



SDCN EXCLUSIVE

A local lifeguard and other divers find the wreck of the Aegaen that disappeared off the Coronado Islands in April during the Newport Beach-to-Ensenada Regatta. Her crew of four perished.

Page 4 inside. For the full story, visit us at www.sdnews.com.



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BACK-TO-SCHOOL EDITION

The changing face of education for PB's schools

Tech advances, new facilities, staffing changes to greet returning students

By **MARIKO LAMB** | BEACH & BAY PRESS

It's that time of year again. The summer sun sets just a bit earlier each day, students of all ages are stocking up on school supplies and parents are finally getting a bit of relief that the kids will soon be out of the house for the day.

Ready for it or not, school goes back in session Sept. 4.

A few notable back-to-school developments and trends to look out for in the Mission Bay Cluster schools this year include a few revitalized and changing facilities, schools embracing the use of technology to connect students, teachers and parents, and students making strides in the classroom despite devastating budget cuts that continue to trouble the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD).

NEW DEVELOPMENT IN FACE OF BUDGET CUTS

Despite a shrinking district budget, a couple of much-needed renovations are transforming local schools this year because of the passage of Proposition S, a \$2.1 billion bond measure program adopted by voters in 2008.

Developments include:

- Improvements to the student pick-up and drop-off zone at Kate Sessions Elementary School. Work

SEE **CLASSES**, Page 7



This shot looking toward Beryl Street shows Kate Sessions Elementary School and the intersection where traffic improvements have been finished to enhance the safety of the school's pick-up and drop-off zone. Work included widening and aligning the existing driveway to the parking lot and installing dedicated left-turn pockets to eastbound and westbound lanes.

Photo by Don Balch | Beach & Bay Press

SDUSD bags traditional fare for healthier, gourmet cafeteria food

By **MARIKO LAMB** | BEACH & BAY PRESS

New gourmet-style food options incorporating more whole grains and fresh locally sourced organic fruits and vegetables are now on the menu for students at San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) schools.

Choices like an Asian salad with chicken or tofu, Baja fish sandwiches with chipotle mayonnaise, and vegetarian chili bread bowls will be dished out alongside locally

SEE **FOOD**, Page 5



Daniel Hamilton, 17, ASB president of La Jolla High School, participates in a food demonstration Aug. 28 at Pacific Beach Middle School to showcase the district's healthier cafeteria offerings this year.

Photo by Jim Grant | Beach & Bay Press

PB, MB lifeguards claim relays crown for second straight year

By **KEVIN MCKAY** | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Dozens of San Diego lifeguards descended upon Mission Beach on Aug. 15, sprinting into action with lifesaving buoys, rescue boards, swim caps and dazzling speed.

But this was no real-life mass ocean rescue. The display was all part of the annual Ron Trenton Memorial Lifeguard Relays — a public contest putting rescue skills and team cooperation to the test while invigorating San Diego's lifeguards with a friendly competition among brethren.

Now in its 59th year, the relays drew scores of lifeguards and specta-

tors from the city's respective zones for the sunset showdown: Northern Division (representing La Jolla-area beaches); Central Division (South Mission Beach, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach and north Pacific Beach); Southern Division (Ocean Beach, Point Loma and Mission Bay); and members of the San Diego Lifeguard Services' Boating Safety Division.

The relays included 12 legs demonstrating the different rescue techniques used in ocean rescues: running, swimming, paddle-rescue boarding and landline rescue.

SEE **RELAYS**, Page 6



Lifeguards from the Central Division, representing South Mission Beach, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach and north PB, pose for a sunset victory shot following the 59th annual Ron Trenton Memorial Lifeguard Relays at Mission Beach Aug. 15.

Photo by Jim Grant | Beach & Bay Press

PB Town Council ready to uncork its Wine Tasting and Silent Auction gala

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

The Pacific Beach Town Council (PBTC) is poised to host its 11th annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction Fundraiser on Sunday, Sept. 9 — a yearly tradition to raise money for local schools, the Town Council and the community as a whole.

The event is set to take place from 4 to 7 p.m. at Table 926, located at 926 Turquoise St. in north Pacific Beach.

The cost of the Wine Tasting and Silent Auction Fundraiser is \$30 per ticket and will include wine tasting, San Diego Craft Brewery samples and appetizers from Table 926 — a 2012 San Diego Home and Garden Magazine Silver Fork Winner.

This will be the restaurant's first time hosting a PBTC event since the eatery opened in December. The restaurant's owner said he is more than happy to oblige.

"A couple of people from the Pacific Beach Town Council had enjoyed their experience at our restaurant, so they asked us if we would like to do this project with them," said Matt Richman, chef and owner of Table 926. "We talked about it and believed it would be a good fit to host the event."

Table 926 will supply both vegetarian and regular panini and flatbread sandwiches, in addition to the regular menu beginning at 4:30 p.m.

There will also be a silent auction and a raffle. Some of the auction items include a one-night stay at the Pacific Terrace Hotel, four tickets to Disney On Ice, four tickets to a San Diego State University Aztecs football game and gift certificates to local restaurants.

Four other restaurants have also donated desserts and appetizers for the event: Sugar and Scribe, The French Gourmet, Papa Luna's and Oscar's Mexican Food.

PBTC officials consider the annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction event to be one of their most important events of the year. Tickets can be purchased at the PBTC office at 1706 Garnet Ave. inside the Union Bank branch, by calling (858) 483-6666, or by visiting www.pbtowncouncil.org.



Table 926 in Pacific Beach will be the host site for the upcoming Pacific Beach Town Council's annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction event on Sept. 9.

Courtesy photo

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PAESAN again set to honor local emergency workers, community heroes

By KEITH ANTIGIOVANNI | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The Pacific Beach Town Council (PBTC) is slated to hold its annual heartfelt salute to local emergency workers who make a difference in the community during the council's 32nd installment of the Police and Emergency Services Appreciation Night (PAESAN) on Wednesday, Sept. 12.

The event, slated to take place from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Rotary Pavilion in the North Crown Point Shores area, serves to recognize and honor local police officers, firefighters, lifeguards and park rangers for their hard work in protecting and serving the beach community.

"It's (PAESAN) is a great night for everyone to get together with community members," said Capt. Brian Ahearn, commander of the police department's

IF YOU GO

The Pacific Beach Town Council will fete local police officers, firefighters, lifeguards and park rangers Sept. 12 at 5 p.m.

Northern Division that includes Pacific Beach and Mission Beach. "They are the ones that drive the event and you feel humbled to honor the police, fire and lifeguards for outstanding service."

Ahearn and Lt. Mike Hastings, also of Northern Division, plan to be present, along with a representative from Police Chief William Lansdowne's office.

The cost for the PAESAN event is \$5 per person for a barbecue dinner provided by the Old Mission Beach Athletic Club (OMBAC). PBTC officials are also inviting residents and merchants to

become sponsors for PAESAN by becoming a Century Club sponsor for a \$100 donation, a Half-Century Club sponsor for a \$50 donation or an In-Kind member by donating gift certificates or merchandise for the PAESAN raffle in return for two complimentary tickets to the BBQ dinner event.

Interested sponsors are urged to contact the PBTC before Sept. 5 to make donations.

"(PAESAN) is a tremendous pleasure for us to attend every year and is a win-win scenario for both us and the community," Ahearn said.

Tickets for the PAESAN event can be purchased at the PBTC office at 1706 Garnet Ave. inside the Union Bank building at Pacific Plaza, or by calling (858) 483-6666, or by visiting www.pbtowncouncil.org.



Local emergency workers are honored during a previous Police and Emergency Services Appreciation Night hosted by the Pacific Beach Town Council. Courtesy photo

Defendant in massive car break-in series gets 12 years

By NEAL PUTNAM | BEACH & BAY PRESS

An auto mechanic was sentenced Aug. 16 to 12 years in state prison after a judge refused to allow him to withdraw his guilty pleas in a massive series of car burglaries in Ocean Beach, La Jolla Shores and Pacific Beach.

Curt Lonnie Simnitt, 40, was fined more than \$6,400 after San Diego Superior Court Judge Dwayne Moring told Simnitt he reviewed a complete transcript of the March 8 hearing when Simmitt pleaded guilty before another judge to 16 counts.

Simnitt signed his plea form as "Curt Duress" before Judge Fred Link, who caught the signature shenanigan. The joke or stunt wasn't noticed by Simnitt's attorney at the time, and the attorney later quit. Simnitt hired a new

attorney and maintained last week he signed the form under duress.

"I don't think there is any evidence of duress," said Moring. "You were given many opportunities to say something."

Simnitt was linked to 27 car burglaries, but there were likely many more unreported after San Diego police uncovered a large amount of stolen property at Simnitt's home on Lake Aral Drive in San Carlos on Jan. 13.

There were purses, wallets, cell phones, backpacks, wet suits, surfboards, watches, clothing, credit cards, iPads and other things, according to investigators.

Simnitt pleaded guilty to nine car burglaries, three counts of identity theft and one count each of forgery, possession of methamphetamine,

grand theft and receiving stolen property.

He had been charged with 80 counts, but Link dismissed the rest after Simnitt pleaded guilty.

The county probation department interviewed a Canadian couple who were vacationing at La Jolla Shores and they said they hid their car keys in some sand and covered it by a rock. When they returned, they found the thief took everything, including their birth certificates, glasses, credits cards and cell phone.

Many other victims said they had also hidden their car keys near their vehicles. But Simnitt was apparently watching where people left their keys, according to his probation report. He also broke car windows to gain access and take property.

7 deadly mistakes that will cost you when you sell your home

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 home-sellers 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.

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San Diego divers uncover the missing Aegean

By MARIKO LAMB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Longtime San Diego boating and diving veterans Russell Moore and Ed Harris have recently made a remarkable breakthrough in a boating accident that left four dead when a 37-foot sailing yacht disappeared in the dark of night during the annual Newport-to-Ensenada Regatta in April, marking the first fatalities in the 65-year history of the race.

The fate of the boat, named the Aegean, and its occupants has been shrouded in mystery since the boat's GPS tracking system made its last signal at 1:30 a.m. on April 28 near North Coronado Island, just 15 miles southwest of Point Loma and directly on the rum line to Ensenada. The disaster left in its wake the death of four highly skilled sailors, a debris field of lightweight surface material and many experts in the sailing community scratching their heads.

Initial reports about the accident indicated that a much larger vessel or tanker likely struck the Aegean, rendering the boat to a pulp.

When Moore — captain of a U.S. Coast Guard-certified commercial RIB (rigid inflatable boat) — heard the reports, however, he was dubious.

"I didn't believe the explanation that was put forth in the popular press, so I kept checking the blogs and researching the story as it was unfolding," he said. "That's kind of my backyard. I work right around there almost every day, and it just became something that haunted me."

His urge to get to the bottom of the mystery led him to enlist the help of his friend and diving expert Ed Harris, a San Diego lifeguard sergeant who has logged thousands of hours on underwater search-and-rescue dives along San Diego's coastline.

"There were just certain things that struck us and we thought, 'We have to figure this out.' I was obsessed with it because this is something we could figure out," said Moore. "There are a lot of experts with more letters or numbers after their names, but not people that see more ocean than me or Ed."

The U.S. Coast Guard had nailed down a specific site where the boat was likely to have crashed, making an easy starting point.

"We took all of the topside information that Coast Guard and other people had speculated on, and we applied that to do the underwater search," said Harris. "We didn't search the globe. We had pretty good indicators where this thing was."

In their first excursion to the suspected wreck site on May 2 — just days after the Aegean's disappearance — the 3-foot sea swells were jolting Moore's



San Diego Lifeguard Services Sgt. Ed Harris pulls up a piece of the missing Aegean's hull on the sea floor near North Coronado Island, 15 miles southwest of Point Loma.

Courtesy of Russell Moore

6,000-pound RIB around like a wine cork and aerating the waters beneath the surface, making the visibility no more than 20 feet. Despite scouring much of the island's northern tip and possessing reasonable confidence that they would uncover some clue attributed to the wreckage, the duo came up empty handed.

After their initial defeat, it took three months before Moore and Harris would go back to the site.

"Our second dive was the first day in the weather window that we had. It wasn't that it took us three months to go back down there. It's the first time that the ocean got still enough to allow access to this," said Moore. "It takes very little swell to turn this place into a washing machine."

The area, known as "Pukey Point," is set against sheer cliff faces, several underwater caves and pockets of shallow water that emit a violent energy.

"[The sailors] were there on a pitch-black night with 6-foot swells," said Moore of the night the Aegean went missing. "By virtue of the angle of the land, there was just no way for that boat to survive. If they had hit anywhere else, they might have had a chance."

The island, which is about one mile long, is only roughly 150 yards wide at the tip, making for a narrow target. That small target, however, is exactly where Moore and Harris found a few of the first clues of the missing boat's location.

"When you do a lot of freediving and you're in the water a lot, your eye really picks up on non-organic matter," said Harris. "Three months had gone by, so enough of the boat had broken loose that I picked up a couple pieces — small pieces of hose and some other things."

When he and Moore went back a third time, two weeks later on Aug. 22, they found the missing pieces right where they had been searching all along.



The northern tip of North Coronado Island is known as "Pukey Point" for its rough waters and tendency to make sailors seasick.

Photo by Jim Grant | Beach & Bay Press

Debris, when scattered and settled along the ocean floor, settles into deep pockets, creating visible catch basins in the sand, said Harris.

"We'd find rollers and things like that in these areas, then we'd find more and more, so we were able to find the trail and find where the bulk of the material was," he said. "Even though we went by the place where it was later discovered, the boat hadn't broken up enough yet to send clues out, basically."

After sightings of big pieces of fiberglass turned into the discovery of heavier items like anchors, chains, the shaft, the prop and other heavy pieces of metal, they knew they had found the missing Aegean.

"If you don't find a keel and a motor, you haven't found a boat wreck. All you've found is where debris ended up," said Moore. "When we found heavy items like this, we knew this was it. This isn't debris that came from somewhere else and ended up here. This is the boat."

The wreckage sits behind large boulders that create a sort of curtain, hiding the larger pieces of the boat from view just a few feet below the surface, said Harris. The keel rests in just two to three feet of water and may even be visible from the water's surface, depending on the tide.

To view the full story and see more photos, visit us at www.sdnews.com.

The Pacific Beach Town Council

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See, nothing to it, mom!

Abbey Laughlin, 10, who was visiting with her family from Port Orchard, Wash. recently, surfs her first waves ever off Diamond Street in Pacific Beach, looking like a skilled surfer in the making.

Photo by Don Balch | Beach & Bay Press

FOOD

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

sourced fruits and vegetables at schools' salad bars to ensure students have choices in the cafeteria.

The implementation of healthier food standards is a nationwide initiative brought to fruition by the passing of the federal Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act in 2010. Although SDUSD has already been ahead of the curve by adding salad bars to schools before many other districts, the law enables the SDUSD to expand on its existing menu of healthy meal options and employ its "Farm to School program," ensuring that students receive the highest-quality lunches, breakfasts and snacks to keep them energized throughout the day and improve student performance.

"One of the greatest opportunities we have in San Diego is being able to work with local farmers to bring in local fresh organic product," said Gary Petill, SDUSD's food services director, at a school lunch sampling at Pacific Beach Middle School on Aug. 28. "This is a movement of making school food in our country healthier for our chil-

dren."

For a unique way of getting children to get more of the fruits and vegetables they like, the district will also debut an experimental "dipper bar," where students can pick up fruits and vegetables to dip into options like hummus, SunButter or corn relish.

"We want kids to be eating well, getting recreation and really feeling good about themselves, that's what's so critical," said U.S. Rep. Susan Davis (D-53rd Dist.). Davis, who has been taking a legislative stand against childhood obesity, also attended the luncheon. "We want to make sure we are not promoting the kind of eating habits that create kids who are overweight and not able to do the kinds of activities that they should ... The days of Sloppy Joes and tater tots are coming to an end."

The California Endowment, a private health foundation that provides grants to community-based organizations in California, is supporting SDUSD's pioneering efforts to roll out even healthier menu options and take on the challenge of fighting childhood obesity in the district.

"Kids cannot learn if



San Diego Unified School District superintendent Bill Kowba, right, loads up a plate of healthier gourmet food now being served in the district's cafeterias. The food was showcased at Pacific Beach Middle School on Aug. 28, where legislative dignitaries and school administrators, like new PBMS principal Ernie Remillard, left, showed healthy doesn't have to mean tasteless.

Photo by Jim Grant | Beach & Bay Press

they're not healthy, if they're not engaged, if they're not focused. That's why these changes to the school menu are so important," said Judi

Larsen, statewide program manager for The California Endowment. "These aren't regulations or mandates, these are choices."



REMEMBER WHEN?

I fear there are only a handful of folks left at the beach who remember when admirals and generals showed up to review the troops at what was then Brown Military Academy, where Pacific Plaza Shopping Center is today.

This photo, taken around 1957, looks east toward the barracks at the corner of Emerald and Lamont streets. The mountain at the left is Pacifica, where Wesley Palms proudly sits today.

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

MUSTREAD

Book recommendation from the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library

TITLE: The Fallen Angel

AUTHOR: Daniel Silva

SYNOPSIS: Trouble follows art restorer/Mossad agent Gabeir Allon from the restoration of a Caravaggio painting in the Vati-



can all the way home to Israel. An old enemy plots revenge and Allon must return to his old intelligence service. Daniel Silva does not disappoint fans of Gabriel Allon.

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

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Sutton Porter of Point Loma stands at the podium during a City Council meeting in July to urge city support of a proclamation for "Heterosexual Pride Month" to complement like resolutions in support of "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month." Photo by Walter Ruskin

GUEST VIEW

Should the city level the playing field with ‘Heterosexual Pride Month’ proclamation?

By **WALTER RUSKIN**

In July, Sutton Porter of Point Loma — producer of the “Rick Amato Show” that can be heard on 1170 KCBQ radio — stood in front of the City Council during its open citizen forum and, for three minutes, urged city officials to proclaim August as “Heterosexual Pride Month” as a counterbalance to the council having declared July as “LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Pride Month” in the City of San Diego.

“By declaring July as LGBT month, you have alienated the millions of heterosexuals in San Diego,” Porter said. “So to make it fair, the City Council should declare August as ‘Heterosexual Pride Month.’”

That’s what happened at City Hall that day.

Now, my question is: how might a “Heterosexual Pride Month” benefit San Diego and how might it bring equality to all different sexual orientations in our great city?

We are going to have to make some assumptions of what we can expect to see heterosexuals, like myself, doing during the month of August in celebration of our heterosexuality. I am sure we will have some type of parade, (sponsored by Chick-fil-A?), but maybe not, because many heterosexuals are conservative about their sexuality and aren’t interested in parading it around.

Perhaps we would celebrate that the government is acknowledging our lifestyle and protecting it, but then again, what right does the government have to mandate anything — especially when it comes to our choices and freedoms? Most importantly, we would finally be acknowledged as equals to our gay counterparts in society, with recognition of our own “pride month.” And isn’t that the real issue?

Heterosexuals just want to be recognized as equals to their homosexual friends and neighbors. But wait, when did same-sex marriage become legal throughout America? After some research on the Internet, I discovered that same-sex marriage is not legal throughout the United States. Oh, so we really were never equal to begin with? Why do we need a ‘Heterosexual Pride Month’ again?

Here is the reason:

Ms. Porter says, “Let’s make it fair! America is a melting pot.”

I have pondered Ms. Porter’s words for weeks since I heard her speak to the City Council in regard to “Heterosexual Pride Month.” Let’s not jump to make any negative judgments of Ms. Porter, because she is on the right track with the statement, “Let’s make it fair!”

How has LGBT Pride Month made it unfair to heterosexuals in San Diego?

Ms. Porter’s argument is, “... The city should never support one group over another, because it fundamentally erodes the notion of one society.” Good argument. On the other hand, if a city starts to recognize one group’s fight for equality and then another group’s fight for equality, maybe, just maybe, we can find equality together.

After some thought, I came to the conclusion that perhaps Ms. Porter could be a true trailblazer for equality and is not actually a whining homophobic, as some might choose to see her. By shaking up City Hall and requesting a “Heterosexual Pride Month,” she could be laying the groundwork for fairness and true equality in the future.

To prove my theory on this, I believe that the homosexual community of San Diego needs to rally and petition in favor of “Heterosexual Pride Month” with Ms. Porter and her “fairness” fighters. By doing this, heterosexuals who support Ms. Porter’s notion for a “Heterosexual Pride Month” would be able to reach across the aisle of fairness and, with God’s blessing of treating your neighbor as you would like to be treated, support same-sex marriage. Remember, if we’re going to be fair, we must be fair to all.

So what is all the hubbub about marriage anyway? In the eyes of fairness and civil liberties, same-sex marriage and heterosexual marriage is not about God or America or even Rome. Marriage is about the benefits; benefits like taxes (joint filing), employment benefits (insurance coverage), government benefits (Social Security), medical benefits (visiting your spouse during illness), estate-planning benefit and, of course, death benefits. If we are going to be fair as a society, we need to keep the rules consistent.

Having a “Heterosexual Pride Month” is important because it will give heterosexuals an entire month to completely understand the benefits we receive by being part of a “protected” couple. That will give us the framework to bridge the fairness gap and extend those benefits to our homosexual countrymen and women because, as Ms. Porter said, “The city should never support one group over another because it fundamentally erodes the notion of one society.”

So I say, yeah for equality and please support a “Heterosexual Pride Month,” because without it, equality for all couples may never be achieved and that’s just not fair.

— *Walter Ruskin is a writer and occasional guest columnist for the San Diego Community Newspaper Group. He can be reached at wruskin@cox.net.*

NEWS & VIEWS

RELAYS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

This year saw each division take, and then lose the lead over the course of the hour-long relay race in what many observers crowned the tightest, most competitive lifeguard relays in recent memory.

Ultimately, the Central Division displayed the most depth. Placing second was the Northern Division, followed by the Southern Division and finally the Boating Safety Unit.

The win for the Central Division marked a second-straight victory over their counterparts.

The Northern Division held the relays crown in 2010.

According to lifeguard officials, the relays serve three general purposes:

- motivation for lifeguards to fine-tune their rescue skills and athleticism;
- a means to blow off steam after a stressful summer; and
- an opportunity to showcase various rescue techniques to the public.

The annual relays are named after veteran lifeguard and long time Northern Division team captain Ronald B. Trenton, who was lost at sea while piloting his private plane from Catalina Island to San Diego in 1997.



Members of the Central Division lifeguards celebrate victory by hoisting lifeguard Sgt. Rick Strobel on their shoulders and dunking him in the ocean. Photo by Jim Grant | Beach & Bay Press

Triathlon: great trends tend to get their starts at Mission Bay

OnThe WATERFRONT

By **JOHNNY McDONALD** | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Want to start something innovative and exciting that might grow into worldwide proportions? Just try it out around Mission Bay, and no telling how big it’ll become.

The regulars believe in fun and games. Look what happened to the perennial Over The Line Tournment. They’re playing it everywhere.

Well, the same is true with the triathlon. It was started here in 1974 and now it’s one of the events at the Olympic Games. This year’s victors were from Britain, Sweden and Switzerland.

This year in San Diego, about 1,800 athletes will meet the challenges of swimming, biking and running again at Fiesta Island in the De Soto Mission Bay Triathlon on Sunday, Sept. 30 to determine the supreme survivors.

The swim is 600 meters from point-to-point, with multiple wave starts three to five minutes apart.

Then it’s a fast 9.3-mile bike ride around the south perimeter of Mission Bay, circling Fiesta Island and returning to Ski Beach.

The final test is a 5K loop along the walkway near Paradise Point Resort and the model boat pond, finishing at the transition area at Ski Beach.

Jack Johnstone and Don Shanihan, members of the San Diego Track Club, were the originators of the local triathlon in 1974. Forty-six participants entered the first event.

MORE INNOVATION – Well, wouldn’t you know. Now we get word of another sandy event and this one is a loony.

Organizer Rick Kozenlowski has drummed up another “Sand Pit 5K and Sand Puddle” event near Belmont Park on Saturday, Sept. 15.

“The Sand Pit 5K and Sand Puddle are similar to a mud run, except that they are run on the beach,” he explained. “The Sand Pit has 10 obstacles and the Sand Puddle has five. These include knee-high water, limbo, in-and-outs, a seal crawl, hoopla and the tire rings. Highlights are the 10-foot-high Sand Everest and rolling into the four-foot-deep watery pit. These obstacles are 15 feet from the boardwalk wall.”

This year, organizers are promoting a pirate motif, encouraging participants to dress as their favorite pirate.

Kozenlowski said the event is fun and challenging. The entry fee is \$40 for the Sand Pit portion and \$35 for the Sand Puddle element. The money will benefit the Mission Valley YMCA.

They’re rough tests, but maybe not quite ready to be standing events at the Olympics.

WHAT’S IN A NAME? – After several name changes, the community’s pioneers decided to name north-south streets — those parallel to Mission Boulevard — after late 19th century federal officials, in alphabetical order.

Maybe we don’t know who they were. But, in order, they are Bayard, Cass, Dawes, Everts, Fanuel, Gresham, Haines, Ingraham, Jewell, Kendall, Lamont, Morrell, Noyes, Olney and Pendleton. No more room for the Q’s, R’s and the rest.

Mission Boulevard was formerly Allison Street, although it’s really the “A” street in the series.

The east-west streets are mostly named after precious stones.

Pacific Beach was developed during the boom years of 1886-88 by D. C. Reed, A.G. Gassen, Charles W. Pauley, R.A. Thomas and O.S. Hubbell. It was Hubbell who cleared away the grain fields, pitched a tent, mapped out the lots, hired an auctioneer and started to work.

To attract people, they built a race-track and a San Diego College of Letters, neither of which exist today. A railway also connected Pacific Beach with downtown San Diego and was later extended to La Jolla.

— *Johnny McDonald is a longtime writer and columnist for the San Diego Community Newspaper Group. He can be reached at Johnny23@cox.net.*

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| PUBLISHER MANAGING EDITOR BEACH & BAY PRESS PENINSULA BEACON | JULIE HOISINGTON KEVIN MCKAY (x131) bbp@sdnews.com beacon@sdnews.com | PHOTOGRAPHERS DON BALCH, JIM GRANT, PAUL HANSEN, MIKE MCCARTHY | OPINIONS The opinions expressed on the Opinion Page do not necessarily reflect those of this paper or the San Diego Community Newspaper Group. To submit a signed letter or guest column, please e-mail the respective publication's editor (at right) or send to 4645 Cass Street, San Diego, CA, 92109. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, brevity and liability. |
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CLASSES

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

was concluded in the spring. The project included widening and aligning the existing driveway to the parking lot along Beryl Street, installing dedicated left-turn pockets to the eastbound and westbound lanes into the school driveway, and installing a new wooden fence, landscaping and exterior parking lights.

"The project will improve traffic, parking and provide safer student drop-off and pick-up operations at the school," said Mission Bay Cluster chairwoman Jennifer Tandy.

- Project design is ongoing for a stadium-improvement project at Mission Bay High School. The project, expected to begin within a year, includes the replacement of the stadium bleachers, installation of a new press box, lighting, scoreboard and goal posts, construction of a new ticket booth, restrooms, concession stands and an equipment storage area, and improvements to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). The high school's dirt track and grass field are also in the design phase and will get a much-needed facelift by 2014.

- New this year to MBHS's gymnasium are new scoreboards, fresh paint and spirited banners to show off the school's success.

"Over the years, the sports teams of MBHS have won so many championships and titles that they were running out of room in the gymnasium, so new banners have been installed to consolidate the wins and free up more space to display future successes," said Tandy.

- The joint-use YMCA project at Pacific Beach Middle School (PBMS) cleared its last hurdle in May and the project is expected to break ground next spring. The new YMCA facility will provide a recreational community

center for YMCA staff and its activities at an existing building on the corner of Felspar and Ingraham streets.

- Bayview Terrace will close this year to make way for the yearlong transition of Barnard Mandarin Chinese Academy to the Pacific Beach property. SDUSD will host trips throughout the year for Bayview Terrace students and families to visit Barnard's campus — as well as other to Mission Bay Cluster elementary schools — to experience the programs each school has to offer.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

This year, area schools are utilizing the latest in technological advances to enhance the educational experience and learning environment in 21st-century classrooms.

- The SDUSD continues to roll out its Prop S-funded i21 Interactive Classroom Initiative, a program that employs modern technology — like interactive whiteboards, audio-visual cabinets and netbook computers for each student — in every classroom in the district to create an engaging learning environment for all students.

- Kate Sessions Elementary School is embracing the latest innovations in educational technology by offering live online references and homework help through free educational chat sessions, which are available on the school's website. Technology also has a way of educating parents, as the school has discovered. A YouTube video has been posted on the school's website for parents to learn more about critical drop-off zone procedures at the newly renovated pick-up and drop-off area.

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Mission Bay Cluster schools continue to make strides in their esteemed international baccalaureate (IB) program, a curriculum that offers challenging programs to help develop intellectual, personal, emotional and social

skills to prepare students for real-life challenges and growth. The IB program, coupled with high-achieving test scores, is making Mission Bay area schools a place for students around the county to either flock to, contend with or aspire to become, said cluster officials.

"The international baccalaureate programs continue to be a strong force within our cluster, and with a newly formed IB Sustainability Task Force and Development Team, the IB program will strengthen in the coming years," said Tandy.

MBHS will expand its IB Middle Years program to extend to ninth- and 10th-graders this year, as well as pursue its IB career-related certificate, a qualification that specifically addresses the needs of students who wish to engage in career-related education.

"PBMS boasts one of the finest IB Middle Years programs in the state, with administrators and teachers coming from all over the world to see the PBMS IB program in action," she said.

- Test scores and enrollment are also rising overall within the cluster, a trend that has continued over the past few years.

"There is a growing confidence in Pacific Beach schools. It can be recognized as the 'welcome back to school' orientations are standing-room-only and the classrooms fill in September with PB students," said Tandy. "With the dramatic facility improvements and continued success and growth of our educational offerings, the Mission Bay Cluster of schools will be reaching new milestones and successes in the coming years."

School offices are open and ready to enroll students. Classes start Sept. 4. For more district information, visit www.sandi.net. For more information about schools in the Mission Bay Cluster, visit mbcluster2010.blogspot.com.



Kate Sessions Elementary and school district officials hailed the recent improvements made to the campus drop-off and pick-up area where safety had become a growing concern.

Photo by Don Balch / Beach & Bay Press



ENJOY THE COLORS & BEAUTY OF OLD TOWN

TEQUILA TRAIL EVENT COMES TO OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO ON SEPT. 9

The annual Spirits of Mexico Festival, North America's largest celebration of agave-based and other Mexican spirits, kicks off this year in San Diego with Tequila Trail on Sunday, Sept. 9, from 3 to 6 p.m. For the price of a \$35 ticket, Mexican cuisine connoisseurs and tequila lovers will blaze through the streets of Old Town San Diego sampling selections of agave spirits paired with culinary specialties from the participating restaurants.

Sponsored by Cointreau, attendees will sample the finest tequilas, mescalos, sotols, bacanoras and other Mexican spirits as well as savor culinary specialties from 12 of Old Town's celebrated eateries: Barra Barra Saloon, Café Coyote, Casa de Reyes, Casa Guadalajara, El Alamo, El Fandango, Fred's Mexican Café, La Piñata, Miguel's Cocina, Old Town Mexican Café, Rockin' Baja Coastal Cantina and The Cosmopolitan Restaurant.

"After the great success of last year's inaugural event, even more restaurants and tequila brands were excited to sign on and be part of the event," said Chuck Ross of Fiesta de Reyes. "This event offers attendees a 'taste of Old Town' and some of the best tequilas from the Spirits of Mexico festival."

These restaurants will offer up tastes of their signature dishes accompanied with assorted tequila brands. Some of the tastings that will be featured are: mango sea bass ceviche from Barra Barra Saloon, tequila lime shrimp from Rockin' Baja, chile colorado and cilantro rice from Casa de Reyes and a variety of street tacos with a fresh salsa bar at Casa Guadalajara.

The 2012 Tequila Trail is a fundraiser for the Old Town Chamber of Commerce and is made possible by Cointreau, Fiesta de Reyes, and International Wine and Spirits Group, producers of Spirits of Mexico.

Following the end of Tequila Trail, three after parties

will ensue at Fiesta de Reyes, Casa Guadalajara and Café Coyote. These after parties require an additional \$10 admission.

The 2012 Spirits of Mexico Festival is set to showcase hundreds of the world's top agave and other Mexican spirits Sept. 9 through 16 in the historic heart of San Diego -- Old Town San Diego. The Spirits of Mexico Festival is arguably the largest and most prestigious event for agave spirits in North America. This year's San Diego festival will be packed with tasting receptions, educational seminars, a comprehensive tasting competition and resultant awards ceremony, as well as plenty of authentic Mexican cuisine. For more information about the San Diego Spirits of Mexico Festival, visit www.thespiritsofmexico.com.

To purchase tickets for Tequila Trail, go to <http://www.oldtownsandiegoguide.com>.



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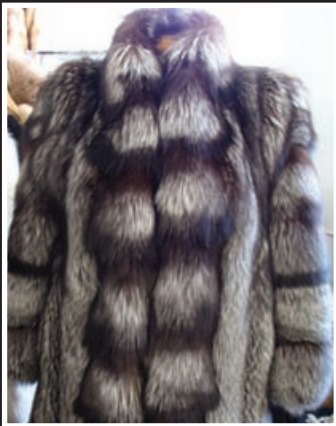
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EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

PACIFIC BEACH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

• Classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 4
• "Welcome Back To School Movie Night," hosted by Pacific Beach Middle School and Full Moo 8 p.m. (gates open at 7 p.m.) at the PB Middle School field. The featured movies will be Sony Picture's "Surf's Up!", rated PG. There will be a discounted rate of \$15 per vehicle, with a portion of every ticket going to PB Middle School. Every student will also receive a free gift. Families are encouraged to come early and meet with new PB Middle School principal Ernie Remillard. Participants should enter the movie site from Felspar Street. For tickets, visit www.fullmoondrivein.com.

MISSION BAY CLUSTER

The first Mission Bay Cluster (MBC) meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. in the Pacific Beach Middle School library. The Mission Bay Cluster is an organization that represents the six public schools in Pacific Beach: Mission Bay High, Pacific Beach Middle School, Kate Sessions Elementary, PB Elementary School, Bayview Terrace and Crown Point Jr. Music Academy. The MBC works as a unified voice when addressing the San Diego Unified School District and explores and supports efforts to enhance academic excellence in all six schools. Come meet the new principal of PBMS, Ernie Remillard, and help build on the great things happening at all of our Pacific Beach schools.

PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL



A group of Mission Bay High international baccalaureate students traveled in central and eastern Europe this summer to study the history and culture of the region. Led by Mission Bay High teachers Joe and Erin Panian, the group visited Krakow, Budapest, Berlin and Prague. *Courtesy photo*

• First Day of School – Sept. 4, first bell rings at 7:20 a.m.

• Currently enrolling new students

• Mission Bay Cluster Movie Night at PBMS with Full Moon Drive-In movie "Surf's Up" on Thursday, Aug. 30, 7 p.m.

• Recommended school supplies:

- blue or black three-ring notebook without plastic cover
- calculator
- pencil bag
- backpack
- loose-leaf paper
- notebook dividers (at least five)
- pencils
- pens
- highlighter

• Support PBMS with the San Diego Energy Challenge by visiting sdec.com/schoolsavers. Select Pacific Beach Middle School and save energy when a "Reduce Your Use" day is called.

MISSION BAY HIGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The inaugural Mission Bay High School Alumni Association Homecoming Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, Oct. 20 at the Riverwalk Golf Course. Tee time is 7:30 a.m. This event is open to the public and 100 percent of the proceeds benefit MBHS. For registration and sponsorship information: missionbayhighalumni.com or mbhsaa@earthlink.net.

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Montgomery tribute; musical matinee on the bay

LIVEMUSIC

By **BART MENDOZA** | BEACH & BAY PRESS

On Aug. 31, one of the most influential guitarists of all time, the late Wes Montgomery, gets a special tribute concert at Tango Del Rey. Montgomery has had a major impact on music since his recording debut in 1958, cited by legions of guitarists as key in their development, including George Benson, Pat Metheny, Steve Howe and Jimi Hendrix. On hand this night will be guitarists Bob Boss and Jaime Valle, bassist Bob Magnusson and drummer Ramon Banda. Anyone who appreciates tasteful jazz guitar won't want to miss a note of this special event.

- **"A Tribute to Wes Montgomery":** Friday, Aug. 31 at **Tango Del Rey**, 3567 Del Rey St. \$15. 7 p.m. All ages. www.tangodelrey.com



Country music will be front and center on Sept. 7 at Brick by Brick. Opening the show will be longtime local club favorite Mark Jackson, a singer-songwriter influenced equally by Willie Nelson and Neil Young.

Monday-night residency at The Griffin throughout the month of September. The band has released two albums since 2007, the most recent being last year's "Love City," with a sound somewhere between The Cult and late-period Beatles. Best of all, the band doesn't take itself too seriously, injecting a sense of fun to its music. Just Like Jenna may play originals, but fans of classic rock 'n' roll will find much to like about this band's riff and vocals.

- **Just Like Jenna** performs at 9 p.m. on

Monday, Sept. 3 and 10 at **The Griffin**, 1310 Morena Blvd. 21 and up. \$12. www.thegriffinsd.com

On Sept. 7, Brick by Brick hosts a night of country music, featuring Jason Charles Miller, Nancarrow and the Back 40. Opening the show will be longtime local club favorite Mark Jackson, a singer-songwriter influenced equally by Willie Nelson and Neil Young. Jackson's music rides the line between Bakersfield cool and modern-radio sensibilities with a rich repertoire built on years of road-house gigs. Excellent tunes, like his own twangy "A Charmed Life" and the storming "Velvet Heartache," show that while country music is San Diego's most underrated genre, there is plenty of great music being made locally.

- **Mark Jackson** performs at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 7, at **Brick by Brick**, 1130 Buenos Avenue. 7:30 p.m. 21 and up. \$12. www.brickbybrick.com

If you're an aficionado of blues, jazz and especially 1970s-style funk and groove, you won't want to miss Mimi Zulu & The Revenge, which performs at Café-Bar Europa on Sept. 8. The band has a crowd-pleasing sound, heavy on the beat, with irresistible dance numbers like "Kiss-in' My Love" or the jazz-inflected "Keep on Loving Me Baby." Live soul music seems to be gaining popularity in local venues. Look for Mimi Zulu to be a major player in this burgeoning scene.

- **Mimi Zulu & The Revenge** performs at 9 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 8 at **Café-Bar Europa**, 873 Turquoise St. 21 and up. No cover. www.theturquoise.com/wordpress

MUSTHEAR

Hard-rock fans will want to head to Brick by Brick during the weekend of Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 for a two-night tribute band event bringing together most of the metal artists who performed at the 1983 US Festival. Appearing Friday, Aug. 31 will be Motley 2 (Motley Crue), Blackout (Scorpions), Rattz (Ratt) and the sole band on the bill not from the era, Vasoline (Stone Temple Pilots). Meanwhile, on Saturday, Sept. 1, Deeper Purple (Deep Purple), Hellbent (Judas Priest), Madman (Ozzy Osbourne) and Van Roth (Van Halen) will be featured. Of particular note are Van Roth and the female-fronted Motley 2, both of whom go the extra mile to try and capture the look, as well as the sound of their chosen subjects. Expect few surprises but plenty of opportunities to sing along.

- **2012 US Festival** takes place at 8 p.m. on



Van Roth, a tribute band to Van Halen, is among several sets of performers slated to play the 2012 US Festival at Brick by Brick on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1.

Friday, Aug. 31 and Saturday, Sept. 1 at **Brick by Brick**, 1130 Buenos Ave. 21 and up. \$12. www.brickbybrick.com

— Bart Mendoza

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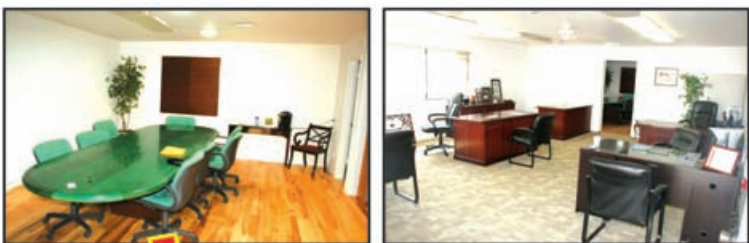
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Shore Club: Let the football season begin



The Pacific Beach Shore Club is the perfect spot to catch Chargers action this season or just about any NFL matchups. For college football fans, the venue is a home bar for Navy and the Wisconsin Badgers.

Photos by Mariko Lamb | Beach & Bay Press

Abundance of high-def TVs, Chargers flavor make you feel right at home

By MARIKO LAMB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The summer might be nearing an end, but excitement is mounting as football fans across San Diego fine-tune their fantasy football lineups, spit a little friendly trash talk to rival teams and feel a sense of childlike giddiness that tends to coincide with the start of football season.

For those who still want to cling to that summer atmosphere while also kicking off the football season right, visit Pacific Beach Shore Club to take advantage of the restaurant-bar's endless lineup of high-definition big screens, as well as a stunning panoramic vista of the Pacific to enjoy during commercial breaks.

"We have TVs in every corner with every package you can have for football," said owner Billy Ramirez. "For Sunday football, it's great because we try to put on every game. It may not be on every TV, but we'll have a TV that is designated for each game that's on."

And with the bar just steps away from the sand, guests can take a dip in the big blue between games to cool off or simply enjoy the beachfront vantage point from the bar's oversize west-facing windows.

To accompany the sunny coastal view, Chargers regalia — like signed jerseys and bolt-laden flags — line the wooden walls along with some Wisconsin Badgers and Navy football gear dotted here and there.

"We are definitely a Chargers bar. We get a lot of fans coming in for the Chargers games. Especially for the away games, we're packed," Ramirez said. "We play the Chargers songs when they score, we turn the music on during the commercial breaks, and you're watching football right at the beach."

During home games, you can find Ramirez — a diehard Chargers fan — tailgating in the parking lot at the Chargers stadium alongside a 20-foot long Winnebago entirely wrapped in Chargers logos.

"We do a big barbeque out there, invite our family and friends, and give away a thousand free tacos," he said. "It's a complete setup, we've got two big tents, chairs, speakers outside, three flat screen TVs and a big barbeque grill going on the side. It's very hard to miss."

Back at the bar, Shore Club offers deals on food and drinks during every game, including \$4 Bud Light drafts, vodka-Red Bull slushies, massive nacho platters or two-for-one burger specials on Thursday nights.

Even after the game is over, the lively atmosphere at Shore Club continues. To



Pacific Beach Shore Club bartender Kim Stone pours a cold one for a customer. The bar offers deals on food and drinks during every game, including \$4 Bud Light drafts, vodka-Red Bull slushies, massive nacho platters or two-for-one burger specials on Thursday nights.

"We have quite a few Chargers players in and out of here all the time, and they bring a lot of their friends in who are Chargers fans, too. Especially if it's a home game. We have a lot of Chargers play the game, and they want to blow off some steam and come hang out for a while."

BILLY RAMIREZ
Owner, Pacific Beach Shore Club



top off a great game, fans still at the bar after the game might even get the rare opportunity to congratulate some of the players in person.

"We have quite a few Chargers players in and out of here all the time, and they bring a lot of their friends in who are Chargers fans, too," said Ramirez. "Especially if it's a home game. We have a lot of Chargers play the game, and they want to blow off some steam and come hang out for a while."

Although Ramirez himself is a steadfast Chargers fan, he and his staff at Shore Club welcome fans of all football teams to join them and cheer on their favorite team.

"San Diego is such a melting pot of people, and that goes for our staff too. We've got people from back East, from the Midwest, and everyone has a different team, so it's pretty fun around here," he said. "We're accommodating

for anyone who wants to come in and watch their team play."

At any point during football season, expect to hear cheers from small groups of fans emanating from any pocket of the bar's two expansive rooms, highlighting just how many different teams' fans come to share their love for the sport over great food, refreshing drinks and a striking San Diego seascape to boot.

"You're watching football on the beach, and we're about as close as you get," said Ramirez. "There's not many places you can do that."

To kick off the Chargers season and Monday Night Football, visit Pacific Beach Shore Club, located at 4343 Ocean Blvd., at 7:15 p.m. on Sept. 10 as the Chargers take on the Oakland Raiders. For more information, visit www.pbshoreclub.com or call (858) 272-7873.



From left, contestants in the California Senior America Pageant are: third runner-up Suzanne Millhollen of Rancho Margarita; first runner-up Jeanne Lenhart of Pacific Beach; Elisabeth Howard (Ms. Senior California 2012), second runner-up Wendy Ida from Lakewood, and fourth runner-up Gayla Kalp Jackson from Moorpark. Courtesy photo by Phil Wheeler

Miss Senior San Diego of PB takes first runner-up in state pageant

After claiming the crown of Miss Senior San Diego in February, Pacific Beach resident Jeanne Lenhart, 66, advanced to become the first runner-up in the California Senior America Pageant on Aug. 25.

Lenhart, who had hope of advancing to the Ms. Senior America Pageant in Atlantic City in October, fell just short of her bid to Elisabeth Howard of Topanga.

Lenhart, who has lived in Mission Beach her whole life and owns Mission Designs, was one of 11 contestants competing at the Rose Center Theater in Westminster.

The women competed in interview,

evening gown and talent competitions, as well reciting their philosophy of life.

"Ladies, Take a Bow" was the theme this year, and taking center stage was the talent competition. The pageant seeks to elevate elegant senior women and allow them to get the recognition they deserve. Each contestant competing in this year's pageant either won a city title or was first runner up in one of the six preliminary pageants that were held around the State.

For more information, visit www.MsSrCalifornia.com. To view the full YouTube video of the pageant, visit <http://youtube.com/vMxUmf16y4c>.

— Staff and contribution



San Diego Veterans Affairs employees Jennifer Roberts, left, and Kevin Cummings wrap infant car seats and strollers together for delivery. Courtesy photo by Christopher Menzie

San Diego veteran moms receive donated infant car seats, strollers

By **CHRISTOPHER MENZIE**

SPECIAL TO BEACH & BAY PRESS

ng a baby, military veteran mothers or expecting mothers enrolled for obstetrical care at the Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System (VASDHS) now have one more reason to smile. Thanks to a \$5,000 donation by the Ford Motor Company Fund — a part of which is Mossy Ford in Pacific Beach — 21 mothers went home Aug. 14 with a new car seat, stroller and gift basket provided by VASDHS. Owen Mossy, chairman of the San Diego Ford County Dealers Association, was on hand to present the donations at the VA Medical Center during the ceremony.

The donations were met with praise.

"We would like to thank Ford Motor Company Fund for their generosity in donating these seats for women veterans who are transitioning to a new chapter in their lives," said Jennifer Roberts, VASDHS women's program manager. "We hope all expecting veteran mothers will consider choosing VA for health care when looking for quality care."

Infant car-seat donations are still avail-

able while supplies last. Eligible women must be enrolled with the VASDHS and have their pregnancy verified to qualify for an infant car seat. Pregnancy care and delivery is covered through the VA and provided by Naval Medical Center San Diego.

VASDHS serves 8,930 enrolled women veterans, of which 1,409 are Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans. Currently, 136 women are seeking obstetrical care using VA benefits.

"The Ford Motor Company has long supported our nation's military so, when we launched our charitable giving program in San Diego, we quickly focused on efforts to help veterans and their families," said Mary Walter-Brown, Ford Motor Company Fund spokeswoman. "As an automaker, we put auto safety first. Providing safe car seats to military families seemed the perfect contribution."

Ford Motor Company Fund is a private non-operating foundation parented by Ford Motor Company that awards charitable grants for educational, community, civic and cultural purposes.

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Nostalgic car club members favor the muscle cars over rare vintage

by **JOHNNY McDONALD**

Hobbling car clubs are mainstreams of our times. Members assemble often to show off what they own and to share their enthusiasm.

Antiques or rare vintage machines border the turn of the 20th century with the best creations of Henry Ford, Walter Chrysler, Karl Benz and Ransom Olds. Steam and early electric power were marvels of that period, too.

Hot rod shows pop up someplace in the county almost weekly, featuring the classics. These cars provide engineering influence and imagination. The leading competition and custom owners collect huge trophies to stash away in the garage, often too big for a spot inside the house. The evolution of the muscle car in the 1960s is well documented by these nostalgic horsepower clubbers. Opinions on which of these cars were best is grounds for heated debate. What's best: Ford, Chevrolet or Dodge?

The Pontiac GTO, Camaro, Corvette and. Mustang are still around and these owners would never part with them. These signs of the past relate to design, horsepower and size over today's movement to economize.

It's interesting to note how some racing enthusiasts revel in the past when discussing auto competition. Modern day advancements be hanged — it was better in the '40s, '50s and '60s.

Two organizations come to mind: One is the international e-mail network of Racing Historians who feel open wheel racing beyond 1969 is not a true form of competition. Advocates of the front-end Indianapolis roadsters dislike rear engine racers. In 10 years, this organization has grown to 1,000 members. It's an intriguing bunch of worldwide guys and gals who deal with any subject from driver identifications in an old black and white photo, technical points, long ago competition, race tracks or sanctioning bodies. Discussions may carry on for weeks.

The other group is the Fabulous Fifties, a group made up mostly of Californians who desire only to relive the days of Torrey Pines, Palm Springs, Riverside and Pomona sports car races. Anything linked to drivers Carroll Shelby, Phil Hill, Dan Gurney, Max Balchowsky and others are vocal points.

Is Your Car Ready For Fall?

As the days get shorter, it's time to make sure your car is ready for the season. The experts at the Car Care Council recommend taking care of simple maintenance now to avoid costly future repairs. Basic fall auto maintenance includes checking the oil, filters and fluids, belts and hoses, brakes, tires and air conditioning. An annual tune-up and wheel alignment are also recommended. "Making your vehicle last longer makes good financial sense," said Rich White, executive director, Car Care Council. "By simply budgeting the equivalent of just one car payment, you could cover an entire year's worth of basic maintenance."

More auto tips can be found online at www.carcare.org.

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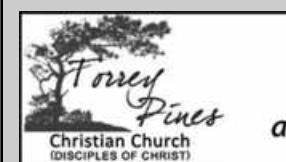
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