

The two-level space formerly occupied by Nick's at the Pier on Thomas Street has now been transformed into an island-themed paradise with the birth of The Local Pacific Beach. Page 8



Vicki Dutch-Jones SFR

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

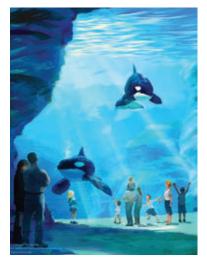
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2014

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ROOM TO ROAM

WHALE OF AN EXPANSION An artist's rendering shows the concept for SeaWorld's new orca-tank expansion that would nearly double the current space of the killer whales' environment by building a 10-million-gallon tank.

SeaWorld plans to double size of orca environment



TAKING IN THE VIEW The planned expansion of the orca tank at SeaWorld is expected to give visitors spectacular close-up experiences with the animals.

By DAVE SCHWAB

SeaWorld's answer to animalrights activists' charges that its killerwhale exhibit is commercial exploitation came Aug. 15 as the marine-mammal park announced plans to nearly double the size of its existing San Diego orca environment.

SeaWorld San Diego is to be the first of three SeaWorld parks to engage in the "Blue World Project," which calls for the construction of a 10-million-gallon tank environment that is set to open to the public in

Park officials said the 50-foot-deep exhibit with a 1.5-acre surface area is expected to give park guests more access to viewing killer whales under-

water and would allow the animals increased engagement with park experts. Plans for the tanks also include a "fast-water current," which would allow the orcas to swim against moving water.

"Through up-close and personal encounters, the new environment will transform how visitors experience killer whales," said SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc. president/ CEO Jim Atchison in a statement. "Our guests will be able to walk alongside the whales as if they were at the shore, watch them interact at the depths found in the ocean or get a birds-eye view from above."

SEE ORCAS >> PG. 13

Don't miss the PB Hot Rod, Classic Car show: a bounty of bikinis, wheels Sunday

By DAVE SCHWAB

This year's Pacific Beach Hot Rod and Classic Car Show is gearing up to be one of most entertaining yet, with a bikini contest, a Michael Jackson impersonator and more than 200 classic cars and motorcycles on exhibit.

A signature beach communi- CAPED CRUSADER The Batmobile ty event, the show runs from 10° from the first "Batman" movie, stara.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. ring Michael Keaton, will be among 24 on Garnet Avenue between the jewels on display at this year's

SEE **SHOW** >> PG. 4 Aug. 24.



Pacific Beach Hot Rod and Classic Car Show in the heart of PB on Courtesy photo

City struggles to uproot illegal pot shops in PB

By DAVE SCHWAB

There's a stalemate in the battle over medical-marijuana dispensaries in Pacific Beach, as seemingly one unauthorized cooperative opens or reopens for every one that closes.

Generating continued frustration for local residents and legislators alike, the issue has the attention of District 2 City Councilman Ed Harris, who said recently that of the 63 illegal medical dispensaries operating citywide, 17 are in the beach areas — with a preponderance of those shops in Pacific Beach.



Harris said shutting down unpermitted medical-marijuana dispensaries is not a simple mat-

SEE POT >> PG. 5

CALIFORNIA GENERAL ELECTION 2014

DeMaio, Peters to square off for state's key 52nd Congressional District seat By DAVE SCHWAB

GOP contender touts platform of reform in Capitol

Former San Diego City Councilman and ex-mayoral candidate Carl DeMaio, a Republican who is running against Democratic Congressional Dist. 52 incumbent Scott Peters, promised locals during an open forum Aug. 11 he will transfer his reformmindedness from San Diego to Washington, D.C. if elected in November.

"I want to take our reform agenda from San Diego and bring it to Washington, balance the budget, create jobs, support workers and small business and start changing the culture of Congress," DeMaio told Mis-

sion Bay Rotarians during a campaign pitch.

"Both parties are broken and the dysfunction is outrageous, which is why nothing seems to get done. We've got to clean up the mess and dysfunction," he said.

DeMaio's was the first



CARL DeMAIO

Dem pushes bi-partisanship, economic stimulation

Trading on his bipartisanship and collegiality, 52nd Congressional District, incumbent Scott Peters, a Democrat, branded his Republican challenger, Carl DeMaio, as "divisive, something Congress doesn't need right now."

Speaking a week after DeMaio at the Mission Beach Rotary Club at Pacific Beach's Catamaran Hotel, Peters said his record shows he's adopted a "less-partisan, lessdivided approach to Congress."

Peters told Rotarians he's been ranked as one of the most independent Congressional Democrats.

"I'm willing to vote with both sides to solve problems," he said, outlining his political priority list to Rotarians. "I put country first. The district is second. My party is third."

Peters defined political



SCOTT PETERS

SEE **DEMAIO** >> PG. 3

Council torpedoes Faulconer's veto on minimum-wage hike

At a special meeting called during its August recess, San Diego City Council voted 6-2 on Aug. 18 to override Mayor Kevin Faulconer's veto of the city's hourly minimumwage ordinance, which provides incrementally increased pay over three years and five days' earned sick leave. The law is aimed mostly at helping low-paid restaurant and retail workers.

The ordinance sets San Diego's minimum wage at \$11.50 per hour, implemented over three years, to increase to \$9.75 in January, \$10.50 in January 2016 and \$11.50 in January of 2017. Wages will then be modified to the Con-

sumer Price Index beginning in January 2019.

The ordinance was originally passed by the City Council along strict party lines, 6-3, on June 14 before being vetoed by Faulconer on Aug. 8. The city charter allows the council to reconsider any resolution or ordinance the mayor vetoes and can override the mayor's veto with

Republican City Councilwoman Lorie Zapf was absent and did not vote on the override.

San Diego is among several cities across the country joining a push by Democrats and labor groups to increase the minimum wage at the

local and state level as Republicans in Congress oppose raising the current federal minimum-wage floor of \$7.25 an hour. The California minimum wage is currently \$9 per hour and will climb to \$10 in July.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce has promised to try to roll back the wage increase through a referendum. It has until Sept. 17 to gather 34,000 signatures to qualify the referendum for the June 2016

Council President Todd Gloria said that will require city officials and residents to debate the issue for nearly

-Staff and contribution

Driver accused of crashing into bicyclist group faces 12 years

At least one Pacific Beach man among those injured in wrong-way collision on Fiesta Island

By NEAL PUTNAM

The alleged motorist who struck 10 bicyclists while driving the wrong way on Fiesta Island faces up to 12 years and eight months in prison if she is convicted of driving under the influence of drugs.

The crash caused severe injuries to several of the cyclists. The driver also faces at least one count of possessing methamphetamine.

The bail for Theresa Lynn Owens, 49, of San Diego was increased to \$300,000 from \$100,000 on Aug. 15. A preliminary hearing is tentatively set for Aug. 28.

Deputy District Attorney Jessica Coto told Judge David Szumoski that Owens struck the group of bicyclists as she traveled the wrong way on Fiesta Island and was driving while intoxicated on the evening of Aug. 12. The charges reflect injuries to the six bicyclists most seriously hurt.

Juan Carlos Vinolo is permanently paralyzed from the waist down because of a break in his spinal cord, Coto told Szumowski. Vinolo has lost one kidney and has suffered multiple rib fractures. He remains hospitalized.

"He's aware of everything," said Martha Sheridan, a family friend.

She said Vinolo is married, is a salesman, and there are fundraisers being planned to pay for expenses.

Sheridan said she was angry and

SEE CRASH >> PG. 6

PB Town Council's gala wine, beer tasting on tap for Aug. 24 by DAVE SCHWAB

Event serves as critical fundraiser for local schools

The 13th annual Pacific Beach Town Council (PBTC) wine and beer tasting and silent auction to benefit local schools is set to welcome residents and neighbors Sunday, Aug. 24 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Table 926, located at 926 Turquoise St.

"It's the largest fundraiser of the year for PBTC, and it benefits our community," said the group's current president, Alan Harris. "We'll have a silent auction that a lot of local businesses donate to."

The event is being held in the parking lot of Table 926.

"We close off the area and set up tables and umbrellas, and we'll have a buffet," said Harris, noting the restaurant, which sponsors this year's event, is one of the Town Council's and the community's biggest benefactors.

The PBTC president said schools will be on the receiving end of wine and beer-tasting proceeds, as will other deserving community-service pro-

"The money from the event supports neighborhood cleanups, the Graffiti Cleanup Day we have once a year, the PB holiday parade and concerts," Harris said. "We also make grants to local schools. In previous years, we've donated money to all six schools in Pacific Beach."

Harris said fundraising event proceeds helped start the surf club at PB Middle School, known as the PB Locals.

"We've also donated funds that have been used for athletic uniforms at Mission Bay High School," Harris said.

The event turnout is expected to exceed 100 people, and the dress is casual.

"It's just a fun event with a lot of appetizers, food and raffle prizes," he said. "Come out and support the community."

Tickets are \$30 per person and are available at the PBTC office at the front of Union Bank at 1706 Garnet Ave. or by calling (858) 483-6666.

For more information, visit www.pbtowncouncil.org.



DEMAIO » CONT. FROM PG. 1

of two back-to-back meetings hosted by Rotarians, which featured Peters at the same venue, the Catamaran Resort Hotel.

Touting his legacy as a pensionreforming City Councilman, DeMaio pointed out opinion polls currently show only a 7 percent approval rating for U.S. legislators.

"Congress needs to wake up. They're out of touch with the American people," he said, noting he'd institute a number of reforms to streamline federal government.

DeMaio proposed making the federal government more transparent by posting legislation like amendments online prior to votes, eliminating special-interest lobbyist and corporate funds for Congressional members' travel and removing members' political perks.

"I want to make Congress members more transparent and accountable by stripping them of special subsidies for their healthcare and pensions," DeMaio said. "I don't believe members should be given issue, saying, "The American peo- able to keep your own doctor."

stituents they serve."

DeMaio said if Congress members and have to rely on Social Security, they'll "make sure those two systems at reform. remain solvent and secure."

Asked why voters should choose him rather than Peters, DeMaio 100 percent in support of the Israeli replied, "Peters was on the City Council for eight years and he [helped create] the city's pension crisis and put San Diego on the road to accord." bankruptcy while slashing public services. I was on the City Council for four years and was able to dig the city out of that hole and make the changes necessary to save our city from bankruptcy."

DeMaio fielded questions from audience members especially interested in his stand on immigration.

"You have to force Washington to do its job and secure the border," he cash equivalent and buy any policy answered.

"We have to secure the border as a prerequisite to any additional many working people who've lost changes we do to make to our immitheir doctors because of Obamacare. gration system work," he said.

benefits that are better than the conple agree on 65 to 70 percent of reform."

He said it's the extreme elements are removed from the pension system at both ends of the political spectrum that are complicating attempts

> Asked his views about the Arab-Israeli conflict, DeMaio said, "I'm position, particularly seeing the consistent refusal of Hamas to participate in peace accord after peace

> DeMaio also gave his take on health-care reform.

"I don't know why health-care exchanges are government-managed," he said. "I would keep the exchanges but allow them to be privatized. I would pass a bill that would allow you to take any healthcare policy from any employer and convert it in an open exchange to a you like."

DeMaio said he's heard from too

"Why should people have to give up DeMaio said he felt there's room their doctors with health-insurance for compromise on the immigration changes?" he asked. "You should be

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Weather prompts rescheduling of Concert on the Green series

Recent turbulent weather that triggered rounds of lightning and heavy rains - posing possible safety issues for music lovers - has prompted the rescheduling of two shows previously slated in the free 12th annual Concerts on the Green series at Kate Sessions. Park. As a result, the following shows have been rescheduled:

• Aug. 31 20 - Three Chord Justice, a premier country band.

• Sept. 7 - The Siers Bros. (Allman Brothers, The Beatles, The Texas Tornados and their own originals)

The summer event is sponsored by the Concerts Committee and the Pacific Beach Community Foundation and runs from 4 to 6 p.m. Guests are invited to bring blankets, chairs, small umbrellas and picnic baskets (no alcoholic beverages) and plan to spend a Sunday afternoon in the park listening to music, dancing and meeting up with friends and neighbors.

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News

PETERS »

courage as "the ability to come to the middle, sit down at the table and work out a solution. That's what I'm committed to do."

A former San Diego City Councilman and San Diego Unified Port Commissioner, Peters said he chose to be on the House Armed Services and the Science, Space and Technologies committees because he wanted to be involved in areas to help San Diego spur its economy.

"San Diego's economy is driven by tourism, the military and science and innovation," Peters said. "One-quarter of our jobs come from the military. We're the second-leading city in telecommunications with Qualcomm and the third-leading city behind Boston and San Francisco with biotechnology."

Toward that end, Peters said he's been supportive of local efforts to promote alternative energy, including the development of algae as a biofuel and solar energy for use by the military and in building technology.

Concerning immigration, Peters said, "The border's a mess."

Disagreeing with DeMaio, who favors shipping children who are illegally in the U.S. back to their home countries, Peters said, "We'd be sending them back to gang violence, rape and murder — and that's just not what we're about.

"We can't be against human trafficking on the one hand and then just say kick the kids out on the other," he said.

Discussing health-care reform, Peters said that's one of the areas where he's deviated from the mainstream-Democrat line in Congress.

"I think (Obamacare) needs a little help," Peters said, adding quickly, "It won't be repealed. We can't go back. A lot more [reform] work needs to be done. I'm ready to talk about a real solution.'

Peters said he's also out front in the effort to take some of the financial burden off students paying for school.

"There's more student debt than credit-card debt now," he said, noting he's authored a Congressional bill that would "refinance all student debt to 4 percent. We shouldn't be gouging kids by requiring them to pay as much as 8 to 10 percent."

Peters said student debt has become a huge drag on the economy, forcing students to delay important decisions like getting married or buying housing in order to pay off accrued student debt.

SHOW » CONT. FROM PG. 1

Mission Boulevard and Dawes Street, as well as along Bayard Street between Garnet Avenue and the alley and on Cass Street between Garnet Avenue and the alley.

Highlights of the show include the nitro-burning Wild Thang dragster that shoots flames 30 feet in the air, along with the Michael Keaton Batmobile and Christine from the movie of the same name both on display.

It's the sixth year for the car show themed "Charger Steve's Wild Rides & Classic Car Showdown."

Now in its fifth year in Pacific Beach, the event is presented by Sycuan Casino.

"There will be all different types, styles, makes and years of cars, plus many vendors in case you want to purchase some new shades or a T-shirt. We'll have a mix of everything," promised Charger Steve, who hosts and promotes the annual event.

The classic car show initially was held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds but has since found a permanent home in Pacific Beach.

"I shoot for the stars," said Charger Steve, who said putting

on the annual PB event is "my first love and really quite the accomplishment."

New this year to the car show is the Keaton Batmobile, which Charger Steve described as "an amazing vehicle that is just awesome to look at."

Also on display will be the actual car used in the thriller bigscreen movie "Christine," perhaps the most famous haunted-car movie of all

time, inspired by the Stephen King novel. "We'll have some really nice

choppers on display," said Charger Steve, adding the "hit of the party," as usual, will be the Wild Thang dragster spectacle.

> "It's a fan favorite for sure and it will be back this year," he

said, adding Wild Thang's operators overcame adversity to make sure the attraction appeared again at this year's show.

There will be a variety of entertainment, including at least one performer guaranteed to knock your socks off.

"We have a really fantastic Michael Jackson impersonator who is really astonishing that we're looking forward to," said Charger Steve.

He said the bikini contest hosted annually by Hollywood Tans is always a crowd pleaser.

Steve added there will be entertainment throughout the event, including music, magic and dance. The winner of the car show will be announced at 3 p.m.

A car aficionado who has become an event promoter, Charger Steve said classic car shows are becoming increasingly popular.

He runs a similar, much smaller car exhibit in El Cajon on Wednesdays and says his once-ayear-Pacific Beach show is like having "a car show on steroids."

For more information, visit www.chargersteve.com or www.carclubcouncilofsandiego.com.

Home Owners Lose Thousands When Selling Their 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

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become dillusioned and worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes 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. I answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared for a free special report entitled "The 9 step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar."

To order a FREE special report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0763 and enter 1000. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to find out how you can get the most money for your home.

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Pacific Beach Community Development Corporation and Pacific Beach Business Improvement District of The City Of San Diego **NOTICE OF ELECTION AND GENERAL MEETING**

The Pacific Beach Business Improvement District (PBBID) includes business and rental properties with six or more units, in the area which can be approximately described as the area circumscribed by Interstate 5, the Mission Beach Boardwalk, Crown Point Drive and Turquoise Street. The purpose of the PBBID and The Pacific Beach Community Development Corporation (PBCDC) is to provide an organizational framework and funding for the improvement of the area. Pacific Beach area business license holders and owners of rental property with six or more units, are invited to run for election as a member of the PBCDC Board of Directors. Nominations are currently being solicited for five (5) seats on the fifteen (15) member Board. The Board has appointed a nominating committee to whom nominations may be made by submitting a petition or letter. The nomination petition or letter must be submitted to the nominating committee by August 30, 2014. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the September 2, 2014 meeting. The Board of Directors will also review the list of business and rental property license holders to confirm their representative's eligibility to be voting delegates for the election. The business delegate will be the person named in that business license unless a business indicates differently in writing to the PBCDC Board of Directors. The Board of Directors must receive the written notice of the business delegate change at or before their September 2, 2014 meeting. All delegates' terms will end with the election. The list of known business and property license holders eligible to vote will be available for review after the September 2, 2014 meeting by contacting Sara Berns at 858-273-3303. The Board will then consider reports and other matters to be placed on the agenda for the annual election meeting. The annual meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for October 21, 2014 at 5:30pm, at Discover Pacific Beach office, 1503 Garnet Avenue. Newly elected members of the Board of Directors will be inducted and the Board will consider any other items placed on the agenda by the Board of Directors. A majority of the current Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Board of Directors and meeting of the delegates for the October 21, 2014 annual meeting.

PROVIDE YOUR INPUT ON MID-COAST TROLLEY STATION DESIGN



The Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project will extend Trolley service from the Santa Fe Depot in Downtown San Diego north along Interstate 5 to the University City community, serving major activity centers such as Old Town, Mission Bay, UC San Diego, and Westfield UTC.

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is in the process of designing nine Trolley stations along the route. We want to hear your input about station design features. We will host a public workshop just prior to the regular Pacific Beach Planning Group meeting to provide an opportunity for you to tell us what you think about the proposed stations that will serve your neighborhood. We hope to see you there!

Trolley Station Design Workshop

Wednesday, August 27, 2014, 5-6:30 p.m.

Pacific Beach Branch Library Community Room, 4275 Cass Street, San Diego, CA 92109. Discussion will focus on Clairemont/Linda Vista Stations (Tecolote Road. Clairemont Drive, and Balboa Avenue).

This meeting location is accessible by transit. Phone 511 or visit 511sd.com/transit for route information.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), SANDAG will accommodate persons who require assistance in order to participate in the public meetings. If such assistance is required, please contact SANDAG at (619) 595-5620 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. To request materials in an alternative format, please call (619) 595-5620 or fax (619) 699-1905.

sandag.org/midcoast













POT» CONT. FROM PG. 1

ter. however.

"Closing down illegally operating medical-marijuana dispensaries is time consuming and often involves months of litigation," Harris said. "There is a great deal of money to be made in this business, and often dispensary owners do whatever they can to remain open. That said, I am confident the City Attorney's Office will get all of these shut down."

Meanwhile, Harris said, "I have asked city staff to report on their efforts to close down these dispensaries during the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Council Committee meeting on Sept. 18 in order to make the process more open and transparent to the public."

He said Neighborhood Code Enforcement officials and the City Attorney's Office are actively working on shuttering these illegal storefronts. Harris said that within the last month, the city has closed the dison Cass Street.

However, no sooner does one dispensary shut its doors before another emerges to take its place, said Scott Chipman of Pacific Beach Planning

"We have a new pot shop at 841 Turquoise St. called Dank on Turquoise," said Chipman. "Another pot shop opened around June 30 at 1737 Garnet Ave. in the alley called Left Coast Collective."

Coast Collective were contacted for comment and their side of the story, but declined comment or did not

Meanwhile, Chipman claimed medical marijuana dispensaries are a sham.

"I don't understand why drug dealing is illegal on the street corner but when it's behind a glass door it's being permitted," he said. "If I set up a hot-dog stand in front of one of these pot shops, how long would I be allowed to do that? A couple hours? Days? Months? Some of these medical-marijuana guys are opening for months — and years — sometimes just changing the letters in their name and reopening.'

Pointing out marijuana "is not allowed to be sold legally in California," Chipman said he felt what dispensaries are doing qualifies as "drug dealing."

Chipman said a neighborhood coalition he belongs to, San Diegans for Safe Neighborhoods, has tracked pensary adjacent to St. Brigid Church Pacific Beach pot shops for more than five years.

"We have spent hundreds of hours watching who goes in and out of these stores," he said. "Ninety-plus percent are males under the age of 35 and the other 10 percent are females under 35. These stores are nothing but drug dealers behind glass doors. We have filed code-compliance complaints on all of them,

Both Dank on Turquoise and Left city to be effective at closing them."

He maintained that dispensary regulations need to be stiffened.

"They must strengthen the operational regulations, raise the age limit to buy to 25 and prohibit hash-oil products," he said. "It is disappointing that landlords join the unscrupulous and rent to illegal businesses to enrich themselves regardless of the impact on our youth and communities."

Chipman contends the "medical" component of dispensaries is a for-

"A guy with dreadlocks in a white lab coat does not a caregiver make," he said. "I am shocked at the City Council for falling for this complete ruse. Show me one place where a primary caregiver is distributing out of a dispensary."

On a separate front, there are presently 38 applications for legally permitted medical-marijuana dispensaries citywide that are being reviewed under a new ordinance adopted by the City Council earlier this year. That ordinance allows conditional approval for a maximum of four dispensaries in any of the nine City Council districts, said Edith Gutierrez of the city's Development Services Department.

Of those "legal dispensary" applications, 18 — or nearly half — are in City Council District 2. There are no applications in counand it appears to take many months cil districts 1, 4, 5 and 9 because of

or even several years — for the zoning restrictions under the new industrially zoned areas. They are ordinance. At present, City Council not allowed within 1,000 feet of District 3 has two applicants, District 6 has nine, District 7 has four child-care centers, city libraries, and District 8 has five.

first-come, first-served basis," said

medical marijuana dispensaries in na medical dispensary applicants.

churches, public parks, schools, minor-oriented facilities, residen-"Applications are processed on a tial-care facilities or other medical marijuana-consumer cooperatives.

An initial deposit of \$8,000 is The new city ordinance allows required by the city of all marijua-

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In Remembrance of

David Alfred Saska Restaurateur

1946-2014

David was the first child born to Joseph and Pauline Saska. Born in San Diego, he was a lifelong resident. His early life was spent growing up in Santee with his ten siblings Joe, Jean, Jerry, Kathryn, Mike, John, Jim, Mary, Tom, and Georgeann. After the passing of his father, Dave became the family patriarch to his younger brothers and sisters.

He led by example, and was successful in his high school football career while playing for El Capitan High. In 1963 he made the All CIF Football First Team, while leading the Vaqueros to the CIF Championship Game. After attending Gross-

mont College for a year, he was awarded a football scholarship to the University of Oregon. When a knee injury ended his playing career, Dave returned home and completed his studies at San Diego State University.

In 1972, he took the reins at Saska's Restaurant in Mission Beach, and revived the family business. Using that experience, David ventured out on his own opening several restaurants. Among those were Saska's East in Brawley 1974, Saska's New Place in Pt Loma 1977, Aloha Louie's in La Jolla 1984, and Boomers Bar-B-Que in Pacific Beach 1998.

In 1973 he married the love of his life, Sandy Winship Perry. Together they purchased a home in San Diego's Bay View Area where they resided for the last 39 years. They together created an endearing relationship full of love.

During his leisure time David's hobbies included tinkering with his various classic vehicles. In recent years, he and his best friend, Fred Kuhner restored a 1938 Ford Coupe which they powered using propane. The '38 Coupe has won various awards at car shows.

A Celebration of David's life will be held on Friday, September 5, 2014 at the Soledad Club, 5050 Soledad Road, Pacific Beach from 1pm - 5pm

The Saska Family requests any flowers be sent to the Soledad Club on that day.

For more information call 858-775-7311



Seeking local amateur models for the Mission Beach Centennial's "Vintage Bathing Suit Fashion Show," which will be part of the Mission Beach Centennial Festival. The Vintage Bathing Beauty Revue will be held on the Festival stage at the foot of Ventura Pl. on Saturday, September 27, 2014.

Bob Lawrence, Channel 10 News Reporter, will be emceeing the fashion

Models will wear bathing suits representing styles from 1915 throughout the decades to the present. The Centennial Committee is looking for approximately 11 female models and three male models.

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.

CASTING DATE & LOCATION

The casting call will be held Tuesday, September 9th, beginning at 5:30 pm at the Mission Beach Women's Club, 840 Santa Clara Pl., in Mission Beach (San Diego) 92109.

Models will receive a gift card to a local business for the generosity of their time. They'll also receive a photo of them participating in the fashion show.

If you want to participate in the casting, RSVP to: Jeanne Lenhart at Jeanne-Lenhart@roadrunner.com, (858) 212-6888; or Cordelia Mendoza at cordeliam@cox.net, 619-518-8663.

If you have a business that wants a booth at the Festival, contact Mike Spangler at mikespang@gmail.com.

COUNCIL CORNER

Councilman Harris spotlights issues to be tackled in second half of Dist. 2 term

As summer wraps up and the second half of my council term gets under way, I wanted to share some information and provide you with an update from my City Council District 2 office.

• ILLEGAL MEDICAL MARIJUA-NA DISPENSARIES — Last month when I met with representatives from the City Attorney's Office,

Neighborhood Code Enforcement and Neighborhood Services, I learned there were 63 illegal marijuana dispensaries that remained open in the city, with 17 of those

located in District 2. Neighborhood Code Enforcement and the City Attorney's Office are actively working on getting these store-



fronts closed. Since that meeting, the city has closed the dispensary adjacent to St. Brigid Church on Cass Street. Progress is being made, but this process is time consuming and often involves months of litigation. At my request, city staff will report on current efforts to close down illegally operating dispensaries during the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Council Committee meeting on Sept. 18.

• **DECOBIKES** — While I'm excited about the bike-sharing program DecoBike coming to San Diego, I am concerned that some community groups feel disenfranchised by the bike-station location selection process due to a lack of effective communication between the stakeholders. I am encouraged to know, however, that DecoBike will be meeting with District 2 community groups to explain the rationale behind each proposed bike station location. I support what the residents of District 2 want and am optimistic DecoBike will give thoughtful consideration

to the community's feedback. • ILLEGAL NEWSPAPER RACKS — It has been called to my attention a number of Pacific Beach's

newspaper racks are not permitted and/or are not being properly maintained. On Friday, Aug. 22 from 2 to 4 p.m., my staff and I will join community members to commence an audit of illegal newspaper racks installed on Garnet Avenue, from Jewell Street to Mission Boulevard. The data compiled during the audit will include locations, types and operators of noncompliant newspaper racks and will be provided to Neighborhood Code Enforcement for purposes of noticing and citing. If you

would like to join us for the Aug. 22 audit, please contact Tarrant Seautelle of my office at (619) 235-5281 or by email at tseautelle@sandiego.gov.

• PUBLIC SAFETY IN OCEAN **BEACH** — With the generous donation from the company SIDUS, my office secured two additional security cameras which were recently installed on the San Diego Police Department trailer in the parking lot at the foot of Newport Avenue in Ocean Beach. Those cameras, along with signage indicating the cameras are operational, are installed to deter disruptive and sometimes illegal behavior taking place along the seawall. I am told by community leaders the cameras are making a difference.

• MISSION BEACH FLIES — Thanks to business leaders, community members and the City, there has been a strong response to help control the fly problem in Mission Beach. More trash is being securely bagged and more signage is up in businesses and vacation rentals to educate people on steps they can take to help reduce the fly population. Additionally, the city is issuing more violation notices for trash that is not property bagged. With additional hot weeks ahead, I would encourage everyone to tightly tie up their trash bags and secure trash bins inside garages to avoid scavenging.

• GET INVOLVED — Finally, if you're free on Thursday, Aug. 21 from 7 to 8 p.m., I'll be at Yogurt on the Rocks at 1886 Garnet Avenue for a community dessert to meet with constituents and hear their concerns. I hope you'll be able to attend.

With a goal of improving the quality of life in District 2, I know great things can happen when residents are engaged in their community. As always, I appreciate the opportunity to represent you.

-Ed Harris represents District 2 of the City Council, which encompasses Pacific Beach, Mission Beach, Mission Bay, Ocean Beach, Point Loma and other communities.



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frustrated with the driver, saying "it was her choice to become an addict."

One of the bicyclists, Logan Bass, 26, of Pacific Beach, showed up at the arraignment with bandages. Bass was hospitalized for two days.

"I remember a car going 30-35 mph. We were going 25 mph. I took a mirror to the ribs and got road rash," said Bass. "I'm definitely lucky. I want to focus on Juan getting better."

Bass was asked by reporters if he would give up riding bicycles. He said he would not.

"My ribs will heal in six months or so," Bass said. "I'll be OK."

Bass said Owens looked frantic at the scene and said "she still looks frantic," making an observation of Owens' demeanor in court. After Owens heard Coto describe some of the injuries, she said to no one in particular that she hoped Vinolo recovers.

The prosecutor asked for bail being set at \$500,000, while Owens' attorney, Kevin Milmoe, asked for \$200,000 bail.

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The building where *Guava Beach* currently is was built in the late 1930's and is the 2nd oldest commercial building in MB. It has been the home to almost a dozen different restaurants, including; The Bath House, Beef and Burgundy, Blue Pacific, Debauchery, The Spot on Mission, Newport Annies and Guava Beach!

Broken Yolk opened in Pacific Beach in 1979 and they now have 13 locations from here to the Imperial Valley and Orange County.

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Downtown hotspot tailors its brand just for Pacific Beach By FRANK SABATINI JR.

Dining

Slow-cooked meats, Trader Vic's mai tais and craft beer are among the creature comforts calling patrons back to the two-level space formerly occupied by Nick's at the Beach on Thomas Avenue.

After months of renovations, the property recently reopened under new ownership as The Local Pacific Beach. The venture is an offshoot of The Local Drinking Hole & Eatery in downtown San Diego, differentiated in part by more square footage and several tantalizing Hawaiian twists on its menu.

"We have a good beach-restaurant feel here," said Brendan Huffman, who, along with partner Mina Desiderio, also co-owns Wonderland Ocean Pub in Ocean Beach. Both are experienced restaurateurs; Huffman operates Bootlegger Plates & Pours in East Village and Desiderio founded the original Local several years ago at Fourth and Broadway.

Redesigns to the 7,000-squarefoot structure have included new exterior siding, the addition of an elevator and solar-heated flooring installed on the upstairs patio for cooler nights, an uncommon amenity in San Diego restaurants. In keeping with the islander theme, fresh flora was added throughout.

The billiard tables that once occupied the upper level are gone. They've been replaced by more seating options, including a raised "community booth area" that holds up to 20 people.

"The synergy of the two Locals is that they have the same attitude. Both are fun and edgy with good local craft beer and incredible food," said Huffman. "But downtown caters to more of a lunch crowd, while PB attracts a big nightlife crowd, as well as being a restaurant."

Visitors to the Pacific Beach location can also expect a decidedly different menu, with some of the dishes created by Sven Rusch, who worked as an executive chef in Hawaii for 12 years.

Meats such as huli huli chicken, kahlua pork, brisket and Asian-style short ribs are put through a slow cooker overnight. They appear in plate form, sandwiches and tacos.

"We're going through quite a bit of them," said Huffman.

Their sidekicks and condiments include sticky rice, fresh macaroni salad, spicy coleslaw, pineapple sweet-and-sour sauce and other elements that beckon to tropical cuisine.

There is also coconut calamari, ahi poke with macadamia nuts



TAKING ON AN ISLAND THEME A neighborhood newcomer gives diners a taste of the tropics. Courtesy photos

and The Local's top-selling lobster tacos, which carry over from downtown. The tacos are made with char-grilled flour tortillas encasing three ounces of fresh tail meat from lobsters trawled along the West Coast.

Discounts on various tacos and drinks are offered from 5 to 10 p.m. on "tiki Tuesdays," when musician Ben Benevente provides patrons with live Hawaiian compositions. On other nights of the week, a host of popular DJs raise the beat with contemporary

Complementing an ambitious

craft-beer list that encompasses everything from IPAs and Belgians to lagers and pale ales are cocktails that remind visitors of their proximity to the sands, like Don the Beachcomber's Zombie, which mixes passion fruit with white and gold rum, and the Ron Mexico Margarita that earns its kick from fresh jalapenos.

The drink selection extends also to swooped-up Trader Vic-style mai tais accented with cloves and fresh ginger, as well as PB mules, blackberry daiquiris and "sandpail punch."

Although The Local's look and



MOUTHWATERING GOOD The Local's famous lobster tacos.

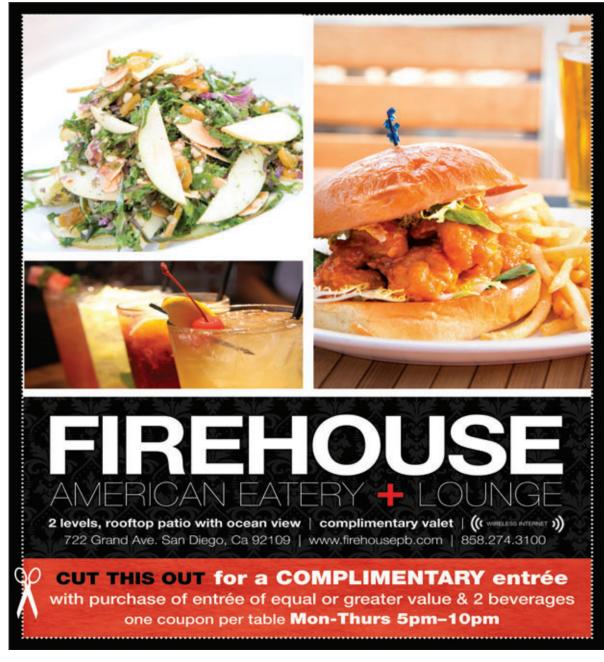
• The Local Pacific Beach 809 Thomas Ave. (858) 263-7475 www.thelocalpb.com.

flavor is noticeably different from its long-established predecessor, Huffman said devoted patrons of Nick's regularly drop in.

"We're still fresh and trying to get the word out that we're here," said Huffman. "But so far, we've had a very good following and reaction."

He said that in addition to offering lunch and dinner service, brunch will be introduced on Saturdays and Sundays starting Aug. 30.





MUSTHEAR >>

Comedy has returned to Pacific Beach! Wednesdays at Reds Saloon are now dedicated to laughs and fun, with touring comedians topping off each night. On Aug. 27, the club will feature a set from Nebraska native Tobe Hixx. Seen on such TV programs as "The Tonight Show," BET's "Comic View" and Laff Mobb's "We Got Next," Hixx is also a veteran of several entertainment tours of the Middle East, where he performed for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Be forewarned: the language can be strong, but so is the humor. Hixx's observational comedy, covering everything from the NBA to California's diverse population, is a great way to cure the midweek blues.

• TOBE HIXX: Wednesday, Aug. 27 at REDS SALOON, 4190 Mission Blvd. 9 p.m. thewoodgroupsd.com/reds.



LIVE *MUSIC* >>

By BART MENDOZA

Jazz fans won't want to miss a rare appearance by pianist Chase Morrin at Dizzy's on Aug. 22. One of the hot new rising jazz stars in San Diego scene over the last five years, Morrin's schedule has kept him playing out of town, so this event is a bit of a homecoming show. But it also happens to be Morrin's 21st birthday. Morrin truly is a major talent. If you haven't seen him yet, this intimate gig should be a priority before he begins playing much bigger and more expensive venues.

• **CHASE MORRIN:** Friday, Aug. 22 at **DIZZY'S,** 4275 Mission Bay Drive. 8 p.m. \$15. www.dizzys-jazz.com.

The Kona Kai Resort is a wonderful, scenic location for dining and dancing. Now, thanks to Barfly Promotions, it's also a great place to take in the best of San Diego's singer-songwriters. Each Sunday from 4 to 7 p.m., seven performers take the Vessel's Lounge stage, giving audiences a great opportunity to take in a lot of talent in one show. While at press time the lineup for Aug. 24 was to be determined, shows to date have included such top names as Trent Hancock, Israel

Maldonado and Jimmy Lewis of Superunloader. With this great mix of music, food and scenery, this is a great way to have a bit of fun before the start of the work week.

• SINGER-SONGWRITER SHOW-CASE: Sunday, Aug. 24, 4 p.m., at the KONA KAI RESORT, 1551 Shelter Island Drive. www.resortkonakai.com.

Saxophonist Aubrey Fay has been a mainstay of San Diego's jazz community for decades, his warm sound building a following through his excellent live performances. Also adept at jazz with pop and dance flavored inflections, Fay's music makes for terrific listening. But it also has enough rhythm and beat to keep anyone who'd like to hit the dance floor happy. His best album to date may be his 2008 disc, "Keep the Groove Alive," but Fay is someone you should catch live, where his music will fill the heart and soul and keep the toes tapping.

• AUBREY FAY: Tuesday, Aug. 26 at HUMPHREY'S BACKSTAGE LIVE, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. 7 p.m. \$5. www.humphreysbackstagelive.com.

Voting for the best cover band at this year's San Diego Music Awards is now open, and for fans of great dance music, it should come as no surprise that Detroit Underground is once again among the candidates. Appearing at Tio Leo's on Aug. 29, the band's secret to success is twofold: a terrific vocalist in Stellita Lindgren and a killer horn section, giving the band's funk and soul classics an edge over most of their competition. Add in great tunes from the likes of James Brown, The Temptations and Anita Baker, and this is a band that's custom made to fill any dance floor.

• **DETROIT UNDERGROUND:** Friday, Aug. 29 at **TIO LEO'S**, 5302 Napa St. 9 p.m. 21 and up. www.tioleos.com.

Looking for hard rock this week? Gunner Gunner will fit the bill. Appearing on Aug. 30 at the newly revamped Brick by Brick, the band is yet another great group of musicians to come out of La Jolla High School, joining a long list of great musicians who would become members of such combos as The Beat Farmers, Ratt and Rilo Kiley, as well as soloists like Alison Brown. Gunner Gunner's sound is similar to the likes of Alice in Chains or Stone Temple Pilots. So if you like your tunes loud, brash and full of adrenaline, then listening to this band is going to make your day.

• GUNNER GUNNER: Saturday, Aug. 30 at BRICK BY BRICK, 1130 Buenos Ave. 8:30 p.m. 21 and up. \$12. www.brickbybrick.com.

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So often, restaurants limit 'happy hour' to the late afternoon, making it hard for those with certain schedules to enjoy drink and food specials on a regular basis. The Patio on Lamont Street, however, offers happy hour during the week from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. on the weekends.

During happy hour, guests can enjoy half off draft beer, cool cocktails, and wines by the glass. Also, our happy hour bites menu is available everyday from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Chef Andre Fuentes recently added some new items to the menu, including roasted beet bruschetta, chef's selection of sausage plate, and smoked chicken sliders. They're great for sampling and sharing, too!

Happy hour is also the perfect time to host your next group outing. The loft area is a cozy and intimate space for rehearsal dinners, bridal showers, business meetings, and more. Let us help you plan an unforgettable event at The Patio.

Call 858-412-4648 or visit ThePatioRestaurants.com for more information.

August is upon us already, and with the water temperature being in the low 70s, it may seem like an odd time to talk about full winter wetsuits. My reasons are pretty simple: supply, demand and cost.

In past seasons when the water has been warm for this long, it has a tendency to continue to stay that way all through October and possibly into November.

I like warm water as much as anyone, but it can wreak havoc for both

Assessing wetsuit needs, cost factors

the wetsuit manufacturers and the retailers who sell them.

Neither of these groups of business people want to overproduce or stock just to have the latest and greatest cold-water gear hanging around warehouses and retail stores. The end result usually means less suits built, so a decent supply will be limited.

This also means that with a lower inventory

level, deals on wetsuits will be unlikely. My advice is to shop early and be prepared for when the water temperature does drop down, which always happens. Wait too long and you run the risk of having to wear your old suit throughout the season. Color and style options will be limited as well.

Speaking of wetsuits, seriously consider what you really need before you plunk down big bucks for a suit with a limited lifespan. Is all that super-stretch, triple-stitched technology really going to be needed or used? With decent suits ranging in price from around \$150 to \$550, serious consideration is in order.

All suits will keep you warm; some longer than others. The same is true for flexibility. Most often, the higher-end suits can be a bit warmer with more stretch, but don't expect to

get much more than a season out of them if you surf on a regular basis.

For my money, I stick to the mid-price suits in the \$195 to \$300 range. This means plenty of warmth and stretch for me with at least twice as long of a lifespan.

Do not buy a top-branded suit, as all are not created equal.

A bit of common sense and a rinse out on a regular basis will help to protect a suit, which in turn protects you from that cold winter water.

Bird's surf scoop



Photo by Goulding/jagmediaproductions.com

Bird Huffman

BUCCANEERS' NEW CAPTAIN The Mission Bay Cluster has revealed the naming of Ernest Remillard as the new principal at Mission Bay High School. Remillard was the principal at Pacific Beach Middle School, and he said he is ready to take the helm at the high school. Remillard brings boundless energy and a passion for the success of the MB Cluster of schools. Tom Yount, retired former Mission Bay High principal, will help with the transition at both Mission Bay High and at PBMS, serving as interim principal at the middle school until a permanent replacement can be found. Remillard has hit the ground running and is currently working at both schools to assure a smooth school opening on Sept. 2.



High school students complete unique project focusing on water quality at local waterfronts

A High Tech High 11thgrade class recently began publishing the results from its unique oceanic research project that uncovered water-quality issues in San Diego and exploring the public's general knowledge of these issues.

With the help of San Diego Coastkeeper, the students researched how different pollutants negatively affect the environment, conducted a survey of the general public and collected and tested water from six locations in San Diego — including sites along Mission Bay.

The research results from the project can be found in a blog series on Coastkeeper's blog.

For their "Oceans Away Project," High Tech High School teachers Tom Fehrenbacher and Heather Gastil organized more than 50 students into groups, each to explore different water-pollution topics like bacteria, cigarettes, fertilizers, heavy metals, plastics and prescription medications.

Through the partnership with Coastkeeper, the students were able to collect and test The research results done by local students can be found on Coastkeeper's blog at www.sdcoastkeeper.org.

their water samples from the Ocean Beach Pier, Ocean Beach Dog Beach, Mission Bay Bonita Cove, Mission Bay at Tecolote Creek, La Jolla Shores and La Jolla Children's Pool at San Diego Coastkeeper's lab.

Using the information they had gathered from the research and water testing phases, the students created a survey to learn about the public's awareness of pollution's impact on the environment. The students conducted the survey with more than 1,100 people in San Diego County.

When comparing the data to the survey results, organizers found the information to be quite surprising:

- 17 percent and 16 percent of San Diegans surveyed believed Ocean Beach Dog Beach and La Jolla Children's Pool, respectively, to be the most polluted of the six sites tested.
 - La Jolla Children's Pool

showed very low levels of bacteria overall.

• Mission Bay at Tecolote Creek, a common place for recreational activities including windsurfing, is the location with the consistently highest bacteria levels.

Organizers also noted 45 percent of people surveyed believed that education is the best way to resolve the waterquality issues in San Diego.

"In order to take care of our environment for the future, we have to teach the next generation how to do so," said Ben Staley, a High Tech High 11th-grader. "I am happy that others appreciate the gravity of the crisis and are willing to participate in a solution."

In addition to posting their findings on Coastkeeper's website, students presented their results at community events in San Diego.

For more information, visit San Diego Coastkeeper at www.sdcoastkeeper.org.

For more information about High Tech High, visit www.hightechhigh.org.

— Staff and contribution



EDUCATION *NOTEBOOK* >>

MISSION BAY HIGH

- New-student orientation and 9th-grade registration, Aug. 25, 9 a.m. to noon; 12th-grade registration, 12:30 to 3 p.m.
- 10th-grade registration, Tuesday, Aug. 26, 8 to 11:30 a.m.; 11th-grade registration, 12:30 to 3 p.m. Bring proof of residency and vaccination record.

MBHS athletics:

- Students planning to participate in a fall sport will need to obtain a physical examination and complete the athletic packet, found at sandi.net/mission-bay under "Athletics."
- Mission Bay High School girls' volleyball tryouts have started, and the teams look to be strong again this year. Practices run every day until the beginning of school with the first tournament taking place in Week 1. There is still room on the freshman team.

PB MIDDLE SCHOOL

• New-student orientation, Aug.

26, 9 a.m.

• Tryout for the 2014-15 PBMS surf team, the PB Locals, a competitive surfing team in the Scholastic Surfing Series Competition (surfSSS.com). The coaches and parents are committed to supporting the kids who want to develop their skills and be as successful as they can be in SSS competition. Tryouts in September. Visit facebook.com/PBLocals for updated information on tryout dates.

PB ELEMENTARY

- New-student orientation, Friday, Aug. 29, 1 p.m. in the PBE auditorium.
- First day of school, Tuesday, Sept. 2. Drop off student and join the Friends of Pacific Beach Elementary (FOPBE) for a "welcome coffee" in the lunch court.
- First Friends of Pacific Beach Elementary (FOPBE) meeting of the school year, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 6 p.m. in Room 9. FOPBE is the nonprofit foundation supporting PBE. Free childcare provided.

CROWN POINT JMA

CPJMA Back to School



WORK UNDER WAY Construction on the Mission Bay High School football stadium/track and field is making great progress. More than two weeks ahead of schedule, the MBHS "Field of Dreams" is slated to be completed by late March 2015. The football field will be receiving a new track, bleachers, press box, athletic facilities building, lights, sound system, scoreboard and goalposts, equipment-storage facilities and new home and visitor entrance gates. The grass will be replaced with new synthetic turf, and there will be an all-weather track.

Resource Fair, Thursday, Aug. 28, 3:30 to 6 p.m.

• This year, we have teamed up

with local businesses to give our parents and stu-

dents the information and resources needed to start the new school year. Meet teachers and staff, learn about after-school and during-school music clubs and visit a variety of informational booths.

• Kindergarten orientation. Tuesday, Sept. 2, 7:40 to 8:40 a.m.; classroom orientation, 7:40 to 8:15 a.m., followed by an orientation with the principal from 8:15 to 8:40 a.m. All-school discipline assembly, 8 a.m. in the auditorium.

KATE SESSIONS ELEMENTARY

• The 2014-15 school year will begin at Kate Sessions Elementary School on Sept. 2. The custodial staff has been working to clean the school while district crews have been installing a new portable building. Two new teachers have been added to the staff: Carolyn Willis and Debra Junghans.

FRIENDS OF PACIFIC BEACH SEC-ONDARY SCHOOLS

FOPBSS meeting in the Pacific Beach Middle School library, Wednesday, Aug. 27. Join friends and neighbors for the first FOPBSS meeting of the school year to learn about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

MISSION BAY CLUSTER

The Mission Bay Cluster (MBC) is an organization that represents the six public schools in Pacific Beach — Mission Bay High, PB Middle, Sessions Elementary, PB Elementary, Crown Point Junior Music Academy and Barnard Asian Pacific Language Academy. Meetings are usually the first Thursday of the month and rotate between the six public schools. The first cluster meeting of the school yearwill be Thursday, Sept. 4, Mission Bay High School, 6 p.m.



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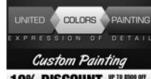
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ORCAS» CONT. FROM PG. 1

SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc. has also pledged \$10 million in matching funds for killer-whale research and plans a "multi-million dollar partnership" to focus on ocean health, officials said. The research includes projects to understand killer whales' hearing ranges and gain information into their nutritional status and reproduc-

"For 50 years, SeaWorld has transformed how the world views marine life. The unprecedented access to marine mammals that our parks provide has increased our knowledge of the ocean and inspired generations," Atchison said. "Our new killer-whale homes and research initiatives have just as bold a vision: to advance the global understanding of these animals, to educate and to inspire conservation efforts to protect killer whales in the wild."

Not everyone was thrilled by the news of SeaWorld's orca-tank

"Our new killerwhale homes and research initiatives have ... a bold vision: to advance the global understanding of these animals ... and to inspire conservation efforts to protect killer whales in the wild."

JIM ATCHISON SeaWorld president/CEO

expansion.

Martha Sullivan, a volunteer community organizer who's been actively lobbying for the retirement of SeaWorld orcas, said SeaWorld's decision is all about the marine park's bottom line — not altruism.

"SeaWorld Entertainment Inc. reported revenues in 2013 of \$2.4 billion," said Sullivan. "The \$10 million included in its 'Blue World'

pitch for supposed 'research' to benefit wild orcas is 0.004 percent of their revenue. Big deal. No aquarium, no tank in a marine land, however spacious it may be, can begin to duplicate the conditions of the sea," said Sullivan, quoting legendary underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau.

Sullivan claimed that, of 137 orcas captured in the wild since 1961, 13 remain alive (three in San Diego), with an average lifespan of four years in captivity.

"One of the three survivors here in San Diego, Corky, is the longestheld orca in captivity in the world, at 45 years this Dec. 11," she wrote. "Kasatka and Ulises, the other two wild-caught orca survivors in San Diego, have been in captivity for 35 years. When do these performing animals get to retire?

"SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc. is willing to spend several hundreds of millions of dollars to double the surface area of its orca tank in San Diego and add 15 feet of depth to the new half of it and subject the orca and other animals held nearby to the tremendous disruption of

major construction over three years," Sullivan concluded. "SWE Inc.'s priorities are very clear."

SeaWorld has taken a number of hits—both financially and in terms of public relations — in recent months. Animal-rights activists continue to regularly picket the park, protesting against orca captiv-

Point Loma activist Alana Coons and others are petitioning the City Council to ask it to direct SeaWorld to only use fireworks alternatives for their nightly summer shows.

In the wording of an online petition drive protesting SeaWorld's pyrotechnics displays, Coons claims, "SeaWorld is damaging the quality of life of hundreds of thousands of San Diegans who live within a 20mile radius on a nightly basis every

day for three months straight ... The fireworks at SeaWorld constitute animal cruelty ... We are asking the San Diego City Council to ban the fireworks at SeaWorld and ask them to switch to laser-light shows, which are kinder to animals and the environment and show a courteous and decent neighborly behavior to San Diegans."

SeaWorld's stock has also reportedly dropped 33 percent recently because of declining attendance.

In March, a controversial bill designed to ban orca shows in California was introduced, but an Assembly committee delayed action on it to conduct further study.

For more information on the Blue World Project, visit www.seaworld.com/blueworld.

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