

LEAGUE CHAMPS

Led by coach Steve Upp, the Mission Bay varsity girls' volleyball team won the Eastern League championship for the first time in the school's history.

PAGE 11



SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015

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Michelle Rosa

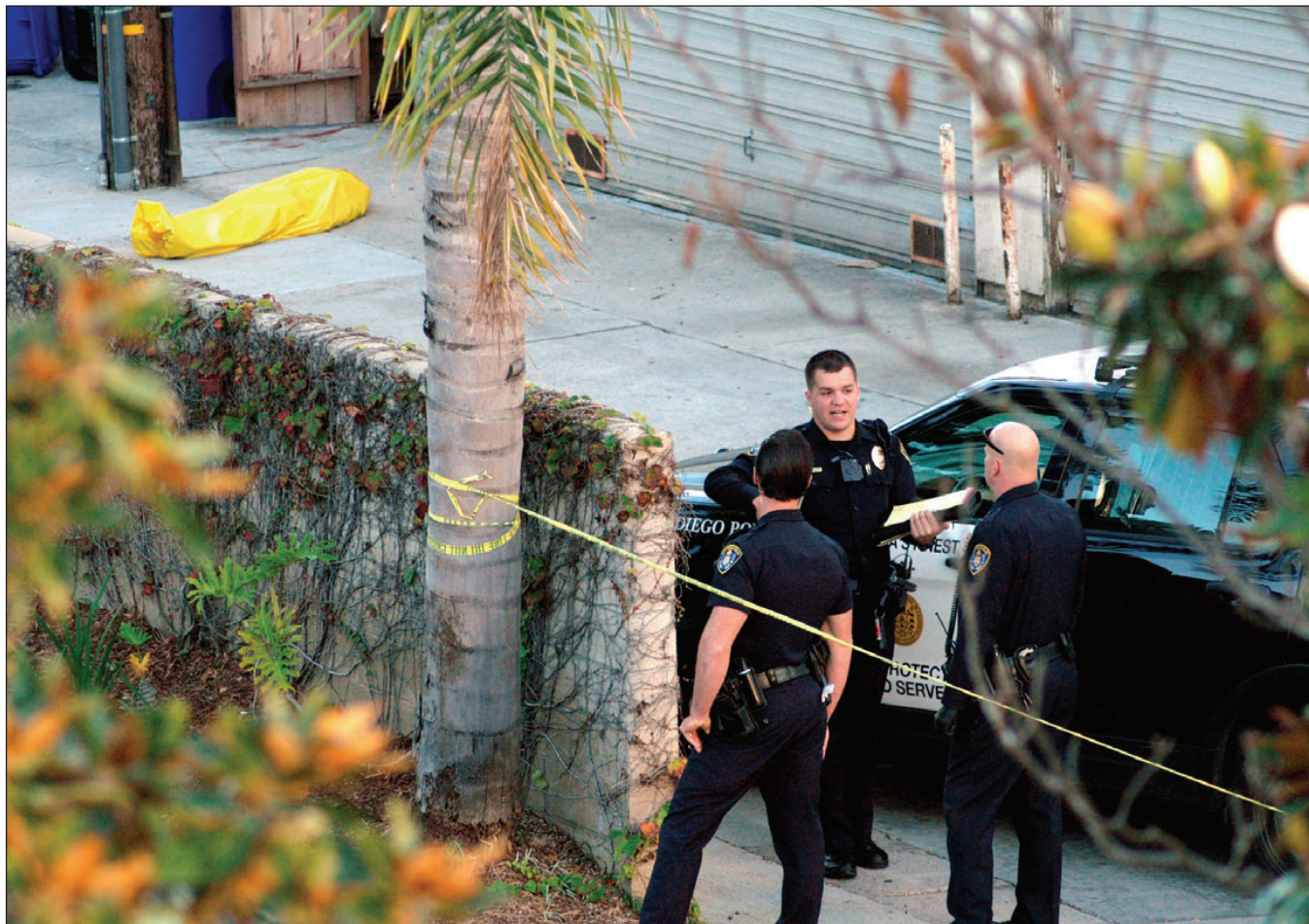
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To the left of the officers, the body of Timothy Gene Smith is wrapped in yellow plastic in the alley between Thomas and Grand avenues. Smith, wanted for several felony warrants out of Missouri, was shot and killed by police on Nov. 4.

PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE

Police still investigating fatal shooting in PB

By DAVE SCHWAB

San Diego police are continuing their investigation into the Nov. 4 officer-involved shooting of a wanted man who attempted to hide in an alley between Pacific Beach apartment complexes.

On Nov. 4 at 2:58 p.m., police officers on patrol in the 1700 block of Garnet Avenue recognized a 47-year-old white male suspect wanted for several felony warrants out of Missouri. The suspect, Timothy Gene Smith, was considered armed and dangerous.

'Police have body-camera video of the officer-involved shooting incident, and that will be reviewed.'

CAPT. DAVID NISLEIT
SDPD HOMICIDE

Officers attempted to contact Smith, but he immediately ran southbound through an apartment complex. Officers pursued the suspect on foot for approxi-

mately two blocks but momentarily lost sight of him.

San Diego Police Air Support arrived and located the suspect hiding in a shed between two apartment buildings in an alley that connects Jewell and Ingraham streets between Grand and Thomas avenues, near a KFC restaurant and several residential buildings.

More officers and a K-9 unit arrived and set up a perimeter around the shed.

SEE SHOOTING, Page 6

SeaWorld San Diego to phase out orca shows

Conservation-style exhibit to debut in 2017

By DAVE SCHWAB

Apparently bowing to public opposition to its killer whale shows, which some have branded as commercial exploitation, SeaWorld announced it will phase out its orca shows in 2016 and replace them with a "more natural" whale experience debuting in 2017.

Announcement of changes to SeaWorld's cur-

rent business model was made Nov. 9 during a live webcast of the theme park and entertainment company's annual investor meeting. Joel Manby, SeaWorld Entertainment's president/CEO, said the company intends to reposition itself "by evolving the guest experience to align with consumer preferences for experiences that matter —

SEE SEAWORLD, Page 12

PB Planning Group brainstorms to improve commercial district

By DAVE SCHWAB

The Pacific Beach Planning Group recently brainstormed ideas for transforming the community's commercial core, with the advisory group's chair pointing out that "nothing will change" until or unless a funding mechanism is found and put into place.

"We have a lot of exciting things going on with the new (planned) trolley stop, De Anza Cove trailer

'We have a lot of exciting things going on...'

BRIAN CURRY
PB PLANNING GROUP CHAIR

park closing, the strip mall at 1640 Garnet Ave. reopening and PB Pathways and other planned park and beach improvements," said group chair

SEE PLANNING, Page 10

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Pacific Beach Holiday Parade set for Dec. 12

By DAVE SCHWAB

Pacific Beach's annual holiday parade will go on.

"We are about halfway to our fundraising goal to raise \$18,000 needed to stage the annual Pacific Beach Holiday Parade, set for Saturday, Dec. 12, starting at 1 p.m.," said Sara Berns, executive director of Discover PB, the beach community's Business Improvement District, which stages the affair.

Berns added Discover PB "has set aside savings to cover a gap in the parade fundraising for one year. But our hope is to fully fund this time-honored event so we can continue it throughout the years."

Berns said the BID is currently selling "float blocks."

"For anyone that donates \$200, they receive a 2-foot by 4-foot block on the Discover PB float thanking them for their donation," she said. She added that such donations have thus far been contributed by the PB Town Council, US Bank, PB Shore Club, Councilmember Lorie Zapf and "neighbors that have contributed to our GoFundMe account."

"Any little bit will help," said Berns, directing donors to visit www.gofundme.com/PBHolidayParade or call Discover PB's offices at (858) 273-3303.

WANT TO HELP?

- The annual Pacific Beach Holiday Parade is still short of its fundraising goal.
- To help out, call Discover PB at (858) 273-3303 or donate at www.gofundme.com/PBHolidayParade.

Checks should be made payable to Discover Pacific Beach and be mailed to Discover PB, 1503 Garnet Ave., San Diego, CA 92109. Email or scan all signed and completed entry forms or questions to Ann@pacificbeach.org.

The Dec. 12 PB Holiday Parade will begin at 1 p.m. with a spirited procession of colorful floats, classic cars and the vibrant sounds of the Pacific Beach Middle and Mission Bay High school bands marching west down six blocks of Garnet Avenue from Haines to Cass streets. Spectators are encouraged to line the streets before the parade to get the best vantage point of the lively event, then stick around to enjoy the many amenities the beachside community has to offer.

The parade was established in 1977. The tradition, however, has experienced a couple setbacks over the years because of a lack of funding, forcing its cancellation in 2009, its revival in 2010 and its cancella-

tion again in 2011.

Year-end festivities in PB will also include Christmas on Crystal Pier on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 2 to 5:30 p.m. as well as a communitywide window decorating contest.

Come join Santa on Crystal Pier Dec. 5 and get your picture taken with him. And don't forget to bring a donation of supplies for local schools. The pier will be festooned with Christmas wreaths decorated by local community members and merchants.

The general public is encouraged to decorate and hang a wreath on the pier. Discover PB provides bare wreaths for \$20 that can be customized. Wreaths will be exhibited on the pier through New Year's. The wreaths are available at Discover PB's offices at 1503 Garnet Ave. To be hung up on the pier, they must be decorated and returned to the offices by Friday, Dec. 4.

Discover PB will also judge the entrants and name a winner in the annual community window decorating contest. The winner will be featured in Beach & Bay Press. PB businesses willing to participate in the window dressing contest should call (858) 273-3303.

For more information, visit pacificbeach.org.

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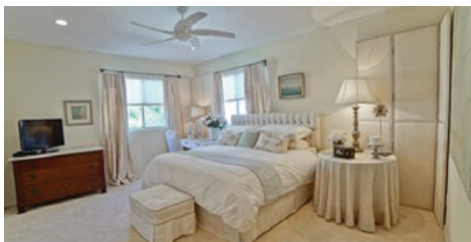
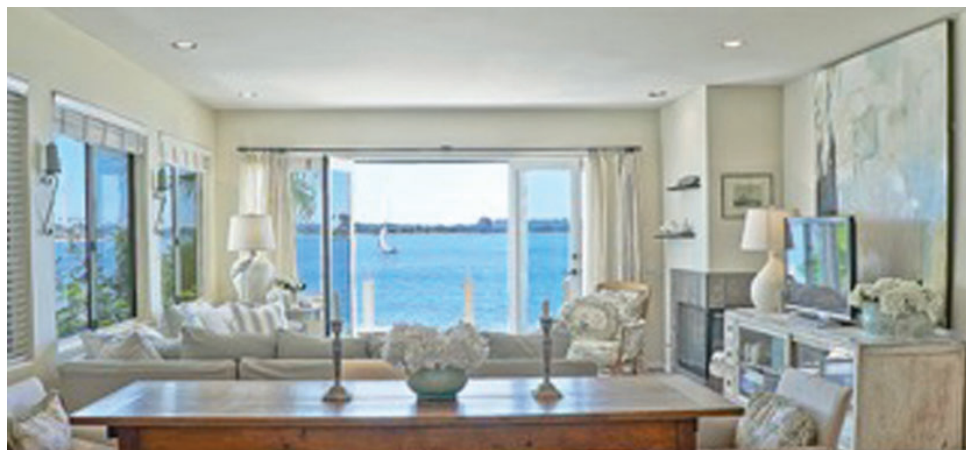
This one of a kind single story custom designed home is located in the highly coveted area of North Pacific Beach. The architect was able to tastefully blend the traditional features of a beach cottage with a modern design with ample windows, an open floor plan, and french doors throughout. The layout of the home creates a flawless flow from room to room and from indoor to outdoor living space.

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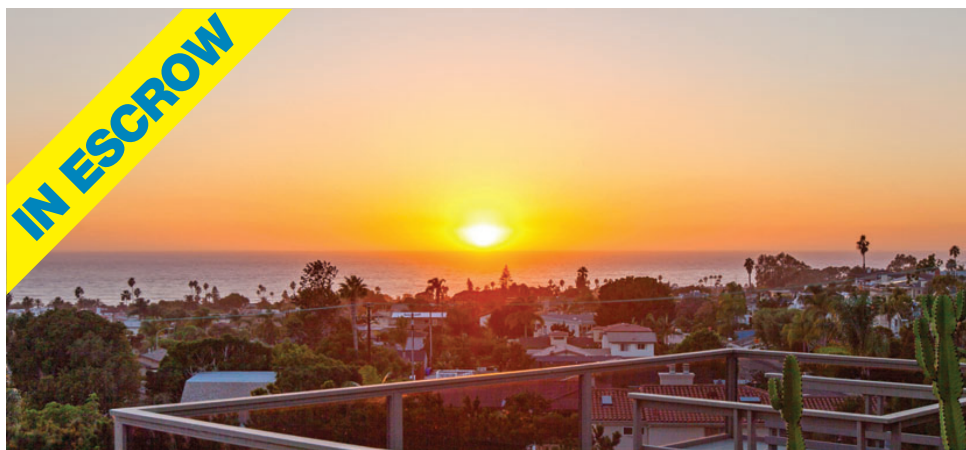
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The City Council honors Pacific Beach Town Council and the Police and Emergency Services Appreciation Night in recognition of 35 years of hosting this end-of-summer barbecue event. Nov. 17 was named PAESAN Day in San Diego. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Police and Emergency Services Appreciation Night appreciated

By DAVE SCHWAB

The originators of Police and Emergency Services Appreciation Night (PAESAN), held annually in Pacific Beach, were honored with a proclamation from the city on Nov. 17 saluting their efforts in commending the community's first responders.

Thirty-five years ago, PAESAN was begun by two women, Annie McDaniel and Mary Wilding, members of Pacific Beach Town Council (PBTC). Sponsored by PBTC ever since, PAESAN has become one of the community's signature events.

Every fall, PB residents get together at Crown Point for hot dogs, hamburgers and some fresh-grilled fish with all the fixings. It's no ordinary end-of-the-season cookout but rather a fundraiser for PAESAN organized by PBTC. It's attended by representatives from the San Diego Police

Department, San Diego Fire-Rescue and the city's Park and Rec department, all honored for their service.

"Each year, one of those departments receives a check to help with expenses that the city budget doesn't cover," said PBTC president/director Marcella Teran. "This year, for the first time ever, two people who aren't city employees, McDaniel and Wilding, who founded PAESAN three and a half decades ago, were honored."

Noting PAESAN is "the only one of its kind in the City of San Diego," Teran pointed out McDaniel and Wilding "didn't want just the PBTC to thank the police, fire and lifeguards" but instead "wanted our whole community to come out and honor them as well."

In recent years, park rangers were added to the group of public protectors being honored and supported by PAESAN.

"A few years ago," said Teran, "past PBTC President Joe Wilding decided to raise money to support one of these departments. In recent years, the PBTC has raised money for bike lights and radios for the Police Beach Team bikes, retrofitted the kitchen and part of the garage for the lifeguards and partnered with the Mission Beach Women's Club to renovate Fire Station 21's kitchen. This year, PBTC donated \$3,000 to the Park Rangers to buy equipment the City would not cover."

PB community planner and activist Eve Anderson noted that back in 1982, when Mary Wilding and PB Town Council board members started PAESAN, they tied it in with TAG (Tourists Are Gone) parties, wherein "folks in PB and Mission Beach celebrated among themselves regaining their nice, quiet beaches after Labor Day."

"That original event was held in the Catamaran, charging the grand sum of \$3," said Anderson.

In 1985, Anderson said, PBTC realized there were "more people to thank, including lifeguards, firefighters and paramedics (no park rangers back then). To honor them and to include families in the event, it was moved outdoors to Crown Point Shores, where it's been held for 30 years. That's when it was renamed PAESAN, Police And Emergency Services Appreciation Night."

Anderson added that Mary Wilding, as PBTC executive secretary, was the energy behind the event, saying she was "outgoing and ever-helpful and seemed to know everyone in PB. She also worked closely with the police and the rest of the emergency service providers and felt strongly that they deserved more public credit for the service they provided year-round to PB."

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Authentic Thai and Lao cuisine at the beach

By DAVE SCHWAB

Of several eateries located within the Promenade at Pacific Beach Shopping Center, Coconut Thai Asian Bistro is the only exotic choice.

Labeled by one Yelp commentator as “a really yummy little Thai place right by the beach,” Coconut Thai is a family owned and operated authentic Thai and Lao cuisine restaurant at 4150 Mission Blvd., Suite 113.

“This is our first restaurant,” noted Watthana Miller, who along with sister Soukha Munesaleum, has run the beach bistro since February.

The two sisters come from divergent business backgrounds. Watthana was a manager at Best Buy for 17 years. Soukha worked as a supervisor at the Barona Indian Reservation for nine. Previously, both were paired up operating a food truck based off Market Street in downtown San Diego.

“We were operating out of that (truck) throughout San Diego,” said Watthana, who pointed out that food trucks can be 10 degrees or more hotter than the outside temperature inside. “We had the opportunity to look around to see if maybe we could get a brick-and-mortar location, someplace to come to every day and work,” she said.

The two women found a space for sale at the Promenade. Pointing out the bistro's name derives from coconut, which is one of the core ingredients of Thai and Laotian cuisine, Watthana said she likes their location being in the center of the Promenade mall near local lodging.

“We get a lot of tourists from the Catamaran and the other hotels,” she said.

Coconut Thai is surrounded by other restaurants that feature more classic fare, the likes of steak, seafood, pizza, and an old-style American diner.

Watthana said they like being the neighborhood's “alternative” choice for food.

“We just had a patron in from



Watthana Miller in her restaurant Coconut Thai Asian Bistro in Pacific Beach.

PHOTO BY DAVE SCHWAB

COCONUT THAI ASIAN BISTRO

Where: 4150 Mission Blvd.

Hours: Open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., 5 to 9 p.m. Mondays

Contact: www.coconutthai.pb.com or (858) 272-2456.

Boston, and they said, ‘I’m so sick of having American and Mexican food — I’m so happy that you’re here,’” Watthana said, adding, “She came for lunch today, and she’ll be back again tomorrow.”

The Asian bistro is very comfortably appointed with lots of pillows lying around in the booths along with wall murals and even some local beachy photography that had been in the retail space, which previously was Diego's hot dogs and a Submarina sandwich shop.

Noting the bistro is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., 5 to 9 p.m. Mondays, Coconut Thai's lunch menu boasts edamame steamed soybeans, fried tofu, Thai egg rolls, chicken satay, dumplings stuffed with chicken, crab puffs, fresh summer rolls, steamed mussels and fried shrimp and calamari.

“Our lunches are very good, and for \$6.95 you get a side house salad with peanut sauce or one of our spicy or sour soups,” Watthana said.

For a \$3 delivery charge, the restaurant will deliver food within a 5-mile radius.

The dinner menu is equally attractive, featuring items like mixed vegetables in oyster sauce, a spicy papaya salad combo plate, curries and rice of various styles, eggplant

and cashew nuts. Lao entrees include Larb Kai (chicken), Larb Seen (beef) and Larb Tofu.

The sisters plan to expand the menu to include children's choices. Soukha said they will also be featuring seasonal vegetables like pumpkin as well as offering their family's homemade pork sausage recipe.

Watthana said their family with seven children immigrated to the United States in 1983. There are now 22 children and grandchildren, all pictured in a photo mounted on one wall. Watthana and Soukha's older brother is also a restaurateur, owning a Thai restaurant, The King and I, in Connecticut.

“We came with the mindset of family first, and we make sure we take pride in this restaurant, from the front of the house all the way to the back,” said Watthana, noting she and her staff “make sure we take care of the customers' needs any way possible.”

Local businesses beating out national brands in PB

What do the businesses Vallarta Express, El Paisa and Board & Brew have in common? All three beat out national, name-brand tenants for signalized corner locations in Pacific Beach. Local businesses are willing to pay rent and ask for reduced tenant improvement allowances from landlords than national name-brand tenants.

The 2,006-square-foot drive-through building at 1375 Garnet Ave. in Pacific Beach was previously occupied by Carl's Jr. The restaurant building was replaced by the Mexican eatery Vallarta Express.

Carl's Jr. was one of the leading candidates to occupy the vacant

property at 980 Grand Ave., originally built as El Pollo Loco in 1990 and previously occupied by Alberto's Mexican Food.

However, the 1,932-square-foot space was recently leased to the Mexican grill El Paisa. The space was leased for \$5.18 per square foot, essentially \$10,000 per month.

Another prime restaurant space, located at 4516 Mission Blvd., was previously occupied by Fatburger. The commercial space was leased to Board & Brew, a local surf-themed restaurant chain that serves sandwiches and, if they can obtain the license, craft beers.

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When you decide to sell your home, setting your asking price is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Depending on how a buyer is made aware of your home, price is often the first thing he or she sees, and many homes are discarded by prospective buyers as not being in the appropriate price range.

Your asking price is often your home's “first impression,” and if you want to realize the most money you can for your home, it's imperative that you make a good first impression.

This is not as easy as it sounds, and pricing strategy should not be taken lightly. Pricing too high can be as costly to a homeseller as pricing too low. A

recent study, which compiles 10 years of industry research, has resulted in a new special report entitled “Home-sellers: How to Get the Price You Want (and Need).” This report will help you understand pricing strategy from three different angles. When taken together, this information will help you price your home to not only sell, but sell at the price you want.

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Gelson's to buy former Haggen store in North PB

Gelson's will take over the former Haggen store at 730 Turquoise St. in North Pacific Beach and open a new grocery store there early next year.

Gelson's also won final approval to buy five other Haggen properties in Southern California, including another one in San Diego at Via de la Valle, Del Mar. Terms of the agreement were not announced.

“We're excited to become part of these communities, a process that may take time in order to customize stores for each neighborhood,” said Gelson's president and CEO Rob McDougall. “Our goal is to retain as

many local Haggen workers as possible while also giving opportunities to existing Gelson's employees as well as others who wish to join the Gelson's family.”

Haggen filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy this past September. Gelson's was selected as Stalking Horse bidder in mid-October and anticipates closing on the stores late this year. Gelson's plans to relaunch its purchased stores early next year under its own brand with initial improvements to product selection and merchandising, followed several months later by

redesign and construction.

Existing pharmacies will remain open during the transition. In addition to the newly acquired locations, Gelson's is on track to open new stores in Rancho Mission Viejo and Manhattan Beach.

Founded in 1951, Gelson's currently operates 18 full-service specialty grocery stores in Southern California. Each Gelson's Market features the full amenities of a traditional supermarket, with the local flavor of a neighborhood market. For more information about Gelson's, visit www.gelsons.com.

The Pacific Beach Community Foundation

would like to thank the following donors who helped make our *Wine Tasting fundraiser* a success

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And *Special Thanks* to the BROKEN YOLK CAFE for hosting the event and generously providing wonderful food and service.

All Souls' Saint Nicholas Home Tour

A Point Loma Holiday Tradition celebrates its 64th year this December. Begin your holiday season with friends and family on a tour of four Point Loma homes!

The All Souls' Saint Nicholas Home Tour is happening on **Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** This year our theme is "A View From Point Loma". Each home on the Tour has a unique view of Point Loma from Sunset Cliffs and La Playa Cove to Downtown San Diego and San Diego Bay. Get a rare look **inside** San Diego's most beautiful homes and support local community programs! Our homes have undergone extensive renovations by the current owners and, in addition to breathtaking views, contain unique collections of art.

As part of the Tour, guests are welcome to stop by All Souls' Episcopal Church to shop for hand-crafted treasures and homemade delicacies at the Saint Nicholas Marketplace from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Enjoy a tasty lunch at the Saint Nicholas Café from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tour the church campus to see The All Souls' historic collection of art and artifacts then relax in our Saint Nicholas Tea Room. Don't miss the our opportunity drawing.

The funds raised benefit many local community assistance programs, including the Peninsula Shepherd Senior Center, Episcopal Church Center, Maseno Hospital (Kenya) and the Loaves and Fishes food pantry.

Where: All Souls' Episcopal Church 1475 Catalina Boulevard San Diego, CA 92107

When: Saturday, December 5, 2015 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30 per ticket before the Tour or \$35 day of the Tour

Tickets are available for purchase online at www.all-souls.com and are also available at All Souls' Episcopal Church, Walter Andersen Nursery, To the Point Café, Mission Hills Nursery and Ace Hardware.

Contact: For information, contact All Souls' Episcopal Church, 1475 Catalina Boulevard San Diego, CA 92107; (619)223-6394, www.all-souls.com

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All Souls' Episcopal Church
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DECEMBER 5, 2015
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Tea 1:00 - 4:00 pm

1475 Catalina Blvd (619) 223-6394
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Exchange ticket for map Nov. 30-Dec. 5 9:00 am-4:00 pm at:
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Campland on the Bay set records this summer

Campland on the Bay, San Diego's popular campground and marina located on Mission Bay, posted gains in July for both occupancy and revenue that outpaced bullish projections, according to Michael Gelfand, president of the 40-acre park. He said that, typical for Campland, the majority of July campers were San Diego residents, many of whom make the local beachfront campground an annual tradition.

"We really pushed our 2015 projections for July, historically our busiest month of the year," Gelfand said. "Campland is really bustling in July, and many families make it a tradition to visit at the peak of summer for beachfront camping and watersports and for the social opportunities with other campers. Kids especially enjoy the games, sports and activities that allow them to make fast friends."

Gelfand said the park's popular summer concert series of live bands

on the Campland stage is also a draw. Campland featured 11 live bands on weekends in July, largely tribute bands such as Ozzmania, No Duh, Black Eyed Tease, Turn the Page (Bob Seeger tribute) and Vitalogy (Pearl Jam tribute).

With nearly 600 tent and RV campsites, the park booked 123 more site nights (reservations) than projected, for a total of 15,623 site nights in July.

"We thought our site night projections reflected capacity, though we somehow were able to exceed that in order to meet the demand," according to Gelfand, who added that reservations for July are accepted and heavily booked two years out. General revenue from campsites tallied 3 percent above projections for July 2015 and outpaced July 2014 performance by approximately 5.5 percent.

Gelfand noted that July of 2015 had four weekends, which under-

scores the true gains when comparing previous revenue records for July, when the calendar often included five weekends.

In addition to campsite revenue, several other areas of the park posted strong performance, according to Gelfand. The Campland market, featuring sundries, food, camping supplies, branded clothing and merchandise, outperformed July projections by nearly 7.5 percent. New menu items, including pizza, allowed the Hungry Wolf Café to exceed revenue expectations by 5 percent. While the marina met its July target, it was 3 percent ahead of July of 2014.

Campland on the Bay is located on land leased from the city. July's transient occupancy tax provided about 40 percent of total taxes the campground forwarded to city coffers. Totalling \$364,000, it is the largest single month TOT contribution in the park's 46-year history.

Mixed-use building in Mission Beach sold and leased

The once-dilapidated mixed-use commercial building at 3864 Mission Blvd. in Mission Beach has been sold for \$1.19 million. The Franco Realty Group represented the buyer on the transaction.

The property includes roughly 1,500 square feet of downstairs retail space and an upstairs one-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment with access to a large rooftop patio deck.

The building once bore earmarks of deferred maintenance and sat vacant for a couple years, recently undergoing extensive renovations. The property features an outside wood patio and seating area and a

modernized interior with wood beams, high ceilings and new flooring throughout. Furthermore, the building has recently been approved by the California Coastal Commission for adding two bedrooms and two baths.

The buyer paid cash, with a quick close of escrow. The buyer is Canadian investor Elena Savella, and The Franco Realty Group was given the task of finding a tenant to lease the downstairs retail space. Within a week, the group found a qualified tenant, who plans on opening another boutique clothing store called Lane's Collective—a clothing store that carries trendy and con-

temporary men's and women's apparel as well as custom jewelry, accessories, handbags, shoes and more.

Savella also purchased the commercial real estate located at 1146-1148 Garnet Ave., which has two retail stores and one 2,200-square-foot residential apartment in the back. Savella and her team, which the Franco group also represented on the Garnet property, have spearheaded extensive renovation on the apartment.

For more information regarding the sale or leased portion of the transaction, call The Franco Realty Group at (858) 717-1697.

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SHOOTING » CONT. FROM PG. 1

As an officer gave several verbal commands to surrender, the suspect suddenly ran from the shed and attempted to jump over an adjoining fence. The police dog was deployed and bit the suspect on the foot before the suspect broke free and jumped the fence.

Smith then climbed onto a ledge on the neighboring apartment building and turned toward Sgt. Scott Holslag while reaching into his pockets, police said.

Holslag gave several more verbal commands to show his hands, but Smith refused to comply and continued to reach into his pockets, appearing to retrieve something, according to police. Holslag believed the suspect was retrieving a weapon and feared for his safety and the safety of the public. Holslag discharged his handgun, striking the suspect in the torso.

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Maruta Gardner recognized

San Diego City Council and District 2 Councilmember Lorie Zapf (left) recently proclaimed Nov. 3 as Maruta Gardner Day. The proclamation was given in recognition of Gardner's years of service to the community through the Women's Club, for her graffiti eradication work and for her most recent effort to upgrade the playground at Bonita Cove through the 'Play by the B' fundraising effort. Gardner (right) was awarded a framed ceremonial proclamation signed by the City Council.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

PLANNING »

CONT. FROM PG. 1

Brian Curry. "But our commercial district is lagging behind. I invite all of you to look at the deficiencies of our commercial district and think openly about what we can do to improve it."

"We've got to start now on planning it (commercial redevelopment) or it's never going to happen," warned Curry, who pointed out that "not one penny will come for it from the city's general fund."

"We need to find a way to generate the revenues to do it," Curry concluded.

Acknowledging revenue-generating plans like paid parking have been historically unpopular in PB, Curry suggested that "We have to be willing to bite the bullet in putting suggestions like that onto the table."

Curry foresees three revenue-generating possibilities to pay for commercial district improvements: property-tax assessments, parking revenues and/or creation of a special business assessment district.

Curry's call to action gained immediate traction with other members of the advisory group and residents attending the group's monthly meeting.

Asked about the potential for raising revenues through paid parking, Sara Berns, executive director of Discover PB, the com-

munity's Business Improvement District, noted Little Italy, which has instituted paid parking in its five-block commercial area, generates about \$700,000 a year.

"I was skeptical about paid parking until I saw the numbers," responded group board member Tony Franco, a commercial Realtor. "I feel now it's a necessary evil if we want to achieve things like clean sidewalks and branding ourselves."

Berns also talked about a "Garnet Vision Plan" and a "Better Block Concept."

"The 'Better Block' project is a demonstration tool that rebuilds an area using grassroots efforts to show the potential to create a great walkable, vibrant neighborhood center," emailed Berns after the meeting. "The project acts as a living charrette so that communities can actively engage in the 'complete streets' build-out process and develop pop-up businesses to show the potential for revitalized economic activity in an area."

Berns said the idea is to take one block of Garnet between Mission Boulevard and Bayard Street and implement concepts from the Garnet Vision "using fundraising and community contributions so that we can highlight to property owners, city officials and those looking to invest in the future of the business district the vision we have for our community."

Berns said the Pacific Beach Hospitality Group has committed some

funding already to trim and light the trees on the Better Block.

"As far as implementation goes, really the sky is the limit depending on how much we can fundraise from different sources," she said. "The idea would be to clean the street in a manner we could if we had funding from a Maintenance Assessment District, for example, add landscaping, street furniture, bike parking or maybe even a parklet."

Berns added that the first step is to work with a landscape architect or designer willing to sketch the ideas into reality and then move forward on fundraising to make them come to life.

"We (Discover Pacific Beach) will be working with all the community groups, including Beautiful PB, PB Planning Group and PB Town Council, to pull all our resources and hopefully build something great," she said.

Board member Scott Chipman noted "we have a hodgepodge of decay in our business district," adding "we have to have a vision and a plan in place (for improvements)."

Longtime PB resident Micaela Porte noted "lots of wondrous things have changed in PB" while adding that the community has a two-mile commercial strip to contend with, not a compact five blocks like Little Italy.

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Steve Upp (left) and the Mission Bay varsity girls volleyball team won the Eastern League championship for the first time in the school's history. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mission Bay girls volleyball takes Eastern League title

Led by coach Steve Upp, the Mission Bay varsity girls volleyball team is the Eastern League champion for the first time in the school's history.

These young women have proven their skills and strength against some of the finest high school programs in San Diego, including Coronado, UC, Christian, Serra and other powerhouse teams. The team's 22-4 overall record is a best for Mission Bay girls' volleyball. They will receive a banner of recognition that will hang in the MBHS gym with the other league champions.

This talented team also won the 12th annual Bucs Bash Tournament at the end of September. Competing against teams from all over San Diego County, the Bucs swept the tournament.

"This year's team is the best team that I have coached at Mission Bay High," said Upp. "They have worked very hard. Many play volleyball almost year-round and many have been on the MBH beach team. They have great chemistry and play without personal egos, but rather for each other."

Upp believes the middle school program run by Dennis Guildehaus has helped get girls interested and started early in volleyball. He also credits the Starlings Volleyball Program for giving players more opportunity to play.

Upp played volleyball for Point Loma High and played four years at UCSD. He was the head coach of the UCSD men's team in 1981 and assistant coach of the Point Loma girls teams from 1982 to 1995. Upp started back with volleyball with the Starlings Program at Mission Bay in 2002 and was asked to coach the MBHS freshman team that year.

"My son Erik was starting Mission Bay High School and I wanted to be involved in the school," he said. Upp has been coaching varsity volleyball for 13 years at MBHS

and has also run beach volleyball tournaments in the summer since 1985.

"I continue to coach," he said, "because I enjoy it and like supporting Mission Bay. I get great support from the athletic director Jorge Palacios, principal Ernest Remillard, and from volunteer program director Dave Beza."

Both of Upp's children, Erik and Megan, graduated from Mission Bay High and played volleyball.

EDUCATION NOTEBOOK >>

Pacific Beach Middle

■ PBMS December tour takes place Thursday, Dec. 3 at 8 a.m. in the upstairs library.

PBES

■ Friends of Pacific Beach Elementary School invites residents to join in on a 14-year tradition and partnership with Missoula Children's Theatre as the students of grades K through 5 present "Peter and Wendy" at Pacific Beach Elementary School's auditorium on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 2:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$4 for children and \$6 for adults and are available at Pacific Beach Elementary School's office, 1234 Tourmaline St., and at the door.

The Missoula Children's Theatre residency in Pacific Beach is presented locally by Friends of Pacific Beach Elementary School with support from Mamma Mia Italian Restaurant. For more information, contact Zoe Sidell at zoesidell@gmail.com.

CPJMA

■ Bike safety and fun for students at Crown Point Junior Music Academy got a boost on Oct. 21 as a community-sponsored bike rodeo taught 70 young riders the basics of the road. San Diego County Bike



PBMS girls volleyball fundraiser

PBMS girls volleyball had more than 70 participants this fall. This is a free program providing introductory and continuing levels of volleyball for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders and is voluntarily directed by physical education teacher Dennis Guildehaus with help from volunteer parent coaches. A girls volleyball fundraiser at Walk in Salon by Robert Cromeans (969 Garnet Ave.) will take place 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, and 100 percent of ticket sales go to the volleyball program for equipment, balls, gym time, clinics and additional practice time. Appetizers and desserts will be provided by Zanzibar Cafe. Donations are \$20 a person. For more details, contact Zoe Sidell at zoesidell@gmail.com.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Coalition instructor Randy Van Vleck joined sailors from Naval Beach Group 1 in the after-school program, funded through a grant from the San Diego Association of Governments and iCommute, with other support from Beautiful PB.

Van Vleck, along with sailors Graham Copeland and Colby Kopp, guided students through a series of mock intersections, with stop signs and other hazards, and six students learned to ride bicycles.

Kate Sessions

■ Sessions Elementary School will host its annual Handmade in

San Diego craft fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. One hundred artists and crafters will be on campus selling their unique gifts.

Santa will be at the pancake breakfast, from 9 to 11 a.m. The entire PB community is invited to see local student entertainment and enjoy barbecue and homemade delicious baked goods.

FOPBSS

Join the next Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary Schools meeting at Mission Bay High School, at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 2.

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Crucial Blend takes reggae sound to Bahia Belle

By BART MENDOZA

Reggae aficionados will want to take in a set from Crucial Blend, aboard the Bahia Belle, on Nov. 20. Since the boat cruises are closed in December, this is one of the last opportunities this year to take in music aboard one of San Diego's best entertainment options, and Crucial Blend's up-tempo island songs are the perfect party soundtrack for the voyage around Mission Bay. It's been said that reggae is the sound of San Diego's beach communities, and Crucial Blend hits all the right marks with catchy tunes such as "Ring the Alarm" and "Headed West." If you haven't yet caught the band or taken the boat cruise, this is the perfect opportunity to do both.

Crucial Blend: Friday, Nov. 20 at the Bahia Resort, 998 West Mission Bay Drive. 9:30 p.m. 21 and up. \$10.

Modern rock fans will enjoy a two-tribute band bill set for Nov. 20 at the 710 Beach Club, featuring Foo Fighters and Rage Against the Machine. While both bands are good, the edge goes to Foo Fighters, with an arsenal of Dave Grohl-penned classics, including "This Is a Call" and "Times Like These," all adrenaline-charged rockers, perfect for stadiums or barroom sing-alongs.

Foo Fighters: Friday, Nov. 20, at the 710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Ave. 9 p.m. 21 and up.

As we head into the holiday season, Dizzy's will be the site of two special concerts that any lover of jazz should not miss. On Friday, Nov. 20, legendary 96-year-old percussionist Jack Costanzo and his Bi-National Mambo Orchestra will perform. Meanwhile, 93-year-old iconic guitarist Mundell Lowe will perform on Sunday, Nov. 22. These two happen to be San Diegans, but their impact has been felt worldwide. Costanzo has performed with



Fans of terrific guitar playing will want to check out Hank Easton, who performs at the Kona Kai Resort Nov. 21 and 28. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

everyone from Desi Arnaz to Gilbert Castellanos, taught percussion to scores of Hollywood stars such as Marlon Brando and even appeared with Elvis in the movie "Harum Scarum." Meanwhile, Lowe has performed with a Who's Who of jazz legends, from Ella Fitzgerald to Charlie Parker, and can be heard daily on TV via the soundtracks of such shows as "Hawaii 5-0," "Starsky & Hutch" and "The Wild, Wild West." If you are a fan of jazz, our music history, or just like stellar playing by two of the most important artists ever to call San Diego home, please make these two shows a priority.

Jack Costanzo: Friday, Nov. 20; Mundell Lowe: Nov. 22, at Dizzy's, 4275 Mission Bay Drive. 8 p.m. \$20.

No doubt about it, Stevie Ray Vaughn is the guitarist that many modern-day blues players most admire, especially since his passing in 1990. Naturally, with such acclaim, tribute bands have been formed to play his classics, and one of the best, Alan Iglesias & Cross-

fire, performs at Tio Leo's on Nov. 21. Iglesias has more than a passing resemblance to Vaughn, but he's an even better match where it counts, in the guitar work. Iglesias is the next best thing to the real deal, with great renditions of classics from "Pride & Joy" to "Voodoo Child (Slight Return)."

Alan Iglesias & Crossfire: Saturday, Nov. 21. Tio Leo's, 5302 Napa St. 9 p.m. 21 and up. Cover TBD.

Fans of terrific guitar playing will want to check out Hank Easton, who performs at the Kona Kai Resort Nov. 21 and 28. It says enough about the man's fretwork that he is the star player in Steely Dan tribute band The Steely Damned, though here he is in solo mode, using loops, backing tracks and pedals to enhance the sound. With a mix of great tunes from Hendrix to Hall & Oates, Easton offers up something for just about every musical taste, all in the Kona Kai's beautiful waterfront location.

Hank Easton: Saturday, Nov. 21 and 28, at the Kona Kai Resort, 1551 Shelter Island Drive. 7 p.m.

SEAWORLD >>

CONT. FROM PG. 1

to learn more about the natural world and the plight of animals in the wild, along with family entertainment and attractions."

During the presentation, Manby shared with investors and analysts a plan to build on the company's strong business fundamentals. The new SeaWorld plan includes a new approach to in-park activities as well as greater connection to the company's television programming that highlights SeaWorld Entertainment's veterinary care and animal-rescue operations. Other elements of the plan include a more simplified approach to value-based pricing, investment in new attractions and an ongoing focus on cost control as part of a larger commitment to financial discipline.

"We hope that experiencing animals in our parks moves our guests to a deeper understanding of the plight of all animals – and an increasingly threatened natural environment – and inspires those guests to help conserve the world we share," Manby said.

The unanticipated SeaWorld announcement followed in the wake of months of reports of declining revenues at its theme parks, including San Diego's. It also followed in the wake of a Nov. 6 announcement by Rep. Adam Schiff (D-28) of the Burbank legislator's intent to introduce a bill named the Orca Responsibility and Care Advancement (ORCA) Act. The bill would phase out the captivity of orcas so that their display ends with this generation. Schiff's legislation, if passed, would prohibit the breeding, taking (wild capture) and the import/export of

orcas for public display.

"The evidence is very strong that the psychological and physical harm done to these magnificent animals far outweighs any benefits reaped from their display," said Schiff. "We cannot be responsible stewards of our natural environment and propagate messages about the importance of animal welfare when our behaviors do not reflect our principles. The ORCA Act ensures that this will be the last generation of orcas who live in captivity, and we will appreciate these incredible creatures where they belong – in the wild."

This most recent turn of events in the ongoing orca captivity controversy was hailed by San Diego Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez (D-80) on her website as a major breakthrough. But she added the fight for marine mammal rights continues.

"Today's acknowledgement by SeaWorld does not end our push to halt inhumane orca captivity and breeding practices, but it's a step in the right direction," said Gonzalez. "More importantly, SeaWorld's announcement contradicts their earlier statements that the company could not be profitable unless orcas were forced to participate in these circus-like shows. In fact, the public pressure on SeaWorld to stop the Shamu shows became the exact reason why the company's profitability was at risk."

"Today's news shows that the public can hold big corporations accountable when they merely defend offensive business practices as being vital to their bottom line. Clearly, SeaWorld can move away from being a giant circus that harms animal life and still have a viable business model," she said.



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