve just been very blessed in the fact I was able to establish a relationship with my children early and we’ve just been able to hold on and maintain that, and that’s one of the things that we hold the most precious,” Mouzon said.

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NEWS DIGEST

- **A blocked sewer line caused 500 gallons of sewage to leak into Quivira Basin in Mission Bay on Sunday,** leading city officials to post signs warning visitors not to come in contact with contaminated water. Brian Drummy, senior public information officer with the wastewater branch of the city's Public Utilities Department, said the leak was first reported at 1:15 p.m. Sunday and was repaired at 2:30 p.m. Subsequent tests of the water have indicated unhealthy levels of bacteria, Drummy said Tuesday. Officials will continue to monitor bacteria levels daily, and the area will be cleared once tests confirm that bacteria levels are within normal limits three days in a row, he said.
- **The Friends of Pacific Beach Elementary will hold the "Love Boat Gala"** with silent and live auctions on May 1 from 5:30 to 11 p.m. at the Mission Bay Yacht Club. The cruise-ship themed event is the school's biggest fundraiser to raise money for enrichment programs, materials and resources that the school has lost due to recent budget cuts. Prices are \$40 per person or \$60 per couple. Guests can purchase tickets at the school office, 1234 Tourmaline St., or by mailing in an RSVP, which should include the first and last names of all the guests attending along with payment. Checks should be written to F.O.P.B.E. More information is available at http://old.sandi.net:80/pbe/Love_Boat_Gala_2010.html.
- **MBHS murals get facelift** — Local artist Tom Plonka has repainted a popular mural on the Mission Bay High School campus that features the school's mascot, a Buccaneer. The mural, which faces Grand Avenue, was originally painted more than 20 years ago and had faded over time. Plonka kept the mural's existing design but added four images: the International Baccalaureate logo, a historic logo the school used until the late 1970s, the current school logo and the MBHS sports logo. Plonka's next project will be refreshing another MBHS mural that faces Lee Street.
- **The Pacific Beach Kiwanis Club will hold its 48th annual spaghetti dinner tonight,** April 29 from 4:30 to 10 p.m. at Pernicano's Pizza House, 711 Turquoise St. Proceeds will go to the PB Kiwanis Youth Foundation to fund scholarships and awards to local students. Although tonight is the main event, tickets to the dinner can be used any time before May 31, 2010. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling (858) 692-0403. Tickets may also be purchased today at Pernicano's.
- **A jury on April 8 determined that Ian Alex Suazo, 23, of Pacific Beach, was sane** at the time when he stabbed his roommate to death in 2008 at their Pacific Beach apartment. They rejected his insanity plea and he will likely receive a sentence of 16 years to life in state prison. The jury deliberated about nine hours over two days before finding that Suazo knew what he was doing when he killed Ocie Raines, 39, on Sept. 24, 2008 in the 800 block of Agate Street. The same jury convicted him of second-degree murder on March 22. San Diego Superior Court Judge John Einhorn set sentencing for May 7. Suazo, who worked at a Pacific Beach bar until a few days before the slaying, remains in the downtown central jail on \$1 million bail.
— Neal Putnam
- **The "Just Yell Fire" self-defense program will be held Saturday,** May 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mission Bay High School gymnasium, 2475 Grand Ave. The class, taught by Chad Von Dette and his associates from the Viper Academy, is designed to help women learn how to fight back against abduction and sexual assault. The cost of the class is \$25 and space is limited to the first 80 reservations. To reserve a spot, send a check made payable to Kristen Victor to 3838 Kendall St., San Diego, CA, 92109. For more information, e-mail KristenVictor@kristenvictordesign.com.
- **Karl Strauss' Beach to Brewery Beer + Music Fest on tap for May 8.** Karl Strauss Brewing Company, 5985 Santa Fe St., will hold its' seventh annual Beach to Brewery Beer + Music Fest on May 8 from 2 to 7 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are available for \$25 online at www.karlstrauss.com until May 7; tickets will be available at the door May 8 for \$30. The admission cost includes a souvenir taster glass and five samples selected from the 21 beers that Karl Strauss will have on tap to honor their 21st anniversary. All proceeds from the event benefit the San Diego chapter of Surfrider Foundation, a non-profit group that works to protect oceans and beaches.
- **The Nik Summit, a photography education event,** will be held May 13 to 15 at the Hilton San Diego Resort and Spa, 1775 East Mission Bay Drive. The summit will feature opportunities for on-location shooting sessions at historic landmarks throughout the city, as well as keynote presentations by some of the world's leading photographers, workshops on the latest digital workflow and image-editing techniques and "fireside chats" with photography peers and thought leaders. The event is sponsored by Nik Software, Inc., a privately held company that develops digital imaging and photography software. The cost to attend is \$599 and includes breakfast and dinner at the hotel. Registration and additional information is available at www.niksummit.com.

Now & Then by John Fry will return May 13.

Pavilion project, pipe replacement and repairs



Council Corner

Kevin Faulconer

I'm proud to serve Mission and Pacific Beach. The communities are some of the finest in San Diego, and the neighbors in each care deeply about their neighborhoods. They're often sharing ideas with me and my staff. It's invaluable feedback that I need to serve you as best as I can.

In that spirit, I want to provide updates on four important community projects that affect Mission Beach and Pacific Beach:

Crown Point Pavilion project

The original structures were donated by the Pacific Beach Rotary Club in 1983. One of the four has collapsed and the others aren't in good shape. The Rotary Club of Mission Bay took the lead on a project to remove the existing wood structures and replace them with new prefabricated metal ones.

Also, four of the concrete picnic tables will be replaced with new ADA-accessible ones. New trash containers and hot-coals receptacles will be provided along with new barbecue grills.

The city broke ground on the work April 7 and it is expected to be complete before Memorial Day at a cost of \$217,833, which includes \$30,000 from the Rotary Club of Mission Bay. County Supervisor Greg Cox also pledged \$24,000 for new accessory items.

Mission Boulevard

The boulevard was repaved from Ventura Place to the boat channel. A total of 310,000 square feet of the boulevard was repaved — including 93 curb ramps — at a cost of \$650,000.

Numerous folks who use this busy thoroughfare have told me how pleased they are with the improvements, and I am as well.

Cast-iron pipe replacement

This project will replace nearly 8 miles of underground cast-iron water pipes in Pacific Beach, drastically reducing water main breaks, which is welcome news for homeowners, renters and business owners.

The project is expected to cost \$16 million. Work is scheduled to being in October and should take about two years to complete.

Pump station repairs

The city recently authorized \$3.5 million in emergency repairs to Pump Station N on Santa Clara Place and Pump Station G on Mission Boulevard and Pacific Beach Drive. I called for this following the heavy rains that flooded parts of Mission Beach and Pacific Beach in January. So I'm pleased the city is addressing the problems.

Preliminary work has begun and I promise to closely monitor this because I know how important an issue this is for so many residents and business owners.

As you can see, a lot is going on. I plan to continue to work with you to make sure Mission Beach and Pacific Beach are getting the resources they need. You and your communities deserve nothing less.

— Kevin L. Faulconer is San Diego City Council president pro tem and represents District 2, which includes Mission Beach, Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach, Point Loma and other neighboring communities.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Annual PB Graffiti Clean Up — what a success!

The third annual Pacific Beach Graffiti Clean Up was held Saturday, April 17. This cooperative effort was sponsored by the Pacific Beach Town Council (PBTC) and the Pacific Beach Presbyterian Church.

This year, \$4,000 in cash and in-kind supply donations were made by ACE Hardware, Daily Disposal, Dirty Birds, Discover PB, Dunn-Edwards, EDCO, Hammer & Nails, Home Depot, Hulquist Insurance, Marcie Beckett, PB Presbyterian Church, PB Shore Club, Sherwin Williams, Staples, Teasers Hair Salon, Trader Joes and Waste Management.

An extended thank you goes to the PB Presbyterian Church, our partners in this beautification effort for their donation of cash, food, volunteers and the use of their facilities.

Other volunteer groups include the PBTC board of directors and members, the PBTC Safe & Beautiful Committee members, the Urban Corp of San Diego County, and many other residents of the community. Totaling 135 volunteers, 590 hours went toward graffiti clean up; another 300 hours to plan and prepare for this event.

The volunteers were deployed to 28 teams to remove or paint over thousands of graffiti "tags" in PB.

The Urban Corp also painted over the pathway along Rose Creek and other larger paint projects. Four teams were deployed to paint-over jobs of dumpsters, walls and fences.

In addition to removing graffiti in Pacific



A volunteer covers graffiti on a wall during the April 17 Pacific Beach Graffiti Clean Up.
PAUL HANSEN | Beach & Bay Press

Beach, key goals accomplished were to: 1) increase awareness of graffiti in our neighborhood and 2) educate the community about how to report and remove tags.

In the past three years, this project has had a significant impact on reducing graffiti and keeping our community safe and beautiful.

The event is held annually, however, graffiti

removal kits are available year-round. Contact the Pacific Beach Town Council at pbtowncouncil@sbcglobal.net or call (858) 483-6666. Office hours are Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The office is located at 1706 Garnet Ave.

Nanci Dalzell
PBTC director

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ease up on French Gourmet

Regarding: The Feds coming down hard on restaurateur Michel Malecot of The French Gourmet: I am a personal friend of Mr. Malecot, going back to the opening of his restaurant on Pearl Street in La Jolla in 1979.

He was a neighbor of my family in Normandy for many years. Mr. Malecot is a hard-working family man who has brought joy and happiness to thousands of San Diegans through his many gourmet delights and kind disposition. He is an invaluable asset to the

community and ought to be judged appropriately. I believe that the federal government should ease up a bit while also pursuing bigger fish.

Daniel J. Smiechowski
San Diego

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BEACH & BAY PRESS

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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.

DISTRIBUTION *Beach & Bay Press* is available free every other Thursday.

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Fun Facts

Marjory “Kirby”

Enjoy a spring walk-about and discover these new businesses in Pacific Beach. Take your time and check out all that these clever entrepreneurs have to offer you!

- John Harvard Academy** offers a unique after-school curriculum, provides quality, affordable tutoring programs for K-12 students. The mission is to help students build strong foundations in math, reading and writing, and also to assist with daily homework quizzes, exams, and Standardized Tests (SAT). 2710 Garnet Ave. #105, (858) 625-1515
- Luella Boutique** — This hot new fashion source features stylish female brands Indah, Lamixx, BB Dakota, Jack, LA Made, Michelle Jonas, See Thru Soul, 1520, Denim by PRVCY, Tiger Lily, Lovers & Friends Shoes, and Buddah Bags. New introductions monthly, with spring show-stoppers just now arriving. Pop in and say hello to Lulu and Chico at 949 Turquoise Ave., (858) 488-8846
- Revolver Boutiques** has revitalized the former Thrift Trader store location into a contemporary shopping mecca for men's and women's fashions and accessories. The hand-picked, upscale, vintage clothing, shoes, boots, jewelry, sunglasses, music and movies have a starting price as low as \$2. Look for the red awning at 1416 Garnet Ave., (858) 272-2274
- Shoe's Me** — The owners are cutting edge fashion industry insiders, bringing casual to elegant shoes and handbags, affordably priced at \$15-\$39, to PB. Newly-opened, the shop will be continuously changing up the array of accessories, shoes and bags. See the product line re-evolve at 1419 Garnet Ave.
- Woodstock's Pizza** doesn't look or feel like a chain because it isn't. It's a family of restaurants run by a team of co-owners. The décor is warm, comfortable and genuine. You won't find any pre-fabricated funkiness. It features real ingredients and you definitely won't find anything slick or trendy. It's the details in a Woodstock's pizza that make it memorable. Also try the salads and yummy dessert pizzas. 1221 Garnet Ave., (858) 642-6900

BUSINESS*briefs*

Chiropractor holds community event

Dr. Robert Walcher of Personalized Chiropractic will hold a community appreciation event on May 6 and 7 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at his office at 4747 Mission Blvd. #1. Walcher has reserved time slots over the two-day period for 25 individuals to receive free chiropractic exams and consultations, computerized health scans and X-rays (if needed), plus refreshments and wellness information. Walcher recently added a groundbreaking scanning system, the Insight Discovery Subluxation Station, to his repertoire of diagnostic services, which measures patients' neurospinal health and provides information on factors such as sensory nerve irritation, range of motion and nerve function.

To register for the event, contact Dr. Walcher's office at (858) 866-3345.

SD Laptops celebrates one year in PB location

SD Laptops is celebrating one year in its current location at 4645 Cass St. this month. The company offers software and hardware repairs, virus removals, screen replacements, software upgrades and data recovery services for laptops and desktops.

Owner Cameron Scholes started the business five years ago from his home, providing mobile computer repair services and technical house calls to customers throughout San Diego. As business grew, Scholes realized he needed one storefront

where customers could bring their computers directly to him in order to improve his efficiency.

Scholes has 10 years of experience building and repairing computers and troubleshooting potential problems. He said he can typically provide a 24-hour turnaround for his services if he doesn't have to order parts.

"I handle both customer service and technical support, so I can get a sense of the problem quickly, and with my experience I can troubleshoot it a lot faster," Scholes said.

Finest City Registration opens second location

Finest City Registration has opened a second location in Ocean Beach at 4837 Newport Ave. Its first site at 5010 Cass St., Suite G, in Pacific Beach has been open for more than three years.

The company, run by Shaundra and Rory Flanigan, eliminates the long lines and hassle often associated with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) by working directly with the organization on behalf of customers, Shaundra said. She is licensed and bonded through the DMV to conduct almost any service that would usually have to be handled in person at the DMV, including license renewals, registrations, substitute plate requests and out-of-state title transfers.

Finest City is authorized to do DMV business even when the DMV offices are closed.

More information is available at finestcityreg.com.



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PBMS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

PBMS has created a formal partnership between the San Diego Unified School District, SeaWorld and the HUBBS Research Institute that allows the organizations to share resources with students. In sixth grade, students tour both SeaWorld and the HUBBS facility to learn more about aquatic environments, said Travis Hughes, who manages the school field trip program at SeaWorld.

“If they are just doing all this in the classroom, they have no buy-in,” Hughes said. “They’re just doing text work for text work’s sake. By coming here to SeaWorld and seeing some of the animals we’re working with — and how that fits into the food web and the habitat here in Southern California — it gives them an encompassing view of the habitat we are trying to preserve.”

In turn, both SeaWorld and HUBBS have been active on the PBMS campus. SeaWorld staff member Peter Girard is assigned to the campus and works closely with students, helping to judge science fairs, doing presentations on marine life and attending the school’s Math Night and open house events.

The Kiwanis organization has also pitched in on campus through Builder’s Club, a Kiwanis international youth program that engages students in a variety of community projects. Builders Club president Norma Gutierrez, a lively seventh-grader, is nearly breathless as she recalls the extensive list of fundraisers, donation drives and cleanup events that her fellow students have taken on this year. Her passion for volunteerism is evident.

“My parents have always taught me that it’s not all gonna be about me,

that I have to help out other people also,” said Gutierrez, who has already contributed more than 100 hours of service this year.

“I get to mark something in this world,” she said. “I get to make a difference. It’s not just about my house. (It’s not the attitude of) I clean my house and everything else can go to the dump or something. No, I actually like to help.”

Hunter Ketchum has also made a connection with the community. He is finishing up eighth grade at the school and he is already making plans to transfer his beach cleanup club to Mission Bay High School. The club adopted a stretch of beach from Pacific Beach Point to Tourmaline and its six members hold regular cleanup events using materials donated by Surfrider Foundation. Ketchum said the experience of leading the club has taught him things he would never have learned inside the classroom.

“[I’ve learned] the values of actually caring for your community,” Ketchum said. “It’s like, I live here and I want it to be clean and I want it to be a fun place. So I don’t think I’d learn that just in a classroom. It’s actually going out there and doing it and cleaning up. It just makes you appreciate where you live more.”

Working with students has made a positive impact on the community organizations as well.

“Students are the future,” said Bill Hickman, San Diego chapter coordinator for Surfrider Foundation. “They are going to grow up and be leaders in the community.”

“We find that in classrooms, sometimes kids are taking the info, sharing it with their parents and a lot of the information is kind of going from the bottom up,” he said. “So its really cool. The kids are really bright and they really want to protect the Earth, so it is really empowering.”



Peter Denton and Chip Pitkin tend to sails on a mast of the tall ship Amazing Grace high above Mission Bay.

PAUL HANSEN | Beach & Bay Press

SHIP

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

agile – we can turn and maneuver and sail quickly,” Janis Denton said. “A lot of the tall ships are just a bit slower and don’t have the same capabilities that we do for maneuvering tight spots.”

The 83-foot schooner came to Mission Beach by way of Gig Harbor, Wash., where its popularity extended to appearances on the local phone book for the last two years. After sailing down to San Diego last winter to perform maintenance on the ship, the family-run outfit decided to come back to the area to stay. Their first voyages were held March 19 through April 19.

“We might end up going back, but we really want it to work here,” Denton said. “We think the season is longer and

will have more people, and it will be a better opportunity to really use the boat.”

Denton said the atmosphere on Amazing Grace is relaxing and adventurous. Voyages on the ship are unique in that they offer hands-on experience and a different view of the coastline.

“It’s very pretty – you’re seeing the backside of the waves and you can hear them thundering into the beach and watching the surfers from behind,” Denton said. “It’s not the view that everybody always gets.”

Amazing Grace is also equipped with cannons that will protect the community in the event of an incoming armada. Actually, the cannons are more designed to entertain an armada of beachgoers.

“We will blow off cannons occasionally at Crystal Pier or sometimes for

folks who are egging us on on shore,” Denton said. “It’s just a big bang. They’re signal guns, but they make some smoke and a little flash.”

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, Amazing Grace will make daily afternoon sails from 1:30 to 4 p.m. and sunset sails from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in June and July, and 5 to 7:30 p.m. in August and September. The tall ship can also be chartered for corporate or private events of up to 25 people. The ship typically sails from Quivira Basin out into the ocean, but can make trips as far as Ocean Beach, La Jolla and the San Diego Bay.

“When you have a boat like this,” Denton said, “you really want to share it and get lots of people out on it rather than have it sit at a dock.”

For prices and more information, visit www.amazinggracetailship.com.

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Mission Bay High School freshman Garrett Gutstadt, seen here at a recent practice, has come a long way in his first year of volleyball competition at the school.

PAUL HANSEN | Beach & Bay Press

MBHS turns to young talent

By AMBERLY DRESSLER | BEACH & BAY PRESS

When the Mission Bay High School (MBHS) boys' volleyball team takes down its net for the last time this season, there won't be much in the gym to remember the Bucs by. The lone representation of the program is a 1994 CIF runner-up banner, courtesy of former coach Dave Whittaker, who took the team to back-to-back second-place finishes in the '90s. The current crop of coaches want to join the ranks — or in this case the rafters.

"I am excited about having such a young team with room to grow over the next few years," said MBHS volleyball director Crystal Frasca.

Frasca isn't alone in her optimism. Assistants like coach Dave Beza, who handles most coaching duties, believes that basics come first and championships come later.

"Everything we've done to recruit

this year has been trying to keep the team young, whether it's freshmen, sophomores or just trying to introduce some guys to the game," Frasca said.

"Three or four guys knew the game when we first started," she said. "Now, everyone is pretty confident. We have a roster of 12, and I think everyone is contributing a lot."

Senior Andres Armenta embodies Frasca's "teach a man to fish" approach. Armenta, who never played volleyball before high school, can now play for a lifetime. First stop is Mesa College. He plans to try out for the team, transfer to the University of California, San Diego and play for the Tritons one day. Freshman Garrett Gutstadt symbolizes the other end of the spectrum. He's come a long way in his first year playing.

"It's been fun," Gutstadt said. "I got to get a lot better at pretty much

everything. I didn't really know the basics before I got into it here."

After graduating two-thirds of the squad last year, Frasca and the other coaches have worked hard to get the new team up to speed.

"I think we've improved a lot in terms of technically learning the game," Frasca said. "Our record isn't great, but for a young team to be able to play the way that they are doing right now — in the first season — I think we're doing really good."

Frasca takes pride in watching the boys emerge in terms of confidence, leadership and overall character.

"They really pleasantly surprise me with the maturity level that they play at, regardless of their lack of experience," Frasca said. "Other than that, they are really just kind-hearted. They have big hearts and they really just try to take care of each other."

Lady Bucs spikers working toward banner fall

By AMBERLY DRESSLER | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The girls' volleyball team may be absent from CIF record books, but the word in the gym is that streak could snap.

"We have some good weapons, so I think we'll definitely have opportunities to get out there if we can get just a little bit lucky," Beza said.

Senior Rachel Rhoades is one of Mission Bay's touted weapons. And even if luck wasn't on their side for this year's playoffs, the Lady Bucs

have had a year to build on. Finishing with a 12-11 record, the Bucs tasted success this season and want more.


"We've steadily improved every year," Beza said. "I've been here for three years, and every year I think we are doing a little bit better. Last year, we made some milestones — we beat Coronado for the first time away — I think our record has been improving and I think our team is getting a lot younger now too."

Frasca will bask in a larger selec-

tion of players in the next few seasons.

"Our JV has been tops," Frasca said. "I think last year they were like 15-5, so those are all freshman and sophomores. And we have all the returners from varsity, so we will have some tough decisions to make."

Partly to thank for the deep talent pool is the number of girls at MBHS who play competitive club volleyball like Rhoades, but you won't hear Beza complaining.



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MUSICcalendar

By BART MENDOZA | VILLAGE NEWS

There is probably no musical genre that's as closely identified with California as instrumental surf music. Full of twangy, reverb-laden guitar lines and zooming bass lines, there is no better example than San Diego's own Secret Samurai, which performs at the Tiki House on April 30. Featuring former members of like-minded group Surf Report, lead guitarist Ryan Ruiz is a virtuoso player with an arsenal of high-energy songs. Titles in the band's set list include "Don't Fear the Reverb," "The Song Remains Insane" and "Sink or Swim," adding up to a night of music that's fun, rockin' and a guitar junkie's dream.

Secret Samurai: Friday, April 30, 9 p.m. at The Tiki House, 1152 Garnet Ave. Cover TBD. 21 and up. www.myspace.com/secretsamurai

Los Angeles-based soul/hip-hop/rock hybrid Natives of the New Dawn will be the house band at the 710 Beach Club on Thursday nights, beginning May 6 at 10 p.m. Sounding like a cross between Jamiroquai, Stevie Wonder and Steve Winwood, the five-piece band excels at writing songs high on melody and dance floor-ready. Though there is plenty of rock and hip-hop rapping, it's the soul element that makes the band so affecting. Anyone who loves their songs with an extra dose of groove and beats will enjoy Natives of the New Dawn.

Natives of the New Dawn: May 6, 10 p.m. at the 710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Ave. 21 and up. Admission is 91 cents. <http://www.nativesband.com>

There are few bands that can get a party started like the B-Side Players, which will perform at the Wavehouse on May 7. One of the area's leading exponents of the latin jazz sound, the nine-piece band's music is all about



Natives of the New Dawn will be the house band at the 710 Beach Club on Thursday nights, beginning May 6 at 10 p.m. COURTESY PHOTO

rhythm, taking in many influences from Cuba to Brazil, as well as home-grown elements such as rock and funk. While the band's five albums aren't a bad way to investigate the B-Side Players' tunes, this is a band that needs to be heard live for full effect.

B-Side Players: Friday, May 7, at the Wavehouse, 3125 Oceanfront Walk. \$10. 8 p.m. 21 and up. www.myspace.com/bsideplayers

Modern technology now allows a solitary musician, such as pianist Dean Ratzman, who appears on May 12 at the Pacific Beach Library, to make

more expansive sound than ever. Using a mix of simple drum machines and bass loops, he accompanies himself on piano and occasionally trumpet on an eclectic set of cover tunes. It's that variety in selections that makes Ratzman a standout. With unique versions of songs ranging from Sinatra's "Fly Me to the Moon" to Bobby Fuller's garage classic "I Fought the Law," his performances offer something for just about every music fan.

Dean Paul Ratzman: Wednesday, May 12, 7 p.m. at the Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass St. All Ages. No Cover. www.ratzpack.net



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 4656 Mission Blvd. P.B. 858-274-2473	Nightly Specials: all you can eat wings for \$11.99 and buckets (5) of keystone light for \$10	Happy Hour All day and night!	Nightly Specials: 6pm- cl \$3 16oz drafts and 1/2 price sliders	Nightly Specials: 8pm-cl \$2 keystone light cans	Nightly Specials: 8pm-cl \$@ 16oz pbr drafts	Nightly Specials: \$2 mimosas, \$8 bottles of champagne, \$4 bloody marys	Nightly Specials: \$2 mimosas, \$8 bottles of champagne, \$4 bloody marys
 3714 Mission Blvd 858-488-668	HAPPY DAY: Happy Hour 11:30am - close, wii bowling tourney: sign up @ 9pm, starts @ 9:30 ½ price btls, drafts & cocktails. 25% off apps	TACO TUESDAY'S: Taco's starting @ \$1.50 \$3.00 Dos Equis pints and \$5 Corralejho Margaritas Happy Hour from 3pm-7pm	\$2 U Call It Night: \$2 and \$3 U-CALL-IT'S" from 9:00PM-close All Guava Sliders \$2.50 each , \$12 Bionic Beavers Happy Hour from 3pm-7pm	BURGERS MADNESS: \$5.99 Burger and Fries \$2.00 off all pitchers Friends Chili with Free pool, board games, 6 wii play games	FISH & CHIPS FRIDAYS: \$9.99 all you can eat fish & chips \$8 Dom. Pitchers, \$4 Jack and Cokes, \$4 Vodka Rockstar, \$3.50 Jager, Fernet & Tuaca Shots	SATURDAY SLIDIDERDAYS Party Night \$3.00 U call its 9:30 to close \$8 Dom. Pitchers. \$5 Bloody Mary's, \$4 Mimosas. \$12 Bionic Beavers, \$2.50 Kazis NFL, NCAA & NBA packages.	SUNDAY FUNDAY \$8 Dom. Pitchers \$2.50 Kazis, \$5 Bloody Mary's, \$4 Mimosas. NHL and NBA packages available
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 5019 Cass Street P.B. Kitechen# 858-274-4172	\$5 Lunch Specials Fri Only Nightly Specials: 4-10pm 2 for 1 Burgers \$2 Domestic pint \$3 Micro Pints FREE POOL Mon & Tues	Grill Open M –TH @ 4pm Dinner Specials: 6-10pm \$6.99 2 fish tacos + pint of your choice. Pint specials same as Monday	Fri @ 11am, weekends @ 9am Nightly Specials: \$6.99 Special 4-10pm Italian Night BYO Wine or \$10 bottle of wine available	Home of \$6.75 PBR Pitcher 6pm-12am Mon-Thurs. Nightly Specials: \$9.99 Special 4-10pm Pulled Pork Sandwich, coldslaw & fries 6-7pm \$1 Domestic, \$2 Microdrafts	Happy Hour 11am-6pm Mon-Fri Daily Specials: Th-Fri 11am-3pm \$5 lunches, 50 cent Pool	Serving Breakfast 10am-1pm 10.5 Flatscreens. WATCH SPORTS HERE Mimosas not like grandma's.	Serving Breakfast 10am-1pm 2 for 1 Burgers 6-9pm \$2 Domestic Draft \$3 Domestic Drafts
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Living in an Oasis: sustainable architecture

By MEAGHAN CLARK | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Breathe easy San Diego. With Pacific Beach-based Oasis Architecture & Design Inc. on your side, building a home can be done quickly and efficiently. Developing homes that are aesthetically modern and sleek, Oasis finds a way to save time and money with its approach to sustainable architecture.

Throw away preconceived notions about what it means to build “green.” This local company offers up a unique approach to construction — spaces are built to be as efficient as possible.

Homes in Pacific Beach don’t stand out for their size or landscape but obvious energy consumption.

“The more efficient you design the house, the more green you can be,” said Mark Morris, principal architect at Oasis.

Long before the “green” fad, Oasis was building homes where reducing one’s carbon footprint was all part of the process. Going green doesn’t necessarily mean materials are reclaimed or products are LEED certified. Morris said it’s about searching for localized products that “work with the value of the home.”

With the country’s economic state in disarray, locals aren’t just scaling down, they’re sizing down. Most of Morris’ clients — even the wealthiest — are searching for multifunctional, cost-efficient spaces.

“Being creative is about how you can integrate one space into another,” Morris said.

It isn’t about square footage anymore — especially in Pacific Beach homes like Oasis’ standouts on Oliver or Archer streets — the style of living is now all about the environment. Homes in California are all about “breathing with the environment,” according to Morris, who presents clients with low-maintenance building materials that are cost efficient. Garages are turned into three function-



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al spaces or a small dining space is turned into a kitchen/family dining room — anything you can imagine, Oasis can capture.

Designs are “so much more fluid” when the process begins from conception — an idea that enabled Oasis to staff an interior designer. The collaboration offers a “better synthesis of design,” and with Morris’ national license, the team has built nationally by word of mouth. With a reputation that exceeds their nearly two decades in business, creating that dream coastal home can be done in a snap.



(Above) Homes in California are all about breathing with the environment, and houses designed by Oasis Architecture & Design Inc. are built with low-maintenance, cost-efficient materials. (Left) Designs are more fluid when the process begins from conception — an idea fully illustrated in this Oasis-designed kitchen.

COURTESY PHOTOS

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The SANDAG Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project will extend transit service from the Old Town Transit Center north to the University City community, serving major destinations including Westfield University Town Centre (UTC) shopping mall, University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and downtown San Diego.

SANDAG wants to hear from you ... Public input on the project is being sought during the Scoping Period, which will run from May 3, 2010, through June 1, 2010.

Please join us at one of five open house Scoping Meetings in locations throughout the Mid-Coast Corridor. Learn more about the project and offer comments.

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

SANDAG — Board Room (7th Floor)
401 B Street, San Diego, CA, 92101
4 to 7 p.m.
Bus stop/Transit stations located at 4th/B St. & 5th Ave. Trolley Station.

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

University of California, San Diego (UCSD)
Price Center East Ballroom
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093
3 to 6 p.m.
Bus stop located at Gilman Dr./Myers Dr. on UCSD campus.

For more information about the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project, please visit www.sandag.org/midcoast.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), SANDAG will accommodate persons who require assistance in order to participate in the Scoping Meetings listed above. If such assistance is required, please contact SANDAG at (619) 595-5620 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. To request materials in an alternative format, please call (619) 595-5620, (619) 699-1904 (TTY), or fax (619) 699-1905.

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center
Garfield Theatre
4 to 7 p.m.
4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla, CA, 92037
Bus stop located at Executive Dr./Regents Rd.

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Clairemont High School — Cafeteria
4 to 7 p.m.
4150 Ute Street, San Diego, CA, 92117
Bus stop located at Clairemont Dr./Ute Dr.

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Caltrans District 11 Office
Garcia Conference Room
4050 Taylor Street, San Diego, CA 92110
4 to 7 p.m.
Bus stop/Transit station located at Taylor St./Juan St. & Old Town Transit Center.



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