

**GETTING ANTSY:**  
*An innovative and groundbreaking new iPhone application has its roots in Pacific Beach. 9*



**POOL SENSATIONS:**  
*Mission Bay High's aquatics programs are making serious waves. 13*



Thursday, May 27, 2010

www.beachandbaypress.com



The Hutchison family strikes a surfing pose beside Crystal Pier. From left are Neil, Charlie, Andrew, Sam and Margot.

Photo by DEB SCHWEDHELM

## Sam Hutchison's legacy lives on

By JENNA FRAZIER | BEACH & BAY PRESS

He may be small, but Charlie Hutchison, 3½, a Pacific Beach resident, knows how to think big. Along with his older brother, Andrew, 7, and his parents, Neil and Margot, he helped La Jolla United Methodist Church Nursery School (LJUMCNS), where he is a student, raise \$446 at a used book sale on May 5 and 6 to memorialize his 9-year-old brother, Samuel Thomas Hutchison. Sam passed away March 12 from the effects of neuroblastoma, a vicious cancer common in infants and children, after a battle that lasted more than half his life.

Liza Olmert, a LJUMCNS board member, said the sale was planned last fall as part of a series of fundraisers held throughout the year while Sam was still fighting the disease.



Samuel Thomas Hutchison

Photo by DEB SCHWEDHELM

SEE HUTCHISON, Page 8



A U.S. veteran attends a past ceremony at the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial.  
DON BALCH | Beach & Bay Press

## Veterans ceremony set at Mt. Soledad

By JENNA FRAZIER | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The 29-foot cross that crowns Mount Soledad may continue to foster controversy, but that won't prevent the Mount Soledad Memorial Association from holding a ceremony May 31 to honor United States war veterans.

The event, which marketing representative Bob Phillips expects to attract a crowd of about 1,000, including District 1 City Councilwoman Sherri Lightner of La Jolla, will last from 2 to 3:15 p.m. at the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial. The service will commemorate the sacrifices of Medal of Honor recipient Army Col. Robert Howard with a plaque to be installed on the Veterans Wall.

Howard, who is believed to be one of the most heavily-decorated American veterans in recent history, served five tours of duty during the Vietnam War and was nominated for the Medal

SEE SOLEDAD, Page 8

# A 'high five' for Memorial Day weekend

By ANTHONY GENTILE | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Temperatures are getting warmer and warmer as the arrival of Memorial Day weekend signals that summer is right around corner. Here is a list of five fun things to do in Mission Beach, Mission Bay and Pacific Beach to make it a thrilling three-day weekend

1

### Tee off at Mission Bay Golf Course

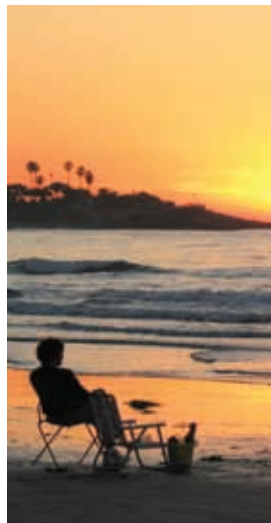
While most of the bigger golf courses in San Diego are across the freeway, hackers can sneak in a quick 18 this weekend at Mission Bay Golf Course. No drivers necessary on this executive golf course that measures only 2,719 yards. Tee times at Mission Bay Golf Course can be made from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. by calling (858) 581-7880. Mission Bay Golf is the only course with night lighting in San Diego, open until 10 p.m. for the night putters out there.



2

### Soak in a sunset

With three days this weekend, there is a good chance that one picturesque sunset will break through the May gray. For those looking to view a sunset in a natural environment, take a picnic to a local park. Grab a blanket and basket and head to one of three spots: Crown Point Park on Crown Point Drive and Ingraham Street; Kate Sessions Park on Lamont Street; or Fanuel Park on Fanuel Street and Sail Bay.



3

### Board the Bahia Belle

Start the weekend off on Mission Bay with the Bahia Belle cruise on Friday or Saturday night. The old-fashioned sternwheeler circles the bay while providing a taste of yesterday. The Bahia Belle departs from the Bahia Belle Resort Hotel on Mission Bay each hour from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m., with family hour at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. and the 21 and up cocktail cruise leaving the docks at 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 p.m. For those trying to avoid the Mission Beach traffic, the boat also picks up at the Catamaran Resort hourly starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. For more information, visit [www.sternwheelers.com/cruise.html](http://www.sternwheelers.com/cruise.html).

4

### Catch a wave in Belmont Park

For those who love the big wave but hate the hot sand or adventure junkies looking for a fix, Wave-House in Belmont Park might be the best weekend bet. Beginners can get started with the FlowRider wave machine, where no experience is necessary and the chute is padded. Those aiming for a big challenge can try FlowBarrel, with water flowing as fast as 30 mph to make a 10-foot wave. Rides start at \$20 per hour. For more information, visit [www.wavehousesandiego.com](http://www.wavehousesandiego.com).



5

### Bike around the bay

Few local areas are nicer to take a beach cruiser around than bike paths around Mission Bay. Dust off the banana seat and take a breeze-filled trip around the bay. Don't have a bike? Not a problem. Rent one at a local shop like Bicycle Discovery (742 Felspar St.) or Pacific Coast Bicycle (1633 Garnet Ave.) and cruise on down to the water.





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# Around the Rotary Club with club President Jim Willis: a Q&A

By ANTHONY GENTILE | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Rotary Club of Mission Bay has been a staple of the local community for more than 50 years, meeting every Monday at the Catamaran Hotel. Beach and Bay Press caught up with club president Jim Willis to talk mission, membership and the new Crown Point Pavilion, which will be dedicated today, May 27 at 11:15 a.m.

**Q: What exactly is the Rotary Club of Mission Bay?**

Willis: It is an organization of men and women, and their goals are to provide community service to the community and to the world. The object is to encourage and foster the ideal of service to others.

**Q: Who is in the club?**

Willis: It can be business members, school principals, teachers, doctors, nurses, or community service leaders. Anybody can be a member if they have the time and want to provide a service to their community or another community group.

**Q: What are some current projects the club is working on?**

Willis: One of our biggest projects is the structure at the Crown Point Pavilion. Over the years it has just deteriorated. It has all come down and our club has been working to help raise funds and get this thing built for five years, and finally it's happening. We're hoping to get it done by Memorial Day.



The Mission Bay Rotary Club played a key role in funding the renovation of the Crown Point Pavilion, which will be dedicated today, May 27. COURTESY PHOTO

We give dictionaries to all third-grade students in schools in Mission Bay and a couple of the schools in Clairemont also. We'll take on a project that somebody comes up with and somebody needs help with.

**Q: How many members are in the Rotary Club?**

Willis: We have 19 members right now. We dropped down in size quite a bit from what we used to be.

**Q: How do you become a member of the Rotary Club?**

Willis: We would very much like to have anybody that is interested in

membership contact anybody in the club or just come to a meeting sometime and introduce themselves. We meet every Monday at the Catamaran Hotel at 12 p.m.

## Rotary Club of Mission Bay

Chartered in 1955

**Meetings:** Mondays at noon at Catamaran Resort & Spa, 3999 Mission Blvd.

For more information, visit [www.rotaryclubmissionbay.org](http://www.rotaryclubmissionbay.org)

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### Looking ahead

#### THURSDAY, MAY 27

**PBTC Safe and Beautiful Committee meeting,** 6:30 p.m., Pacific Beach Presbyterian Church, 1675 Garnet Ave., (858) 483-6666

#### TUESDAY, JUNE 1

**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

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

**Friends of Rose Creek meeting,** 6 p.m., Pacific Beach Recreation Center, 1405 Diamond St., [www.saverosecreek.org](http://www.saverosecreek.org)

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 5

**Clean PB Day,** 9 a.m. to noon, lifeguard tower at end of Grand Avenue, [www.cleanpb.com](http://www.cleanpb.com)

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

**Discover PB Promotions Committee**

**meeting,** 3 p.m., Discover PB office, 1503 Garnet Ave., (858) 273-3303

**PBTC Sundowner community gathering,** 5:30 p.m., Pacific Terrace at 610 Diamond St., (858) 483-6666, [pbtowncouncil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pbtowncouncil@sbcglobal.net)

**Mission Beach Town Council meeting,** 7 p.m., Community Room, Belmont Park, [www.missionbeachtc.org](http://www.missionbeachtc.org)



## NEWSbriefs

### Earlier trash collection to save city \$4.4M

Earlier trash collection will start at 6 a.m. in residential neighborhoods after the San Diego City Council voted this month to shift the current 7 a.m. collection to the earlier time to save money.

There was no discussion and the change in hours was approved in a 7-0 vote as the item remained on the consent

agenda with routine matters that generally are not discussed.

Sanitation workers will work 10 hours a day, four days a week and get three days off. Currently, trash collectors work eight hours a day, five days a week.

This change will yield savings of \$4.4 million, according to city documents. Workers with the city's Environmental Services Department were mostly in favor of the change in hours, according to Joan Raymond, who represents the workers.

The change is also in keeping with getting trash to the Miramar Landfill, which

closes at 4:30 p.m. each day to comply with its operating permit. The landfill lease prohibits landfill operations after dark.

The city's Natural Resources & Culture Committee voted 4-0 on April 14 to approve the change and recommend it to the full City Council. The change falls in the Noise Abatement and Control section of the Municipal Code.

The change only affects city workers and the city-provided green and blue

SEE BRIEFS, Page 9

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GUEST COMMENTARY



Now & Then  
John Fry



Taken by Willie Skinner around 1965, this photo looks northeast to Newberry's in Pacific Plaza, about where Great News is today. The abandoned Brown Military Academy dormitory buildings, where The Plaza condominiums now stand, are visible at the rear.

Memories come flooding back from old friends

*I received these comments in response to one of my previous columns:*

I'd have to agree with Willie Skinner. There must have been about 35 of those twisty little pedestal seats at the Newberry's lunch counter. My girlfriends and I always stopped there after a day at Pacific Beach Junior High for a Coke, which was served in a paper cone set into a silver metal holder. I spent a lot of time at the bowling alley too, but can't remember how many lanes there were. Forty-eight seems like too many, but I was probably paying more attention to who was there than actually bowling.

— Cheryl Proulx Nodland

PB Bowl had 32 lanes: 16 blue on one side and 16 orange on the other. During high school, I worked from 3:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. cleaning and oiling the lanes. On weekends, I would porter, retrieve balls and work the desk until midnight. I still remember three-hour waits on rainy weekends. It was a great place to learn work ethics at the age of 16, as well as the proper etiquette involved with beer drinking in the parking lot. I miss that place.

— Richard Kiser

Surely the PB Bowl couldn't have had 35 lanes? Do you remember how long Organ Power Pizza was there after the bowl? Ah, Newberry's lunch counter! I know Devany's Bakery was nearby. Was there a drug store near Newberry's? I only remember Thrifty where Trader Joe's is now. Thrifty with the great ice cream! I'm not sure how to spell it but Maniuni Max became Julio's, which became Nick's! How I wish I had taken pictures of all the changes over the last 50 years. JC Penny and Highlander. On East Mission Bay Drive there was Lime House and Orange Julius, which became Rubio's. One that got me thinking about all this was your mention of Moonlight Café in the May newsletter. Do you remember China Land over near Rosecrans Street? OK, I'll stop. Thanks for all your good work with PBHS and "Now and Then." I'm having a lot of fun racking my old brain trying to remember what was where, when.

— Flora Hoffman

Dear Flora — How you do go on!! I love it!! Organ Power Pizza took over the old Victory Lanes Bowling Alley, where Typhoon and Fred's are today. Pacific Beach Bowl was on the second floor of Pacific Plaza II. Of COURSE, I remember China Land. Where else could you get an Egg Fu Yung Burger?

John Fry may be reached at 272-6655 or mail@johnfry.com.

PROPOSITION D: PRO & CON

Prop D would create accountability

By Councilman Carl DeMaio

On June 8, San Diego voters will have an important opportunity to advance common-sense reform in our financially troubled city government by voting "yes" on Proposition D.

Prop D would enhance accountability at City Hall by making the strong mayor/strong council form of government permanent. This form of government creates clear roles and responsibilities. The mayor would serve as head of the executive branch, overseeing management of city departments day-to-day. The City Council would serve as an independent legislative branch, formulating policy, making appropriations and conducting oversight.

In 2004, voters approved a trial experiment in this form of government. Unless Prop D is passed, that trial would end — and the city would revert back to the outdated and discredited city manager form of government where there is little accountability or balance.

Prop D does not just make permanent the strong mayor/strong council form of government. It makes significant improvements to how San Diego achieves that form of government.

By giving the mayor a real veto, subject only to override by a two-thirds vote of the City Council, Prop D will bring important checks and balances to city government. With a real veto, the mayor will be able to check the parochial spending desires of each



individual city councilmember.

This system of government provides balance in another important way. The mayor, who is elected citywide, would run the executive branch while city councilmembers — elected by each individual council district — would run the legislature. San Diegans need to have both perspectives represented in their government and Prop D accomplishes this.

Proposition D adds a ninth seat to the City Council to allow for a simple two-thirds vote for a veto override. While opponents of Prop D complain that the addition of a ninth City Council seat would cost money, adding a ninth seat will help ensure that important smaller neighborhoods continue to get a voice as the city's population grows.

The ninth seat can also be added without increased costs if we commit to splitting the existing individual council budgets up equi-

tably. I have joined with Councilmember Kevin Faulconer to sponsor legislation that ensures a new council seat will be "cost neutral" in the city's budget.

Prop D would also prevent a return to the days when city bureaucrats were allowed to negotiate costly labor contracts with other city bureaucrats. Under the old city manager form of government, labor negotiations would be conducted by unelected city bureaucrats who personally benefit from the labor contracts they negotiate. This conflict of interest would be eliminated by Prop D — with the mayor serving as the city's lead negotiator in labor negotiations.

San Diego is still reeling from bad decisions made in city labor contracts that spiked pension benefits, increased salaries and awarded other costly perks. We should not go back to the form of government that facilitated those bad decisions.

If Prop D does not pass, taxpayers will face higher city spending on a number of fronts.

If the city returned to a city manager form of government, a duplicative bureaucracy would have to be created and added back into the city's organizational structure.

San Diego needs to make a number of reforms to restore its financial health and get back to providing the kinds of services our neighborhoods deserve. Prop D is one of those important reforms that voters should make on June 8.

— Carl DeMaio represents District 5 as a member of the City Council.

League opposes Prop D as bad for San Diego

Election Day is just around the corner. On June 8, voters will be deciding the fate of Proposition D — making permanent the strong mayor form of government. Prop D is the controversial ballot measure that increases the size and cost of city government and turns our temporary strong-mayor system into a permanent form of governance for San Diego. The League of Women Voters recommends a NO vote on Prop D.

Why? Proposition D would make the strong mayor the permanent form of governance in San Diego. Unfortunately, it goes much further than that. Prop D would also increase the size and cost of city government by requiring the creation of an additional council district and all that goes with it: additional office space, staff, salaries, pensions, benefits and a ninth City Council member.

We're asking you to ask yourself: does it make sense to expand San Diego city government when the city is flat broke — when road repairs, street maintenance, libraries, parks, lifeguards, police, firefighters and too many other neighborhood services are on the chopping block? Is this the time to create bigger and more expensive government?

To help you make an informed choice, we encourage you to go to the League website at [www.lwvsandiego.org](http://www.lwvsandiego.org). You'll find an eye-opening report on the underside of our five-year experience with a strong mayor form of government, as well as background infor-

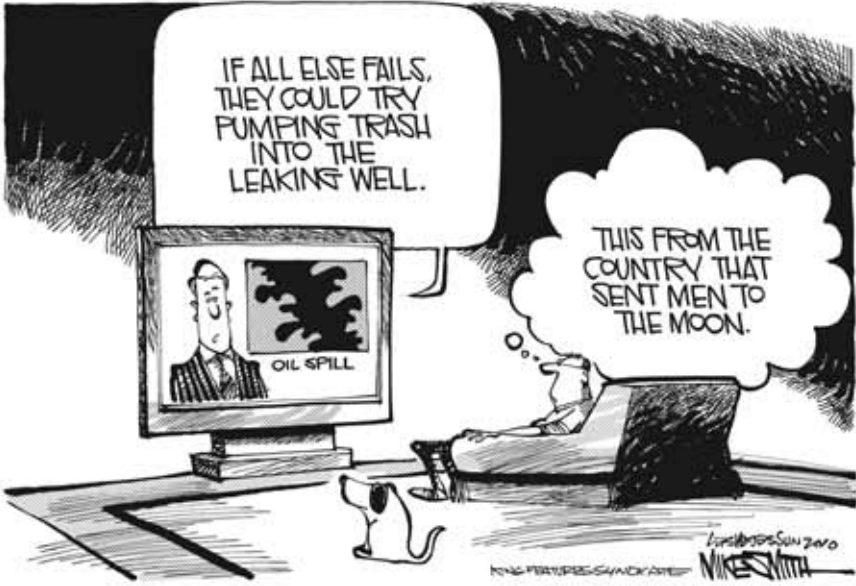
mation on Proposition D.

You'll also get a startling look at the "who's who" of financial supporters of Prop D. After reading it, I think you'll agree with the LWV that our city can't afford Prop D — not financially, and not if you value the standards of good government espoused by the LWV.

The LWV doesn't have access to the hundreds of thousands of dollars accumulated

by the special-interest supporters of Prop D to get the word out. Instead, we're counting on neighbors telling neighbors, friends e-mailing friends and everyone else willing to stand up for good government in San Diego to vote NO on Prop D.

Norma Damashek  
Co-president, San Diego League of Women Voters



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# PBMS moves forward with ocean-friendly garden

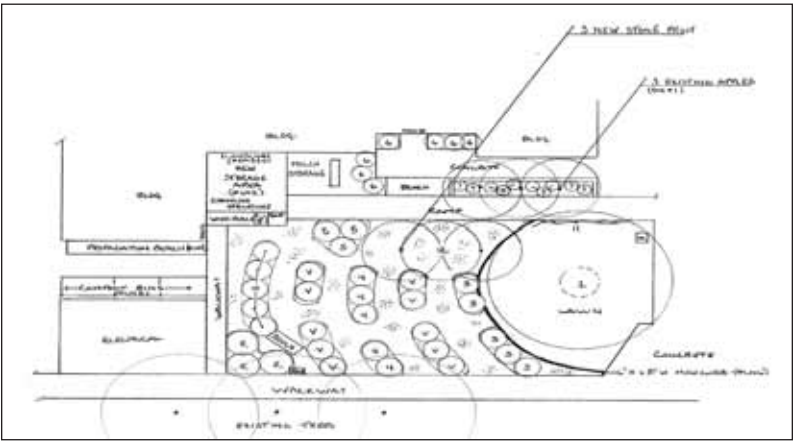
By HILLARY SCHULER-JONES | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Pacific Beach Middle School's (PBMS) theme is "International Waters," and the school's close proximity to the ocean has yielded many opportunities for students to learn how the local ecology is connected to the global environment. This summer, that connection will become even stronger as plans to build an ocean-friendly garden on campus move closer to completion.

"We are so close to the ocean. It's something that we draw off of all the time," said Jennifer Sims, PBMS's International Baccalaureate program coordinator, who is helping lead the project. "This really is going to continue with that ocean theme and bring it to life for the students so they can see the connection with landscaping and gardening and how it really does affect the ocean and how everything is interconnected."

The garden, named "Waves of Green" by students, will be built according to principles established by the Surfrider Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes clean oceans and beaches. According to the Surfrider website, traditional gardening methods can lead to increased water runoff, as well as elevated levels of pollutants and pesticides in that water, which flows into storm drains and, ultimately, into the ocean.

In order to mitigate the negative effects that runoff can have, Surfrider has established CPR© guidelines, which champion conservation, permeability and retention in gardening. The tenets of CPR© include choosing plants that don't need much water, using perme-



This schematic shows the proposed garden that will be planted on the Pacific Beach Middle School campus. Designer Carol Fuller created the layout to resemble the ripples that occur when something hits the surface of water.

able materials in the landscaping and installing devices that will allow water to drain into underground aquifers, according to the website.

The garden's designer, Carol Fuller, used these principles in her initial design and—in keeping with the school's water-centric theme—created a layout that resembles the ripples that occur when something hits the surface of water, Sims said. Each of the "ripples" in the garden will be planted with seasonal organic vegetables or native, low-water varieties.

Fuller, a Cuyamaca College landscape design student, became familiar with water-wise gardening principles while working at Cuyamaca's Water Conservation Garden, Sims said.

San Diego Unified School District recently approved the design plans, and a team of parents, staff and volunteers will

be working this summer to install the hardscaping and secure grants for supplies, worm and composting bins, plants and a drip irrigation system, Sims said.

The team is aiming to have the garden ready for planting in October, but that schedule hinges on the installation of the irrigation system.

A student-lead science club will be responsible for maintaining the plants throughout the year, in partnership with The Evergreen Project, Sims said. That club will also look for new ways to make the garden more sustainable, including working with food services to collect lunchtime waste to use for composting. The garden will also become part of the school's curriculum, particularly in seventh grade when students learn about life sciences and need to make observations of local flora and fauna.

The Pacific Beach Women's Club and the Pacific Beach Kiwanis have already donated some garden tools, but the partnership is still looking for gently worn, student-friendly hand tools, rakes, shovels and other gardening implements, new lifeguard hats and gloves and monetary contributions. **Readers interested in making a donation can contact Jennifer Sims at [jsims@sandi.net](mailto:jsims@sandi.net) or by calling (858) 273-9070, ext. 2357.**

A major component of ocean-friendly gardening is the use of water-wise plants and native varieties that don't require lots of water. Some plants that have been suggested for use on the Pacific Beach Middle School campus include: **Autumn sage, Bearded iris, Daylily, Early sunrise, coreopsis, Mexican marigold, Passion vine, Santa Barbara sage, Sweet lavender**

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# HUTCHINSON

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

“When Sam passed away, we decided to hold the sale as a way to honor him,” Olmert said. “We wanted this to be a way for the community to commemorate his impact.”

All proceeds from the sale benefit Magic Water, Inc., a nonprofit corporation started by the Hutchison family in 2007 to raise funds that would enable families to explore alternate treatments in a field where straightforward cures are unheard of. The foundation’s name originated from a young girl’s parents who described chemotherapy as “magic water” that would eliminate the pain she experienced as a result of cancer. To date, it has raised more than \$1 million.

## About Sam

Sam’s parents describe him as a diehard competitive, staunchly cheerful, active and insightful 9-year old with an insatiable zest for life. His favorite hobbies included “any sports, really,” Margot said, with soccer, football, biking, hiking, swimming, skateboarding and Razor scootering topping the list. He also loved playing with his brothers, reading, video games, chess, Scrabble, assembling science projects and indulging in his favorite food — tacos.

Andrew had a hard time selecting a favorite quality of Sam’s.

“Everything about him was so special,” he said. “He always helped me with school and video games, and he always included me in sports. I’m always going to remember him.”

As for Charlie — “He always says he can see Sam sitting up in the sky on the brightest star,” Margot said. “Whenever he gets balloons, he always lets them go for his brother.”

Although Sam dreamed of becoming a

professional athlete, Neil always thought he would grow up to work as an engineer.

“He was so smart and he had amazing hand-eye coordination,” Neil said. “He could put together anything.”

Sam also used to watch the Food Network regularly and said he wanted to run a restaurant someday, Margot said.

“He had quite the sophisticated palette,” she said.

She attended a local cooking class with Sam and Andrew “to try to match up my skills with his tastes,” she said.

On Jan. 19, 2005, Sam was diagnosed with stage-four neuroblastoma and doctors found a tumor in his abdomen, three bone lesions and 95 percent packed bone marrow. He endured six rounds of high-dose chemotherapy, a six-hour surgery to remove the initial tumor, a stem-cell transplant and six months of medication. He was declared in remission in October 2005, but relapsed in August 2006, two weeks after Charlie was born.

Neil and Margot scoured existing research for holistic treatments and clinical trials Sam could try, hoping something would improve their son’s condition. At one point, Sam was swallowing an average of 40 pills per day after Neil tested them on himself — an experiment that the Wall Street Journal documented in an article on the Hutchisons in 2007. After several more tumultuous rounds of triumph and despair, Sam passed away peacefully at home with his family on March 12 this year.

## Coping

Neil and Margot said they remained hopeful until the end and continue to struggle with the finality.

“I never thought he would die until the day it happened,” Neil said.

Following Sam’s example, however, they strive to stay positive.

“The boys are what wakes us up in the morning,” Margot said. “Sam never felt

sorry for himself, so we try not to feel sorry for ourselves either.”

“Sam was the bravest person we know,” Neil said. “He never once asked, ‘Why me?’”

As for coping with the grief, Margot said the family has tried counseling, staying active and other recommended tactics.

“I’ve read every book there is,” she said. “But I think, ultimately, you have to deal with it on your own. It comes in waves and there’s no right or wrong way.”

“He changed a lot of lives and I still feel like the luckiest guy in the world that I got to be his dad” Neil said. “But it hurts every day and we’re just left trying to make some good come out of this.”

One of Margot’s friends who lost a daughter to neuroblastoma offered the Hutchisons a piece of advice that they say helps with that task.

“She told us that there’s no such thing as before Sam and after Sam,” Margot said. “There’s before Sam and there’s because of Sam.”

The latter category continues to expand as the Hutchisons hear stories of how Sam inspires others living with chronic conditions. The Hutchisons started a foundation with another family, the Londons, whose daughter Penelope died of neuroblastoma in 2006. The Penelope and Sam Fund has raised \$2.3 million for researching the disease to date.

“Sam changed the face of treatment for this type of cancer and I hope it helps others,” Neil said. “And if it does, it’s because of a beautiful little boy with red hair who loved school and every sport and was the best big brother imaginable.”

## Remembering Sam

The Make-A-Wish Foundation helped the Hutchisons make a trip in 2006 to Melbourne, Australia where Margot’s brother resides with the boys’ cousins. The family visited the beach and the zoo, went



Sam (from left), Andrew and Charlie Hutchison are all smiles at Pacific Beach. Photo by DEB SCHWEDHELM

on hikes and even fed kangaroos.

Other trips included Big Bear, Palm Springs, New Mexico, Houston, Maui, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

“He packed a lot of living in his nine years,” Neil said, echoing the priest who officiated Sam’s mass memorial at St. Brigid Parish, which was attended by more than 500 family members, friends and supporters.

Kate Sessions Elementary School, which Margot described as “incredibly supportive,” also held a ceremony for Sam. The school dedicated a four-square court to his memory, complete with a painted flaming soccer ball and the words, “Sam You Rock.” The Hutchison family mounted a commemorative plaque in the concrete at Kate Sessions Park, which

Margot said was Sam’s favorite place.

Sam also stars in his own YouTube channel, teamsamhutchison, where a recap video of his commemorative April 3 All-Star Party celebration of life at Kate Sessions Park depicts kids shooting soccer goals, tossing Frisbees, cruising on Razor scooters, and perfecting football spins. Several of Sam’s relatives, nurses, teachers and friends also share special memories of his life.

“There were hundreds of kids laughing and playing and enjoying the outdoors, and that’s exactly what Sam would have wanted,” Neil said. “Sam always wanted to be an all-star, and he was.”

To learn more about Sam’s story, visit teamsam.com. To contribute to the Magic Water Foundation, visit www.magicwater.org.

# SOLEDAD

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

of Honor three separate times for different acts. Wounded 14 times 54 months, he received the honor in 1971 from President Richard M. Nixon. He also received eight purple hearts, four bronze stars and two distinguished service crosses. Fellow Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Marine Corps Col. Bob Modrzejewski, retired, will relate accounts of Howard’s medal-meriting acts.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Conant, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, will deliver the keynote address. Conant oversees flight operations that support tens of thousands of Marines at various locations, including Miramar and Camp Pendleton, and has served with all four Marine aircraft wings as a UH-1N Huey and AH-1W Cobra pilot.

Spectators will enjoy music by the

Navy Band Southwest Brass Quintet under the direction of Petty Officer Joe Moore, as well as the National Anthem performed by soloist Robyn Groen of the Troubador Band. Representatives of American Legion Post 275 and VFW Post 1774 will conduct a wreath laying, and San Diego County Veteran of the Year Virgin Whitehead will lead attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

In addition, the San Diego Salute T-34 Team will present a flyover performance of the missing man formation, an aerial salute that typically honors fallen pilots

No new developments to the lawsuit, initiated by atheist veteran Philip Paulson in 1989 over the constitutionality of displaying a religious symbol on city property, have arisen. As the case awaits a delayed decision in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, Phillips said he is optimistic in light of the Supreme Court’s decision to allow a memorial cross in Mojave Desert to

remain—although it has since been stolen.

“That was a single cross, whereas ours is an integrated memorial,” Phillips said. “The ruling was a positive one, but ultimately the courts will settle this matter.”

“Meanwhile,” he added, “our mission continues to be the same, and that is to recognize veterans who have been honorably-discharged from the U.S. military.”

The association has also recently begun to honor veterans from other countries who served in U.S. military commands, notably Koreans who served in the U.S. military. Phillips said current projects include working on walkways, capping the walls and installing a sprinkler system at the site of the monument.

The association also continues to add commemorative black granite plaques to the Veterans Wall, which now displays more than 2,700 and will eventually hold 3,200. Famous plaque holders include former U.S. presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan, as well as generals John J. Pershing and George S. Patton, and admirals James Stockdale and Chester Nimitz. Actors Jimmy Stewart and Audie Murphy — who is the most highly-decorated World War II veteran, are also represented.

“There are many others you’ve never heard of, but they served their country proudly and we are honored to commemorate them,” Phillips said.

The lead sponsor for this year’s Memorial Day ceremony is the Home Box Office (HBO) network, which presented the Mt. Soledad Veterans Association with an undisclosed grant and will receive an organizational plaque.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes early to the event. Free parking and shuttle services are available at the Mount Soledad Presbyterian Church, 6551 Soledad Mountain Road. For more information, visit www.soledadmemorial.com or call (858) 459-2314.

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# Groundbreaking iPhone application has roots in PB

Location-based application revolutionizing the way people use classified listings

By **HILLARY SCHULER-JONES** | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Pacific Beach is better known for its laid-back atmosphere than its technological achievements, but a groundbreaking new location-based iPhone application that combines the functionality of Craigslist with the speed of Twitter now has deep roots in this beachside town.

Antenna, billed as “a swapmeet in your pocket,” was created by the staff at

Barefoot Solutions, a web design and development company located on Garnet Avenue.

The application allows users to post Twitter-size messages (140 characters or less) about the goods they are selling, swapping or seeking. The posts are geo-tagged according to the user’s GPS location, and anyone using the application can browse for items within their immediate

SEE **ANTENNA**, Page 20



Employees from Barefoot Solutions hit the streets of Pacific Beach in May to promote the nationwide launch of the new iPhone application. An entire “Ant Army” will swarm San Diego this summer as part of the group’s marketing effort. PHOTO BY ADRIANE TILLMAN | BEACH & BAY PRESS

## BRIEFS

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

recycling containers that are picked up mechanically on the street. This vote will not affect private waste haulers and does not involve dumpsters that are typically used in apartment complexes or condominiums.

— Neal Putnam

### Murderer confesses to avoid retrial

Gerald Dean Metcalf avoided a retrial of a murder that happened 39 years ago and agreed to plead guilty to second-degree murder in the 1971 death of Gerald Jackson, 27, of Pacific Beach. The retrial was to have started May 21, but he pleaded guilty earlier and requested immediate sentencing from San Diego Superior Court Judge David Gill.

Metcalf, now 62, was sentenced to five years to life in prison, which was the maximum term in 1971 for second-degree murder. Metcalf was given credit for already serving 526 days in jail since his

2008 arrest from his home in a small Texas town.

Metcalf has already been transferred to R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility, and prison officials will have to determine when he can be paroled. They must follow the laws in place in 1971. Gill fined him more than \$1,000 and denied probation.

Metcalf was 24 years old when he met Jackson in downtown San Diego. Jackson was gay and took Metcalf to his Hornblend Street apartment on Dec. 29, 1971. Jackson had been stabbed 55 times and his nude body was found on his bedroom floor by two friends who were concerned when Jackson never arrived at work.

A jury heard the case in December but deadlocked 9-3 in favor of conviction of first-degree murder. Jurors said a psychiatrist who was on the jury believed defense arguments that Metcalf was too mentally ill to form malice. The psychiatrist and two other jurors voted for voluntary manslaughter, and a mistrial was declared on Dec. 22, 2009.

Metcalf was arrested because DNA evidence was found on cigarette butts in

Jackson’s apartment and because his own blood and fingerprints were left behind. Jackson’s vehicle was stolen, and his new stereo was pawned. In 2008, an intern from the cold-case unit ran the fingerprints and a match to Metcalf was made because Metcalf had been arrested in Texas in 1984 and his fingerprints were on file.

— Neal Putnam

### Man pleads guilty to kidnapping PB couple

Daniel Cital Jasso, 33, became the second man to receive a 13-year prison term for kidnapping a couple in Pacific Beach in a case linked to a missing batch of marijuana valued at around \$70,000. The trial for three others started this week with jury selection.

Jasso pleaded guilty to kidnapping Silvia Arellano and Joshua Castrillon in February last year. The couple were followed and when they got out of their car on Ingraham Street, three men with guns abducted them. The couple was put in the back seat of their own BMW.

Arellano, 30, was shocked with a stun

gun and one man took \$100 from her. The driver resisted attempts by police to pull him over, but eventually pulled off on a center shoulder median near Hotel Circle. Police arrested three men and two others later.

San Diego Superior Court Judge Jeff Fraser fined Jasso more than \$2,000, and Jasso received credit of 493 days already served in jail, according to court records. On Feb. 26, Arturo Galarza, 40, was sentenced by Fraser to 13 years for kidnapping.

Raymundo Quezada, 25, Gustavo Martinez, Jr., 22, and Rafael Ortiz, 23, are currently on trial and have all pleaded not guilty. They all remain behind bars on \$500,000 bail.

Castrillon, 36, knew some of the defendants and testified last year that he had been holding 600 pounds of marijuana as “the middle man.” However, the marijuana was stolen from a storage site and the men kidnapped him and his girlfriend to find out where it was. The girlfriend testified she knew nothing about the drug deal and broke up with Castrillon after the kidnapping.

— Neal Putnam

## Who is Dena Riso, Au.D.?

Dena is a native of San Diego who recently opened Peninsula Hearing Center in Point Loma. She earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Communicative Disorders from San Diego State University and her Doctorate in Audiology from AT Still University in Mesa, Arizona. She is a licensed (dispensing) Audiologist in the state of California, as well as a Fellow with the American Academy of Audiology and California Academy of Audiology.

Having devoted the last 10 years to helping those with hearing and balance disorders, she has experience with both pediatric and adult patients and believes in educating her patients about the effects of hearing loss. Through testing and counseling she works with her patients to help them develop a successful and healthy hearing plan to improve their quality of life.

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WE DELIVER

# Olive Cafe celebrates five years in north Mission

By ANTHONY GENTILE | BEACH & BAY PRESS

When Sarah Mattinson opened Olive Cafe in Mission Beach in 2005, her hopes were to have the cozy restaurant become a part of the local community. Five years later, the breakfast and lunch restaurant is exactly that — a Mission Beach mainstay.

“I really appreciate all the local people and I’m glad I’m part of the community,” Mattinson said. “I hope to be here for years.”

Olive Cafe celebrated its five-year anniversary at Santa Clara Place on May 12. It combines breakfast and lunch with a homey, neighborhood feel, mirroring a community deli Mattinson frequented growing up in New York.

“I had grown up with a place like that in New York where the woman who ran it just knew everybody and everyone really felt like it was their place, too. That’s what we try to do,” Mattinson said.

And that is precisely what Olive Cafe has done over the last five years. The restaurant has its fair share of regulars with their own mugs, some of whom have even beefed up the menu with items like Neighbor Dave’s Turkey Melt.

The sense of community Olive Cafe has fostered in its first five years extends beyond the menu, though. A regular customer even maintains the flowers outside



Sarah Mattinson, background, chats with a customer at Olive Café on Santa Clara Place.  
PHOTO BY DON BALCH | BEACH & BAY PRESS

the restaurant.

“She loves doing gardening and has done a really nice job,” Mattinson said. “She walks here five days a week for iced tea and pastries and she’ll do all this gardening. It’s cute and I really love it.”

As Olive Cafe has grown, so has its menu, expanding two full pages from when it first opened. The menu has a little bit of everything — scones, healthy egg scrambles, wraps, quesadillas and even some Turkish food as homage to its culinary predecessor.

“If you see my menu it’s like a book. It’s like, ‘This person likes this and this person likes that,’ and then we’ll try new stuff like specials that may turn out really well

and we’ll add it to the menu,” Mattinson said.

Mattinson lives in Mission Beach and is a member of the Mission Beach Woman’s Club. She is active in the community along with the restaurant, which just this year adopted a section of Mission Bay near Santa Clara Point to keep clean. The first Olive Cafe cleanup in January had 45 people.

“That was really neat that we have the support with the community,” Mattinson said.

Olive Cafe is located at 805 Santa Clara Place in Mission Beach and is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit [www.olivecafe.biz](http://www.olivecafe.biz).

## BRINGING IT HOME

# Evaluating the state of local real estate

By MARK MARQUEZ, SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® PRESIDENT

After a challenging year in 2009, the real estate market in San Diego County

has seen much improvement in this first quarter of 2010. Within the first three months, the median price has improved month over month for both condos and single-family houses, and the year-to-date median price for all properties is signifi-

cantly higher than it was in 2009. Best of all, even with higher prices, there are still large numbers of properties being sold and being sold quickly.

SEE SDAR, Page 15

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# Ballet company reschedules performance

City Ballet postpones ‘Celebrate Balanchine’ due to downturn in donations

By HILLARY SCHULER-JONES | BEACH & BAY PRESS

A lagging economy and lack of sufficient donations has forced City Ballet, a dance production company located in Pacific Beach, to postpone the last show of its season until November, said managing director Jo Anne Emery.

“We didn’t want to go forward with something when we didn’t have all the funding in place, thinking it’s going to come,” Emery said. “The money wasn’t there, and we weren’t going to jeopardize the future of the company by just going forward.”

“Celebrate Balanchine” was slated to run May 7 to 9 and would have cost approximately \$100,000 to stage, about half of which would have come from ticket sales, Emery said. The other half would have been funded through donations, which have waned in the last year due to the poor economy.

“Last [season], when the economy kind of took a nosedive ... that was just before our ‘Nutcracker’ performances, and it really effected ticket sales, but donations were still good,” Emery said. “This year, it is kind of the other way around. We’ve seen ticket sales starting

“We didn’t want to go forward with something when we didn’t have all the funding in place, thinking it’s going to come”

Jo Anne Emery  
Managing Director, City Ballet

to come back up, but it’s the donations that are going down.”

The production is now scheduled for Nov. 5 to 7 and will be the opening performance of the 2010-11 season. The two-hour program will feature four dances choreographed by the late ballet master George Balanchine, who coached City Ballet’s artistic director Steven Wistrich in the 1970s.

The company’s management team chose to postpone the show rather than cancel it because they had already invested money in permissions from The George Balanchine Trust to perform his dances and on choreography, which can be used for the production in the fall, Emery said.

The rest of the show’s expenses

would have been incurred during the actual performance due to the cost of renting the theater, lighting and costumes, hiring stagehands and ushers, and paying the dancers’ salaries, Emery said.

The company now hopes that a matching donation challenge launched by long-time City Ballet supporter Fred Kiko and his friends will encourage new contributions. Earlier this year, Kiko pledged to match up to \$70,000 in donations received by City Ballet before June 30.

“We know that this economy is not going to be bad forever,” Emery said. “We are seeing things turning around, it’s just taking a little longer in the arts.”

The company is also proceeding as planned with its annual patron fundraiser June 6 as well as its three-week Summer Intensive program, which will take place at City Ballet’s Pacific Beach studios, 941 Garnet Ave., beginning July 26.

For more information about City Ballet, or to make a donation, visit [www.cityballet.org](http://www.cityballet.org) or call (858) 274-6058.

## BUSINESSbriefs

### Platformic names director of business development

Platformic, a software company headquartered in Pacific Beach that specializes in web platforms and services, has named Greg Gossler as the new director of business development. Gossler has more than 18 years

experience in software-industry strategy and alliance development. Platformic technology is currently used to power websites for organizations like Comcast Sportsnet, Fox, Peak Broadcasting and Cox Communications.

### Shoe store steps into grand opening

Flip-n-Out Flops, a brand new tropical-themed shoe store located at 4603

Mission Blvd., Ste. 102, will celebrate its grand opening on Saturday, June 12 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Attendees will be treated to a live DJ, finger foods, soft drinks and a book signing by Hawaiian writer Kirby Wright, as well as a 15 percent discount on purchases of \$30 or more.

The store carries casual footwear, hats and bags.

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BY ANNIE WEISMAN DIRECTED BY LISA PETERSON

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# Goodwill store on Garnet Avenue gets new look

By SANDI PIERZ | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The highly popular Goodwill store on Garnet Avenue in Pacific Beach recently went through a comprehensive remodel.

“What we are trying to do in all of our stores in San Diego is to have a similar branding identity,” said Beth Forsberg, director of donations and retail operations of Goodwill Industries of San Diego County. “All of our San Diego stores will have a comparable look with the exterior and interior paints, fixtures and signage.”

The renovation took five weeks and was completed March 5. The remodeling addressed two issues: to make needed repairs to an aging building and to create an aesthetically pleasing look for customers and employees. The remodel included new flooring and paint, new front windows, air conditioning and a new roof.

“We wanted to provide a nice place for the employees to work so we created a new store office and added more space in the back of the store for staff,” said

Forsberg. “The remodel was an investment in the community, in our staff and to our mission. The funding for this renovation came through the sale of reusable donated goods. Our entire mission funding and all of our operations are covered by our retail stores.

“We do our best to make sure that every useable donation is maximized,” she said. “Our donor base needs to know that we are dedicated to this effort. After our basic overhead expenses, 100 percent of the proceeds from the stores go back to our mission.”

The Pacific Beach store has been in operation since the early 1970s and offers “gently used goods” for purchase. Donors are welcome to donate clothing and household items to the store; however, large furniture such as couches and desks should be delivered to the Point Loma facility at 3663 Rosecrans St.

In addition to the retail centers, Goodwill also operates several bookstores and an “after-market facility” near San Ysidro, which includes an electronic store.



The Goodwill store at 1430 Garnet Ave. recently underwent a face-lift.

“The after-market facility is where items that have not been sold in the stores end up” Forsberg said.

There is also online shopping, where items can be ordered and delivered to the home.

Forsberg said Goodwill Industries is committed to helping people find jobs, and strongly supports hiring individuals with disabilities and challenges.

“Goodwill turns donations into jobs for people in need,” said Forsberg.

A new store in Santee is scheduled to open in late spring and is estimated to create 30-40 new jobs in the Santee facility alone.

“Goodwill has employment centers — there is one at the Point Loma location, in addition to other sites,” Forsberg said. “The centers provide free

employment services not only for those interested in employment at Goodwill but to the general community as well.”

Services include assistance with resume writing, computer use and help filling out applications.

The Pacific Beach store is located at 1430 Garnet Ave.

For more information, visit [www.sdgoodwill.org](http://www.sdgoodwill.org).

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 3714 Mission Blvd 858-488-668	<b>HAPPY DAY:</b> Happy Hour 11:30am - close, wii bowling tourney: sign up @ 9pm, starts @ 9:30 1/2 price btls, drafts & cocktails. 25% off apps	<b>TACO TUESDAY'S:</b> Taco's starting @ \$1.50 \$3.00 Dos Equis pints and \$5 Corralejho Margaritas Happy Hour from 3pm-7pm	<b>\$2 U Call It Night:</b> \$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	<b>BURGERS MADNESS:</b> \$5.99 Burger and Fries \$8 Dom. Pitchers, \$4 Jack and Friends Chili with Free pool, board games, 6 wii play games	<b>FISH &amp; CHIPS FRIDAYS:</b> \$9.99 all you can eat fish & chips \$8 Dom. Pitchers, \$4 Jack and Cokes, \$4 Vodka Rockstar, \$3.50 Jager, Fernet & Tuaca Shots	<b>SATURDAY SLIDIDERDAYS</b> 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.	<b>SUNDAY FUNDAY</b> \$8 Dom. Pitchers \$2.50 Kazis, \$5 Bloody Mary's, \$4 Mimosas. NHL and NBA packages available
 5046 Newport Ave. 619-222-5300	<b>All day, every day: \$3 Newcastle Ale &amp; \$3 Landshark pints</b> <b>Nightly Specials:</b> Open Mic w/ Jody Wood \$4 Vodka Redbull, \$4 Yager Bombs, Happy Hour 3-8 w/ \$3 Wells, \$8, \$10 & \$12 pitchers	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Wii & full Rockband competitions \$4 Vodka Redbull, \$4 Yager Bombs, Happy Hour 3-8 w/ \$3 Wells, \$8, \$10 & \$12 pitchers	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Hip hop night Happy Hour until 8pm, \$3 Wells, \$8, \$10 & \$12 pitchers	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Reggae night with live bands & DJ Carlos culture, \$3 Redstripes Happy Hour until 8pm, \$3 Wells, \$8, \$10 & \$12 pitchers	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Jason Otts accoustic showcase 6-9pm, Hip Hop, Bands + D.Js. Happy Hour until 8pm, \$3 Wells, \$8, \$10 & \$12 pitchers	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Live Music, DJ Chelu \$3 Mimosas, Bloody Marys & Beers	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> \$10 Corona Buckets \$5 Jager Bombs \$2 Buds
 721 Grand Ave. 858-581-BEER	<b>Open Wii play</b>	<b>All-You-Can-Eat Crab</b> With hushuppies and salad + crab races at 10pm.	<b>Uncorked</b> 1/2 price bottles of wine 5-10pm + \$5 Martini Madness at 10pm.	<b>Thursday Special</b> \$3 U-Call-Its from 9pm – close.	<b>Friday Special</b> \$3 U-Call-Its from 9pm – close.	<b>Breakfast</b> (9am – 1pm) with Build Your Own Bloody Marys and Tropical Mimosas.	<b>Breakfast</b> (9am – 1pm) with Build Your Own Bloody Marys and Tropical Mimosas.
 4343 Ocean Blvd. 858-272-SURF	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Beer Pong 9pm to Close .25 Wings and Industry gets 50% off bill	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> 1/2 off Appetizers 6pm to close	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Goldfish Racing 9pm to close	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> \$3 U Call it 8pm to close DJ Tony A NO Cover	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> \$3 Drafts, \$3 Tacos NO Cover	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Badgers Football DJ Tony A \$3 Drafts, \$3 Tacos NO Cover	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Karaoke with DJ Franquerey Reverse Happy Hour 10pm to Close – \$3 U Cal it
 4110 Mission Blvd. 858-272-7427	<b>Happy Hour: Monday – Friday 4 – 6pm</b> \$2 off Bud Light or Hefeweisen Pitchers \$3 off well drinks or well wines \$3 off all appetizers \$6.99 basket of 12 wings \$6.99 basket of 4 ribs <b>Fridays Join us for Live Music</b>					<b>Daily Special:</b> Happy Hour 11-4	<b>Daily Special:</b> Happy Hour 11-4



# MBHS aquatics make a yearlong splash

## From water polo to swimming, MBHS swimmers are making waves

By AMBERLY DRESSLER | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Coach Troy Merkel has watered the swim and water polo programs at Mission Bay High School and watched them grow. Since 2006, Merkel has made a splash by taking the lead of the Buccaneers' aquatic programs. He currently runs both the girls' and boys' swim and water polo teams for the black and gold.

Prior to Merkel's arrival, the program's turnover rate was high. Merkel said the water polo team saw a different coach each year in the five years before him.

"We are a growing program," Merkel said. "Consistency with one coach helps."

Members of the CIF-contending swim teams would likely agree. Four out of 10 girls on the swim team advanced to CIF finals, held May 19-22. Among them were junior Nicolette Rice, junior Nayeli Davila, sophomore Rachel Lobato and freshman Dana Zimmer. There were individual and team goals in mind.

The girls relay team looked to break a 34-year-old MBHS record, but instead beat their own 200-meter freestyle mark they set last year. Rice qualified for the finals on May 22, where she placed 10th and 11th.

Merkel values his team's talent, but hopes to keep filling the pool.

"We were a quality team, but not a quantity team," Merkel said. "We had quality swimmers, but not a lot of quantity."

Merkel says pool availability, budget and the time and commitment the sport takes are a few reasons for low turnout. MBHS shares the Clairemont Recreation Center pool with another school, but the team's practice schedule is ideal.

"We have a really good practice schedule," Merkel said. "It's from 12:40 to 2:40 p.m., it's very suitable for us."

On the boys' side, six swimmers advanced to CIF, but none advanced out of the prelims. They included seniors

Chuy Davila and Jesse Herman, juniors Matt Farrer and Connor Greenhaulgh, and freshmen Jake Armstrong, Derrick Pham and Carlos Del Carmen. The boys team also has plenty of spirit to go around.

"We put the fun in fundamentals and we enjoy our time as a team," Merkel said.

The swim teams will graduate Davila, Kyle Cummings, Donna Downing and Anna Reynolds.

In February, Merkel's girls' water polo team also took a dip in the CIF pool as three-peat Central League champs. As the No. 9 seed, they suffered a first-round 13-12 loss to No. 10 seed University City.

Boys' water polo still awaits its turn in CIF. The team finished at 9-14. Last year, the squad saw an influx of freshman, and thus graduated only three seniors. Boys' water polo jumps back in the water on Aug. 6, with their first game slated for Sept. 7.



The Mission Bay High swim and water polo teams are raising the bar of expectations under coach Troy Merkel. COURTESY PHOTO



### PUTTING HIS BACK INTO IT

Mission Bay High sophomore pitcher Sergio Becerra gives his fastball some extra juice against Madison on May 17. The No. 9-seed Buccaneers (14-14) advanced to the first round of the double-elimination Division IV playoffs by beating Monte Vista 6-5 in the play-in round on May 25 and faced top-seed El Capitan on May 26. ANTHONY GENTILE | Beach & Bay Press

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# A tribute band, Brazilian and ‘rock en espanol’

## MUSICcalendar

By BART MENDOZA | BEACH & BAY PRESS

There are lots of tribute bands on the club circuit today, but few with the technical prowess of the Van Halen sound-alikes — Atomic Punks — who appear at the Wavehouse on Saturday, May 29. Formed in 1994, the band has gone through several lineup changes, with a core of Joe Lester (bass) and Scott Patterson (drums). Atomic Punks specialize in Van Halen’s first four albums with a sound so authentic that they’ve received the ultimate tribute band compliment. Not only has Van Halen bassist Michael Anthony sat in with the band, but front man David Lee Roth has borrowed two succeeding lead guitarists for his own band tours.

**Atomic Punks:** 8 p.m., Saturday, May 29, at the Wavehouse, 3125 Oceanfront Walk. \$15. 21 and up. [www.wavehousesandiego.com](http://www.wavehousesandiego.com).

A mix of hard rock and humor, Green Jelly, who appear at Brick by Brick on Saturday, May 29, are best known for their 1991 claymation video, “Three Little Pigs,” but they have to be experienced live to be believed. Their shows are absurd mini-plays, taking in numerous costume changes, bloody props and onstage gore, as well as every metal cliché in the book. Helmed by lone original member Bill Manspeaker, even if you are not a fan of hard rock, there are few bands on the club circuit today as entertaining as Green Jelly.

**Green Jelly:** 8:30 p.m., Saturday, May 29, at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue. 21 and up. \$15. [www.myspace.com/greenjellyandthepigs](http://www.myspace.com/greenjellyandthepigs)

SoleMar, performing at Tango Del Rey on Thursday, June 3, has come a long way since its beginnings in 1985 at an SDSU world percussion class. Specializing in Brazilian music, the group is now

a favorite at events from street fairs to corporate parties. This show will highlight SoleMar’s take on both Samba and Forro dance music. But the group is versatile, with an ability to take the stage in various combinations from Latin-jazz trio to full drum parade, complete with dancers. If you like music with an emphasis on rhythm, it simply doesn’t get better than this.

**SoleMar:** 8 p.m., Thursday, June 3, at Tango Del Rey, 3567 Del Rey St. Cover TBD. All ages. [www.solemargroup.com](http://www.solemargroup.com)

Although tagged as a “rock en espanol” band, in truth, Los Hollywood, who perform at Tio Leo’s on Saturday, June 5, have a universal appeal. The trio sing in both Spanish and English, taking cues from, amongst others, The Runaways and Blondie, punk and powerpop. While the band aren’t treading new ground, their delivery and great three minute tunes make for an exciting evening or rock ‘n’ roll fun, no matter what language you speak.

**Los Hollywood:** 9 p.m., Saturday, June 5. Tio Leo’s, 5302 Napa Street. 21 and up. \$5. [www.myspace.com/loshollywood](http://www.myspace.com/loshollywood)

SEE MUSIC, Page 15



Sporting universal appeal, Los Hollywood sings in both Spanish and English, taking cues from, among others, The Runaways and Blondie, punk and powerpop. The group performs Saturday, June 5 at Tio Leo’s. COURTESY PHOTO



Green Jelly, whose shows include absurd mini-plays, taking in numerous costume changes, bloody props and every metal cliché in the book, performs Saturday, May 29 at Brick by Brick. COURTESY PHOTO

## Local musician hopes band will go on tour

By DEBBIE HATCH | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Jesse LaMonaca and the Dime Novels hope the release of their new self-described Americana-soul album “Until the Stars Come Out” will be the boost they need to get noticed.

LaMonaca, 33, grew up near Philadelphia, where he began taking guitar lessons at age 12 from a man at

church.

Soon after, his grandmother started teaching him piano. By age 16, he was writing songs.

LaMonaca eventually moved to New York City where he was lead singer for the band Elroy. Next, music and a relationship drew him to Sweden. He lived there for five years, playing with different bands until he and the woman he lived

with broke up.

“I asked my ex if there was anything left,” LaMonaca said. “She looked away and I looked at the clock and it was 11:11 p.m.”

He knew the relationship was over at that moment. This was the first time he noted the significance of the time 11:11

SEE RELEASE, Page 15



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RELEASE

CONTINUED FROM Page 14

in his life.

“I packed up my bag of clothes and took my guitar,” LaMonaca said.

He didn’t know where to go or what to do, so he decided to move in with his brother in Pacific Beach in May 2008.

“I sat around for a couple months smoking cigarettes and staring at the walls,” LaMonaca said.

He began looking for musicians to play with on Craigslist, hoping to find a band that needed a singer.

In the meantime, he was working in the restaurant industry and playing solo gigs at local venues including 710 beach Club and Hennessey’s in Pacific Beach. He credits Pacific Beach with helping him get through his break-up. LaMonaca started surfing and writing music.

He arrived home one night and noticed the address on his neighbor’s house lit up. It read 1111.

LaMonaca heard the band Maddox Revolution play and liked it. He invited the band to play with him one night on stage. They played “Sitting on the Dock of the Bay.”

“It was like a blind date where you just meet someone and it works out,” said LaMonaca of his sudden melding with the band.

One of the band member’s watched stopped and the time it stopped on was 11:11. LaMonaca took it as a sign that the band was meant to play together.



Jesse LaMonaca and the Dime Novels will hold a CD-release party for “Until the Stars Come Out” on Sunday, June 4, at 9:30 p.m. in the Marble Room, 535 Fifth Ave. COURTESY PHOTO

LaMonaca now has the Roman numerals XIXI tattooed on the inside of each wrist, certain that it represents something significant for himself and for the band.

The other band members (Brandon Conway, guitar, pedal steel, vocals; Ed Kornhauser, keyboards; Matt Thompson, bass, vocals; James Conway, drums, harmonica) live in La Mesa. LaMonaca, who sings lead vocals and plays guitar, lives on Law Street. Together, they founded Law Street Records, under which they co-produced their new album with Sven-Erik Seaholm.

“I feel like I am part of something big-

ger,” said La Monaca. “You’ve got to get through the journey to tell the story.”

The last song on the new CD is, “Eleven Eleven.”

The band’s song, “Left Coast Sunshine,” was played two weeks in a row on 103.7 FM and will debut Sunday on 102.1 KPRI’s “The Homegrown Hour” at 8 p.m.

“I really believe in the album,” LaMonaca said.

The band hopes to go on tour one day.

The album release party is Sunday, June 4, at 9:30 p.m. at Marble Room, 535 Fifth Ave. It is a 21 and up event and is open to the public.

SDAR

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

In the Pacific Beach area, we are seeing many of the same improvements. However, there are some deviations from the county trends because of the elevated price range and the large amount of attached properties in the area. Here’s a detailed analysis of what we’ve been seeing in Pacific Beach for the past three months and some insights into what we expect to see in the months to follow.

For both attached properties and single-family homes, Pacific Beach continues to sell properties at a much higher median price than most parts of the county. The year-to-date median price for Pacific Beach detached homes is \$703,000 and for attached it is \$340,000. These numbers are significantly higher than the county’s, which are \$375,000 and \$215,000, respectively.

Also, unlike the rest of the San Diego, Pacific Beach’s highest median price was actually in January, when the rest of the county was at its lowest. Since then, 92109 saw a dip in prices in February and then another increase in March. The good news is that detached properties in Pacific Beach almost climbed back up to their January median price during March. However, attached were still almost \$100,000 lower than the January high. This is not an indicator of an unhealthy market; rather it just shows us that the January numbers were unusually high, and that Pacific Beach’s median price for attached properties will likely stay close to 400,000 for the next few months.

One trend that Pacific Beach and the county shared was an increase in the number of sold detached properties month over month throughout the first quarter. San Diego sold listings increased every month, selling a substantially larger amount of these properties in March, and Pacific Beach followed this trend to a less-drastic degree.

Sales of attached homes in the area also have increased since January, reaching their highest point in March. The heightened number of sold listings is likely a result of San Diegans trying to take advantage of the first-time homebuyer tax credit, which ended April 30. As the window closed for Californians to take

advantage of \$18,000 in tax credits, we predict that we will have seen even more sales in April and that numbers will remain high in the following months.

Not only has Pacific Beach seen an increase in its number of sold listings in this first quarter, but the area has also stayed consistently above the average in number of sold attached properties per month and on par with the average of sold detached properties per month. Across the county, the average ZIP Code sold about 14 attached homes per month. For Pacific Beach, the average was 19 attached homes per month. This doesn’t come as a huge surprise to most people in the area, since there is such a large amount of this type of inventory. However, it is encouraging to see that such properties are still selling. In addition, Pacific Beach was right on par with the county average of homes sold per month, which is currently about eight homes per ZIP Code. Overall, this tells us that all types of properties are selling in Pacific Beach, despite the higher cost of ownership.

For those who are planning on taking advantage of this active local market by selling a property, it would be wise to be prepared for a longer process. Across the board it appears that properties in Pacific Beach stay on the market longer than the rest of county. The county’s year-to-date average for attached properties is 79 days on the market and for detached

properties it is slightly less at 71 days. The average days on the market for Pacific Beach properties isn’t too far off county averages, at 82 days. But the average for attached properties is quite a bit different. In Pacific Beach the year-to-date average is 115 days on the market, coming out to more than a month longer than the county’s average.

All in all, it looks like the first quarter of 2010 was off to a good start for Pacific Beach. Median price remains high for both attached and detached homes and all types of properties are selling in large numbers. In short, people are buying and at a fair price.

So what are we predicting for the next few months?

It is likely that April will continue to be a busy month for the entire county, as everyone tries to close deals before the federal tax credit comes to an end. We’ll probably see less of a spike in the Pacific Beach area though, as fewer of the properties fall into the first-time home buyer price range, however, the numbers are likely to still be high. As we enter into May, the official home buying season kicks off and we predict that large numbers of properties will continue to sell at healthy prices. In essence, the next few months should be good for everyone, both buyers and sellers as our county’s already high level of demand increases even more.

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MUSIC

CONTINUED FROM Page 14

Though Pacific Beach institution The Tiki House is best known as a hot spot for bands on weekends, on Tuesdays in June, the venue’s small stage will showcase the music of singer-songwriter, Dave Booda. A gifted onstage storyteller, what sets Booda apart from his acoustic guitar-wield-

ing peers is his above average set list. He does perform his share of evergreen tunes, such as “The Rainbow Connection,” and also incorporates choice originals. However, what has impressed many local music fans is his skill at converting modern hits by the likes of NeYo, Rhianna and Jamie Foxx, into six-string sing-a-longs.

**Dave Booda:** 9 p.m., Tuesday June 8, at The Tiki House, 1152 Garnet Avenue. Free. 21 and up.  
[www.myspace.com/davebooda](http://www.myspace.com/davebooda)

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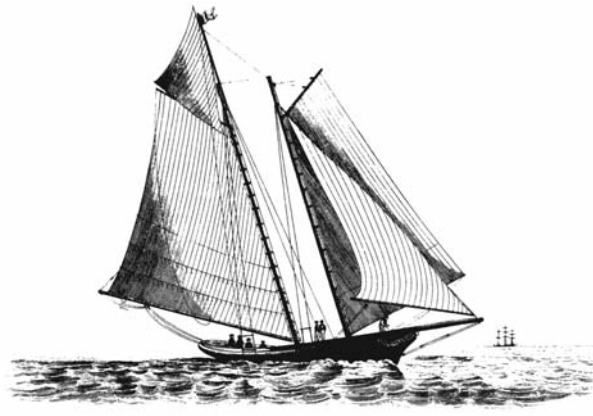
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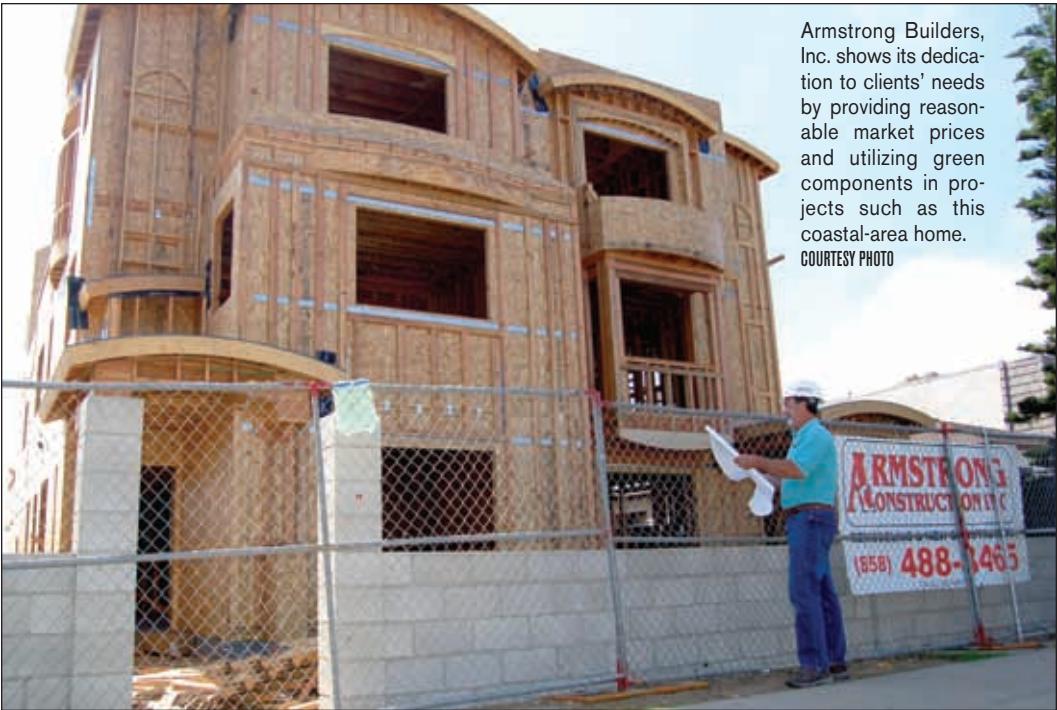






Tom Armstrong, owner of Armstrong Builders, Inc., said he looks back at his company's work with pride and satisfaction.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Armstrong Builders, Inc. shows its dedication to clients' needs by providing reasonable market prices and utilizing green components in projects such as this coastal-area home. COURTESY PHOTO

# Armstrong Construction: living and building coastal

By **MEAGHAN CLARK** | VILLAGE NEWS

Tom Armstrong, a surfer and beach resident, thrives on living in the community in which he designs. He has been in the business since he was a teen and he has observed the construction business and cultivated ideas from all over the world.

He has a portfolio that spans five decades and reaches from east to west, but if it were up to him, coastal homes would be his primary target. Armstrong has a knack for fantasy homes that focus on natural sunlight and the view. Homebuyers are all about keeping their residence cost-efficient with a Southern California theme.

As Armstrong sees it, no matter the size of the home, residents love to keep the focus on one thing: the view.

"The everyday life here [at the beach] is much different than other parts of the country," Armstrong said. "People here are much more active and venture out of their homes to enjoy the array of parks, amusement, entertainment and our wonderful beaches."

While focusing on coastal homes, Armstrong Builders, Inc. remodels, builds and redesigns homes all over the country.

"Our quality and competitive prices have kept us in the running" over the years, Armstrong said, adding that it isn't just the money that keeps him in the business.

"Regardless of who designed the remodels, additions and homes we build, I clean my rear-view mirror to look back at our work during and after completion with pride and satisfaction," he said.

Armstrong's company has always

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reflected his own "green-minded" lifestyle. Armstrong Builders, Inc. shows its dedication to clients' needs by providing reasonable market prices and utilizing green components in its projects.

"I work with the home owners to understand their needs and goals, then present them with a creative combina-

tion of their dreams [and our own]," Armstrong said. "[It's] a combination of both our ideas."

With a dedicated staff that has been with Armstrong practically since the company's inception, projects are developed with time-honored quality.

As an advocate for community development, Armstrong doesn't just work 24/7 on his business, but makes his mark on the community in places beyond the construction site. A lover of San Diego's surfing scene, he helped build the Tourmaline Surfer's Memorial and Skeeter Malcolm surf bench at Tourmaline Surf Park — a place with a view the whole community can enjoy.



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ANTENNA

CONTINUED FROM Page 9

diate vicinity. It can also be used to locate happy-hour deals, organize volunteers, promote special events and find lost pets.

Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer Hunter Jensen, who owns Barefoot Solutions, said “mobile microlistings” are currently the hottest trend in the industry.

“Five years ago at South-by-Southwest, Twitter had just hit the scene and everyone there was talking about it — that was the hottest thing. We went this year and everyone was talking about location-based iPhone apps — and that’s exactly what we do,” Jensen said.

Standard newspaper classifieds and their online counterparts, like Craigslist, still serve a purpose.

Users probably wouldn’t use Antenna to sell a grand piano, Jensen pointed out, but the instant gratification and hyper-local elements of mobile microlistings are appealing for many other purposes.

For instance, Jensen said the application could be used by someone who is looking for an extra concert ticket. The buyer would post a listing on Antenna requesting a ticket, a seller within the vicinity could reply with a price, the two could negotiate within the application’s real-time chat function, and when they had reached an agreement, the buyer could get directions straight to the seller’s location. The whole process could take minutes, versus several days of e-mail exchanges through Craigslist.

Co-founder and CEO Marcus Wandell was in a similar situation when he came up with the idea for Antenna while at a music festival. He was

perusing various booths when he found himself wishing the vendors could send information about their wares and special discounts to his smartphone.

Last October, Wandell proposed the idea to Jensen, who said he leapt at the unique opportunity. By February, the duo — with the help of Barefoot Solutions staff — had created an iPhone-compatible version of Antenna and had garnered approval from Apple to make the application available on iTunes. They decided to launch the pilot version in their own backyard first.

After a successful limited release, the company recently made Antenna available in 80 cities across the country.

Jensen said his team will make Antenna available on other major mobile operating systems, then release it overseas.



Antenna allows users to quickly locate things they want and communicate directly with each other to negotiate prices or arrange exchanges. COURTESY PHOTO

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