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# Stormy skies ahead for PB schools?



A committee of the San Diego Unified School District is considering a districtwide plan to consolidate and/or close several schools to save an estimated \$5 million. Among the options are eliminating busing and moving programs from Crown Point elementary to Bayview Terrace. Photo by Paul Hansen | Beach & Bay Press

## Crown Point, Bayview Terrace focal points of local closure, consolidation plan

By KEITH ANTIGIOVANNI | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Pacific Beach residents and parents are girding for the San Diego Unified School District's (SDUSD) Realignment/Closure Committee's recommendations that could send ripples across a Mission Bay Cluster that encompasses the Pacific Beach and Mission Beach area.

Formal approval is not expected by the school board until Dec. 13.

However, according to a Powerpoint presentation made by the committee during a meeting of the Mission Bay Cluster group on Sept. 19, one of the committee's preliminary recommendations includes the elimination of busing districtwide, moving the Crown Point Elementary School program to the Bayview Terrace Elementary School campus and restructuring the Bayview Terrace campus to create a comprehensive elementary that would then open the Crown Point campus to other uses — including outright sale of the property.

A second recommendation outlined during the Sept. 19 Powerpoint presentation is to move Pacific Beach Middle School's (PBMS) international baccalaureate (IB) program to Mission Bay High School and make it a combined IB academy for grades six through 12.

One committee member said during the presentation that combining the middle school and high school would take a few years, but that it would also help "stabilize MBHS, as enrollment and transportation



Under the emerging school district closure/consolidation plans, Bayview Terrace Elementary School might absorb programs from Crown Point elementary to free Crown Point up for other uses — including the outright sale of the property. Photo by Paul Hansen | Beach & Bay Press

may be reduced."

Moving the middle school would open up the PBMS campus for other use as well, including outright sale of that property as well.

SDUSD officials believe that consolidating and/or closing schools in 10 of its 16 clusters would help save the budget-pinched school district up to \$5 million. The 10 school clus-

ters facing possible realignment/closure are Mission Bay, Crawford, Hoover, Madison, Serra, Clairemont, Patrick Henry, Kearny, Morse, Point Loma and atypical schools. Despite the fluid nature of the school district's realignment/closure vision — and quite likely representing a moving target for the next

SEE SCHOOLS, Page 6

# City Council OKs deal with Toyota on beach vehicles for lifeguards

By NEAL PUTNAM | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The City Council voted 7-0 on Oct. 10 to approve a marketing partnership with Toyota that could save up to \$1 million for the city to use Toyota vehicles free for two years on city beaches as the "official vehicle of San Diego lifeguards."

San Diego Lifeguard Services Chief Rick Wurts, along with Mary Lewis, the city's chief financial officer, made the proposal to the City Council. Lewis estimated the savings between \$555,000 and \$1.1 million, and calls for the free use of the Toyota vehicles without the obligation of purchase or lease during the two-year agreement.

Toyota will loan 34 vehicles, some of which will be used in television commercials to be filmed at unspecified city beaches.

"31 of the 34 (city lifeguard) vehicles are past due for replacement," Lewis told councilmembers on Monday.

The city will have an option to purchase the vehicles after the two-year deal expires. Because the vehicles will be used at the beach where ocean conditions can pummel

SEE LIFEGUARDS, Page 3



Federal officials released this photo of the 16- to 18-foot panga-style boat that slammed into Pacific Beach early on Oct. 5 with 15 illegal immigrants aboard. One of the Mexican nationals was pronounced dead at the scene. U.S. Border Patrol courtesy photos

# Smuggling boat carrying 15 illegal immigrants hits PB shore; 1 dead

By MARIKO LAMB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

U.S. Border Patrol agents encountered a group of 15 Mexican nationals, including one dead man, after a panga-style boat made a hard landing on the beach near Law Street in north Pacific Beach on Oct. 5.

The maritime smuggling of the illegal immigrants — involving nine men and six women, occurred around 2:30 a.m., according to Border Patrol agent Scott Simon.

Agents found two of the individuals inside of the 16- to 18-foot boat, one of whom was pronounced dead and turned over to the county Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy, he said.

Thirteen others were found and arrested about one block away from the panga boat's landing point shortly afterward, said Simon.

Eleven of the individuals were transported to a local hos-

SEE SMUGGLING, Page 6

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## Polish culture on parade in PB

Dressed in traditional costumes, **left**, members of "Polonez"—a Polish folk dance group from San Diego—perform native dances during the 16th annual Polish Festival held at the Saint Maximilian Kolbe Roman Catholic Polish Mission in Pacific Beach on Oct. 9. **Below**, Alex Kotsyubko grills up a batch of Polish sausages.

Photos by Don Balch | Beach & Bay Press



## Councilman's office to match donations to SDPD beach bicycle unit

By **KEITH ANTIGIOVANNI** | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Fundraising to outfit the Beach Bicycle Team of the San Diego Police Department's Northern Division—a unit that serves Pacific Beach, Mission Beach and La Jolla—just got a boost from a beach-area city councilman.

District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer said his office will match up to \$3,000 from individual and business donations to help pay for the standard police light, sirens and law enforcement kits for the beach bicycle team.

Faulconer said he believes the beach team will be more effective in dealing with law enforcement issues in the high-density beach environment with

the added funding.

"This gives us the ability to interact with beachgoers in a more direct way by accessing areas that patrol cars cannot—and at a faster speed than on foot—while building community relationships," Faulconer said.

The new equipment will include high-visibility rechargeable front and rear police lights, high decibel sirens, hand controls, rear racks and police bags.

Among the organizations that have been working behind the scenes to augment the beach bicycle team's budget is the Pacific Beach Town Council (PBTC).

"Because of budget cuts to the police

department, it is difficult to find money to pay for the new equipment," said Jerry Hall, PBTC vice president and member of the Town Council's Police and Emergency Services Appreciation Night (PAESAN) Committee.

The overall cost of the needed equipment is \$6,000. Donations will be accepted through Nov. 30.

The police Beach Bicycle Team is made up of 10 officers and 10 bicycles.

To donate, send a check to: San Diego Police Foundation, C/O PAESAN Bicycle Program, 8910 University Center Lane, Suite 455, San Diego, 92122.

Donations may also be made online by visiting [www.pbtowncouncil.org](http://www.pbtowncouncil.org) and clicking on the join/give button.

## LIFEGUARDS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

them, Toyota will undercoat the bottom of the vehicles to prevent rust. The city will be responsible for repairs and gasoline during the contract.

"I really want to compliment Toyota," said Wurts. "One of the important things we need to do the job are reliable vehicles to get to the rescues."

Other rescue officials echoed the sentiment.

"We're grateful for this deal. We're really in favor of this," lifeguard Larry Sanders told councilmembers. "We understand that savings will be put toward our budget, which will help our training."

District 8 City Councilman David Alvarez made the motion to authorize Mayor Jerry Sanders to sign the agreement, a move seconded by District 1 City Councilwoman Sherri Lightner.

## "Local homeowners sell their homes without a realtor"

SAN DIEGO, If you've tried to sell your home yourself, you know that the minute you put the "For Sale by Owner" sign up, the phone will start to ring off the hook. Unfortunately, most calls aren't from prospective buyers, but rather from every real estate agent in town who will start to hound you for your listing.

After all, with the proper information, selling a home isn't easy. Perhaps, you've had your home on the market for several months with no offers from qualified buyers. This can be a very frustrating time, and many homeowners have given up their dreams of selling their homes themselves. But don't give up until you've read a new report entitled "Sell Your Own Home" which has

In approving the deal, the council also authorized a commission of more than \$49,100 to the marketing consultant who brought the Toyota deal to the city. Alvarez and District 5 City Councilman Carl DeMaio were critical of paying the commission, but Lewis said it had been authorized by the City Council beforehand.

No specific beach area was mentioned as to where the commercials will be made or when. The Japanese automaker will reportedly reimburse the city for the cost of staff time for recording commercials.

Toyota will be mentioned on the city's website and direct marketing to municipal employees will be extended, according to the plan. Toyota will also sponsor city-organized "Water Safety Days" events in San Diego.

The proposal was first heard Sept. 21 by the council's Budget & Finance Committee and forwarded on to the City Council for formal approval.

been prepared especially for home sellers like you. You'll find that selling your home by yourself is entirely possible once you understand the process.

Inside the report, you'll find 10 inside tips to selling your home by yourself which will help you sell for the best price in the shortest amount of time. You'll find out what real estate agents don't want you to know.

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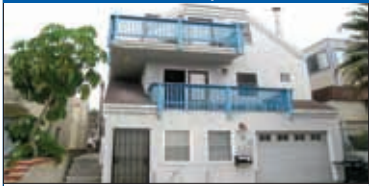
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Pacific Beach | \$454,900

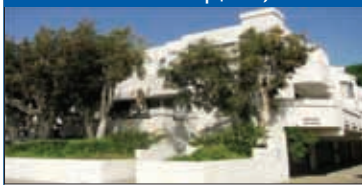


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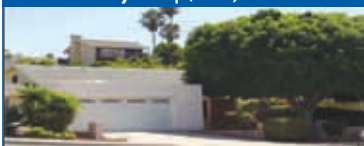


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## NEWSbriefs

### LunaFest Film Festival screens women's issues at MCASD

The 11th annual LunaFest fundraising film festival tour is set to hit La Jolla on Oct. 14 to showcase short films by, for and about women at the Museum of Contemporary Art in La Jolla.

The unique film festival raises awareness about women's issues and highlights the talents of women filmmakers to benefit the Breast Cancer Fund, an organization advocating the elimination of environmental and preventable causes of breast cancer, and the Junior League of San Diego, an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing women's potential and improving the community.

The festival will begin at 6 p.m. with a wine reception and silent auc-

tion, followed by the showing of nine short films at 8 p.m.

The short films range in genre from animation to fictional drama, but all shed light on important topics for women including women's health, motherhood, body issues, aging, cultural diversity and breaking barriers.

LunaFest has traveled to more than 150 cities and raised more than \$456,000 for the Breast Cancer Fund and more than \$785,000 for other women's nonprofit organizations.

General admission tickets are \$40, which includes a Luna gift pack, pre-show wine reception and film showing. VIP tickets are \$65 and include valet parking, a VIP swag bag, pre-show wine reception and preferred theater seating. Students with ID are \$20 and a "girlfriends 4-pack" of general admission tickets is \$140.

The Museum of Contemporary Art La Jolla is located at 700 Prospect St. For more information, visit [www.lunafest.org](http://www.lunafest.org) or call (760) 274-

3915.

### Parents: take advantage of free education with 'Kids Free in October'

The San Diego Museum Council is helping families celebrate Arts and Humanities month by offering free admission for children 12 and under with a paid adult ticket at 24 museums in San Diego County during the entire month of October.

"The collaboration of member museums of the San Diego Museum Council allow us to create programs that bring us closer to residents and tourists," said Danielle Susalla, director of exhibits and communication at Oceanside Museum of Art and marketing committee lead for San Diego Museum Council. "We're expecting to see a bump in families heading to museums to check out a new or favorite exhibit."

Participating museums include

Birch Aquarium, La Jolla Historical Society and the Museum of Contemporary Art, among many more.

The offer is limited to two children per paid adult admission and does not apply for special events or field trips.

To participate, download the coupon available on the San Diego Museum Council's website, [www.sandiegomuseumcouncil.org](http://www.sandiegomuseumcouncil.org), and present it at the museum.

### Former Hennessey's CFO arrested for alleged embezzlement



JAMES CRAM

Redondo Beach police detectives arrested former Hennessey's CFO James Cram, 54, from his Rancho Palos Verdes home on Oct. 6 on 19 felony counts, including suspected grand theft,

money laundering and tax evasion from Hennessey's Tavern Inc., a pub-style restaurant with 10 locations in Southern California including La Jolla, Pacific Beach and San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter.

Cram worked for Hennessey's Tavern Inc. as the company's CFO from 2006 to 2010.

After Cram left the position, an audit on the company revealed discrepancies in the books, leading owner Paul Hennessey to alert authorities.

Redondo police Sgt. Shawn Freeman said the yearlong investigation led police to believe Cram was signing checks in Paul Hennessey's name during the course of his employment. He is suspected of embezzling nearly \$1.15 million from the company and its owners during that time.

He is currently being held at the Redondo Beach Police Department on \$500,000 bail.

— Mariko Lamb

## SINKHOLE

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

potential problem, but by no means did we know it would fail so drastically."

Sewer and water pipes have temporarily been installed above ground, and construction on the pipe and road began over the weekend.

Harris said the feeble old pipe will be replaced with "something much more durable."

There is currently no estimate of when the road is expected to reopen, however Harris assured the first priority is to restore traffic flow to the area.

## Councilman's office to match donations to SDPD beach bicycle unit

By KEITH ANTIGIOVANNI | VILLAGE NEWS

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"This give us the ability to interact with beachgoers in a more direct way by accessing areas that patrol cars cannot — and at a faster speed than on foot — while building community relationships," Faulconer said.

The new equipment will include high-visibility rechargeable front and rear police lights, high decibel sirens,

hand controls, rear racks and police bags.

Among the organizations that have been working behind the scenes to augment the beach bicycle team's budget is the Pacific Beach Town Council (PBTC).

"Because of budget cuts to the police department, it is difficult to find money to pay for the new equipment," said Jerry Hall, PBTC vice president and member of the Town Council's Police and Emergency Services Appreciation Night (PAESAN) Committee.

The overall cost of the needed equipment is \$6,000. Donations will be accepted through Nov. 30.

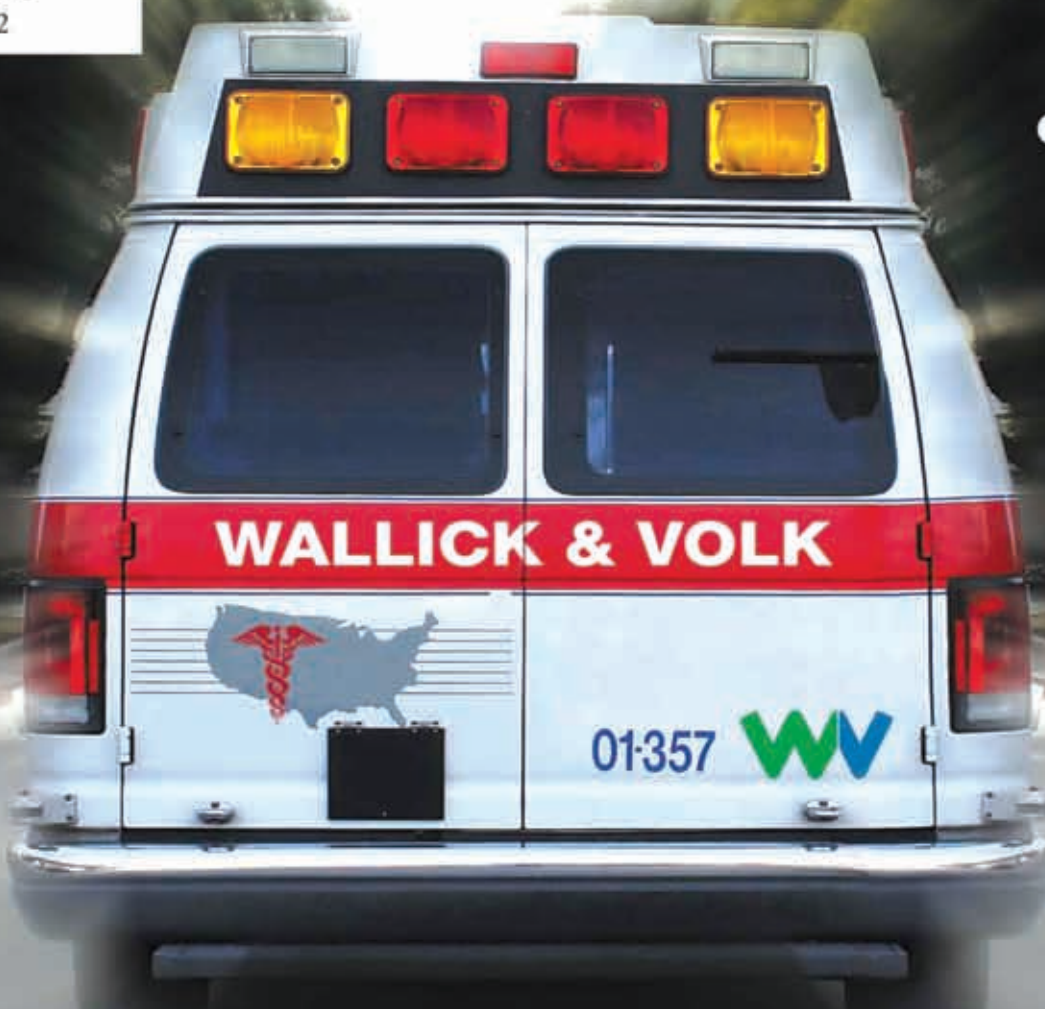
The police Beach Bicycle Team is made up of 10 officers and 10 bicycles.

To donate, send a check to: San Diego Police Foundation, C/O PAESAN Bicycle Program, 8910 University Center Lane, Suite 455, San Diego, 92122. Donations may also be made online by visiting [www.pb-towncouncil.org](http://www.pb-towncouncil.org) and clicking on the join/give button.



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## A white cat with green eyes is sitting in a green, textured cat bed. The cat is looking directly at the camera. The bed is made of a dark green, fuzzy material with a raised, bumpy texture. The background is slightly out of focus, showing a window and some papers on a desk.



## NEWS ROUNDUP

### Investigators seek robber who hit PB car-rental

San Diego police detectives are asking for the public's help in locating a robber who struck the Enterprise Rent-A-Car facility on Garnet Avenue near Lamont Street on Oct. 10.

The robber entered the rental-car company shortly after 9 a.m., pointed a gun at the clerk and demanded cash, according to investigators.

Witnesses described the man as Latino or Middle Eastern, about 6 feet 2 inches tall, with a thin build and a shaved head. He was reportedly wearing a white, collared shirt and light colored pants.

Investigators are asking that anyone with information relating to the case contact the SDPD Robbery Unit at (619) 531-2299.

### Police nab suspects in street-robbery series

Patrol officers with the San Diego Police Department's Northern Division patrol officers and others with the Western Division arrested three suspects Oct. 6 who were linked to a series of recent street robberies, including three cases in Pacific Beach.

Investigators said the suspects were also linked to similar cases in Hillcrest and University Heights.

Police officials said the incidents happened in Pacific Beach roughly between 11 p.m. and midnight from Sept. 21 to Oct. 4. In all cases, the suspects were described as a pair of Hispanic males who threatened the victims with a knife.

The three Hillcrest and University Heights cases happened between Sept. 21 and Sept. 28. In one of these cases, the suspects were seen getting into a small, white car driven by a Hispanic female described as heavyset, police said.

Shortly after 11 p.m. on Oct. 6, patrol officers located the apparent suspects and apparent getaway driver near the

intersection of Dawes and Maryland streets in the wake of yet two more attacks minutes earlier.

All three suspects — residents of Spring Valley — were arrested on suspicion of robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery. The suspects' identities are not being released because of an ongoing investigation into the previous cases.

Police urge anyone with information to call the police department at (619) 531-2000 or (619) 692-4800.

### Coroner IDs man whose body found in bay

The county Medical Examiner's Office positively identified a man whose body was discovered floating in Mission Bay on Oct. 8 as 24-year-old David Sean Dufek of San Diego.

Lifeguard officials said Dufek's body was spotted south of the visitor information center on the east side of the bay near Clairemont Drive shortly after noon.

A cause of death has not yet been determined.

## Looking ahead

Pacific Beach and bay-area events, Oct. 15-23

### SATURDAY, Oct. 15

The National Psoriasis Foundation will host its annual Walk to Cure Psoriasis in San Diego at Mission Bay Park's Crown Point, located at 1799 Moorland Drive). The event will raise funds for the foundation's research, education and advocacy programs. Psoriasis, a noncontagious, chronic disease of the immune system, appears on the skin causing red, scaly patches. These patches, often painful and itchy, can appear on any part of the body. People with psoriasis are at risk of developing other serious

conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and depression. Free registration takes place at 8 a.m. with the walk beginning at 9 a.m. To register or for more information, visit [walk.psoriasis.org/sdwalk](http://walk.psoriasis.org/sdwalk) or call (877) 825-WALK.

### THURSDAY, Oct. 20

The Mission Bay Real Estate Association (MBREA) will host its 11th annual Links for Learning charity golf tournament to benefit Pacific Beach elementary schools. The tournament is set for 1 p.m. on Oct. 20 at Riverwalk Golf Course in Mission Valley. Tournament organizers said residents can assist the fundraising campaign by playing in the tournament, sponsoring a hole or donating a prize to the raffle. For \$150, participants get golf and a cart, lunch, a goody bag and dinner. For those who wish

to sponsor a hole, the donation is \$250 and every nickel goes to the schools. For more information or to sign up a foursome, call (858) 245-1250.

### SUNDAY, Oct. 23

Stop Diabetes® will host "Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes" at De Anza Cove on Mission Bay. The event, which is expected to draw more than 1,500 participants, is a one-day signature fundraising walk benefiting the American Diabetes Association. Every dollar raised through "Step Out" plays a role in supporting the Association's mission: to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes. For more information, to register or to volunteer, call (888) DIABETES, or visit [diabetes.org/stepoutsandiego](http://diabetes.org/stepoutsandiego).



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BIZROUNDUP



While some tourist destinations are struggling during these soured economic times, Campland on the Bay reported its best July on record. Courtesy photo

Campland reports its best July on record

Campland on the Bay, San Diego's most popular year-round campground and marina located along the shores of Mis-

sion Bay, had its most successful July on record, according to Michael Gelfand, president of the 40-acre park that boasts nearly 600 tent and recreational vehicle campsites. "The families who enjoy our beach and marina year-round really love the warmer summer weather," Gelfand said. "Last summer, in July 2010, San Diego was unseasonably cool and cloudy, and this summer was picture-perfect beach weather. "However, even accounting for pent-up demand and ideal conditions, we exceeded our July projections by every metric, shattering our occupancy and revenue records, and providing safe, family-oriented, beach-front camping opportunities to more campers than ever." General revenue from campsites tallied 4 percent above projection in July and about 4.5 percent ahead of July 2010. The park booked 230 more site nights

NEWS & BUSINESS

than projected, for a total of 15,130 site nights in July, about two percent over projection as well as over July 2010, according to Campland officials. Overall campsite revenue also was up four percent over projection and an increase of almost five percent over July 2010. The Hungry Wolf Café reported the single-largest revenue uptick, logging in seven percent ahead of projection and 13 percent ahead of July 2010. The market and marina exceeded forecast by five percent and four percent respectively, according to figures provided by Campland. For more information, visit [www.campland.com](http://www.campland.com). Football fans: score with Hilton's NFL Sundays The Hilton San Diego Resort & Spa, located along Mission Bay, is offering a chance for locals to score a touchdown

by kicking back and relaxing poolside during Sunday NFL games — as though they are a resort guest. Locals can visit the Mission Bay resort and tune in at 10 a.m. to the first NFL Sunday game at Fresco's, the resort's festive outside pool bar overlooking the bay and the resort's signature pool. Here, fans can create their own bloody Mary at Fresco's bloody Mary bar, and enter to win a \$50 gift card to Fresco's. NFL Sunday promotions also include 50 percent off guestrooms, happy-hour specials from 5 to 7 p.m., and private cabana rentals with flat-screen TVs. In the event of chilly weather, the resort moves the game-day activities indoors to the Olive Lounge. Restrictions apply. For more information, call (619) 276-4010, or visit [www.sandiego-hiltonlocals.com](http://www.sandiego-hiltonlocals.com).



Photo by Keith Antigiovanni | Beach & Bay Press

Lotsa Pasta shuts its doors in PB After 23 years of business in the Pacific Beach area, the popular eatery and gathering place Lotsa Pasta at 1762 Garnet Ave. in the Pacific Plaza shopping center has closed its doors, reportedly over a leasing issue. There are apparently no plans to reopen the restaurant at a new location.



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SCHOOLS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

month or two — many parents and residents in Pacific Beach are nervous and uncertain over the potential long-term effects to the quality of education locally if these changes are made. "There are so many pieces to this puzzle and so many changes that are being recommended that I hope we are seeing the big picture. I hope we have the insight to make the best choices possible," said Amy Monroe, the mother of two school-age children. Other parents see the move as a good idea if the quality of education can be continued — assuming the recommendations are approved. "Overall, this can be a very exciting time for our neighborhood," said Jennifer Tandy, a mother of two students in Pacific

Beach-area schools who is also the chairwoman-elect for the Mission Bay Cluster Committee. In the past, when SDUSD officials decided to close schools, it was because of small enrollment. But the Realignment/Closure Committee is now using broader criteria that include enrollment, traffic, location and other factors, said local school administrators. "A big one for this cluster (Mission Bay) and every single cluster is that the district is cutting back on transportation," said Pacific Beach Middle School Principal Julie Mardels. The potential elimination of busing could also dramatically reduce the attendance at both Mission Bay High School and Pacific Beach Middle School, which would force the two to consolidate to stay open down the line. "If we were to eliminate transportation to PB Middle and Mission Bay, there would only be about 400 kids who would end up coming here (PBMS)," Mardels said.

The school district transports about 200 students to Pacific Beach Middle School. Overall, there are about 900 students in grades six through 12 that currently attend public school in the Mission Bay Cluster. "We don't know how many children in the area whose families have selected to go to private schools," Mardels said. The committee's recommendations are not final yet, and there will still be opportunities for public input and discussion. There will be a series of meetings between now and December to decide what schools will be consolidated or closed — if any. The SDUSD Board of Education will hear an update on the issue on Oct. 25, followed by a first reading of recommendations on Nov. 29 and then a tentative board workshop on Dec. 6. A second reading of the recommendations is set for Dec. 13, when board approval is expected. For more information, visit [www.sandi.net/realignment](http://www.sandi.net/realignment).

SMUGGLING

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

pital with minor injuries, including one who suffered from hypothermia and dehydration. Simon said no drugs or contraband were found on the boat and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency is currently investigating the case to determine who was in charge of orchestrating the human smuggling incident. Simon said there is a federal maritime security initiative with enhanced consequences for smuggling by way of ocean and waterways because of the growing trend and increased dangers associated with maritime smuggling.

"The intent of the initiative is to prevent death, deter illegal entry and disrupt illegal activity," Simon said. Maritime smuggling includes any illegal smuggling attempt by way of ocean routes, including boating, swimming, surfing and even scuba diving. Simon said that unless ICE officials determine there is a need to give any of the immigrants a formal deportation — which includes a formal hearing before a judge — the federal authority will expedite the illegal immigrants' deportation without a formal trial. "With that comes a criminal record," he said. "They must wait five years before they can apply to enter the U.S. legally." Additionally, if any of the individuals attempt to enter the country illegally again, they will be charged with a federal

offense and can face anywhere from two to 20 years of imprisonment. According to Lauren Mack, spokesperson for ICE, there have been 602 arrests involving maritime smuggling incidents in Southern California between Sept. 30, 2010 to Oct. 1 this year. Of those apprehended, 44 were drug-related arrests, all others were for maritime human smuggling. The number of maritime smuggling incidents this year has dropped since the 866 arrests made the previous year, which Mack attributes to a stronger enforcement stance, including the enhanced maritime smuggling-penalty measures. "This is a deterrent tool for their own benefit," Mack said. "It's such a dangerous way to be smuggled."

**CORRECTION** Bahia Don Bravo's Pacific Beach and La Jolla locations are open for business. We incorrectly noted in the Sept. 24 issue ("It's time to get your burrito on" page 6) that the eatery had closed its Pacific Beach location when, in fact, it was only closed for a renovation. The Beach & Bay Press regrets the error.

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Senior Mission Bay High midfielder Maile Saili keeps on motoring after practice ends on a hot sunny day at Mission Bay High. Photo by Lee Cornell | Beach & Bay Press

## Mission Bay High field hockey team sets sights high in 2011

By LEE CORNELL | BEACH & BAY PRESS

With six seniors leading the way, the Mission Bay High School (MBHS) field hockey team is looking to reach new heights in 2011.

"We've got some great senior leadership on our team," said head coach Kris Auer. "We're a middle-of-the-pack team as we have been for the last three or four years and we're just trying to climb up to the upper echelon of quality teams in the county."

After qualifying for CIF play last season, the Bucs lost in the first round. In fact, they have yet to ever get beyond the opening round. While Auer says there is no guarantee MBHS will make it to CIF playoffs, he knows that every senior on the team would love to etch their names in the record books as the first to make a significant run.

"I think mostly we want to make it to CIF and get past the first round," said senior captain Maile Saili. "I'd love to leave a footprint here."

Saili has been in the program all four years and the combination of her physical power, coupled with her ball skills, has made her a solid center midfielder the rest of the squad can rely on.

"She's our center mid and she's definitely a well-rounded player," Saili's teammate and co-captain Varanee Chinnapong said of her. "She makes great passes and she's a great supporter for our team to keep things positive on the field."

Chinnapong, a forward, has been playing varsity field hockey her entire four years at MBHS and would like nothing more than to make a defining run with her team as her career winds down in the coming months.

"We've improved a bunch since my freshman year. We communicate better and are getting open for the ball. We play more as a team," Chinnapong said. "I'm looking forward to maybe going all the way or just getting to playoffs and battling it out."

Though diminutive in size, Chinnapong regularly uses her quickness and juke moves to get past defenders and score goals.

Other key players on the Bucs' roster include seniors Leslie Espinoza and Jackie Moran, who is the team's goalie.

In his eighth season at the helm, Auer is hoping his group of girls can beat the odds and help move the program up in the standings. Auer noted that a full-year commitment from players as opposed to just a three-month stint during the season would go a long way in accomplishing that goal.

"We're constantly struggling to break the reputation that Mission Bay is not one of the elite," said Auer, adding that what his team really stands for is maximum effort both on and off the field.

"First and foremost, they're great student athletes. I just love these girls. They're fun to coach and they are positive examples of what a student athlete should be," he said.

## Bucs eager to make splash in CIF for first time

By LEE CORNELL | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Sink or swim, the game must go on. At least when talking about the Mission Bay High School (MBHS) boys' water polo team, that is.

After suffering a tough one-goal loss during CIF postseason last year, the Bucs would love to score some redemption and prove that bigger isn't always better. MBHS fields just 17 players in its program, while nearby powerhouses like The Bishop's School and La Jolla High regularly trot out between 40 and 50.

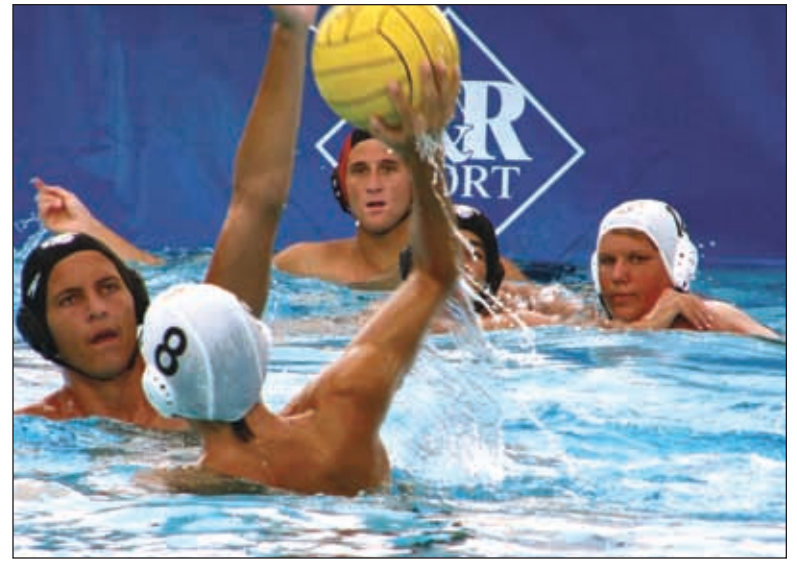
In his fifth season at the helm, Bucs head coach Troy Merkel isn't making any excuses for his team's uphill battle against numbers or against pool availability (the Bucs share a pool with Clairemont High). In fact, Merkel said having such a small group can actually help.

"There's an intimate relationship with a small group that can help with trust, camaraderie, giving it all and coming together as a unit," Merkel said. "I think we understand each other more than some other teams."

MBHS is led by senior standout goalie Jacob Moreland. As the last line of defense, Moreland has excelled, often keeping his team close in games — despite being heavily outshot.

"He brings a spunky attitude. I think the players will say he's almost in his own world which, as a goalie, is perfect for that position," Merkel said of Moreland. "He's very quick, agile and knowledgeable. His competitive nature makes him a beast in goal."

Moreland said his goal for the team is to get over the proverbial hump by winning a CIF playoff game this season. He said this would also help in his personal goal to continue playing water polo in college.



Mission Bay goalkeeper Jacob Moreland, a senior (center, background), peers through arms to watch the ball during a scrimmage Oct. 6. At far right is Mikey McClelland (senior), who has also been among the Bucs' standouts this season. Courtesy photo by Krissy Mercurio

Moreland's leadership style is an outgoing and demonstrative one.

"I'm pretty loud. I'm pretty vocal," Moreland said. "I'll be yelling and cheering when we are on offense. I don't know if they hear me or not, but either way I'm still yelling for them."

The other standouts on the Bucs relatively young squad are seniors Brendan Daly and Mikey McClelland.

Daly is a lefty, so his ability to open up different angles makes him a very valuable asset to the team, not to mention the rocket of a shot he possesses. Daly is cautiously optimistic this group can compete with anyone.

"This year we have a pretty strong team. We have a lot of guys who like to get physical and play tough polo," Daly said. "We don't really have a weak person when we are starting six in there."

McClelland, who serves as a cap-

tain, has battled injuries in each of the last two seasons but he said he is 100 percent healthy and he thinks his team can make some postseason noise.

"This year, we want to win league like we did our freshman year, and hopefully win a CIF game because Mission Bay has never won a CIF game for water polo," McClelland said.

While the seniors have carried the bulk of the load to this point, some of the younger players are starting to emerge in their own right.

"We have an up-and-coming player in Jake Armstrong," Merkel said of the junior. "He's taking this team on his shoulders."

They may not be nearly as deep as some of their opponents but Merkel always gets a full effort from his teams — and that means the Bucs can never be taken lightly.

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Members of the Pacific Beach Woman's Club will host their fall craft fair and Oktoberfest celebration this year on Oct. 15 at Hornblend Hall. New this year will be a beer garden and other Oktoberfest-related elements.  
Photo by Jim Grant | Beach & Bay Press

## PB Woman's Club to host festive fall craft fair, Oktoberfest event

**By KAI OLIVER-KURTIN | BEACH & BAY PRESS**

More than 30 local artists will be selling their work at a fall craft fair and Oktoberfest celebration hosted by the Pacific Beach Woman's Club (PBWC) on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hornblend Hall.

"This is our fourth craft fair," said Mary Lou Benzel, PBWC president. "Many artists are returning from previous years. They'll be selling ceramics, jewelry, silk scarves ... and we'll have a few vendors from the Pacific Beach farmers market."

This will be the club's first craft fair to include a beer garden and other Oktoberfest-related elements. Mad Dogs Café will be selling bratwursts, sauerkraut and pretzels, and the sound of German music will lend the event an air of authenticity.

"Pacific Beach is a very diverse, close-knit community," said Benzel. "Locals will appreciate the opportunity to spend time with others while helping to support charitable organizations."

PBWC members will host a bake sale and used-book sale, including entertainment books filled with local coupons. Event co-organizer and local artisan Kathy Rea helped Benzel solicit artist participation at the craft fair, especially those interested in selling their own creations.

Serving as one of the club's major annual fundraisers, the craft fair will benefit local schools and nonprofits like Pacific Beach Middle School, Mission Bay High School, StandUp For Kids and the Young Women's Christian Association's Becky's House domestic violence program. A portion of profits will also be put toward the continued upkeep of Hornblend Hall, PBWC's 100-year-old clubhouse.


With about 60 members ranging in age from 20 to 92, the PBWC was established in 1895.

Hornblend Hall is located at 1721 Hornblend St. Additional event parking will be available behind the Pacific Beach Presbyterian Church.

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# PB library exhibition shines a light on the night

By STANWELL ANDERSON

SPECIAL TO BEACH & BAY PRESS

All of the art exhibitions shown at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library are special to curator Mark-Elliott Lugo. But the current exhibition, "John Daniel Abel — Nocturnes," is the palpably satisfying result of a process that began three years ago when Lugo had the idea for an exhibition of night scenes, or "nocturnes."

When he originally conceived the idea, Lugo foresaw Abel, a San Diego artist who resides and works in the East County, as a contributor to the project. However, as curator and artist corresponded, and as Abel's concentration on night scenes grew over time, Lugo realized this would easily become an all-Abel show, and made it so. It was a wise decision, leading to a fascinating and wide-ranging exhibition.

"Nocturnes" is, in fact, John Abel's third solo exhibition for the library, and it is difficult to overestimate its variety. The exhibition features a broad range of works in oils and mixed-media drawing. Abel's oils range in style and subject to include broadly-stroked urbanites in a social-realist style of the 1930's (think Weegee meets Diane Arbus in oils), to a night study of an empty reading chair, the quiet of which evokes Rembrandt.

Abel's "tenebroso" moonlight also falls on and defines the shapes of a variety of automotive forms, highlighting their sculptural elegance in the reduced detail of darkness. Of his plein-air landscapes — in the impressionistic tradition of Maurice Braun and Everett Jackson — once visitors have discovered their astonishing secret, they will be left doubly appreciative not only of the vision, but of the determination and durability of this remarkable artist.

An entire show of nocturnes is a rar-



The works of artist John Daniel Abel are on display at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library in an exhibit called "Nocturnes." The exhibit is on display until Oct. 29.

Photo by Paul Hansen | Beach & Bay Press

ity, as such paintings usually make up a small portion of an artist's work. Both the challenge of working with the reduced color palate that darkness brings and the frequently somber mood of such paintings usually renders them a specialized category among the brighter subjects of day. Yet both Lugo and Abel have sought and found night subjects of both sculptural calm and visual vigor, finding the bright note in each and highlighting it to dramatic effect in both paint and print. An elegant catalogue is available for purchase from the library, accompanied by an insightful essay by Lugo.

The Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Public Library has become a widely-known quantity in the world of Southern California art galleries and showrooms. The library's exhibition email list now tops 2,000; attendance is strong,

and patrons are regular.

"During our last exhibition, which was the ninth Invitational Drawing Competition, we had 14 different class-groups of over 30 students each, attending as a mandatory class requirement at the local universities," said Lugo, a particular aficionado of drawing technique.

"There seems to be a new emphasis on formal realism emerging as a foundation for the broader, more experimental techniques, so it's exciting to know that what we're showing is relevant and inspirational to a new generation of artists," he said.

"John Daniel Abel — Nocturnes" will remain on exhibit through Oct. 29 at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library, 4275 Cass St.

For opening times, call (858) 581-9934.

## REMEMBERWHEN?

**I EXPECT MOST OF YOU** recognize the Victorian home on the corner of Law and Ingraham streets. I call it the Hinkle House. It's one of the few historic Pacific Beach homes that I actually know the age of. It was built in 1896 — but not on that site. Victor Hinkle, listed in the city directory as a fruit grower, had the house built at 1620 Chalcedony St. Mrs. Hinkle was our first librarian. The home was moved to its present location in the early 1920s. Rumor had it that Mr. Hinkle thought he'd worked a deal to sell the Chalcedony property for the school that is today's Pacific Beach Middle School.

— John Fry may be reached at (858) 272-6655 or mail@johnfry.com.



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Chef Cinzia Zolfanelli is a locally acclaimed chef, restaurateur, teacher and mom. Born and raised in Milan, Italy, Cinzia became a professional chef when she opened her first restaurant, Ciao Bella (La Mesa), in 2001.

Now chef/owner of Mamma Mia restaurant in Pacific Beach, Cinzia reinvented herself with a new homemade menu encompassing the best of Northern and Southern Italian Regional cuisine. Cinzia mixes delicious and fancy food with the warmth of Italian family style dining. Her new and improved menu has developed into a compilation of Italian classics and unique items that utilize bold and fresh ingredients. Chef Cinzia is also active in her community of Pacific Beach where she conducts benefit dinners for local charities and teaches cooking classes at her daughters' elementary school.

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### Halloween Activities in Old Town

Get a good fun scare and a bit of history with the lineup of spooky events this Halloween season at one of the most haunted areas in San Diego.

**"WHOOO'S THE WICKEDEST**

**GHOST? A SPOOKY TRIAL"**

**DATES: Oct. 14, 15, 21, 22 at 7:30 p.m. On Oct. 28, 29, 30, and 31 two performances will be held: the first at 6 p.m. and the second at 7:30 p.m.**

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park will hold an evening of scary, funny and tragic stories of people who once lived in early San Diego during the 1800s. Spirits will answer to the comical judge Oliver Weatherby with the audience as their jury to determine "Whooo's the Wickedest Ghost." An hour-long walking tour will be

given with the performers. 619-220-5422 or [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/195947](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/195947)

**GHOST TOURS**

**All October long**

Michael Brown leads San Diego's only real ghost tours. During his 90-minute walking tours, guests will get to visit various paranormally active places in Old Town such as a park that used to be cemetery and a haunted brothel located on the Whaley House property. His tours are every Thursday through Sunday in October. Walking tours begin at 9 p.m. in front of the Fiesta de Reyes fountain and no reservations are necessary. Adult tickets are \$19 and children 6-12 are \$10. Kids 5 and under are free. For more information, visit <http://www.oldtownsmosthaunted.com> or call 619-972-3900.

**OLD TOWN'S FALL FESTIVAL**

**Saturday, Oct. 29**

Fall crafts and children's activities a la San Diego in the 1870s will be held from noon to 4 p.m. in the central plaza at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Many merchants surrounding the park will have activities as well. For more info, visit [www.fiestadereyes.com](http://www.fiestadereyes.com).

**OLD TOWN THEATER: DANSE**

**MACABRE BY WRITE OUT LOUD**

**Monday, Oct. 31**

Write Out Loud will present "Danse Macabre" in the Old Town Theatre on Monday, Oct. 31 at 7 p.m. Danse Macabre will feature stories of magic and mystery

brought chillingly to life by professional actors. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$13 for students, seniors and active military. For more info, visit <http://writeoutloudsd.com/> or call 619-297-8953.

**TRICK-OR-TREAT**

**Monday, Oct. 31**

Trick-or-treaters are invited to come out Monday, Oct. 31, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 to collect goodies from participating shops and museums throughout Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Admission for this is free.

**DIA DE LOS MUERTOS**

**Nov. 1 and 2**

The premier Day of the Dead event in San Diego County, Old Town's Dia de los Muertos is designed to celebrate the history, culture and heritage of the region. Old Town's predominantly Mexican, Spanish and Native American and legacy makes it the best site in San Diego to hold this special and beloved celebration. There will be a tour of more than 30 altars, a candlelight procession and live music. At Fiesta de Reyes in the state park, five life-sized Catrina dolls in historic dress will delight visitors as well as altars in nearly every store. Face painting and an after party are also planned for Nov. 1. This two-day-long activity will also feature workshops, performances and lectures.

For more information, visit [facebook.com/DiaDeLosMuertosOTSD](http://facebook.com/DiaDeLosMuertosOTSD) or call (619) 297-7511.

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FIELD VIEW

Miller’s Field: The PB version of ‘Cheers’ for Chargers games



Miller’s Field at the corner of Mission Boulevard and Hornblend Street may well be the Pacific Beach version of “Cheers” in which to watch Chargers action and other NFL matchups this season.

Photo by Walter Ruskin | Beach & Bay Press

By WALTER RUSKIN | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Meet me on the corner of Mission Boulevard and Hornblend Street because it’s Miller time! Miller’s Field, that is!

Have you ever watched the television show “Cheers” and wished your local bar was a place “where everybody knew your name?”

Well, Miller’s Field is not Cheers. It’s better!

I can tell you with great confidence Miller’s Field is “the real deal.”

“It’s not a bar. It’s not a pub. It’s a community, and everyone is welcome — even me.” said bar patron Barry. (Barry only wanted us to use his first name because he is on staff at another bar.)

I had to ask, “Hey, Barry why don’t you just get job here at Miller’s Field then?”

“I would love to,” he said. “But you see, there is very seldom an opening here, because nobody ever leaves.”

The bartender at the Miller’s Field this particular evening agrees.

“That’s right! We don’t leave,” the bartender said. “Why would anyone leave this place unless they won the lotto? Even then, I bet half the staff would stay! This is the best place I have ever worked. It’s not a job. I have had jobs.

“Barry there has a job and jobs



Plenty of great food and drink specials await at Miller’s Field.

Photo by Walter Ruskin | Beach & Bay Press

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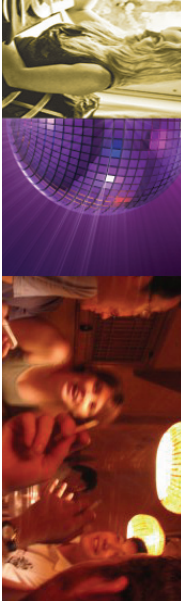
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 3714 Mission Blvd 858-488-668	<b>HAPPY MONDAYS:</b> Happy Hour 4pm to Close 1/2 off Beers and call shots 25% off appetizers	<b>TACO TUESDAY'S:</b> Tacos starting @ \$2 \$3.50 Dos Equis Pints \$4 Tequila Shots \$5 House Margs!	<b>Game Night:</b> \$3 Drafts 7pm-Close Any sandwich/wrap w/draft \$10 Free Pool, Jumbo Beaver Blocks, Boards Games & Beer Pong! You be the VJ 8pm-close!	<b>Thirsty Thursdays:</b> \$2 U Call Its from 9pm-Close \$5.99 ½ lb Guava Burger & Fries	<b>\$4 Fridays:</b> \$4 U Call Its from 9pm-Close Weekend Dinner Specials by Chef Shelly V.	<b>Progressive Drink Nite!</b> U Call Its \$2 from 9-10pm \$3 from 10-11pm \$4 from 11pm-12am \$3 from 12am-until close \$10 bottles of champagne w/ Guave or OJ ALL DAY!	<b>Go Big or Go Home!</b> \$5 House Margs \$16 Marg Pitchers \$5 "El Fuego" Bloody Mary's  \$5 Mimosa \$8 Domestic Pitchers \$12 Bionic Beavers
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 4343 Ocean Blvd. 858-272-SURF	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Beer Pong@9pm-close/ Restaurant and bar industry 50% off cocktails and beers/\$3.50 pacifico, bud , and negra modello drafts all day	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> 1/2 apps 6pm to kitchen close/ \$3.50 Pacifico, Bud, and Negra Modello drafts ALL DAY/ DJ MCLOVIN 8pm-12	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> \$3 SVEDKA vodka 9pm-cl / GOLDFISH RACES@10pm/ DJ mike Czech/\$3.50 Pacifico, bud , and negra modello drafts all day	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> 2-4-1 burgers and chicken sand- wiches 5pm-to kitchen close/ \$3-u- call-its 8pm-close with DJ DEVVOY /\$3.50 pacifico, bud, and negra modello drafts all day	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Live DJ 8pm-12/ \$3.50 pacifico, bud, and negra modello drafts ALL DAY/ 2-4-1 fish and chips or shrimp and chips 5pm-close	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> college football tv packages / navy football / live dj 8pm-12/ \$3.50 pacifico, bud , and negra modello drafts all day	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> NFL ticket/ \$3.50 pacifico, bud , and negra modello drafts all day / karaoke with DJ franqueray@9pm
 809 Thomas 858-270-1730	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Happy Hour Food 4 to Close & Drinks 4 to 7	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> \$2.00 Tacos and \$5.00 Select Tequilas	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> \$3.00 Wing Basket & \$5.00 Selected Whiskeys	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Burger, Fries & 16 Ounce Domestic Draft \$7.00	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Happy Hour 4 to 7	<b>Every Saturday</b> \$2.50 Mimosas & College Gamday!	<b>Every Sunday</b> \$2.50 Mimosas, \$9.00 Bud Light Pitchers, And All The NFL Games! Chance to win a flat screen TV.
 1221 Garnet Ave. 858-642-6900	<b>Lunch Deals (Mon - Fri) start @ \$4.99</b> <b>Nightly Specials:</b> Free Pizza with purchase! Happy Hour Beer prices during Monday Night Football.	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> Free Pizza with purchase! Happy Hour Beer prices	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> \$1 Pint Night (\$5 buy-in)	<b>Nightly Specials:</b> FREE Trivia Night at 8!	<b>Nightly Specials:</b>	<b>Nightly Specials:</b>	<b>NFL Sunday Ticket:</b> All you can eat Slices for 6.99 + tax til 3 pm + Happy Hour Beer prices during all NFL games



A view from outside Miller's Field in Pacific Beach, perhaps the local version of "Cheers," where customers are always made to feel welcome and the food is simply tantalizing. The establishment is a great place for NFL Sundays with 31 huge flat-screen televisions with hundreds of channels to choose from.

Photo by Walter Ruskin | Beach & Bay Press



## NFL

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

suck!," he continued. "Our owner, Glenn Miller, insists that everyone works together to ensure that when people come to visit us here, they feel like they are at their friend's house, not a bar that just wants to sell them food and drinks!"

In this reporter's opinion, the bartender is right.

Miller's Field is at 4465 Mission Blvd. — literally on the corner of Mission Boulevard and Hornblend Street. There is plenty of parking right behind Miller's Field. When you park, Mr. Miller picks up your parking tab just for visiting his friendly establishment. Isn't that nice?

When I walked into Miller's Field, my nose went into a savory smoked-barbecue-fragrance overload. If Mr. Miller's goal is to have you feel that you are visiting a friend's house when you walk in the door, let me tell you there is nothing more inviting than the smell of fresh barbecue.

Before I could even decide what I wanted to eat, I was greeted by the manager, Ray Corallino.

"Hello, Walter, I am glad you could make it this evening. Please make yourself at home and I will be with you in a few moments."

I walked over to the bar and grabbed a seat. A drink menu was handed to me with a great big welcoming smile from the bartender.

"Hello, and welcome to Miller's Field," the bartender said. "Here is a drink menu. I will give you a few moments to decide, but before I go, is there any particular game you would like to watch this evening?"

You see, besides not only having free parking, happy employees and wonderful-smelling food, Miller's Field is the home of 31 huge flat-screen televisions with hundreds of channels to choose from on any given sports day.

"Miller's Field is the place where anyone can come and view their favorite team," said Miller. "We are, of course, biased toward our home teams: Chargers, Padres and San

Diego State. But let's say you love Vassar's girls' field hockey. If their match is being aired, we'll put it on for you, because we here at Miller's want to ensure that all our guests are happy and comfortable.

"I always loved entertaining," he said. "And if, when visiting Miller's Field, you feel like you are at a local gathering rather than a just a bar, then I am fulfilled."

I don't know where Miller learned this, but he can teach a few of my friends some hospitality skills.

Just this past weekend. I was at my friend Chad's house to watch some football. When I walked into his house I was not welcomed by the fresh smell of barbecue, but rather the pungent smell of dirty laundry. When I asked him what he was watching, he said, "Reruns of Cheers."

"What about the Chargers' game?" I asked.

"I'll put it on in a second," he replied. "I love this one, Sam asks Diane to marry him."

Not knowing what to do since he did not offer me a seat on the couch that he was lying across, I walked over to his videos. I pulled out a box set of "Cheers — Season Four."

"Hey, man, you have this episode on DVD!" I exclaimed.

"Yeah, but I have not seen it in years," my friend responded. "We can watch the second half. Nothing happens until the second half anyway."

I don't think I will ever go to Chad's again to watch football or anything else (unless I have a strong desire to watch reruns of "Cheers").

It is my recommendation to all those who want to hang out with their friends, watch the game in real time, bring them to a more friendly place that feels like you're at someone's house — then go to Miller's Field. Even if they don't actually know your name, you will feel like they do.

— Walter Ruskin is a member of the San Diego Community Newspaper Group's "Ugly News Team." Watch for his new video links online at [www.sdnnews.com](http://www.sdnnews.com).

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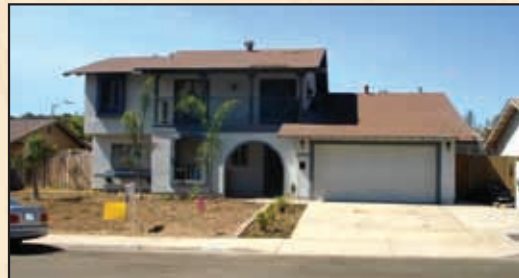
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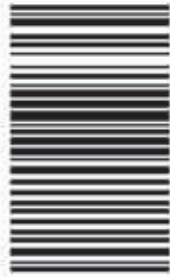


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