



**CHALLENGE** An area surfer puts his skills and bravery to the test against the beastly swells of Mavericks near Half

Moon Bay. We'll take you inside his

Page 2

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## **PB planners formulate** aggressive project list for community's future that are expected to affect area res-By MARIKO LAMB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

As another year set in Pacific Beach, the local Pacific Beach Planning Group (PBPG) lauds its successes, continues to scrutinize ongoing challenges facing the community and members are looking forward to a new year of activity that will bring more improvement to the neighborhood

Here are a few of the planning group's accomplishments in 2012 and updates on ongoing projects

idents for years to come.

#### **RECREATION AND PUBLIC PARKS**

The Pacific Beach Boardwalk and Parks Neighborhood District project — a conceptual redevelopment plan for south Pacific Beach's oceanfront boardwalk between Grand Avenue and Pacific Beach Drive — continues to drive forward as a number of dedicated community leaders put in hundreds of volunteer hours and take steps to

SEE **PROJECTS**, Page 6



District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer (left) leads a crowd of bicyclers and

# that is so near and dear to its heart.

walkers over the Mike Gotch Memorial Bridge after a ceremonial ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 20. The new bicycle/pedestrian pathway was the first of many environmental and community improvement projects being planned for the Pacif-

Pacific Beach Town Council

helps local kids catch a wave

## Visitors to flock to Mission Bay for annual bird festival

**INAUGURAL ROSE CREEK FEST DRAWS PARTICIPANTS, ENVIRONMENTAL INTEREST** 

The first-ever Rose Creek Festival was a big hit with environmental enthusiasts on Feb. 9, drawing young and old alike for a day of exploration and an opportunity to restore Mission Bay's marshlands. Above, a young participant paints a rabbit on a Rose Creek watershed panel that will be installed soon near the

Mike Gotch Bridge and Mission Bay High School.

Left, families are enchanted watching a magic show

by "Dr. Wilderness" during the five-hour event at

Campland on the Bay. Right, District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer, a longtime advocate of Mission Bay's lure, gets into the act with his own artis-

**By MARIKO LAMB** 

BEACH & BAY PRESS

The San Diego Audubon Society's 17th annual San Diego Bird Festival is set to take flight from Feb. 28 to March 3 at the Marina Village Conference Center overlooking scenic Mission Bay. The festivities will kick off with a pre-registration social mixer for festival guests on fun will continue with a free Birding & Optics Expo from

1 to 4 p.m. each day, followed by social mixers, a silent auction, keynote speakers and workshops to enjoy throughout the multi-day festival.

"Our festival guests about half of whom are visitors to San Diego, marvel at the natural beauty here and the variety of habitats found in the greater San Diego birding area," said festival committee chairman David Feb. 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. The Kimball. "We have every-

SEE BIRDS, Page 5

A bird admires a blackcrowned night heron during a previous San Diego Bird Festival field trip. Photo by Karen

By STAFF AND CONTRIBUTION

On a recent afternoon, Pacific Beach Town Council (PBTC) president Alan Harris presented a donation to the members of the PB Locals surf club.

Also present were Elkie Wells, president of PB Locals Surf Club; and Souf Tihhi, a new PBTC member, owner of San Diego Surf School, a supporter of PB Locals.

The Pacific Beach Town Council is a nonprofit, volunteer organi-whose mission is to encourage and zation founded in 1951. The PBTC is involved with current issues that

affect the community.

The council works closely with the City Council, police department and other agencies to ensure that it receives current information and that PBTC members' views are

Membership is open to everyone. For information, or to join the PBTC, contact Marylee at (858)

PB Locals is a middle-school surf club and a competition surf team

SEE KIDS. Page 5

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Vestled in a quiet cul-de-sac, this remarkable contemporary home with a stately copper nansard roof and oversized copper and glass doors has a great presence the second you approach it. The grand entrance with mosaic marble entry and beautiful staircase lets you know you are in for something special. The expansive and open floor plan of this elegant home offers a large single-story home on 2 levels. Very large and open living room with fireplace and dining room with wet bar. It even has an elevator. \$2,550,000.



## Surfer tests skill, bravery on Mavericks' beastly swells

By DON BALCH | BEACH & BAY PRESS

In the world of extreme thrill seekers, surfers have been increasingly upping the ante. For more than 50 years, the modern era of surfers has always had a select group that chased after the major rush of paddling into and riding truly big, scary and dangerous waves. A number of the early 1950s- and '60s-era big-wave riders learned their basic skills riding the reef breaks of La Jolla before attempting to tackle spots like Waimea Bay and the Banzai Pipeline in Hawaii.

In the decades since, big wave riding has evolved tremendously with superior surfboards, better-conditioned athletes and personal watercraft that started towing surfers into mountainous waves. Holding a towrope and already foot-strapped and standing, surfers were being whipped by jet skis into waves once thought too big to paddle into. The last decade saw a quantum leap in monster-size waves being ridden at places like Cortes Bank, (an underwater mountain peak 100 miles out to sea off Point Loma that can easily handle 75foot waves) and Mavericks near Half Moon Bay.

Lessons learned from a few years of tow-ins on these giant waves started motivating a select group of surfers to pursue a more purist form of surfing, using only their paddling strength to launch into these behemoth swells. Emboldened surfers have, of late, been successfully catching and riding monster waves, which, five years ago, were accessed strictly by tow-ins.

Derek Dunfee is one of these big wave-riding purists. The 30-year-old professional surfer grew up at Windansea Beach and still lives there today. He developed a taste for thick, powerful



Hawaiian Mark Healey drops vertically down a Mavericks swell.

waves riding the reefs of La Jolla and then tackling the giant surf off the Isla de Todos Santos near Ensenada. He first surfed at Half Moon Bay's Mavericks in November 2004.

A winter break off Pillar Point near the village of Princeton-by-the-Sea, Mavericks was named in 1961 after a surfer's German shepherd that routinely followed his master into the break A quarter-mile offshore, the wave doesn't even begin to break unless the swells are solidly over 10 feet and the location can easily hold waves with 40-foot-plus

The water is cold, and the wave rises up and pitches out with incredible power delivering major punishment to the surfer who doesn't successfully make the elevator drop-in. Brutal underwater hold-downs are guaranteed

after a wipeout and giant rocks await if one is swept inside. Two world-class big wave riders — Mark Foo and Sion Milosky — have died after wiping out and drowning at Mavericks.

"I thought Mavericks was the scariest wave I had ever seen," recalls Dunfee about his first time paddling out. He paid some heavy dues there and in other big-wave locations culminating in a Billabong XXL Monster Paddle Award in 2009 for a beast of a wave he caught and rode at Mavericks.

On Jan. 20, the Mavericks Invitational big wave-riding competition was held for the first time since 2010, during which a rogue wave unexpectedly rolled far onshore, knocking down and injuring dozens of spectators who were

SEE MAVERICKS, Page 3

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Longtime postal carrier Rene Butor cuts his retirement cake amid a swarm of neighborhood children.

## Longtime postal carrier retires; neighbors laud his lengthy career

rier Rene Butor has been a watchdog, a Butor as their mailman — reflected on personal confidant and a comforting times past, honoring the humble, daily presence for residents in North Pacific Beach.

On Jan. 30, Butor delivered mail along his usual route on streets like turned out that day in a block-party of Loring, Wilbur and Opal for the last time before retiring from the job he has dedicated his life to since 1979. As he some took photos with their longtime looks toward retirement, area neigh—

dependable man they knew and loved all those years.

More than 50 North PB neighbors sorts, where Butor was the celebrity of the day. Many gave cards and gifts, mailman, and one neighbor, artist Dot

For more than 30 years, postal car- - some of whom have only known Renshaw, was even charged by neighbors to paint a photo of their beloved mailman to present to him during his retirement bash amid cake, kids and old friends.

> Although it is uncertain who will take over regular mail delivery in the area, one thing is certain — the new postal carrier will have some big shoes

> > - Mariko Lamb

## **MAVERICKS**

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

swept along the steep cliff beach by a flood of water.

Dunfee was selected as an alternate to compete in this year's event. It's a prestigious honor to be invited, and though a spot didn't open up for him during the contest, he was on hand to tackle the waves before and after the event.

"I rode a 10-foot Stu Kenson-shaped board and the conditions were perfect, although very inconsistent," he said.

The waves were in the 12- to 15-foot range, with sunny skies and a light wind. The beach was closed for spectators after the wave carnage of 2010. but a nearby festival was held in Princeton with a live, big-screen feed being aired for the thousands who showed up to watch the spectacle, and to watch 43-year-old Mavericks veteran Peter Mel win this year's event.

"Peter Mel is one of the best Mavericks surfers ever," Dunfee said afterward. "He still catches huge waves every swell and he deserved the win."

Dunfee is now waiting for the last few big swells of the winter at home in La Jolla, and he hopes to score some size at Isla de Todos Santos, as well. He is an alternate at Waimea Bay's annual The Quiksilver In Memory of Eddie Aikau



Jagged rocks await unlucky Mavericks surfers who wipe out at the extreme surfing spot. Photo by Don Balch I Beach & Bay Press

big-wave competition on Oahu's North Shore. Known as "The Eddie," the prestigious event is held only when the waves are consistently in the 20- to 25foot range.

In the meantime, Dunfee watches the weather charts, studies the swell forecasts and takes out a Pat Curren-shaped big wave board for some rides at the local La Jolla reefs when the surf gets big enough. Curren — father of surfing icon Tom Curren and a big wave-riding pioneer in the 1950s — cut his teeth on the punchy waves off La Jolla, much like Dunfee, who is proud to be part of the new generation of committed big wave surfers, pushing the edge of skill to new limits and loving every minute of



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## NEWS

## QUICK*HITS*

#### **Hearing for bank robbery** suspect may be delayed

A Mission Bay man has a preliminary hearing set for Feb. 14 on charges he robbed two Pacific Beach banks in 2010.

The hearing could be delayed until after a live line-up is held for witnesses in the case against Bryan Whaley Leasure, 50, according to court records. Leasure was arrested Jan. 16.

DNA evidence links Leasure to the robberies, according to a prosecutor, who declined to say more. Leasure's DNA is on file because he was convicted of five robberies in federal court in Arizona in 2000.

That means Leasure could get 25 years for each bank robbery as part of the third-strike law. A Bank of America branch and a Wells Fargo branch in Pacific Beach were robbed on July 12. 2010 and Aug. 13, 2010, according to the charges in San Diego Superior

Leasure has pleaded not guilty and remains in jail on \$150,000 bail.

— Neal Putnam

#### **Pacific Beach Planning Group seeks members**

The Pacific Beach Planning Group (PBPG) is seeking candidates for its annual elections to be held March 27 at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library from 4:45 to 6:30 p.m.

The PBPG is composed of 20 community volunteers (15 residential and five commercial seats). The group advises the city on new development projects, parking, traffic, future planning and other issues related to the Pacific Beach Community Plan.

Candidates must be residents or business owners/operators in Pacific Beach and must have attended one PBPG meeting prior to the February meeting.

The PBPG meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library, located at 4275 Cass St.

For more information and candidate forms, visit www.pbplanning.org or call Imelda McClendon (469) 576-3870. Applications are due by March 13.

#### SDPD puts out call for citizen volunteers

The San Diego Police Department's Northern Division is seeking additional volunteers for its Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) to help bridge community needs, address citizens' concerns and serve as additional eves and ears for police in the beach communi-

RSVPs' duties range from patrolling local neighborhoods, assisting uniformed officers with accident and crime scenes and supporting disaster preparedness and homeland security efforts. As part of the SDPD's "You Are Not Alone" program, volunteers also visit elderly residents to check on their welfare and conduct vacation house checks for neighbors who are away.

Volunteers in the program are from all walks of life, including military veterans, educators, business leaders, medical professionals and more. A minimum of three days per month is required of each volunteer, and flexible schedules are available. Volunteers must be at least 50 years old with proof of a valid California driver's license.

For more information or to sign up for the program, contact SDPD's Northern Division RSVP at (858) 552-1737 or email sdpdNorthern@pd.sandiego.-

— Mariko Lamb

#### **Circus Vargas sets** stop at Mission Bay

Circus Vargas is set to present an array of artists in its newest, most excitsion Bay Park between Feb. 21 and

Making its premiere debut, Circus Vargas' "Magikaria" show will cast its spell at various San Diego County loca-

Producers said the production bursts with mystery, magic, music and more,

Park before moving on to Westfield Parkway from March 7 through 11, then to Mira Mesa Community Park from March 14 through 18 and ending at Vista Village Drive between March 21 and April 1.

Travel to a realm of fantasy as far as magic will allow, to a world where anything is possible — a world of magic under the big top. Meet and mingle with the cast of "Magikaria" by arriving 30 minutes early for an exciting, interactive preshow where children (of all ages) can create their own magic under

For more information about Circus Vargas and to purchase tickets, call (877) 468-3861, or visit www.circusvargas.com. The circus box office opens one day prior to the first show at the respective locations.

#### **History center needs** docents. volunteers

As a result of programs, exhibitions and activities — culminating in the 2015 Centennial Celebration of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition organizers behind the San Diego History Center (SDHC) in Balboa Park said they are seeing a surge of renewed interest and increased attendance.

To accommodate anticipated growth and to maximize the experience for guests, SDHC is seeking volunteers in several areas of service. Docents form an essential part of the history center's education department, sharing the history of the region with visitors.

Find out how to get involved by visiting www.sandiegohistory.org, call (619) 232-6203, ext. 108, or email volunteers@sandiegohistory.org.

# Scripps Health stepping in to ease hospice void

BY KENDRA HARTMANN | BEACH & BAY PRESS

With the recent developments at San Diego Hospice (SDH) — starting with a Medicare audit questioning how the organization qualifies patients for reimbursement and ending with SDH applying for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on Feb. 4 — San Diego has been left to wonder what will become of the hospice care that was once so readily available.

Swooping in to answer that question is one of the region's largest health-care providers, Scripps Health. With SDH's ongoing investigation and resultant downsizing, Scripps — the largest referral source for SDH — has stepped in to relieve some of the deluge of patients.

"We've never opened our own hospice because the community needs were being met by San Diego Hospice, Elizabeth Hospice and other hospices in the community," said Chris Van Gorder, Scripps president and CEO. "We were approached a couple months ago [by SDH] when they realized they were going to have these challenges, because we were all concerned. They were concerned, and I was concerned, about the patients being cared for in hospice and we wanted to make sure together that their care would not be disrupted in any way."

At the suggestion of SDH, Scripps decided to go into the hospice business. And because becoming a new hospice care provider in California entails a long and arduous licensing process, Scripps decided to purchase a smaller organization, Poway-based Horizon Hospice, allowing patient care to begin — and continue, for Horizon's existing patients -almost immediately, as opposed to the delay that could have taken up to a year.

"We were concerned that San Diego Hospice's challenges might not permit a long ramp up and licensing process, so that's why we purchased a hospice instead," Van Gorder said. "Now we have the licensure in place already."

As to the question of how SDH, the state's largest hospice, found itself in this situation in the first place — and how other providers can assure they don't suffer a similar fate — Van Gorder admitted that "there are individuals concerned about the rigid rules Medicare has set up around patients that qualify for hospice care."

"But the way I look at it is that rules are rules," he said. "There are a lot of hospice organizations around the country that are following the rules, and it requires a lot of administrative and clinical oversight. And who knows maybe the rules will change over time. But our responsibility — and we're a heavily regulated industry, and that's the reason we have a significant compliance department — is to make sure we do everything we can to follow the guidelines set up by the government."

For more information, visit www.scripps.org.

ing spectacular, including a stop at Mis-

tions through April 1, said promoters.

and will amaze audiences with elaborate illusions, death-defying daredevilry and feats of acrobatic and aerial artistry.

"Magikaria" begins at Mission Bay

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#### **GUEST VIEW**



New members of the Pacific Beach Town Council are introduced during the council's recent

## Town Council installs officers; offers up thanks for support

#### JOHN McMILLAN

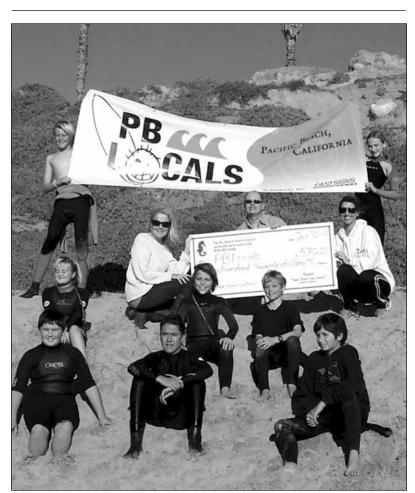
The 2013 Pacific Beach Town Council (PBTC) Board of Directors would like to offer a sincere thank you to all of the civic and community leaders. PBTC members and guests who showed their support by attending the 2013 Installation Dinner this month.

Specifically, we would like to thank Mayor Bob Filner, District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer, Assistant Chief of Police Shelley Zimmerman, Capt. Brian Ahearn and Lt. Thomas Underwood. The support and time offered by these leaders is truly appreciated and is a display of their continued support of Pacific Beach and our council.

Furthermore, we would like to congratulate 2013 Honorary Mayor Marcella Teran. We are very excited to have Marcella filling this role as she is a wonderful member of our community and will be a fantastic representative for us over the next year.

Lastly, we would like to specifically thank all the PBTC members and the friends and family of the board who supported us during this special occasion. We could not achieve all the things we have set out to do this year without your support!

- John McMillan is a director on the Pacific Beach Town Council



Members of the Pacific Beach Town Council recently presented a check to the PB Locals

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

foster the youth surf community through mentoring and instruction, while cultivating competition surfing. Children attending Pacific Beach Middle

School participate in surf competitions up and down the coast. The club also provides surfers with community service opportunities to support Pacific Beach.

For information on how to support PB Locals, contact ewills 2008@hotmail.com.

## OMBAC set to deliver 60th installment of OTL this summer

## **ONthe** WATERFRONT

By JOHNNY McDONALD | BEACH & BAY PRESS

It's a far cry from the early days, when college students spent their summers on the beach playing volleyball, touch football and a little-known game with a ball and bat.

Since then, and as they grew older, they formed the Old Mission Beach Athletic Club (OMBAC), which soon centered around an over-the-line tournament (OTL) that would gain worldwide attention. And, the tourney is scheduled for more fun this summer during July 13-14 and July 20-21 on sunbaked Fiesta Island, where everyone parties.

"Of course, our 60th anniversary of the OTL tourney will be our biggest year-round charity fundraiser," said Brad Pagano, media relations director.

The club now has 400 members and the activity has broadened to include golf tournaments, rugby, surf competition, a triathlon, softball, horse shoes, youth programs and even women's water polo. It's an assortment of sports competition that might rival that of some schools. As a change of pace, the group even tosses in a musical concert.

The Rugby Club team plays annually in a competition from January through June against teams from other coastal cities.

"They play six or seven home games on the 'Little Q,' the Chargers practice field in Mission Valley," Pagano said. "They reached the playoffs last year and several of the players were selected for the USA team. I think we have a good competitive team. Several of last year's team were selected to the USA team." In the past, key performers and

event and serves as our major OMBAC a head coach were picked as members on the international sevens squad.

Except for OTL, the other competitions might not be eyed for major attention. but it sure serves as outlets for the membership and some outsiders.

Some say OTL is more than "beer, babes and bats" on the beach. Where are they looking?

#### **Getting a closer look**

Go behind the scenes at SeaWorld's guided tour programs and get an insider's perspective on animal care and training methods.

SeaWorld has a tour for everyone, with choices where guests can connect up-close with penguins, Arctic animals, bottlenose dolphins and sea tur-

SeaWorld also offers private behindthe-scenes tours.

- Johnny McDonald is a longtime writer and columnist with the San Diego Community Newspaper Group.

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

thing from the sea to desert, to mountains to bays, islands and rivers. Visitors are impressed with the sheer number of bird species that live in San Diego or pass through during migration, more than 500 species and counting.'

Since the San Diego Audubon Society took the reins on the festival in 2005, the event has more than doubled in number of participants because of its popularity.

"Our Family Free Day will be in its second year, and we are expecting upward of 200 additional visitors on Sunday, March 3," he said. "We sold out nearly every birding trip in January, so there is clearly room for the San Diego Bird Festival to expand."

A number of day trips, including ones to the Anza-Borrego Desert, the Tijuana River Valley, Lake Hodges and the South San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge will take place throughout the four-day festival to inform participants about the diverse species and ecologies native to the areas.

"We have a unique habitat, coastal chaparral, that is home to much sought-after endemic birds such as the California gnatcatcher, the California thrasher and the California towhee," said Kimball. "Birders are thrilled to be able to spot these endemic birds during festival field trips.'

Workshops will also take place throughout the weekend, providing information about how to identify raptors, how to capture perfectly shot nature photos and how to "garden for the birds," among others. Special



Bird festival participants share a smile during an art workshop at a recent event. Photo by Karen Straus/San Diego Auduhon Society

guests John Fitzpatrick; Louis Agassiz Fuertes, director at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology; and Bill Thompson III, acclaimed editor of "Bird Watcher's Digest," will lead workshops and discussions, including Thompson's discussions about the perils and pitfalls of birding and Fitzpatrick's keynote lecture, "How Birds are Saving the World" on March 2.

For a full listing of workshops and day trips, visit www.sandiegoaudubon.org or call (858) 273-7800. Trips and workshops are individually priced. A 10-day post-festival trip to the Baja Peninsula will also be offered through www.andiamo-travel.com. Contact Rosa Maria Guerra at rosa@andiamo-travel.com or call (800) 661-1325 for more information.



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Announcements, photos and story ideas are welcomed. We ask that content be sent at least one week prior to publication and include valid contact information.

#### 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 col-umn, please e-mail the respec-tive 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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## NEWS

## **PROJECTS**

CONTINUED FROM Page

ensure the community-inspired urban revitalization plan comes to fruition.

In November, the PBPG submitted the plan to the city as a priority in the capital improvements project (CIP) budget for fiscal year 2014.

"It is a long shot for them to use their CIP dollars on PB parks, but it certainly got the attention of city of San Diego staff. Now they know things are happening in PB, and we are going to keep knocking on the doors of City Hall," said Chris Olson, who spearheaded the

In January, the City Council selected the project as one of five to be submitted for a \$400,000 San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) planning grant to further develop the concept, schematic design, required analyses and implementation plan. The City Council and District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer also committed a total of \$70,000 in staff services for the planning phase of the project.

"It's very rare for a grassroots initiative to arise from a local group like this. The city staff was very impressed that we accomplished this on our own," said Olson. "There are a lot of great things coming on our beautiful horizon in PB."

To promote the continued improve-

ment of the neighborhood, the nonprofit organization Beautiful PB was launched last year by a group of residents and business owners to advocate on behalf of planning improvement projects in the community, like the boardwalk and parks project, traffic corridor and entryway improvement initiatives and, ultimately, the creation of a Community Benefit District (CBD), commonly known as a Maintenance Assessment District, by early 2014.

The organization is working collectively with community groups to serve as a vehicle to educate property owners, business owners and residents about the benefits that a CBD would have on the community. The nonprofit volunteers are also working in collaboration with Faulconer's office to delineate the city's iurisdiction to determine what added value the CBD could provide.

"With the internal support, as well as the financial support of Councilman Faulconer's office, we are creating a 'model block' for the community to understand and visualize the positive impact a CBD would bring to our community," said Kristen Victor, president of Beautiful PB.

The nonprofit is also focusing on ecodistrict and healthy-living components to its urban redevelopment approach. like researching energy, communitywide water and material resource reduction, safe bike lanes and pedestri-

"It is a long shot for them [the city] to use their [capital improvement project] dollars on PB parks, but it certainly got the attention of city of San Diego staff. Now they know things are happening in PB, and we are going to keep knocking on the doors of City

CHRIS OLSON Pacific Beach Planning Group

an walkways, clean water and ADA access.

For more information or to take the online survey, visit www.beautiful-

#### **BEACHES AND BAYS**

Among its other projects for which the nonprofit advocates is the Mission Bay Gateway project — a regional environmental, education and recreational jointuse project for improvement around Mission Bay High School, Campland, Rose Creek and De Anza Cove. The project got off to a great start last year with the recent addition of the Mike Gotch Memorial Bridge to enhance the biking and walkability options of the Mission Bay Park region, and committee members continue to work to ensure the area is improved smartly and for the benefit of the community and the environment.

A map and project description can be found at www.missionbaygateway.org. The project will also be presented to the Pacific Beach Town Council on Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific Beach Woman's Club.

Also a regular agenda item over the coming year will be the North Pacific Beach lifeguard station project proposed last year where Law Street hits the sand. A planning group subcommittee has

duce the Café Coyote Historic Old Town Golf Clas-

sic at the Salt Creek Golf Club on March 18, with

all proceeds going toward restoring the fourth

For more than 20 years, PGA professional

golfer Billy Casper has raised funds for kids in

member, winner of two U.S. Open Tournaments,

winner of the 1970 Master's Tournament and

grade history program in Old Town San Diego.

been at work over the past several months, listening to community input and understanding lifeguards' needs for a City Council-approved facility north of Crystal Pier.

"We have also visited local lifeguard facilities," said subcommittee chairman Scott Chipman. "Two north PB sites are being considered and the city architects are preparing schematic designs to help the subcommittee determine the best site and configuration."

The next meeting, where the schematics will be reviewed, has not yet been scheduled. Contact Chipman at Scott@-Chipman.info for more information about the Mission Bay Gateway or North PB lifeguard station projects.

#### PEDESTRIAN AND TRANSPORTATION

As the Parking and Traffic Subcommittee continues to plug away at ongoing projects like pedestrian crosswalks along Garnet Avenue, an all-way stop at Olney Street and Pacific Beach Drive and water-pipe projects and paving on Lamont and Cass streets, community requests for additional investigations into pedestrian- and bike-friendly intersections continue to roll into the subcommittee's agenda for review.

One of the subcommittee's biggest ongoing projects, however, is launching full-speed into its comprehensive pedestrian master plan to improve major thoroughfares and intersections for pedestrian and vehicle safety in Pacific Beach. The plan identifies key areas of concern within an area roughly spanning from the oceanfront east to Mission Bay Drive and from Turquoise Street south to Pacific Beach Drive.

A dozen recommended improvement areas include streamlined intersections and merge zones, mobility studies, trail and boardwalk improvements and ket," she said.

ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF OLD TOWN

"We have also visited local lifequard facilities. Two north PB sites are being considered [for a new station] and the city architects are preparing schematic designs to help the [PBPG] subcommittee determine the best site and configuration."

SCOTT CHIPMAN Pacific Beach Planning Group

pedestrian access to a future trolley station proposed at the confluence of Balboa Avenue and Santa Fe Street for the impending Mid-Coast Trolley Line. More information about the project, including a PowerPoint presentation and letter to the city's planning division regarding details of the plan are available at www.pbplanning.org.

Sixteen blocks of sidewalk on Garnet Avenue - from Mission Boulevard to Ingraham Street — will also be getting a deep steam-cleaning to rid stains in the high pedestrian traffic areas, thanks to proceeds from Pacific Beach's Tuesday Farmers Market and funding from Faulconer's office.

"The idea will be to continue the efforts in different locations every six months until the entire district gets completed," said Sara Berns, executive director at Discover PB. "We hope this will encourage businesses to continue to maintain the sidewalks once we have removed some of the initial gum stains that are very hard to get out."

She said she hopes ongoing revenue from the farmers market will make for a sustainable funding source to continue providing the service.

"Community members can help keep PB clean simply by shopping and promoting the PB Tuesday Farmers Mar-

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The Old Town Chamber of Commerce is team-typically come to Old Town each year. The histoing up with PGA Hall of Famer Billy Casper to pro-ry program for fourth graders was part of the elementary school Off-Campus Integrated Learning Experiences, which was cut by the San Diego Unified School District in 2010 because of budget

**GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BRING BACK** 

FOURTH GRADE PROGRAM IN OLD TOWN

"Bringing fourth graders back to Old Town is a high priority for the chamber and we are thrilled San Diego. Casper is a World Golf Hall of Fame that Billy Casper is able to help us with this goal," stated Chamber President Fred Grand. "We want the students to have the opportunity to visit Old Town and learn about the rich history of our state"

The fourth grade program could be restored for as little as \$3 per student -- the cost to trans-Sponsored by Café Coyote, the goal of the tourport the student to Old Town. All educational components of the program would be executed by volunteers and various organizations in Old Town or call 619-291-4903.

including Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Other sponsors of the tournament include Bazaar Del Mundo, the Best Western Plus Hacienda Hotel Old Town, Fiesta de Reves, the Mormon Battalion Historic Site, Old Town San Diego Guide, Old Town Trolley and Seal Tours, the San Diego Chargers, San Diego PR, the Steve Affleck Family,

and Sysco, to name a few. Sponsorships for the tournament are still available. For inquiries about sponsorship, contact Old Town Chamber Executive Director Richard Stegner at OTSD@aol.com. The golf tournament will also include a silent auction and raffle to raise additional funds and dinner will be provided by Old Town's Fiesta de Reyes.

For more information about Old Town and its Chamber of Commerce visit oldtownsandiego.org



2013 BASEBALL PREVIEW

# MBHS prepares to swing in to action with renewed ambitions

By KEITH ANTIGIOVANNI | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The Mission Bay High School (MBHS) baseball program begins its 59th season after the varsity squad posted a subpar 12-16 record in 2012. The team will try to rebound after missing the CIF playoffs last year for the first time since 2004.

MBHS head coach Rick Frink returns for his second year as the Bucs' skipper.

"This year, I have three new coaches on the staff," Frink said. "All three are ex-Mission Bay High players and understand the tradition here."

Before becoming the head coach Frink had spent the previous five years (2007-11) as the MBHS junior varsity baseball coach and played for the Bucs' in the late 1990s under longtime head coach Dennis Pugh.

He said 75 percent of the current coaching staff also played under Pugh in the 1990s.

Between 1983 and 2008, Mission Bay dominated opponents, winning 20 Western League titles, eight CIF titles and two state championships. It has not had a winning season since 2008, however.

Why has the team struggled over the last four years? Cyclical? More parity now?

"There is absolutely more parity in the Western League over the past couple of years," said Frink. "University City and La Lolla played well last year and UC went deep into the playoffs.

"Every program goes through its ups and downs and we are doing our best to rebuild and get the program where it once was," he said.

The team's 2013 edition returns an experienced roster of 10 seniors, including four pitchers (Luis Osuna, Lorenzo Pamaran, Jesse Sullivan and Connor Vaughs). Osuna (.288), Sullivan (.290, eight doubles and one HR) and Vaughs were also major contributors at the plate last season. The pitching staff allowed an average of nearly 4.4 runs per game, but struggled at times, giving up 11 runs or more in three games.

On offense, the Mission Bay lineup produced 3.6 runs per game but were held to one run or less in 10 contests.

Catcher Joey Wozniak and Devonte Kinder are standout juniors on the team. Wozniak hit .250 with a .308



Mission Bay High School head baseball coach Rick Frink, who said he had higher hopes for last year's squad, has added three new coaches to the Buccaneers' mentoring chart to bolster the Bucs' chances of returning to a once-illustrious school powerhouse in the Western League.

on-base percentage.

Frink said he believes the 2012 team did not play up to its potential.

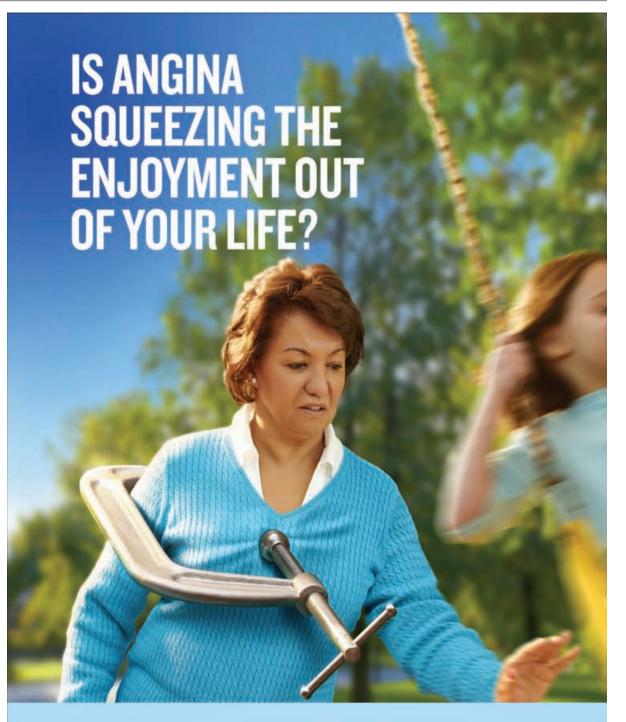
"To say we had a roller-coaster season would be too cliche and an understatement," he said. "I have once again set high expectations for the current group of seniors to lead by example, but expect them to make an impact this year."

The regular season opens on Friday, March 1 against University City during the Saints Bill Whitaker Baseball Classic, which runs until March 16. This tourney will be followed by the City Conference Tournament (March 18-April 4) and the Lions Tournament (March 25-28). The Western League schedule begins on April 8 on the road against the archrival La Jolla Vikings.

## Home games against Western League opponents are:

- University City April 18
- La Jolla April 22
- Point Loma April 25
- Madison May 9
- University City May 16 All home games are at 3 p.m.





# Announcing a clinical research study for people with angina.

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To find out if you may qualify, visit RENEWstudy.com and call the area doctor below.

Contact: Kendra Bartels, RN Anthony DeMaria, MD 9434 Medical Center Dr. La Jolla, CA 92037 858-657-5389 Contact: Heather Richard Schatz, MD 10666 North Torrey Pines Rd. La Jolla, CA 92037 858-554-5258



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percorn/brandy sauce, or a New York strip steak. Dine in or enjoy the beer garden, a lovely outdoor heated area where you can sip a German brew and enjoy a traditional German and American meal. Full bar available.

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## **MUSTREAD**

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

TITLE: "Beautiful Creatures" AUTHORS: Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl

**SYNOPSIS:** Ethan Wate lives in the town of Gatlin, S.C., where nothing ever seems to change. That is, until he meets a beautiful stranger with a secret past, an eccentric family and some odd abilities. Suddenly, Ethan finds that things in his quiet little town

have always been much more mysterious than he has imagined. And you thought your adolescence was confusing! Read this teen novel before the movie adaptation hits the big screen in February.

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



















Mixing 1960s-era garage rock with droning shoegaze production, Los Angeles quartet Cobalt Cranes will perform at The Griffin on

# A Brazilian Carnaval, 1980s flashback and Cobalt Cranes

## LIVE*MUSIC*

By BART MENDOZA | BEACH & BAY PRESS

It's time once again for Brazil's ultimate party — Carnaval — giving ample reason for Dizzy's to host the fifth annual Brazil Jazz Festa. The evening will feature a celebration of Brazilian jazz and beats in four sets, with an all-star cast that includes singer Allison Adams Tucker, flautist Rebecca Kleinmann, pianist Danny Green, guitarists Joe Amato and Dani Lasalvia, drummer Julien Cantelm, bassist Justin Grinnell, as well as percussionists Steve Haney and Claudia Lyra. If you are an aficionado of Latin jazz, this will be an amazing show. However, lovers of any music with an emphasis on groove and rhythm will also find much to appreciate on this

• Brazil Jazz Festa takes place at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 17 at Dizzy's, 4275 Mission Bay Drive. \$20. www.dizzys-

If you like metal and you like the 1980s stuff, Brick by Brick is the place to be on Feb. 16. On hand will be three tribute bands: Blackout (The Scorpions), Madman (Ozzy Osborne), Rattz (Ratt), as well as Teaser, which cover tunes from throughout the decade. Sure to be a crowd-pleasing night, the Pacific Beach residents: John Snead

high point will likely be Blackout and (vocals and keys), Dave LaGuardia classics like "Rock You Like A Hurricane." Ironically, Blackout will be playing the same stage as The Scorpion's guitarist Uli Jon Roth (1973-77), who makes an appearance March 3.

• Blackout performs at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16 at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave. 21 and up. \$12. www.brickbybrick.com

Mixing 1960s-era garage rock with droning shoegaze production, Los Angeles quartet Cobalt Cranes will perform at The Griffin on Feb. 20, 9 p.m. Having built a buzz over the last two years, the band appears just prior to the April release of its debut album, "Head in the Clouds." Cobalt Cranes features both female and male vocals, giving its music a melodic edge to match its sonic onslaught. This is a band that could make it, at least on the strength of songs like the pounding rocker, "Take You." Cobalt Cranes are caught on the cusp of becoming the next big thing.

• Cobalt Cranes perform at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at The Griffin, 1310 Morena Blvd. 21 and up. www.thegriffinsd.com

Blues-rockers with a heart, Jetpack Mojo performs at the Tiki House on Feb. 22. The band is comprised of four (guitar), Greg Farrar (drums) and Greydon Koellmann (vocals and bass). The band performs classics from the 1970s to today, but what really sets it apart is its motivation. Jetpack Mojo exists primarily to raise money for area schools, staging fundraisers throughout the year. This intimate Tiki House gig is an excellent chance for locals to listen to the band's music and say

• **Jetpack Mojo** performs at 9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 22 at The Tiki House, 1152 Garnet Ave. Cover TBD. 21 and up. www.tikipb.com

San Diego may be nowhere near New Orleans, but it's still possible to find good Cajun music in the area, like the S.D. Cajun Playboys, who appear at Tio Leo's on Feb. 27. Formed in 1996, the group excels at traditional tunes, with songs sung in French, though the focus is more on the rhythms. The band is great at keeping things upbeat and danceable. The S.D. Cajun Playboys have released an award-winning album, "Small Town Two-Step," but this is a band that should be experienced live for maximum effect.

• S.D. Cajun Playboys perform at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at Tio Leo's, 5302 Napa St. 21 and up.. www.tio-

## **MUSTHEAR**

On Feb. 22 at Dizzv's, acclaimed acoustic guitarist Fred Benedetti will perform a special tribute concert to George Harrison on the occasion of what would have been the late Beatle member's 70th birthday. Showcasing material from throughout Harrison's career, the concert will feature Benedetti and vocalist daughters Regina and Julia, as well as multi-instrumentalist Jeff Pekarek. Beatle maniacs will love every second of this concert, but anyone with an appreciation for amazing sixstring fretwork will enjoy a performance Drive. \$10. www.dizzysjazz.com from Benedetti, themed or not.



FRED BENEDETTI

• Fred Benedetti's George Harrison Birthday **Tribute** takes place at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 22 at Dizzy's, 4275 Mission Bay



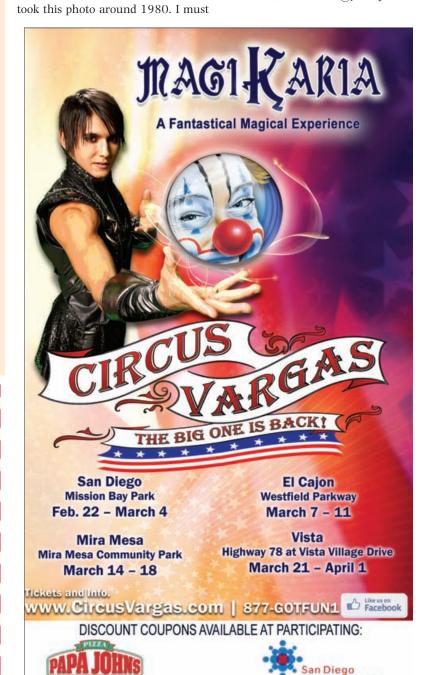
# REMEMBER

REMEMBER INGRID'S DELI AND RESTAURANT at 1520 Garnet Ave.? Willie Skinner

not have been paying attention, because it's now Haiku Sushi 'n' Teppan Restaurant. And Kentucky Fried Chicken, in the background, is now Chipotle Mexican Grill. Time marches on.

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

**Blood Bank** 





## Ralph A. Schuler, 76, longtime fixture in PB

Our beloved husband, father and grandfather, Ralph A. Schuler, died on years, before re-Feb. 3. He was born May 14, 1936 in turning to Cal Madison, Wis. to Lona and Adam Schuler. Ralph graduated from Monticello High School in Wisconsin and from St. Louis University with a degree in aeronautical engineering.

Ralph married his high school sweetheart, the former Joyce Hawley, on Aug. 10, 1957. They moved to San Diego and settled in Pacific Beach. Ralph started his career at Convair (General Dynamics). He continued his career working for Cal Trans as a civil engineer, earning his California professional civil engineering license. Ralph then worked for AMS, a building-supply comTrans and retiring.

Ralph was happiest when fixing and building things to perfection. He was a proud member of the Model A Club of San Diego.



**RALPH SCHULER** 

Ralph lived most of his life in the same house, in which he raised his family in Pacific Beach. Yet he never forgot his roots as a boy from a small town in Wisconsin. His loyalty to his family, his integrity and his work ethic will be remembered by all who knew him.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Joyce, of 55 years; three daughters; sons-in-law and seven grandchildren, Laura (Todd) Ellenberger, Sam and Jacob: Debra (Dave) Prevo, John and Ashley; Lisa (John) Barron, Ryan, Jack and Ava. Others include his brother, Donald Schuler; and sister, Beth Berninger.

Services for Ralph were to be held on Tuesday, Feb. 12 at La Jolla Presbyterian

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to: Autism Speaks, 1060 State Road, 2nd Floor

Princeton, N.J., 08540. Online donations may be made at www.autismspeaks.org, in remembrance of Ralph Schuler.

## Much in store for the month of March at PB/Taylor Library

Beginning Fridays next month. from 10 to 11 a.m., the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library will add a new class on EASY eBOOKS.

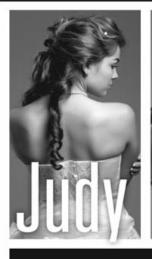
Drop by the circulation desk with your eReader, tablet or smartphone, and the staff will guide you in downloading the library's free eBooks and eAudiobooks.

Also new is the library's game day for children 5 and older on the second Monday of each month from 3 to 4:30 p.m. There will be a variety

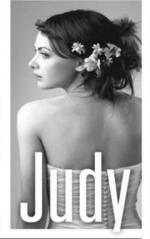
By MARSHA KAY SEFF | Beach & Bay Press of board games in the children's

The Friends of the BP Library will hold a book sale to benefit the library on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The book sale is cancelled during inclement weather.

The library, located at 4275 Cass St., will be closed Feb. 18 for Presidents Day. For more information, call (858) 581-9934.







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Contact Judy in La Jolla today for answers to any more of your hair extensions questions and ask about saving \$200 on your first full head of hair extentions (858) 456-2344. Easy parking in La Jolla.

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## EDUCATION NOTEBOOK



Pacific Beach Middle School physical-education teacher Karla Martinez has been named as California International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Educator of the year for California.

#### **IMPRESSIVE HONOR**

Physical educator Karla Martinez has been named as California International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Educator of the Year for California. In addition to designing and teaching oneof-a-kind curriculum for the students of Pacific Beach Middle School, Martinez volunteers her time after school to support athletes at PB Middle and around the city. Martinez is receiving well-deserved

state-wide recognition as a tireless advocate for curriculum that promotes lifelong physical education and activi-

Her extensive knowledge and dedication has earned her national board certification. In addition to her full-time work at the school, Martinez volunteers throughout the country as an IB workshop teacher trainer, IB authorization team member and IB candidate school consultant. Martinez and her award-winning physical-education team shares its knowledge as it hosts IB and physical educators. For more information, visit http://www.sandi.net/-

#### MISSION BAY HIGH

Mission Bay High School will host a parent articulation meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. in the library. This general session will review graduation requirements and separate for sessions by grade level to talk specifically about the courses offered at the ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades. All Pacific Beach Middle School parents are invited to

#### **PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE**

• Support the PBMS music program at the Tiki House, 1152 Garnet Ave, on Friday, Feb. 22. Enjoy the rockin' music of Jet-pack MoJo (formerly SLK), enter a raffle for prizes and meet new friends while helping to sustain the wonderful music program at PBMS. \$5 cover charge.

• PBMS will host "College-Make It Happen!" on Feb. 28 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the

Pacific Beach Elementary will host its monthly Family Fun Night Restaurant Fundraiser on Feb. 21 from 4 to 9 p.m. at Big Kahuna's, 3780 Ingraham St. Mention PBE and a portion of the total will come back to the school.

#### **CROWN POINT JME**

Deadline for school choice applications is Feb. 15. Applications are available online to select your school of choice for the 2013-14 school year. CPJMA school tours are available every Thursday at 8 a.m. for kindergartner through second-graders; third-graders through fifth-graders, 10:20 a.m. Learn about music programs, visit classrooms and meet the staff. To set up an appointment, call (858) 273-9830. To submit an application, visit www.sandi.net.

#### FRIENDS OF PACIFIC BEACH SECONDARY SCHOOLS (FOPBSS)

• Friends of PB Secondary Schools (FOPBSS) meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. in the Mission Bay High School library. Special guests are Catherine Jolley of the PB Town Council, Jorge Palacios (MBHS athletic director) and Arnie Garcia of SDG&E, and principals Fred

Hilgers of Mission Bay High School and Ernie Remillard of Pacific Beach Middle School.

 Save the date! FOPBSS Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser, Sunday, May 5, 5-9 PM, at Mission Beach Women's Club. Proceeds support enriching school programs for Mission Bay High School and Pacific Beach Middle School. Donations for the auction are needed. Email MBHSfriends@yahoo.com if you have a donation or a ques-

#### MISSION BAY CLUSTER

Advertise in the yearbooks. The Mission Bay High and PB Middle yearbook staff would like to sell ads to your businesses to help keep the cost of the yearbook affordable for students. Assistance is provided for the design of your ad.

 Mission Bay High School yearbook ads: contact Ron Lancia at rlancia@sandi.net.

¼ page (4 ¼ x 5 ½) \$75 ½ page (8 ½ x 5 ½) \$150 Full page (8 ½ x 11) \$300

• Pacific Beach Middle School yearbook ads: contact Don Wood at dwood@sandi.net

1/8 page (4 ¼ x 2 ¾) \$40. (A little bit bigger than a regular business card)

1/4 page (4 ¼ x 5 ½) \$75 1/2 page (8 ½ x 5 ½) \$145

## Little Steps Preschool churns out generations of Amazing Athletes

BY MARIKO LAMB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

With childhood obesity on the rise, residual cuts to grade-school physical education and health programs, and the advent of addicting entertainment technology, some children are straying away from physical exercise and relying more on video games or television to occupy their time.

Sports-based youth fitness provider Amazing Athletes hopes to counter that trend by getting kids off the couch and into an active classroom with yearround programs designed to get children moving through instructional sports activities. The program focuses on preschool-age students as young as 2 years old to help lay a strong foundation of healthy habits from an early age.

"A lot of other programs don't focus on kids this young, and we're really starting to get a high obesity rate in kids [aged] two to four," said Sonja Brummer, owner of four Amazing Athletes franchises in San Diego. "We really want to focus on getting them active and show them that it can be fun to be

Through what she calls "positive play," Brummer explained the program is neither a classroom environment nor free-play recess. It utilizes the best of both — combining a fun outlet for energy release with educational development and discipline.

"We talk about eating healthy, getting your sleep and eating your fruits and vegetables," she said. "We incorporate a lot of things from the classroom, too — letters, numbers, colors, animals, some math, sometimes Spanish — so



Youngsters at Little Steps Christian Preschool on Mt. Soledad are getting lessons in mental, physical and cognitive skills through a program run by fitness provider Amazing Athletes.

it's more than just a sports program."

At Little Steps Christian Preschool on level." Mt. Soledead, preschoolers take weekly Amazing Athletes classes to develop mental, physical and cognitive skills like hand-eye coordination, following directions, and speed and agility. Throughout the curriculum, students learn the basics of nine sports, which are rotated each week throughout the year.

"At this age, we're not so much teaching them the rules of the game. We're teaching them how to kick, how to throw," said Brummer. "Especially for the 2-year-olds, it's more of an exploratory class."

As kids get older, the classes become more structured, she said.

"We'll have some of these kids from 2 to 6 or 7 years old, so we don't want them to get bored," she said. "As they go

up in age, we also progress their skill

And thanks to small class sizes, the program's coaches are able to work with each child according to his or her ability.

'Any kid can do this. We've had kids with disabilities, like cerebral palsy, and the doctors recommend it," she said. "We had one girl in particular who, when she first started, couldn't even hold up the baseball bat. Within a year or two, she was swinging the bat like it was nothing."

In addition to brain and motor-skill development, the program helps children build self-confidence when it comes to social and physical activity in grade school.

"By the time they get to elementary school, they probably have a wider



knowledge of sports than other kids. We years," she said. "At the same time, it's try to get them ahead of the game," she

The wide range of sports the students are exposed to helps to keep them from getting "frustrated when they're in elementary school in PE or in team sports," Brummer said.

"I always get extra sad when it comes time for them to leave the schools, especially when we've had them for so many so great to see them develop a love for sports and activities and to see them progress from when they could barely walk to running, jumping and kicking.'

Amazing Athletes offers year-round program registration, birthday parties and camps for children of all ages. Franchise opportunities are also available. Visit www.amazingathletes.com or call (888) 228-3942 for more information.

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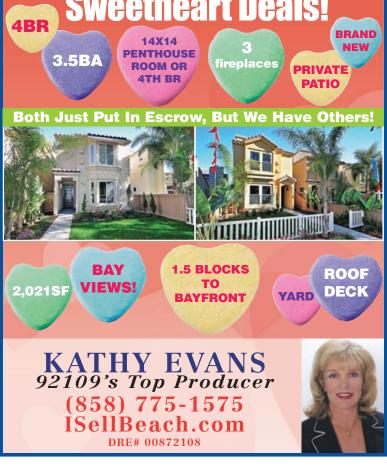


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