

#### WHAT'S INSIDE:

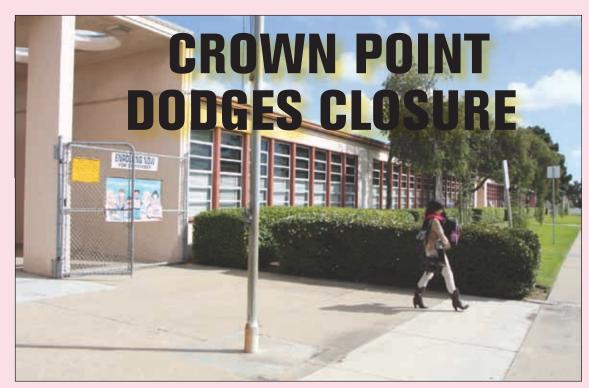
- Live music roundup for the Pacific Beach area, Page 4
- · Mission Bay High School's former Dixie Jazz Band takes on a new name and a fresh, broader musical direction. Page 6
- · Reflecting on the past with John Fry's "Remember When?" Page 6
- Mamma Mia's owner/chef brings Italian charm, cuisine to PB, Page 7
- Buccaneers shut out Hoover, held scoreless against Point Loma, Page 9
- 710 Beach Club is a haven for Chicago Bears fans, Page 10





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The San Diego Unified School District's Board of Education reversed course Nov. 1 on its plan to close a dozen or more city schools - including Crown Point Elementary in Pacific Beach, above. The board is instead moving toward a consolidation of Mission Bay High School and Pacific Beach Middle School.

## MBHS/PB Middle School merger remains on table

#### By KEITH ANTIGIOVANNI

BEACH & BAY PRESS

Bowing to intense public pressure, the San Diego Unified School District's (SDUSD) Board of Education scrapped its plan on Nov. 1 to close roughly a dozen campuses across the city in a \$5 million annual costsaving campaign.

The move spares Crown Point Elementary from being closed and consolidated with Bayview Terrace Elementary, but trustees are marching forward toward a consolidation of Mission Bay High School (MBHS) and Pacific Beach Middle School (PBMS) into a grades 6-12 school.

The latter part of the plan was initially dropped on Nov. 1 before being re-introduced by trustee Scott Barnett, who represents the beach-area schools. That part of the plan was subsequently approved 5-0.

Mission Bay High principal Fred Hilgers said there is a differing level of reaction to the latest news of combining MBHS and PBMS.

"There is an entire range of emotions," Hilgers said. "I have never seen a middle school and high school merged before. Our teaching staff is definitely concerned because they don't know if they'll have a job. We also don't know if the school will remain open during the transition or closed and reopened."

Hilgers said from a parental perspective or educators' perspective,



Bayview Terrace was originally targeted to absorb students and programs from Crown Point Elementary under a school district plan to shutter several campuses, a plan taken off the table by trustees on Nov. 1. Photo by Paul Hansen I Beach & Bay Press

could be a positive experience.

We would be able to focus on a common theme and create a see.' stronger identity for the school and the cluster," he said.

Hilgers admits that at present, he time. nd his staff are in limbo as to how to proceed. The impact on the pro- close Lincoln High School, consoligrams — particularly football and date Crawford High School with four basketball — could be enormous, he

they decide to combine the schools school, close and move Point Lomafor next year," said Hilgers. "I don't believe it is achievable for the 2012-

consolidating MBHS and PBMS 2013 school year because of all the structural changes that would need to be made. We'll have to wait and

> PBMS principal Julie Martels was unavailable for comment by press

latest SDUSD proposal is to academies, combine San Diego Communications and San Diego High "We are trying to prepare in case Science and Technology into one

SEE **SCHOOLS**, Page 8

## **SDPD's Northern Division** command undergoes yet another reorganization

By NICOLE SOURS LARSON

BEACH & BAY PRESS

The San Diego Police Department (SDPD)'s Northern Division, which includes Pacific Beach, Mission Beach, Mission Bay and La Jolla, welcomed on Oct. 29 its second new commander this year. Capt. Brian Ahearn is well known in the coastal communities, where he served as "beach lieutenant" from October 2005 to January 2008 under then-Northern Division Capt. Boyd Long.

The change in command at Northern comes after only nine months and reflects shifting assignments stemming from another senior commander's retirement.

Northern's outgoing commander, Capt. Al Guaderrama, has moved over to the coveted assignment of investigations, overseeing units like vice, child abuse, sex crimes, emergency negotiations, narcotics and the Family Justice Center.

A friendly man with a broad smile and a quick quip - a tactic often helpful in defusing heated discussions -Ahearn describes himself as "having less hair but more gray" than on his previous Northern Division stint.



**PACIFIC** 

NISSAN

Capt. Brian Ahearn took over command of San Diego Police Department's Northern Division on Oct. 29. He is a familiar face in the Pacific Beach community as the "beach lieutenant" from October 2005 through January 2008. Photo by Nicole Sours Larson I Beach & Bay Press

Locals can expect to see him at community meetings, along with "beach" Lt. Paul Rorrison. The two men worked together in the department's Internal Affairs Unit, along with Lt. Randy Jones, Northern's investiga-

SEE **NORTHERN**, Page 5

## March trial date set for suspected Craigslist killers of S. Mission man

Three teenagers will stand trial evidence against Rashon Jay Aber-March 28 for the murder of South Mission Beach resident Garrett Berki, who was shot to death after he responded to a Craigslist ad about a computer for

sale in Paradise Hills.

The appeared Oct. 27 before San Diego Superior Court Judge Robert O'Neill and right to have a speedy trial. They



**GARRETT BERKI** 

have pleaded not guilty to murder, two robberies and shooting at an occupied vehicle in the May 11 incident.

After a two-day preliminary hearing, San Diego Superior Court Judge Joan Weber ruled there was enough

nathy, 17, Shaquille Jordan, 17 and Seandell Lee Jones, 18, to justify a trial. They face trial as adults and are accused of committing the crime as members or associates of a criminal

After Berki, a 2010 graduate of La Jolla High School, and his girlfriend were robbed of \$640 and their cell phones, he followed the trio in his car as they turned into a cul-de-sac to try and get their license number. Deputy District Attorney Kristian Trocha said Abernathy fired a shot that went through the windshield of Berki's car, striking Berki in the chest.

Abernathy and Jordan remain in Juvenile Hall on \$5 million bail. Jones was transferred to the George Bailey Detention Facility after he turned 18.

- Neal Putnam



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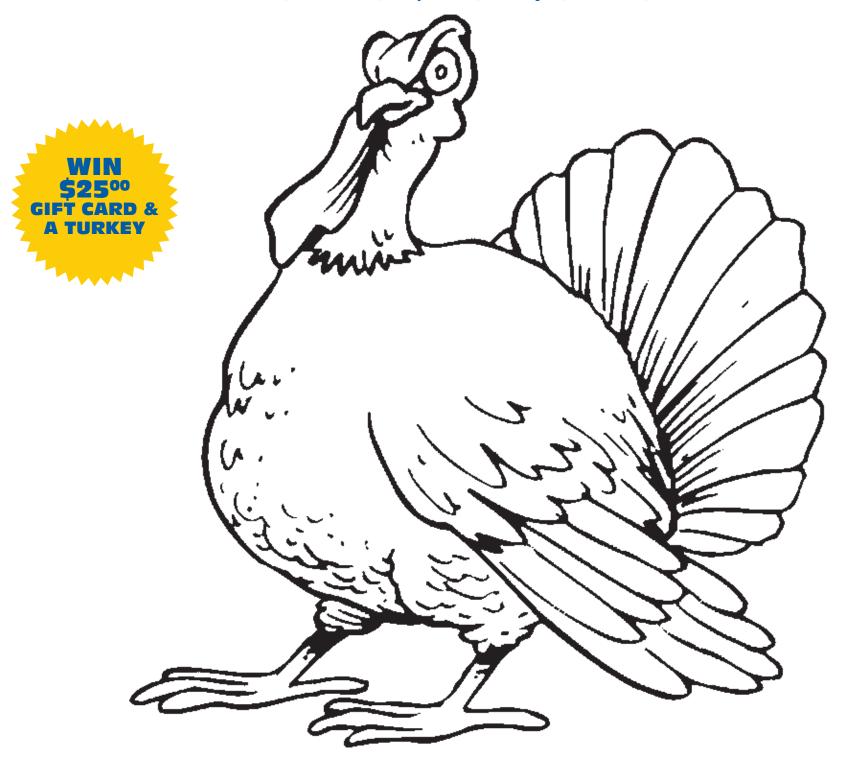
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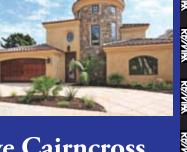
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### Rocksteady sounds, Iron Maiden fame, Capricorn Studios

#### LIVEMUSIC

By BART MENDOZA | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Reggae rockers Sunny Rude celebrate the release of their debut album "Rudimentary" with a show on Nov. 11 at the Typhoon Saloon. Though a relatively young band, the quartet, has built up a solid beach-area following and it's easy to see why. Anyone who enjoys rocksteady sounds or more melodic reggae - a la UB40 - will enjoy this band. Its songs, like "Every Little Thing You Do" or "Sunshine," are as good as anything in the genre.

• Sunny Rude performs at 9 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11 at the Typhoon Saloon, 1165 Garnet Ave. 21 and up. www.typhoonsaloon.-

There seems to be a surplus of musicians touring lately whose main claim to fame is having filled in for a short time with a major band. Such is the case with Blaze Bayley, who performs at Brick by Brick on Nov. 13. Though he's performed as a solo act for more than a decade and with the band Wolfsbane since 1984, it's his fiveyear stint in Iron Maiden from 1994 to 1999 that sets Bayley's career apart. While he only recorded two albums with Iron Maiden, expect those tunes to get the biggest response from the heavy-metal faithful at this gig.

• Blaze Bayley performs at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 13 at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave. 21 and up. \$15.



Blaze Bayley, whose claim to fame is a fiveyear stint with heavy-metal band Iron Maidens, performs at Brick by Brick on Nov. 13.

www.brickbybrick.com

Based in downtown San Diego, Capricorn Studios has helped hundreds of performers - from hard rockers Cattle Decapitation to soul singer Toni Braxton - capture their sounds. On Nov. 16 at The Griffin, the studio hosts a CD-release event for affiliated groups, with an all-star lineup on hand, including Astra Kelly, Ghost Bird, The Lyon Crowns, Miss Erika Davies, Jackson Price and B-Side players' frontman Karlos Paez. This eclectic lineup is the perfect showcase and yet a mere taste of all the great music that has emerged from Capricorn over the

• Capricorn Studios: 8 p.m. on Wednesday,

Nov. 16 at **The Griffin**, 1310 Morena Blvd. 21 and up. \$10. www.thegriffinsd.com

Visalia-based four-piece combo High Plains Drifters stop in at Tio Leo's on Nov. 18. The band sounds like a cross between the Doors without keyboards and a live Beat Farmers bootleg. They also touch on Americana and jam with singer Robert Millsap's impressive growl at the forefront. A bit rough around the edges, High Plains Drifters' music is loud, groove filled and full of attitude, the perfect ingredients for a Saturday night out.

High Plains Drifters perform at 9 p.m. on Friday Nov. 18 at Tio Leo's, 5302 Napa St. 21 and up. Cover TBD. http://www.reverbnation.com/thehighplains driftersband

Based around the percussion, vocals and saxophone of frontman Fidel Bateke, who is originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bateke Beat performs music from his native land. Bateke has assembled a group of local players who produce tunes that are both exhilarating and nearly impossible not to dance to. Whether you're a fan of world music or just enjoy tunes with a heavy dose of rhythm, Bateke Beat creates a joyful noise worth

• Bateke Beat performs at 9 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18 at the 710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Ave. 21 and up. Cover TBD. www.batekebeat.com

### **MUSTHEAR**

Blues guitarist Bill Magee, who performs at RT's Longboard on Nov. 18, got his start on the East Coast during the early 1960s, playing with a host of music legends like Jimi Hendrix, James Brown and B.B. King. Now a San Diego institution backed by a tight, seven-piece band, Magee is a

master at electric Chicago blues, funk and R&B, with plenty of soul to boot. It's that ability to shift musical gears that makes Magee's shows special. There are lots of great blues players in town, but Magee's revue-style shows are hard to beat.

• Bill Magee Blues Band performs at 10 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18 at RT's Longboard, 1466 Garnet Ave. 21 and up. www.billmageeblues.com

- Bart Mendoza



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### **NORTHERN**

CONTINUED FROM Page

tions lieutenant.

Promoted to captain in June 2011, Ahearn commanded Eastern Division for only three and half months before departing for the more complex and challenging Northern Division. Long, who is now assistant chief in charge of SDPD's nine regional commands, said he regretted losing Guaderrama at Northern, but realized Ahearn provided a well-qualified replacement.

"I wanted someone to go to Northern who understood the complexity of the issues involving alcohol and the beach problems," Long said. "[Ahearn] has a great working knowledge of the region. I needed someone who could hit the ground running."

When then-lieutenant Ahearn was assigned to La Jolla and the beach communities, he focused on the Children's Pool seal conflicts while also working behind the scenes — particularly with surfers — to deal with burglaries targeting La Jolla Shores beach users, Long said.

Ahearn also handled alcohol-related issues dominating Pacific Beach, laying groundwork for implementing the beach alcohol ban enforcement. "He's 100 percent committed and

2011 - 2012



After about nine and a half months at Northern Division, Capt. Al Guaderrama has moved over to command the department's investigations unit, where he will be responsible for overseeing cases involving child abuse, sex crimes, emergency negotiations, narcotics and the Family Justice Center.

Photo by Nicole Sours Larson I Beach & Bay Press

believes in community policing," Long

A "proud native" of Hicksville, Long Island, hometown of musician Billy Joel, Ahearn, now 48, grew up in an Irish Catholic family, a child of divorced always planning ahead, and definitely parents and without a clear direction.

While in college and holding down a job bagging groceries, "I realized there was more to life than sitting on a barstool," but he didn't know what he

On his first, transformational plane trip at 19 to visit a friend in San Diego, he discovered a new life and his future home. Quitting college, he moved to San Diego later that year in 1983 and found a job as a warehouseman in Kearny Mesa.

Ahearn said he realized it was time to do something with his life when he met his future wife, Jackie, a registered nurse who was then working at a nearby deli. He continued working as a warehouseman while resuming college part-time at San Diego State University, graduating with a B.S. degree in criminal justice administration in 1992.

The couple settled in Santee following their marriage, raising two children who are now in their late teens.

Ahearn returns to Northern Division after a rich and varied 25-year career, moving up the SDPD chain of command. He twice served in the Police Academy, first as a training officer and later as the sergeant overseeing an entire class of trainees, as well as a domestic-violence investigator working under the pioneering family justice

He recently completed two and a half years as the lieutenant overseeing

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"I don't want to police Northern [Division] the way we did before. We need to be progressive and keep moving forward."

CAPT, BRIAN AHEARN

New SDPD Northern Division commander

the department's internal affairs arm, the unit that looks into complaints against officers.

"It's the most challenging part: to be told that we don't have good police officers," Ahearn said. "I loved the job. Every complaint was a story." He said every investigation must be facts-driven.

"Don't ever minimize a citizen's complaint," Ahearn reflected. It is a principle he followed as Northern's beach lieutenant.

Ahearn's Northern Division is known for its continuity of officers.

While he's been away three and a half years, many Northern officers, including those on the beach team, have remained as long as 15 years.

"They have a sense of ownership. It's community policing as it's meant to be," Ahearn said.

Ahearn said he plans to talk with community representatives to assess the situation before determining prior-

"I don't want to police Northern the way we did it before. We need to be progressive and keep moving forward," he

The city's budget challenges and the diminished number of officers on the street are situations that will present challenges, Ahearn admitted.

Response time may be slower, he said, but officers will respond.

To reach Ahearn directly, call (858) 552-1710, or email bahearn@pd-.sandiego.gov.

### Why 75% of homesellers don't get the price they want for their homes

SAN DIEGO, A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9-Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their home and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

As this report uncovers, most

homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable.

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9-Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar."

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### **GUEST VIEW**

## Veterans Day gives us a chance to reflect on its true meaning

#### By Johnny McDonald

We bestow our thanks to all American veterans on Nov. 11 a day once known as Armistice Day, which painted the war to end all wars as prophetically designed toward world peace.

Since a dictator's resurrection of armaments in the late 1930s, there has been little pause for peace. We're confronted now with a fresh war [Iraq and Afghanistan] that has lasted 10

As we must, men and women are sent overseas for new conflicts in lands where people live under a different set of principles.

Since World War II, the ranks of veterans have steadily grown. It's become their job to keep terrorists from touching our shores.

Let's take time to comprehend the reasons we acknowledge this

After World War II, many returning servicemen didn't talk about their experiences. Their concerns were directed toward resumption of civilian life, or to find a job or go to school.

Years later, maybe at reunions, they might retell war stories. Author/commentator Tom Brokaw referred to World War II veterans as members of the Great Generation. The generations since are just as important.

Since World War II, the conflicts that followed produced new legions of veterans. Inexplicably, those who fought in Vietnam were

Veterans' hospitals are filled with the maimed, both physically and mentally. Let's not forget

As conflicts continue in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places, the prevalence of soldiers coming home with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) becomes a major concern for our society. Vet- Group.

erans' hospitals are overrun with these emergencies.

Anywhere from 60 percent of veterans are diagnosed with PTSD. While the disease was first named in the aftermath of the Vietnam War, very little headway has been made toward treatment.

In San Diego and Oceanside, veterans' villages have been established to give continued assis-

They extend help to all needy and homeless veterans and to their families by providing housing, food, clothing, substanceabuse recovery and mental-health counseling, job training and jobplacement services.

Each year, San Diego conducts "stand down" days near San Diego City College to assist other at-risk veterans in need.

Unemployment is a chief problem facing the United States as the country attempts to avoid mistakes of the Vietnam War era and ensure that post-9/11 veterans readjust to civilian life successful-

All levels of government — and a growing number of for-profit and nonprofit organizations - are trying to help former service members move from boots into suits.

But they are fighting a nine percent national unemployment rate — 12 percent in California — and a flood of fresh out-of-work civilians as the military cuts its numbers after the peak of two wars. At 9.8 percent in August, unemployment among young veterans is higher than the national average.

So, let's take a deeper look at the reasons why we honor Veterans

— Johnny McDonald is a regular news contributor and writer for the San Diego Community Newspaper

## Preservationists change their tune, not commitment

### MBHS group shifts from former Dixie jazz focus

By BART MENDOZA | BEACH & BAY PRESS

While music is hardly the priority it once was in the education system, San Diego is fortunate there are still programs in the local schools that give budding musicians a chance to learn and grow.

In many cases, these are award-winning programs that take the young performers on tour — both in local and national settings — placing them before their first big audiences. Such is the case with the Mission Bay Preservationists, formerly known as the Mission Bay High School (MBHS) Dixie Jazz Band. The group will perform at various times during the 32nd annual San Diego Thanksgiving Dixieland Jazz Festival on Nov. 25-27 at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center.

Though the school group built its reputation on the former Dixie jazz genre, Mission Bay High music director JP Balmat felt it was time to modernize things.

"After a 20-plus-year tradition, it was time to update, to represent the current culture and influence of the band," he

Balmat is quite familiar with the ins and outs of Mission Bay High School's music program, having been a student and band member at the school. He graduated in 2002, returning in 2007 as director of the school's music depart-

"My goal was to give the band a more mature look and name," Balmat said. "We have some of the most talented young players in San Diego and I didn't want the appearance of a 'high school group' to hold them back.'

Under the change, the band has replaced its old uniforms — red vests and black bowties. The students are now able to wear appropriate clothing of their own choosing.

"The uniforms have always been the



The Mission Bay High School Preservationists, formerly the school's Dixie Jazz Band, have changed uniforms and direction so as not to be pigeonholed into one specific genre.

image of the jazz band and Mission Bay High School," Balmat said. "It was a very hard decision, but after 20 years, it was time. The students have the ability to be their own person and dress the part of a professional."

For Balmat, once the time came to change the group's name, a replacement theme was obvious.

"Our goal is to preserve the early jazz that came out of New Orleans through players like Buddy Bolden, Jelly Roll Morton and, of course, Louis Armstrong," Balmat said. "We wanted a name that gave the listener an idea of what we play but that wouldn't pin us into one distinct style like Dixie, as in our previous name, MBHS Dixie Jazz

He said he feels the new name is less constrictive stylistically.

"We always stay true to the music but as jazz musicians we need to give our own influences and creativity into the music to make it our own. This is what makes jazz so great," Balmat said.

Beyond the students' own academic studies. Balmat said that as part of the Thanksgiving Dixieland Jazz Festival, the MBHS Preservationists will perform at the House of Blues on Thanksgiving morning for their annual "House of

"This is the second year we have played this event," Balmat said. "It's an amazing opportunity for the band to perform on that stage and it leaves you with such a good feeling from giving back on Thanksgiving.'

Balmat also said getting the Preservationists' music recorded will be a prior-

"Our biggest goal this year is to lay down tracks for a new CD under the new Preservationists name," he said. "We are busy playing as many events as possible to raise the money needed to record. We are looking for any private or community help that might be out there."

Though the band is made up of high school students, Balmat said the young musicians are already seasoned veter-

"This current band has over 70 performances under its belt," Balmat said. "It's a very talented group."

Mission Bay Preservationists perform Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 25-27 at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley. All ages encouraged to attend. www.dixielandjazzfestival.org

## Ask The Lawyer

Question:

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rather than making the transfer another way. The first issue is that whomever you put on title might have creditors that go after the asset. The creditor can also put a lien on the property. A car accident where your child is under-insured can cause you to have to sell your home for your children's liabilities. This would be a travesty and is entirely avoidable.



Laskowitz

Another issue is that the taxes on any eventual sale of the property will be higher. This is because the basis for tax purposes transfers to the person that you put on the title, instead of it getting a step up in basis to the value when you die. This could cost your children tens of thousands of dollars in extra income taxes or capital gains. If you are unclear about this, give me a call for an appointment.

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MISSION BAY MARKET opened at 4135 Mission Blvd. during the first weekend of June 1950, when this photo was taken. The building, next to the Mission Bay Motel, was designed by A. P. Nippel and built by Vern Taylor. The market served the

community for nearly 60 years until it was razed to make way for a mixed-use development. On Saturdays, large crowds now gather across from the site to do their shopping at the Promenade Farmers' Mar-

- John Fry may be reached at

### MUSTREAD

**Book recommendation from the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library** 

TITLE: "Cold Vengeance" **AUTHOR: Preston & Child** 

SYNOPSIS: Devasted by the discovery that his wife's death was murder - not an accident as he was led to believe - Special Agent Pendergast must have his retribution. But revenge is not simple. Looking into Helen's past, he is astounded to

discover she might have been a collaborator in her own murder. The book is filled with suspense and a shocking conclusion.

Reserve this book: www.sandiegolibrary.org; Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library, 4275 Cass St.; (858) 581-9934



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## Mamma Mia's owner/chef brings Italian charm, cuisine to PB

By KAI OLIVER-KURTIN | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Locating a diamond in the rough may not sound difficult in Pacific Beach since so many of the streets are named for precious stones. But those who haven't discovered Mamma Mia Italian Restaurant are missing out on a real

Located between the 7-Eleven convenience store and a hair salon, where Balboa Avenue runs into Grand Avenue, Mamma Mia has the qualities that every restaurant at the beach should have: personality, a casual and family-friendly atmosphere, great food at affordable prices — and, most importantly — a charming owner to make the overall experience interesting.

Cinzia Zolfanelli Mezzetti is many things. She's a chef, mother, businesswoman, Italian, volunteer, teacher oh, and a former member of the Italian national skydiving team. Of course, customers come to Mamma Mia for the made-from-scratch gnocchi, several varieties of bruschetta and tiramisu for good measure. But they also come to watch Mezzetti at work.

"It's not just about the food," said Mezzetti. "Cooking is a gift. You can really make people happy.'

Mezzetti has been cooking since 2000 and has opened four restaurants from scratch, including Ciao Bella in Ocean Beach and in La Mesa. Coming to San Diego as a vacationer from her hometown of Milan, Italy, Mezzetti didn't go back home until six years later to visit. She opened Mamma Mia five years ago in Pacific Beach and has embraced the area's growing Italian community.

"I am Italian-sick," she said. "I surround myself with Italian things and all my friends are Italian."

Mezzetti follows Italian cuisine from

the Mediterranean region, which is known to be lighter and healthier than others. Ten years ago, she started with a menu full of heavy pasta and pizza, making the huge portions that Americans often expect. Now, she's focused on smaller portions and healthier items, adding more protein dishes and appetizers to the menu.

"Order salad somewhere else," said Mezzetti. "If customers are ordering salad, I know it's because the waitress hasn't made enough suggestions for all of our other appetizers."

Mamma Mia came out with a new menu a few months ago, adding color and pictures to the list. Tired of all the plain, white menus around town, Mezzetti put her graphic design skills to

"People want to see what they're ordering," she said.

Ever skeptical of a thin chef, customers have asked Mezzetti why she doesn't have a fuller figure.

"When you're cooking pasta and running around in a 160-degree kitchen, you lose weight," she said. You don't want to eat.'

"Being in the kitchen is a really tough job," Mezzetti said, as evidenced by the burns and scars on her forearms.

Mezzetti knows and aims to please her audience. Acting as the owner. manager and chef of Mamma Mia, Mezzetti can afford to keep her menu prices low.

'You wouldn't believe how many women are in PB," said Mezzetti. "Sometimes the whole restaurant is filled with just women. My wine menu is catered toward what they like to drink.'

The restaurant is located inside a charming house and is much bigger than it appears from the outside, with a capacity to seat private parties. It also



Cinzia Zolfanelli Mezzetti prepares food in the kitchen of Mamma Mia with her daughters Fiamma, 8, and Greta, 6.

holds a separate vineria (wine room) for their mom. those seeking a bar vibe.

singers, cooking classes and tango dance classes. Recently, the restaurant held a Latino night, featuring salsa, bachata and tango dancers, for which Mezzetti prepared a special menu.

Mezzetti also teaches cooking classes and private lessons at Mamma Mia a few times per year, but it's not the focus of her business.

Mezzetti has two bilingual daughters who attend Pacific Beach Elementary School, where she has volunteered to teach students both art and cooking classes. Her daughters — Fiamma, 8, and Greta, 6 — said they enjoy making cookies and tiramisu in the kitchen with

Mamma Mia also hosts special events Mezzetti has catered more holiday parlike Italian-language classes, Italian ties, fundraisers and auctions in the last few years, and has performed cooking demonstrations for students, showing them how to prepare pizza.

Mamma Mia is open Tuesdays With her daughters in school, through Thursdays for dinner and Fridays through Sundays for lunch and dinner, with happy-hour specials daily from 4 to 6 p.m.

For more information, visit www.mammamiaitalianrestaurant.com.

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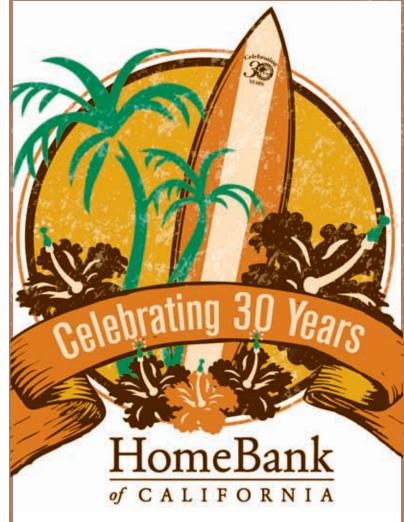


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## **SCHOOLS**

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

based Barnard Elementary School's Mandarin Chinese immersion program into a greater language academy, and consolidate Mission Bay High School and Pacific Beach Middle School.

The SDUSD's credit rating has been downgraded twice in the last month because of its ongoing budget crisis.

The SDUSD Board of Education was expected to host a workshop on Nov. 8 and decide whether to proceed with its latest proposals or make any changes. As of press time, it was unclear whether Tuesday's meeting would produce any subtractions, additions or the elimination of all of the current proposals on the table.

On Oct. 24, Barnett proposed an alternative plan, which would include not closing any schools but that would cut teacher salaries by 10 percent.

His plan would also force employees to pay more for healthcare plans, freeze raises for teachers and call for a citywide election in 2012 to let voters decide whether they want to pay more to make up for the salary cuts.

Barnett's plan is temporarily on hold as he assesses financial details of his proposal and it is not clear when it will be formally introduced to the board of education.

Despite the uncertain course of action to bring the SDUSD's finances back in line, the timeline for the current realignment plan remains the

The first reading of recommendations is scheduled to take place on Nov. 29, followed by what is expected to be a final vote on Dec. 13.

For the latest news, updates and decisions on the SDUSD's planned realignments and closures, visit www.sandi.net/realignment.







## **Bucs scoreless in deja vu with Point Loma**

By SCOTT HOPKINS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

For the second straight year, the Mission Bay High School (MBHS) Buccaneers were disarmed by an alert canine

The Bucs docked at Point Loma High for an Oct. 28 attack on the resident Pointers, but it was the Dogs who administered a 13-0 drubbing. The score almost identically matched the result of last year's matchup (14-0) between the teams — with the Pointers coming out on the winning side.

The loss dropped the Buccaneers to 3-4-1 (1-2 in Western League) while the Pointers improved to 6-2 (3-0 in

Like last year, the Bucs' defense gave the hosts all they could handle, limiting the Pointers to a single touchdown, which came on Point Loma's first possession of the game. After that, field goals by two different Pointers were all the hosts could muster.

Isaac Griffin, Dylan Lieto and Franklin Gaylord led Mission Bay in tackles while Aaron Cobbler recorded a quarterback sack. Griffin was also credited with a fumble recovery.

The Pointers might likely still be motivated by the memory of a 49-27 beating the Bucs administered during Point Loma's hosting of Mission Bay High in

2009. In that game, Dillon Baxter led the Bucs with more than 300 yards in offense to spoil the Dogs' Homecoming.

Those were the last points the Bucs have scored on the Pointers.

Indeed, the visitors were only able to record 46 yards of offense in their ship's log against the stingy Pointers, who didn't yield even a first down to the visitors until the third quarter. Bucs quarterback Nate Long was sacked five times and intercepted once.

Mission Bay got back on the winning track Nov. 4 with a shutout of their own last week as they handcuffed league foe Hoover in a 16-0 victory at



Mission Bay running back Chris Byrd (4) advances the ball against Point Loma. Jordan Ordaz (75) takes on Pointer defenders during a 13-0 Bucs' loss.

#### We're on the web at: sdnews.com

## Bucs shut out Hoover to wrap up regular-season home schedule

By LEE CORNELL | BEACH & BAY PRESS

On a rain-soaked afternoon, the Mission Bay High School (MBHS) football team blanked division rival Hoover High 16-0 on Nov. 4. The win allowed the Buccaneers (4-4-1, 2-2) to close out their final regular-season home game with a needed victory at Dennis A. Pugh Field.

"The defense was outstanding," said Bucs head coach Willie Matson. "Hoover can really pile up some points on you quickly but our defense came out on a mission. The kids tackled and covered really well. I'm proud of them."

A steady downpour, along with sudden strong wind gusts, provided sloppy field conditions, which led to many mishandled plays. In the end though, MBHS' determined ground game and pass rushing was too much for the Cardinals, whose spread offense proved difficult to maneuver in the mud.

Mission Bay senior quarterback Nate Long, whose athleticism has been on display all season, suffered a hobbling ankle injury in the first quarter. Although Long was relegated to hopping around on one leg in-between plays, he missed only one series because of the injury.

"I couldn't let that happen in my last home game of my high school career, so I decided to suck it up and play and we pulled out the win, so I'm happy," Long

In tough field conditions, the first score is always crucial and it was MBHS that got on the board first. Its swarming defense, led by linebacker Donshay Bandy, gang-tackled Hoover quarterback Dionte Whitfield in his own end zone for a safety and a 2-0 lead in the first quarter. Bucs senior running back Chris Byrd followed up the safety by returning the ensuing

SEE **SHUTOUT**, Page 12

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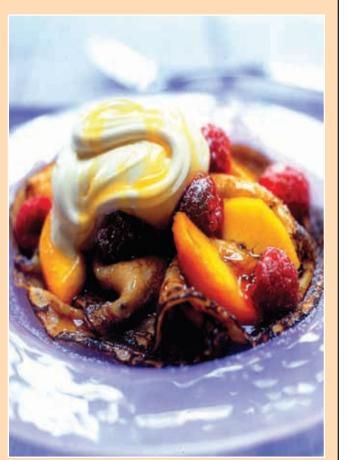
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## 710 Beach Club plays host to Da Bears fans for NFL games



Fans are dialed in at 710 Beach Club on Garnet Avenue during a Monday night Bears game. The San Diego Chargers travel to Chicago on Nov. 20 for a matchup - and, of course, 710 Courtesv photo by Steven Bradley will likely be jam-packed for the televised showdown.

By LEE CORNELL | BEACH & BAY PRESS

When Scott Slaga took over the 710 Beach Club, located at 710 Garnet Ave. in 1989, he decided to turn the bluesy music venue into San Diego's official home of the Chicago Bears.

The venue will be the place to be on Sunday, Nov. 20 when the Chargers travel to The Windy City to take on the Bears in a televised game at 1:15 p.m.

In 1989, the club was called Blind Melons and it took a lot of creativity and determination to keep the Bears theme alive during the early days. For one thing, there was no DirectTV back then to easily access the games. Instead, Scott, who is a Chicago native, would use giant-size receivers to search every

"All the Bears fans who are local and the ones who come in from out of town tell me that the Bears experience at 710 Beach Club is by far the best Bears experience they've had since they were in Chicago."

SCOTT SLAGA

Owner, 710 Beach Club

signal in the country to find the game. And even then, catching the games wasn't guaranteed.

"'The Mike Ditka Show' started at 7:30 a.m. and was over by 8:30 a.m., so we had another hour and a half of waiting," Slaga said. "By the time the game started, a lot of people didn't even

really care if the game was on. We did promotions like power tool Sundays and walnut and peanut throwing Sundays. We used to stack stools and try to climb all the way up to the skylight when the Bears scored."

Not being able to show all the Bears games may not have been the worst thing at the time, considering the abysmal state of the organization throughout the 1990s. In fact, the Bears following was so meager, Slaga also turned the club into a Buffalo Bills bar — a team that was extremely successful and popular during that time. Fortunes for each team seemed to reverse in the 2000s, and soon the Bills fans were far outnumbered and they

SEE **710**, Page 11



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## NH



Thirteen plasma TVs and two projector screens await football fans at the 710 Beach Club.

Courtesy photo by Steven Bradley

**710**CONTINUED FROM Page 10

CONTINUED FROM **Page 10** 

finally left for good two years ago, Slaga said.

Today, it's typical to see a capacity crowd of 200 fans jam the 710 Club every time the Bears play a game. In fact, sometimes the line to get in stretches down the sidewalk, depending on the magnitude of the game.

"I think the three biggest games here

were the NFC championship and Super Bowl games of 2007 and when the Bears made the playoffs for the first time in seven years in 2002," said co-owner Brian Wirtz.

Besides being a Bears bar, 710 Beach Club is known for its Chicago-themed contests. For example, in a relay game the bar organized, someone might have to down a drink and then another devours a sausage dog before a third teammate can run to the ocean for a quick dip — usually during the winter.

The grand prize for the season is a weeklong trip to Slaga's house in Lake Tahoe for that year's top team.

Every time the Bears score or come up with a big play, the master of ceremonies, who also happens to be Slaga, grabs his microphone and belts out the Bears theme song called "Bear Down." The voices of hundreds of singing fans can be heard all the way to the beach, creating a real hometown feel in a faraway city.

"We let the Bears fans feel like they're

at home, like they're in The Windy City," Slaga said.

The 710 Beach Club is also known for its famous "little Ditkas," (shots of Rumple Mintz named after the team's iconic coach), handed out by Slaga throughout the games. The club also offers \$3 well drinks and \$3 domestic draft beers. Food is also a must for newcomers to 710.

"We have a football menu," Wirtz said. "We have breakfast in the morning until 11 a.m. and different discounted food items throughout the game."

Thirteen plasma TVs and two projector screens for night games make watching sports events at 710 a great time. Some recent remodeling, which included installing garage-style doors, has added to the ambiance.

"The ocean breeze coming in makes it much cooler with 200 fans in here and makes it more inviting on the inside as well as the outside," Wirtz said.

Whether you're from Chicago or not, watching a Bears game at 710 is an experience everyone should try.

"All the Bears fans who are local and the ones who come in from out of town tell me that the Bears experience at 710 Beach Club is by far the best Bears experience they've had since they were in Chicago," Slaga said.

So as not to discriminate against local football fanatics, Slaga guarantees every Chargers game, notwithstanding an NFL blackout.

"We actually get a pretty strong showing for the Chargers games now," he said



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## SHUTOUT

CONTINUED FROM Page 9

free kick 72 yards for a huge touchdown and 9-0 Mission Bay lead. Byrd has made a name for himself this year with several long, electrifying scoring runs.

Although Long was almost exclusively asked to play it safe and hand the ball off, he still made his mark. With 6:13 left in the first half, Long connected with senior wide receiver JaQuan Madyun on a perfectly executed fade route on fourth down. The 18-yard scoring strike gave MBHS a commanding 16-0 lead.

"They were playing up [toward the line], so coach called a fade," Madyun said. "I gave him (the defender) a fake inside and Nate put it in a good spot to let me go get it."

Madyun played a big role on special teams, punishing Hoover's kick returners.

"I like hitting and being on defense,"

The second half belonged to the Bucs defense. It dominated the line of scrimmage and caused havoc in the opponents' backfield again and again. Junior linebacker Dylan Lieto had a big sack for MBHS to go along with 11 tackles.

"We know where the potholes are. We knew it was going to be raining and it was going to be bad but we just came out and played football," Lieto said.

The Bucs will end the regular season with a game at La Jolla High on Nov. 10.

#### **News and notes**

- MBHS senior linebacker Isaac Griffin had a team-high 12 tackles and one sack.
- Sophomore tailback Devante Kinder provided tough running in the trenches while gaining 105 yards on 21 carries.
- Visit us online at www.sdnews.com to see what team Mission Bay will draw in the CIF playoffs. The Bucs could potentially play a home game in the first round of CIF.

#### EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

#### **Mission Bay High School**

• Local artist Tom Plonka, who has created beautiful murals for Pacific Beach Middle School, has just completed two new murals at Mission Bay High, an international baccalaureate school. A large IB emblem now adorns an interior wall of the high school library and the international baccalaureate image embellishes the outside gymnasium wall. MBHS is proud of its rigorous, balanced IB curriculum and the new murals are a testament to the commitment to the school's international baccalaureate program.

• MBHS is partnering with Recycle San Diego to provide **free e-waste recycling** for the public. Bring electronics on Saturday, Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to recycle for free. For more information: www.recyclesandiego.org/mission-bayhigh/

#### **Pacific Beach Middle School**

• Twelve principals and vice principals from several regions of China will visit baccalaureate school, on Friday, Nov. 18. The purpose for the visit is to develop an understanding on several topics including characteristics of the American public middle school management system, how teachers in the U.S. are recruited and trained, American guidelines for curriculum design and strategies that American teachers employ to keep students engaged and focused. PBMS was chosen for the visit because of its outstanding international baccalaureate middle years program. Principal Julie Martel will host the guests from China and spend the day exchanging ideas and sharing insight with global middle school perspectives.



Students from the Mission Bay High School international baccalaureate program have been doing scientific research at Rose Creek Watershed. Since May, students have been working collaboratively to design and carry out a scientific inquiry based on the topic "Human Impact on Rose Creek Watershed." This project allows students to appreciate the Rose Creek ecosystem, the social and ethical implications of preserving this ecosystem, allows students practical, first-hand scientific research skills and provides an opportunity to collaborate with community scientists.

#### **Crown Point Elementary**

- Crown Point Junior Music Academy will hold its **Scholastic Book Fair** this week, Nov. 7-11, from 11:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Check out great books and support the school.
- Crown Point welcomes adult volunteers. If you have an interest in being part of the school community stop by the office to fill out the volunteer application.

#### **Kate Sessions Elementary**

 Kate Sessions, in partnership with the Reuben H. Fleet Museum and funded by the Department of Defense grant "Operation Student Achievement," hosted a family science night on Nov. 3. Parents, students and teachers were enthusiastically engaged in making the non-Newtonian fluid called "Flubber," testing the Bernoulli Effect, using magnetism to create the longest paperclip chain, and other activities. This was the first of two family science nights that Sessions will host this year.

• Halloween spirit abounded at Kate Sessions as parents and teachers put on their "spooktacular" Halloween Carnival. Following a pie-eating contest and costume parade, students enjoyed traditional carnival games, pony rides, a train ride and a bake sale of spooky Halloween treats. Fifth-grade students sponsored their traditional Haunted House, successful scaring hundreds of participants. The carnival was made possible by community support. More than 70 PB Middle and Mission Bay High students donated time, and the schools' military partners from the San Diego Naval Base came to lend a hand. Many local businesses, including Trader Joe's, Mr. Frostie, Pick Up Stix, Christine Elise Photography, Yogurt on the Rocks, Petco, the Steve Adamson Tennis Academy and Westwood Orthodontics were essential to our success.

#### **Pacific Beach Elementary**

- On Monday, Nov. 14 at 7:50 a.m., Pacific Beach Elementary will be awarded The Barona Education Grant of \$5,000. Edwin "Thorpe" Romero, who serves as chairman of the Barona Band of Mission Indians, 76th Dist. Assemblywoman Toni Atkins and Don Giaguinto from U.S. Congressman Brian Bilbray's office are expected to attend.
- There will be a **parent coffee** on the lawn of PBE on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 8 a.m. This free, informal gathering is in honor of National Parent Involvement Day.



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## Las Posadas Holiday Event Celebrates its 61st Year

Dec. 11 will mark the 61st annual Las Posadas event in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

The Las Posadas procession is a walking reenactment of the biblical story of Mary and Joseph's search for a birthplace for the Christ child. Everyone is invited to join the candlelit procession and sing traditional holiday songs in both Spanish and English as the players go from inn to inn, asking for symbolic lodging. The procession culminates with a live nativity scene in from of Casa de Estudillo as well as a piñata party.

"This event combines the Anglo custom of caroling with the Hispanic tradition of the procession and the breaking of the piñata," said Chuck Ross, owner and operator at Fiesta de Reyes.

"Las Posadas is a long-standing tradition in many Latin cultures and we hope to recreate the same kind of celebratory day that everyone can enjoy."

The Las Posadas procession will be lead by professional actors in period costume, including Willie, the acting donkey.

Before the procession that takes place at 5 p.m., this event will also feature a day-time celebration and preshow with live music, performances and activities for children from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. A variety of local music and performing arts groups will perform from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For children's entertainment, there will be free craft activities that include making pioneer-style cloth dolls, as well as cornhusk dolls and paper holiday flowers. Hot cider, pastries, Mexican baked goods, tamales, hot soup and more will be available for purchase in the park.

At end of the festival, a bonfire will be lit in the middle of the state park and there will be a piñata-breaking party following the Las Posadas procession at 6 p.m. Stores and museums within the state park will have extended hours until 8 p.m. that evening.

This is the second year that the Las Posadas procession is produced by the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park concessionaires. They expanded the procession to feature an entire festival that includes family-friendly seasonal activities.

Admission to Las Posadas is free. For more information, phone (619) 297-3100



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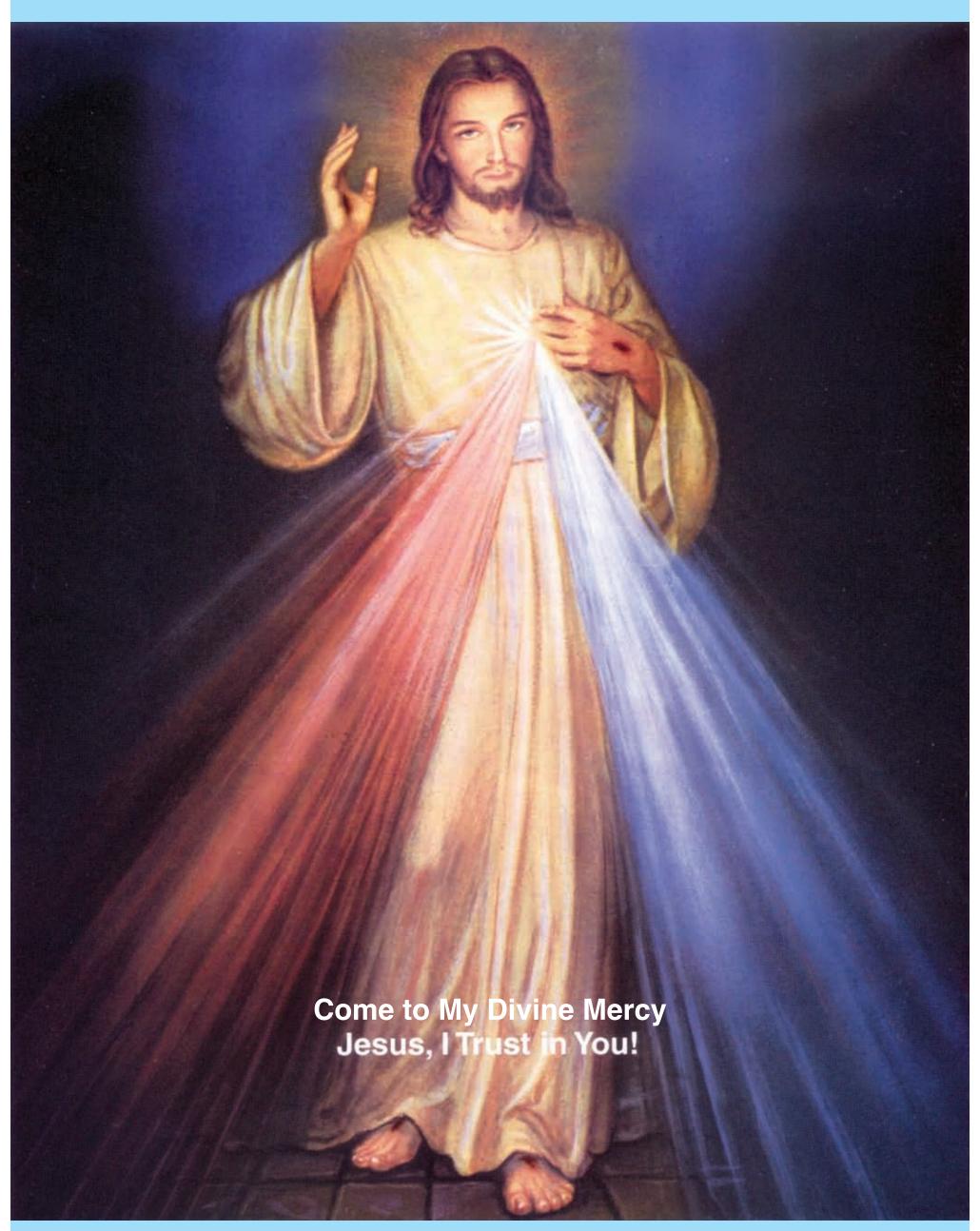
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