

WHEEL SUPPORT

Matt Gardner, owner of Cheap Rental Bikes, speaks with a group of locals, who rode up the boardwalk on Jan. 30 to protest the DecoBike sites and show support for beach businesses.

SEE PAGE 8



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016

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'A powerful woman and passionate musician and friend.'

- FRIENDS OF NICKI CARANO

Tragic accident takes life of local musician

By HANNA LAUKKANEN

Nicki Carano, a 48-year-old musician, dancer and music teacher, died Jan. 31 after a tree fell onto her moving car and three parked vehicles in Pacific Beach, the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department said.



The oak tree, eight feet in diameter, fell across Ingraham Street south of Fortuna Avenue.

The tree completely blocked off the road, taking firefighters several hours to cut through the branches and trunk and recover the victim's body. Investigators worked late into that night, blocking off all four lanes of Ingraham.

Carano was on her way to a performance with her two bands when her car was crushed. Passersby or emergency crews couldn't do anything to save Carano.

After her death, friends and loved ones have been posting their condolences online, mourning the loss of a "powerful woman and passionate musician and friend."

Carano is a graduate of Clairemont High School and taught at the San Diego Academy of Performing Arts and Nightingale Music School. She performed nationwide and worldwide and was a talented drummer, singer and dancer.

STRENGTH AND HONOR ON THE GRIDIRON



Lisa Kondrat and teammates celebrate a touchdown. (Below) Autumn Sutterlin (Pink) is tackled by Michelle Le. PHOTOS BY THOMAS MELVILLE

Strong women tackle Alzheimer's

On the Saturday before Super Bowl Sunday, blondes and brunettes – and even a redhead or two – came together to tackle, tussle and take part in trying to defeat Alzheimer's disease.

TackleALZ (formerly Blondes vs. Brunettes) is a volunteer-led female flag football game that raises money for Alzheimer's San Diego.

The event, partnered with

Vavi Sport & Social Club, with assistance from Old Mission Bay Athletic Club, played out at the Little Q rugby field next to Qualcomm Stadium with the Green team (Brunettes) beating the Pink squad (Blondes) in a rout, 31-12.

But the real winner is Alzheimer's San Diego, which will receive more than \$56,000 raised by players and fans at the annual event.



Water, water everywhere

More than enough to drink, shower or jump in a lake

By RY RIVARD
Voice of San Diego

San Diego's overabundance of water during one of California's worst droughts has reached a new, absurd level: The San Diego County Water Authority has dumped a half-billion gallons of costly drinking water into a lake near Chula Vista.

Now that drinking water has been poured into a lake, the water must be treated a second time before humans can consume it. And here's another kick in the gut: The drinking water

The drinking water that's now been dumped into the lake includes desalinated water, some of the most expensive treated water in the world.

that's now been dumped into the lake includes desalinated water, some of the most expensive treated water in the world. Water officials will now have to spend even more money to make the once-drinkable desalinated water drinkable once again.

Several factors are causing the bizarre outcome: stubborn water politics, pipeline physics, unexpectedly low demand and the restrictive terms of a contract the County Water Authority signed with water desalination company Poseidon Resources. The result is that after spending money to make water from Northern California, the Colorado River and the Pacific

SEE WATER, Page 12

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Pacific Beach's ONLY Foreign Car Specialists



Sarah Farid and Lauren Upton played guitar and bass on the John Lennon Educational Music Bus.
PHOTO BY HANNA LAUKKANEN

John Lennon Education Bus visits Pacific Beach, helps students express themselves

By HANNA LAUKKANEN

Lauren Upton and Sarah Farid, students at Crown Point Junior Music Academy, recently played bass and guitar and recorded their own song on the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) John Lennon Education Bus when it visited their school earlier this month.

"The song is about pollution and how we have to take care of our

world," Upton said. "We note how it's our world when we grow up and that we don't want it to be polluted."

This was the first time the girls recorded a song.

"They have very good instruments, and they have good technology. And while we're doing our hard work, they also find some ways to make it fun," Farid noted.

The school was recently granted NAMM's Support Music Merit Award for excellence in achieve-

ment in music. NAMM holds a competition to reflect that music is part of a school's education – Crown Point Junior Music Academy made a video about the musicians' life at school, and the video stood out.

The bus, which contains a non-profit recording studio, travels coast to coast ten months a year, with personnel helping students from elementary through college write songs and create music videos for free.

"We are dedicated to giving them original opportunities and allowing them to express themselves and create. Also they can be a part an environment that is nurturing to the experience of music," senior producer Ryan L'Esperance explained.

"We are working really hard today to get that whole process done so that we [produce] something that students can call their own, something that they take with them for the rest of their lives and say 'I created this in one day; imagine what I can create in weeks and months to come.'"

"This is a wonderful opportunity to take all of their music background and put it into one wonderful production," school principal Muriel Bartolini said of the students.

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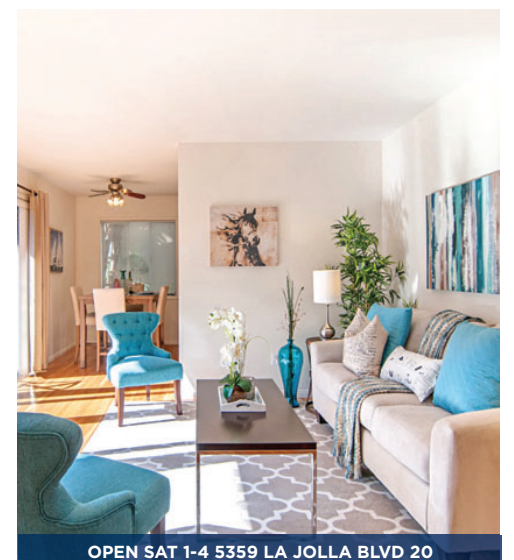
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Residents hear update on De Anza Revitalization Plan

By DAVE SCHWAB

Residents were updated Jan. 28 at a community workshop on the De Anza Revitalization Plan, a reimagining of what Mission Bay Park's approximately 4,000 acres of beaches, parklands, picnic areas, marinas, resort hotels and SeaWorld could become.

The revitalization plan is part of an ongoing amendment to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan, which guides usage of the popular regional park. Mission Bay is one of San Diego's premiere tourist and recreational destinations.

Project consultant Brooke Peterson, of PlaceWorks, noted De Anza's revitalization is "one of the most important planning projects in the city of San Diego." She added public participation in the project is "an opportunity to do something really great for San Diego."

Peterson said the goal of January's first De Anza public workshop was to "collect your ideas about future activities and uses" for the regional park.

Consultants said the project involves a three-year process while noting that locals have been "years, and for some decades, in waiting" for development of a plan for De Anza.

Consultant Joan Isaacson of Katz & Associates said a new interactive website, deanzarevitalization-plan.com, is now available for inspection.

"We want to engage the diversity of all local stakeholders and hear their perspectives," said Isaacson, adding that's why the city is conducting an "open and transparent process."

At least one person from the audience objected to the process, noting that some members selected for the De Anza Revitalization Plan Ad Hoc Subcommittee include leaseholders in the regional park, like SeaWorld, which could be construed by some as a conflict of interest.

Following introductory remarks, planners and residents retired to Mission Bay High School's cafeteria to talk with project reps and examine maps and other documents describing aspects of the park and discussing its "possibilities." Guests were issued "passports" they could get stamped at various review stations, qualifying them for a raffle drawing.

The first ad hoc subcommittee meeting on the De Anza Revitalization Plan was held Dec. 9. Paul Robinson, chair of the 11-member ad hoc committee, said then that the task is to work with the city and con-

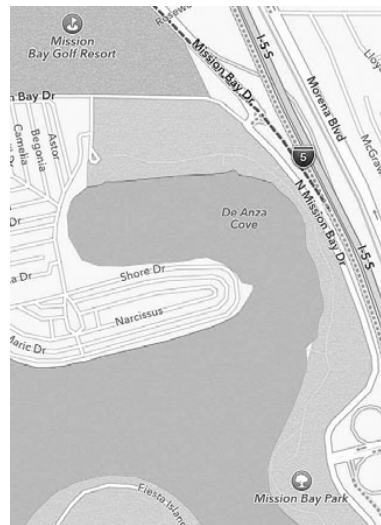
sultants on developing a vision and guiding principles for a De Anza Revitalization Plan to amend the existing Mission Bay Park Master Plan.

The project area being revitalized is 120 acres, including a special study area in the Mission Bay Master Plan plus the surrounding area to the north and east including ball fields, the Mission Bay golf course and portions of De Anza Cove.

The effort to redevelop the regional park was delayed by a decadelong court battle between the city and residents of the 500-unit De Anza Cove Resort mobile home park, a 75-acre park on prime real estate jutting into the water in Mission Bay Park west of Interstate 5. Ultimately, the city reached a \$3.6 million settlement agreement on one of three lawsuits involving current and former mobile home park residents allowing them to relocate.

Consultants conducted a mini-workshop on Dec. 9, breaking ad hoc committee members into two small groups to brainstorm ideas on recreation, the environment and land use and activity in the regional park.

Suggestions committee members came up with for park revitalization included the need to balance park uses with available open space; to



The project area being revitalized is 120 acres, including a special study area in the Mission Bay Master Plan.

consider creating an information/interpretive center; to do a hydrology (water) study; to encourage ecologically oriented recreation; to find ways to protect and enhance the natural environment; to create more pedestrian and nonmotorized vehicle connectivity within the park; to allow coastal marshland to grow back naturally; and to re-establish a connection between the park area and Rose Creek.

The next public workshop on De Anza will be scheduled in March at a time and place to be determined.

Scripps study finds toxic pollutants in fish across world's oceans

A new global analysis of seafood found that fish populations throughout the world's oceans are contaminated with industrial and agricultural pollutants, collectively known as persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The study from researchers at UCSD's Scripps Institution of Oceanography also uncovered some good news — concentrations of these pollutants have been consistently dropping over the last 30 years.

The findings, reported in the Jan. 28 issue of the journal *PeerJ*, were based on an analysis by Scripps researchers Lindsay Bonito, Amro Hamdoun and Stuart Sandin and on hundreds of peer-reviewed articles from 1969 to 2012. The pollutants studied included older "legacy" chemicals, such as DDT and mercury, as well as newer industrial chemicals, such as flame retardants and coolants.

"Based on the best data collected from across the globe, we can say that POPs can be anywhere and in any species of marine fish," said Sandin, a co-author of the study.

MARY MAHONEY WILDING

9/27/1927 – 1/27/2016

Mary Mahoney Wilding, 88, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by loved ones. Mary is survived by her husband of sixty-four years, Dr. John H. Wilding, her eight children and her thirteen grandchildren.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Trinity College in Washington D.C., where she met her husband. In the early fifties, they moved to California and their family continued to grow. Later, she got her teaching credential and became devoted to community service. Mary served as the Executive Secretary of the Pacific Beach Town Council and was chosen as Honorary Mayor in 1991. She was co-founder of the annual PAESAN (Police and Emergency Services Appreciation Night). She also spent several years as a docent at the San Diego Museum of Art.

Mary was a long-time active member of both St. Brigid's and Our Lady of Refuge Catholic churches. Beloved by all, Mary will truly be missed by those who knew her. Her legacy will live on in her children, grandchildren and her great-grandchildren to come.

A funeral Mass will be held on February 19th at 11:00 am at Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church.

A very special thanks to the Kaiser Hospice team. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to Father Joe's Villages.



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Are tiny homes a solution to homelessness?

Local church leaders thinking inside the box

By DAVE SCHWAB

A Pacific Beach inventor and a church rector are promoting one conceivable solution to the intractable problem of homelessness: IKEA-like tiny, build-it-yourself homes.

Rev. Dr. Simon Mainwaring, rector of St. Andrews by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Pacific Beach, and Christopher Scott, who's designed and built his own version of a "tiny" home, have teamed to popularize the concept. They're calling it "the start of a real solution to San Diego's homelessness problem."

"A kit for these 400-plus square-foot homes can be purchased for \$500 or \$600 and can be assembled in two or three hours with screwdrivers and without power tools," said Scott, a forestry specialist who said he helped start IKEA, a Scandinavian chain selling ready-to-assemble furniture, in North America.

"The concept I hope may work in PB is that a jobless person can start off with one of these little houses, make improvements to it, make it look pretty, and resell it and build some equity for their next step up."

Mainwaring, among five local PB church leaders who've banded together since November of 2015 to form the Pacific Beach Homeless Coalition, said Scott's creative solution to finding the homeless homes is a way of stimulating "thinking about homelessness and potential solutions."

"We are looking at this as a way of sparking the imagination," said Mainwaring, who discussed the tiny homes concept. "That's the key, pro-

viding someone with a roof over their head in a location that provides stability and security, in their own little home where they can even close and lock the door, keeping them safely inside."

Once housed, an individual can then reboot his or her life, beginning the process of finding a job and re-establishing himself as a contributing member of society, Mainwaring said.

One of Scott's tiny home models is presently on view in St. Andrews sanctuary at 1050 Thomas Ave., across the street from Pacific Beach library.

The tiny homes, which resemble children's playhouses in design and appearance, are large enough for a medium-size person to stretch out or even stand in.

"The whole country is seeded with people who are trying to approach it (homeless housing)," Scott said.

Seattle has opened 14 tiny homes. A Nashville church has built six.

The tiny homes are said to offer these advantages:

- They provide better shelters than tarps or tents.
- The homeless can build them themselves.

- Wasted building materials can be collected to make the tiny homes, which adds an element of sustainability to them.

- Often, tiny homes can be grown to make them a more permanent form of housing.

- They're extremely cost effective.

Tiny homes will be on the agenda of the next Pacific Beach Homeless Coalition meeting, to which the public is invited on Wednesday, Feb.

'That's the key, providing someone with a roof over their head in a location that provides stability and security ... in their own little home.'

REV. SIMON MAINWARING
RECTOR OF ST. ANDREWS BY-THE-SEA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN PACIFIC BEACH

17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Community Room of Pacific Beach Taylor Library, 4275 Cass St.

"It's a group meeting between neighbors, the homeless and other interested parties," said Mainwaring, noting the format is mostly informal.

"It's a chance for people to build relationships, offer feedback," he said.

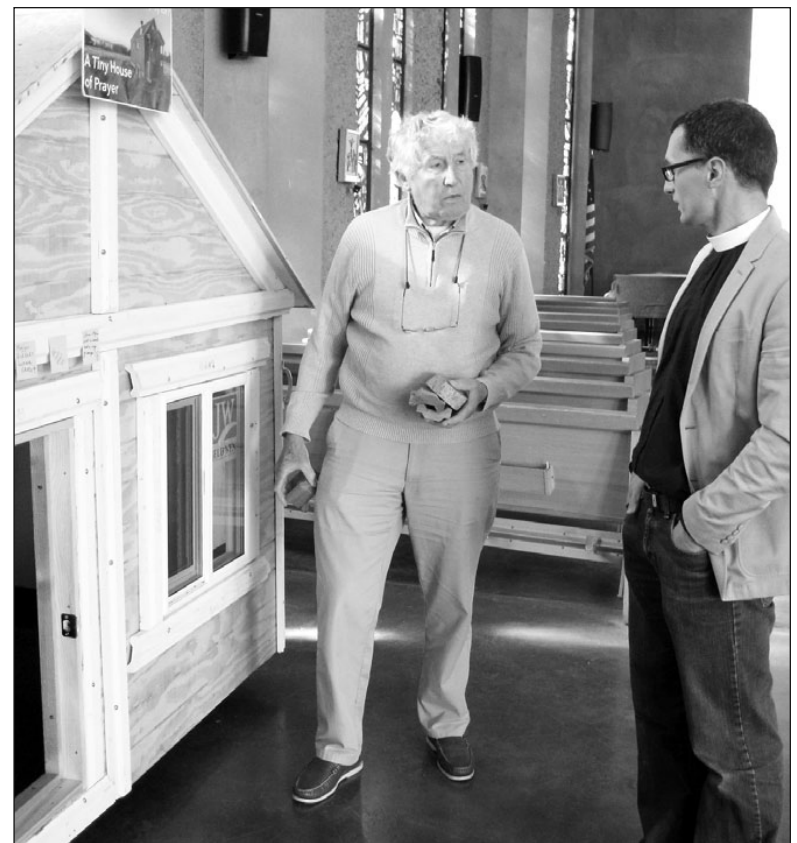
Mainwaring said the next step in the process of paving the way for the homes to become a reality is to "get neighborhood buy-in on the concept before working up a comprehensive proposal to bring to the city, then have an informed discussion."

Obviously, places would have to be found, and in some cases zoning changed, to make tiny homes legal.

"It's a challenging solution to what is a profoundly challenging life to lead on the street," noted Scott, who added that dialogue about homeless housing "is a great conversation to have."

Scott pointed out that tiny homes are trending.

"It's a solution being considered across the country and, frankly, the world," he said, adding, "If we can put a man on the moon, we can find a solution for this."



One of the tiny home models is presently on view in St. Andrews sanctuary at 1050 Thomas Ave., across the street from Pacific Beach library. Rev. Dr. Simon Mainwaring (right), rector of St. Andrews by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, speaks with tiny homes designer Christopher Scott. PHOTO BY DAVE SCHWAB

Free Report Reveals Secrets Smart Home Sellers Use to Preserve Their Equity

SAN DIEGO, If you've tried to sell your home yourself, you know that the minute you put the "For Sale by Owner" sign up, the phone will start to ring off the hook. Unfortunately, most calls aren't from prospective buyers, but rather from every real estate agent in town who will start to hound you for your listing.

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Courtesy of Dennis DeSouza Remax Lic. 01220680

Prelim in PB kidnap, sex assault trial delayed

A judge Thursday delayed until March 29 the preliminary hearing for a suspected rapist accused of kidnapping and raping a woman in Pacific Beach on New Year's eve.

The preliminary hearing for Jacob Paul Skorniak had been set for Feb. 8, but both sides agreed to a delay. Skorniak was arrested Jan. 21 in Santa Barbara and was arraigned in San Diego Superior Court on Jan. 26.

Skorniak, 49, is accused of kidnapping the woman and raping her at knifepoint. She was abducted Dec. 31 minutes after getting out of a taxi in Pacific Beach.

Someone wrote down the license plate of Skorniak's 1995 Dodge Ram, and San Diego police released his picture and a photo of his vehicle on Jan. 21. He was arrested in Santa Barbara the same day.

If convicted, Skorniak faces a life term for kidnapping for the purpose

of rape. He has a prior record for burglary and robbery, according to court records. He has pleaded not guilty and remains in the central jail on \$1 million bail.

— Neal Putnam

Foster pleads guilty, resigns from school board

An embattled San Diego Unified School District board member, accused of holding a fundraiser to pay for her son's school tuition, entered a guilty plea to one count of receiving gifts in excess of the legal limit Feb. 2, the San Diego County District Attorney's office said. A judge ordered Marne Foster to resign her position on the school board.

A plea agreement resulted in a sentence of three years' probation and Foster's resignation, which was tendered Feb. 2 and was effective Feb. 7. Foster will not be allowed to run for any office for four years.

Foster was also sentenced to 120

hours of community service and will have to pay a fine and restitution, according to the District Attorney's Office.

The District Attorney's Office initially opened a criminal investigation of the matter last year. Shortly after, the office served a search warrant to the San Diego Unified School District seeking information about the former board president.

Foster was charged with one count of receiving gifts in excess of the legal limit, \$460 a year, and not reporting it. She also failed to report a gift of approximately \$2,000.

The San Diego Unified School District Board of Education voted Feb. 9 to appoint a replacement for Foster.

The unanimous vote came after more than an hour of discussion and public input. The board set noon Feb. 16 as the deadline for applications, available on the district's website. The board plans to have the new member sworn in at the March 1 meeting.

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Virginia Weber Laskowitz
Trust Attorney

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Mission Bay jetty tower lost in storm

Huge waves at the north jetty ripped off the 42-foot Mission Bay channel entrance marker tower during the Jan. 31 storm. The tower, which had a navigational light, foghorn and weather station on it, will need to be replaced by the Coast Guard. Councilmember Lori Zapf's office is handling the matter. PHOTOS BY JIM GRANT

No one knows
the local community
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City plans to upgrade safety measures at Ingraham-La Cima intersection in PB

By DAVE SCHWAB

Traffic improvements are on the way in the Crown Point neighborhood of Pacific Beach.

"The city will be installing a Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) system at Ingraham Street and La Cima Drive within the next six months," said Anthony Santacroce, a city public information officer.

An RRFB is a pedestrian-activated flashing beacon that flashes in an alternating pattern when a pedestrian presses the button to cross the street. The flashers are accompanied with highly reflective yellow/green pedestrian warning signs that are installed close to, and directly above, the flashers.

"The flashers and signs are installed back to back so that as motorists approach, they see flashers activated on both sides of the street," said Santacroce, who noted similar RRFB systems exist at a number of locations citywide, including elsewhere in PB at Mission Boulevard and Diamond Street and Mission Boulevard and Hornblend Street.

"The cost of the project is approximately \$10,000," Santacroce said.

Summer Abu Zahrah, who owns and operates Crown Point Coffee at 3510 Ingraham St., and City Beach Boutique located kitty corner at 3460 Ingraham St., both near the problematic Ingraham Street/La Cima intersection, said safety improvements there are long overdue.



The City will be installing a Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon system at Ingraham Street and La Cima Drive within the next six months. PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE

"I am always on site and have witnessed a countless number of accidents over the past 13 years," Abu Zahrah said. "For the last seven years, I, residents, customers and the Pacific Beach Town Council have gathered petition signatures, provided accident reports and photographed car accident damages to help persuade the San Diego Traffic Engineering Department to install a stop sign or pedestrian signal that stops traffic when people are trying to cross at the intersection."

Abu Zahrah noted that, last summer, she began planning a charitable event to help raise money for the installation of the pedestrian crosswalk since it wasn't in the city's budget.

"I spoke in depth with the San Diego Traffic Engineering Depart-

ment, and, at that time, they assured me an event was not necessary because the city had the six-month projection plan in place to budget for a pedestrian crosswalk. I am so happy that we never gave up on our efforts and our persistence is paying off."

The alternating flashing signal to be installed at Ingraham/La Cima is activated to stop traffic only when pedestrians cross the street.

"This allows residents to safely enjoy the active beach lifestyle we all love and will not disturb the flow of traffic in and out of PB," said Abu Zahrah, adding, "This calls for a community celebration. More details on that to follow."

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More than just a sandwich at Cheesy Express

By DAVE SCHWAB

What do you get when you take your basic cheese sandwich and mix it with exotic spices and other tantalizing ingredients?

To find the answer, drop in sometime at Cheesy Express, at 3219 Mission Blvd., in Mission Beach.

The counter-serve eatery offers a range of grilled-cheese sandwiches and dessert melts in a casual space.

"We wanted something cheesy and delicious," said the restaurant's owner, Jason Daung, of his business model. "We wanted to keep it simple and basic."

Daung noted that his is alternative cuisine.

"I didn't want to go with pizza or burgers," he said. "I wanted an alternative to the usual stuff. I liked ham and cheese. I thought, 'Why not add something?' So I started with grilled cheese and then did a little twist to it."

Under Daung's watch, basic ham and cheese has transformed into menu items like Korean BBQ grilled cheese; Zuckerman's Crunch, a pork lover's delight, with ham, bacon and American cheese on French bread; Veggie Goodness, with onions, sundried tomatoes, basil pesto and Swiss cheese on wheat bread; and a chili cheese sandwich with American and cheddar cheeses, which Daung recommends and whose taste he likens to "an explosion in your mouth."

The Cheesy Express menu varies from Mom's Classic grilled cheese to the popular BBQ and Kansas City-styled BBQ pulled pork as well as "Make Your Own" sandwiches, with lots of options to mix and match. Along with these amazing sand-

wiches, Cheesy Express offers cups of tomato soup and mac 'n' cheese.

Cheesy Express has come a long way since Daung, formerly employed with the PF Chang restaurant chain, started the eatery in the back corner of a Santee gas station.

The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., an hour later during the busy summer months.

Cheesy Express also has delectable desserts, including a cake melt, an apple melt and an "Elvis Presley favorite," named for the rock 'n' roll icon who loved bananas and chocolate.

But don't forget the shakes.

"We're known for our shakes," Daung said, adding he's got the flavors like Oreo crunch, Reese's pieces, vanilla and strawberry to please any palate. "People love it. It's something to die for," he said.

The restaurant also carries another dessert delight, Mumdeez Macaron Ice Cream.

There's also a kids menu, with three grilled-cheese sandwiches and a mac 'n' cheese dish.

Daung said he ultimately chose Mission Beach because "it's more touristy and has families with kids. Kids love grilled cheese. And parents go where their kids want to go. So I settled on Mission Beach."

If you check out Cheesy Express, you won't be able to stay away, claimed Daung. "Ninety percent of the people who come in here — they come back," he said.

The restaurateur is always experimenting, always blending and mixing and matching to come up with all-new taste sensations for his cheesy concoctions. He noted a

CHEESY EXPRESS

Where: 3219 Mission Blvd.

Hours: Open for lunch and dinner seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Info: www.cheesyexpress.com, or (858) 886-7480.

shrimp chipotle melt could very well be a coming attraction on a grilled-cheese sandwich.

"Come on in and give us a shot," said Daung.

For more information, call (858) 886-7480 or visit cheesyexpress.com.



Grilled-cheese sandwiches, shakes and desserts fill the menu at Cheesy Express.

PHOTO BY DAVE SCHWAB

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Major retail shift occurring in Pacific Beach

By ARIELLE SOLHEIM

A major retail shift is taking place during this winter along Garnet Avenue in Pacific Beach.

American Apparel filed for bankruptcy, and the space it occupied on the corner of Garnet Avenue and Fanuel Street now sits dark. The neighboring tenant, Sprouts, is planning on expanding its operation into the former American Apparel space; however, amid the bankruptcy and the fact American Apparel is technically a separate property, it will take a few months before the expansion can break ground.

The women's clothing store Fashion Q also announced it will be closing its doors. The 8,343-square-foot retail space located on the prestigious 900 block of Garnet Avenue is available.

This is the largest available commercial retail space for rent in Pacific Beach, and The Franco Realty

Sprouts, is planning on expanding its operation into the former American Apparel space however, it will take a few months before the expansion can break ground.

Group has been retained as the exclusive leasing broker for this project. The space can be divided into two spaces.

One of the country's largest commercial real estate firms, CBRE, was recently replaced by the local Franco firm as the exclusive leasing broker for the shopping center, located at 1945-1975 Garnet Ave.

The property is tenanted by PB Smiles, AT&T, Pizza Hut, Jersey Mikes Subs and Anderson Medical Center. Currently, there is one 2,670-square-foot retail space available for rent, which includes a rare oversize parking lot onsite.

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Beach business owners, residents unite against DecoBike locations

By HANNA LAUKKANEN

More than 70 demonstrators biked from Mission Beach to Pacific Beach Saturday, Jan. 30 advocating a change of locations for DecoBike rentals in San Diego. Meanwhile, tourists and residents want to know why bike rental owners are so upset about DecoBike.

"We want to demonstrate the problems that we have with the mismanagement of the city's bike share program (DecoBike). There's a lot of people in the city who don't know why we are upset with the way the entire program is implemented.

"I want to tell why this is done wrong and why there's injustice," Cheap Rental Bikes owner Matt Gardner said.

Gardner said that when DecoBike came to the city, it declared that it was only going to help commuters, which Gardner said he supports. But the placement of the DecoBike stations are at tourist sites and in front of hotels, such as the Bahia and the Catamaran, wherein bike rental businesses already exist. Owners say DecoBike is competing directly with them.

"They are stepping on my bottom line, and they are partnering with the city to do it," Gardner said.

Jake Russell, owner of Surf Monkey Bikes, hopes DecoBike is a short-



Jake Russell, owner of Surf Monkey Bikes, spoke to the group on Jan. 30 about the DecoBike situation. PHOTO BY HANNA LAUKKANEN

term trend.

"Horse is out of the barn; bikes are already here; the business has to fail. And I think it is failing. As long as they don't get any government money or any other subsidy from the city, I don't think it will survive," he said.

Russell claims that the city of San Diego is interfering with the bike

rental shop owners' business, adding that the Chamber of Commerce hasn't listened to local business owners.

"The head of the Chamber of Commerce made DecoBike part of their ring of champions before the contract was even dry," Russell said. "He never checked with anyone if it would hurt local businesses. Help

us. Don't work against us. We are paying you," he said.

DecoBike office manager Melinda Pederson says that one of the company's takeaways was that Pacific Beach groups are primarily opposed to the company's presence on the west side of the boardwalk due to visual impact. DecoBike agreed to move one of the stations to the east

'They are stepping on my bottom line, and they are partnering with the city to do it.'

MATT GARDNER
CHEAP RENTAL BIKES OWNER

side of the boardwalk pending discussion with the fronting property owner. In response to community concerns, it reduced the number of proposed stations, reduced the size of the stations and removed rates that were seen as too low and thus competitive with local bike shops.

Pederson says that the company's presence is the result of a partnership with the City of San Diego. A requirement is that DecoBike privately funds the operation. As a result, DecoBike considers how to make the bike share system financially sustainable.

"When communities only want the low-density, low-visibility locations and oppose high-volume, highly visible locations, we can't necessarily accommodate those wishes in their entirety," Pederson said.

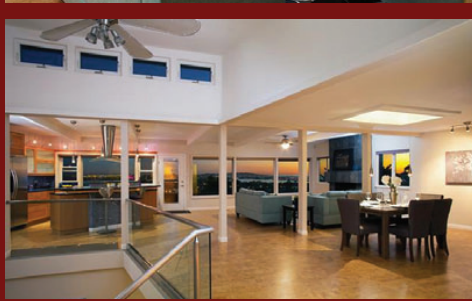
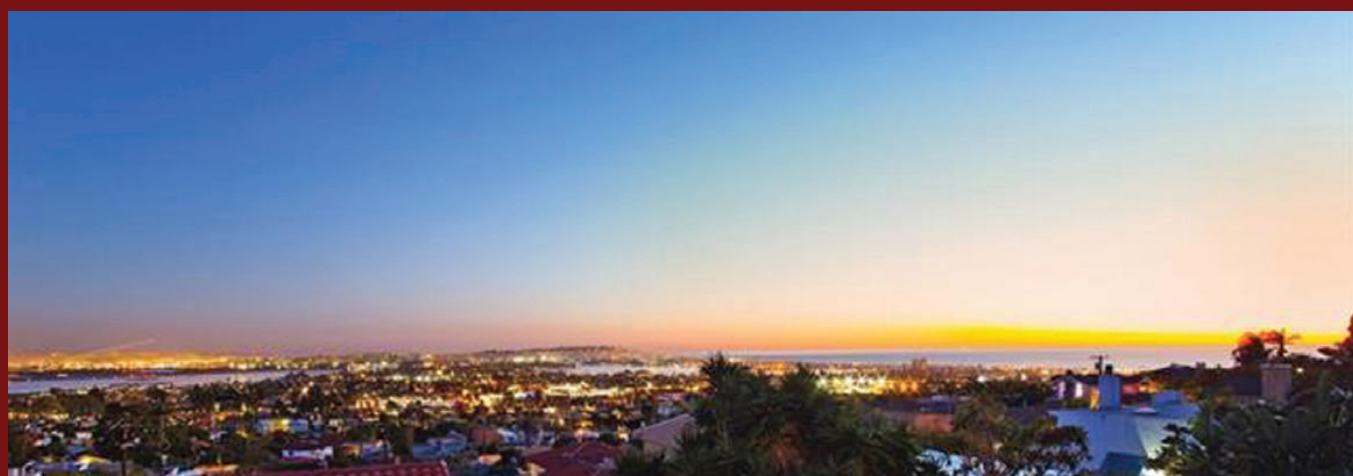
In a DecoBike survey conducted in September of 2015, 72 percent of respondents stated that they

SEE BIKES, Page 13

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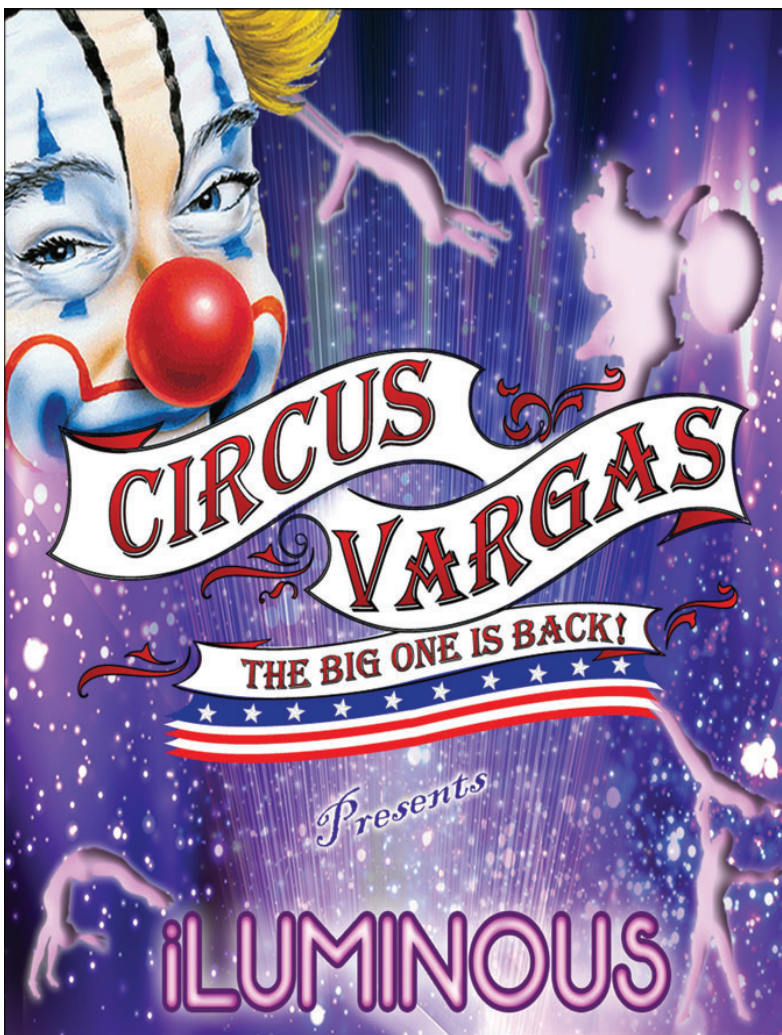
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PBMS installs Israeli-style rain barrels

By HANNA LAUKKANEN

The U.S. - Israel Center (USIC) at UCSD's Rady School of Management recently unveiled a new rain barrel program at three San Diego schools, and Pacific Beach Middle is one of the schools participating in the international project.

Earlier this month, four rain barrels, which will collect the water from the school's roof and save it, were installed at the middle school. Students will use the captured rain water to care for campus gardens, and students at the Farm Lab also will use it to flush toilets.

"The water conservation efforts the students in San Diego and Encinitas will spearhead is wonderful, but what really will be inspirational will be watching how the rain barrel program changes how these



Arty Rodriguez and Daasha Ferguson paint rain barrels at PBMS.

PHOTO BY HANNA LAUKKANEN

kids think about and use water," said Susan Lapidus, executive director of USIC.

"It's very exciting to be able to bring this technology developed in Israel to San Diego. It is my fervent hope that this is just the beginning of technology transfers between San Diego and Israel," Lapidus said.

PBMS eighth grader Arty

Rodriguez painted beautiful waves on the side of one barrel. He has designed patterns for all four barrels. The work is part of his community project. Rodriguez was inspired by Japanese artist Hakusai. On another barrel, he designed a Hawaiian-Californian design with tribal arts.

"It took me a week to design the paintings. My theme for this project is recycling water, so I have to add something that resembles recycling," he said. Rodriguez also added a Hebrew message to the barrels, which reads "Water is life."

The rain harvesting system was developed in Israel by former teacher Amir Yechieli, who installed Israel's first water catchment systems at elementary schools 16 years ago.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

EDUCATION NOTEBOOK >>

Mission Bay High

■ Eighth grade Parent Night. Meet with MBHS Principal Ernest Remillard in the MBHS Library on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. to learn about the great opportunities at MBHS.

Pacific Beach Middle

■ PBMS students and teachers won top honors for California International Baccalaureate schools. Thank you to our learning community for your entries and nominations and to California Association of IB World Schools for recognizing the superb students and staff

throughout California.

PBMS student winners for California included Aalaiziah, winner of the Gary Prather Outstanding IB Student Award for 2015-16, and Nora, Bronnie and Angelina, winners of the "Why IB?" video contest. PB Middle educator winners for California included Mrs. Paris, winner of the Exemplary IB Middle Years Programme Educator Award for 2015-16, and Mrs. Weinheimer, winner of the California IB Teacher Training Award for 2015-16.

Thank you to our students and teachers for your hard work and dedication. You inspire others, provide a high-quality international education in our own backyard and ride the wave of excellence at PB Middle and beyond.

PBES

■ Congratulations to PBE's Teacher of the Year, Jennifer Luce. Many thanks to Ms. Luce for her years of dedication to her students.

- PBE is gearing up for Family Math Night, hosted by GregTangMath and our very own Ms. Cromar, on Feb. 18, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Students will be exposed to many different math concepts through games developed to teach critical skills and strategies.

■ The countdown to Solid Gold is on! The annual spring auction fundraiser takes place April 22, from 5 to 9:30 p.m. at the Soledad Club. Join PBE families for a night to celebrate the success of our students! For auction information and tickets, please email pacificbeachelementary@gmail.com.

Barnard Asian Pacific Language Academy

■ Barnard Asian Pacific Language Academy's second grade immersion classrooms have gone to the dogs. Two canine visitors and their human companions from Love on a Leash, a nonprofit organization, came into the classrooms this week to listen to students read.

Students in Ms. Brakespear's classroom read about the antics of a safety officer and his dogs, while students in Wang Laoshi's classroom wrote their own cards for the dogs and read them aloud in Mandarin. It was a doggone good time for everyone.

FOPBSS

■ Parents Night Out! Friday, Feb. 19., 6 to 9 p.m., Thrusters Lounge, 4633 Mission Blvd. Live music with Tiki Tronic. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary Schools.

■ Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary Schools meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 6 p.m., MBHS library.



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Bucs basketball, soccer and water polo scoring wins

By DAVE THOMAS

With regular-season action winding down, three teams at Mission Bay High have tallied a number of wins in recent weeks.

Boys basketball

On the boys basketball scene, the Bucs, under head coach Dennis Kane, were 16-6 overall (5-2 league play) heading into action this week. Mission Bay will host Cathedral Catholic Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

In its last game, Mission Bay got 32 points from Justin Monroe in a 78-24 romp over University City.

"We are a well-balanced team that likes to run and press," Kane noted. "I expect that we will make a deep run in the CIF playoffs if we keep improving and playing the way we have been. Our best basketball is in front of us."

Girls soccer

In girls soccer action, head coach Jorge Palacio's team was 7-9-2 entering play this week.

Senior defender and captain Katie Baker has returned from an ACL injury suffered last season to be a great leader and steadying influence in the back, according to Palacios.



Lindsey Price heads the ball forward during the Bucs' 4-0 loss to the Pointers.

PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE

Palacios also noted that junior Diana Suarez has developed into the main playmaker, while freshmen Alex Fisher, Ryana Bueno, Kirra Barth and Story Jackson have established themselves on a team that has an exciting mixture of youth and experience.

Girls water polo

On the girls water polo front, head coach John Knight noted that the program is taking a step forward this year with the help of seniors Niki Moore, Alina Snyder, Cassidy Kepner, Maeve Saldana, Keira Caughell and Talya Topzand.

"Outstanding leadership skills," Knight remarked, "are emerging in our juniors and sophomores,

including Clemence Tardivel, Olivia Martinet, Hailey Matthews, Ciara Grey, Maya Cota and Kiley Knight. We are looking forward to a strong finish in our remaining games."

Coaches needed

Mission Bay High School is looking for coaches in the following sports: boys and girls badminton, girls junior varsity and freshman volleyball and girls and boys varsity lacrosse.

For more information, contact athletic director Jorge Palacios at jpalacios@sandi.net.

(Editor's note: All varsity winter sports coaches were asked to provide information for this sports wrapup to hoopsthomas@yahoo.com.)

Saldana making positive waves at Mission Bay High

By DAVE THOMAS

When you can start to field your own athletic team on the high school level, you know you have a pretty sizable family.

Luke and Erin Saldana are the proud parents of five girls who have played on the Mission Bay High girls water polo team at one time or another. The 2015-16 squad features the youngest of the Saldana girls—Maeve, a senior. According to head coach John Knight, she brings intensity, experience and dedication to the game.

Her sisters are Rory (class of 2004), Caitlin (2005), Mara (2007) and Clare (2011). Saldana also has two brothers, Conor and Declan, and 2-year-old twin siblings.

When Saldana was at Pacific Beach Middle School, she cheered on her sisters at their games. She remembers that the players looked like they were having a great time, so she decided to carry on the family tradition when she reached MBHS.

According to Saldana, her water polo teammates include friends from her years at Pacific Beach Elementary School. They have become



Maeve Saldana during a water polo match this season. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

a tight group who help each other out.

Along with Saldana, key seniors this season have included Niki Moore, Alina Snyder and Cassidy Kepner, according to Knight.

As one of the seniors and leading scorers on the team, Saldana can use her experience to help the younger girls as they become key members of the program now and in the years to come.

Her advice to younger girls who are thinking about playing is to "stick with it. It's hard at first, but the more you play, the more fun it is," Saldana stated.

Saldana plans to take next year off to work at The Fish Shop and travel, which will include a visit to one of her sisters in Hawaii.

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Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica to perform sensational sounds at Bali Hai

By BART MENDOZA

Fans of exotica by the likes of Les Baxter or space-age lounge music by Esquivel won't want to miss "An Evening of Sensational Sounds w/Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica," taking place at the Bali Hai restaurant on Friday, Feb. 19.

Its classic Polynesian décor is the perfect setting for the Orchestrotica, featuring Mr. Ho, aka Brian O'Neill (vibist, percussionist, artistic director), Tev Stevig (oud, tanbur, resonator guitar), Brad Barrett (bass), Jeremy Smith (percussion) and Ela Brandys (bass flute, flute).

The combo specializes in music that evokes the hippest soundtracks of the late 1950s and 1960s, explorations in instrumental sound that take in jazz, chamber music, exotic instrumentation and striking arrangements. The Orchestrotica will perform outdoors in the restaurant's Hawaiian Village Pavillion, the perfect mix of venue and music.

Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica, Friday, Feb. 19 at the Bali Hai, 2230 Shelter Drive, 8 p.m. (619) 222-1181.

One of the giants of smooth jazz, pianist Keiko Matsui, performs at Humphrey's Backstage Live on Saturday, Feb. 13. Prolific to a fault, Matsui has dozens of albums to her credit since she first began recording circa 1980, each a reflective instrumental work that touches on New Age music, classical and jazz. While this is down-tempo music, Matsui performs with passion and a captivating stage presence. Touring behind her latest album, "Live in Tokyo," Matsui's music is a wonderful listening experience, her lyrical playing a nice antidote to the hectic world around us.

Keiko Matsui, Saturday, Feb. 13 at Humphrey's Backstage Live, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, 7 p.m. (619) 224-3577.

The combination of incendiary guitarist John January and singer Linda Berry is formidable. Performing at Tio Leo's on Feb. 16, the duo perform a danceable blend of blues and rock with real fire and passion that matches their impressive skills. True crowd-pleasers, the band performs all the vintage favorites, from



Smooth jazz pianist Keiko Matsui, performs at Humphrey's Backstage Live. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

"Sweet Home Chicago" to "Hound Dog," classics in new arrangements meant to get a crowd up and dancing. January and Berry's vocals are well matched, but January's spectacular fret work, particularly his slide playing, really makes their music shine.

John January and Linda Berry, Tuesday, Feb. 16 at Tio Leo's, 5302 Napa St., 9 p.m. (619) 542-1462.

One of San Diego's best-loved

bands, indie pop rockers Get Back Loretta, returns for a show at Brick by Brick on Saturday, Feb. 20. It's a testament to their popularity that the band took home San Diego Music Awards in the Best Pop category in 2006-2008, with a Best New Artist trophy in 2005 as well, though the band hasn't released new music since 2009. On this night, they top an excellent bill that includes the Brothers Weiss, John Allred and Saba.

Get Back Loretta, Saturday Feb. 20 at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave., 8:30 p.m. (619) 276-3990.

Blessed with an outstanding voice, seemingly cured in whiskey and cigarettes, with a croon that would make the Rat Pack envious, Blaise Guld is well worth hearing whatever format he happens to be playing in. Guld has been in several noted bands over the past few years spotlighting his original music, including Mad Traffic, but for this show he will be performing solo acoustic, offering up captivating versions of everything from "Moondance" to "Ain't No Sunshine." A nice way to

start off your Valentine's Day.

Blaise Guld, Sunday, Feb. 14 at Beaumont's, 5660 La Jolla Blvd., 11:30 a.m. (858) 459-0474.

On Sunday, Feb. 21, Dizzy's will host the eighth annual Brasil Jazz Festa. The celebration of Brazilian jazz and culture will feature three sets and performances from an all-star group of musicians,

Brasil Jazz Festa, Sunday, Feb. 21 at Dizzy's, 4275 Mission Bay Drive, 7 p.m. (858) 270-7467.

A tragic loss

San Diego lost a major talent on Jan. 31 with the passing of drummer Nicki Carano. Carano was killed when a falling tree hit her car as she drove down Ingraham Street near Crown Point on the way to a gig.

A highly respected musician, actor, teacher and dancer who taught at the Academy of Performing Arts, Carano touched many lives with her music, which included stints with TIR NO NOG, Christopher Dale, The Camel Tones, In My Humble Opinion, Nectarine, Haute Flash, 3DVA and Radio Rage.

WATER >>

CONT. FROM PG. 1

Ocean drinkable, ratepayers will now have to shell out an additional quarter-million dollars to retreat the water so it's again fit for human consumption.

"Nobody wants to see any treated water going to a reservoir that would have to be treated again," said Mark Weston, chairman of the County Water Authority's board of directors.

How this happened

Several years ago, the County Water Authority imagined an ever-increasing demand for water, so it embarked on expensive efforts to bring more water into the region, including its backing of Poseidon's \$1 billion desalination plant in Carlsbad.

The County Water Authority did not imagine an extensive drought would prompt Gov. Jerry Brown to order customers across the state to use less water.

As San Diego benefits from its new supplies of water, its customers are cutting their water use.

That means San Diego has more water than it needs.

About 554 million gallons of treated water has been dumped into the Lower Otay Reservoir, a popular fishing spot near Chula Vista. That's a very small portion of the County Water Authority's annual water supplies, but it's still roughly as much water as 14,000 people use in a year.

Blame games

There are two types of water. The first is "raw" water that has to be treated before it can be consumed by humans. The second, more expensive kind is water that's already been treated.

Getting extra raw water isn't such a big deal, because it's relatively cheap and can be stored in open-air reservoirs and treated later. Regional water officials welcome excess raw water and are storing it in case the drought continues and for emergencies.

But now, there's too much treated water, and that is causing headaches.

The County Water Authority blames its main supplier of water, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, for the treated water being dumped into the Lower Otay Reservoir.

In recent weeks, the County Water Authority has asked Metropolitan to stop sending treated water to San Diego from Metropolitan's treatment plan in Riverside County.

Metropolitan said it cannot do that without making physical changes to its pipeline, designed to carry a few hundred gallons per second of water.

"The Water Authority, like, calls us out of the blue and says, 'We want it lowered to zero,'" said Jeffrey Kightlinger, Metropolitan's general manager.

Water Authority officials said they did not want all the water Metropolitan sent and are not going to pay for it all.

The same pipelines carry two

other kinds of treated water: desalinated water and water the County Water Authority treated itself at its Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant in San Marcos.

Why desalinated water?

The water that ended up in the Lower Otay Reservoir is a mixture of these three kinds of treated water.

Of those, the most expensive by far is desalinated water. It costs at least \$2,131 for an acre-foot, the standard measure used by water officials, which equals 326,000 gallons. Metropolitan's treated water costs about half that much, \$942 per acre-foot. The water treated at Twin Oaks costs even less, about \$830 per acre-foot.

Why is the County Water Authority trying to turn away cheaper water while buying desalinated water? Because it has to buy water from the plant whether it needs it or not. That's the deal the authority struck with Poseidon Resources.

"There's no incentive for Poseidon to shut down, and we have to take the water, so this kind of thing I can see happening more frequently," said Livia Borak, an attorney who represented environmental groups that opposed construction of the desalination plant.

San Diego water officials said the current situation does not undermine the long-term rationale behind the desalination plant.

"We have built-in resources not for this year, next year, but we have built-in resources for the next 30 years," said Weston, the authority's board chairman.

The authority also expects the

desalinated water to become cheaper than Metropolitan's sometime between 2027 and 2042. The desalination plant is considered a reliable supply for the region, something San Diego can rely on even if there's an earthquake or if Metropolitan cuts its deliveries, as it did during a prior drought.

"We discovered back in the early 1990s that we really didn't want to be in that position again," said Mark Watton, another member of the County Water Authority's board.

Where this is heading?

The County Water Authority and Metropolitan are already on bad terms, but officials at both agencies have expressed hope for a quiet resolution to what the authority calls "forced water deliveries."

The County Water Authority has considered taking Metropolitan to court, although it is working to avoid that outcome because lawyers may cost more than the value of the water at stake.

San Diego officials said they could pay Metropolitan cheaper raw water prices for the treated water. After all, the water can still be used; it just has to be treated again.

"The treatment value is lost, but the water value is still there," Watton said.

Kightlinger, the Metropolitan head, also expressed interest in a compromise. The compromise proposed by San Diego would cost his agency about \$400,000 in lost revenue, roughly the value of the treatment done to the water by Metropolitan.

Staff at both agencies are also

working on ways to permanently reduce the minimum amount of water that needs to go through the main pipeline involved in the dispute. Any flow below a certain number cannot be read by Metropolitan's meter.

Use more water?

One solution to all these problems? Just let San Diego use more water.

The County Water Authority has been lobbying against the governor's water conservation mandate, even though state officials are looking to lock in the water savings so that Californians don't backpedal and find themselves unprepared for yet another drought.

Recently, the authority sent an 11-page letter to the State Water Resources Control Board that continued to plead San Diego's case, which is basically that San Diego should have a choice about saving water, in part because it has worked for years to buy itself out of droughts.

"There is no substantial evidence in the record that the Water Authority's use of water from existing sources is unsustainable, wasteful or unreasonable because its use will not injure any other water user or the environment," the letter said. "All evidence is that water is available to the Water Authority and that this water can be used safely and efficiently."

Ry Rivard writes about water and land use for Voice of San Diego. You can reach him at (619) 550-5665, or ryrivard@voiceofsandiego.org.

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CONT. FROM PG. 8

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DecoBike, 44 percent of board-
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6 p.m. and before 9 a.m.Russell said he would like to
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Sat 11-3:30 Sun 11-3:30pm... 3135 Emerson St. 3BR/2BA ... \$799,500 ... Robert Realty • 619-852-8827

Sat & Sun 11-4pm ... 3240 Tennyson St.4BR/3BA ... \$1,195,000 ... Robert Realty • 619-852-8827

Sat & Sun 11-4pm ... 3309 Fenelon4BR/4BA ... \$1,295,500 ... Robert Realty • 619-852-8827

Sat & Sun 11-4pm ... 820 Armada Terrace3BR/3BA ... \$2,250,000 ... Robert Realty • 619-852-8827

RANCHO SANTA FE

Sat 12-3pm ... 6162 La Fletcha3BR/3BA ... \$1,695,000 ... Scott Appleby • 858-775-2014

Sunday 1-4pm ... 5835 Saratoga Corte3BR/3.5BA ... \$1,950,000 ... Arlene Sacks • 959-922-3900

LA JOLLA

Sat & Sun 1-4pm ... 7555 Eads Ave #2 ... \$1,225,000 ... Thomas Carroll • 619-279-0299

Sat & Sun 1-4pm ... 7324 Remely Place4BR/3.5BA ... \$4,695,000 Leslie Rosenquist • 858-692-3880

Sat & Sun 1-4pm ... 6767 Neptune Place3BR/3BA ... \$2,850,000 Team Cairncross • 858-859-3370

Sat & Sun 1-4pm ... 6106 Camino De La Costa... .3BR/3.5BA ... \$15,600,000

... Ross Clark 858-442-2643 • Lysuanne Jones 858-922-6228

Sat 1-4pm ... 8080 La Jolla Scenic Dr. N4BR/4.5BA ... \$4,450,000 Drew Nelson • 858-215-3739

Sat 1-4pm ... 6423 Camino De La Costa5BR/4.5BA ... \$6,950,000 George Daglas • 708-250-6366

Sun 1-4pm ... 1511 Copa de Oro4BR/3.5BA ... \$2,199,000 George Daglas • 708-250-6366

Sun 1-4pm ... 7765 Via Capri5BR/4.5BA ... \$2,650,000 The Reed Team • 858-395-4033

Sun 1-4pm ... 909 Coast Blvd. unit 262BR/2BA ... \$1,250,000 Nancy Mitchell • 858-405-0283

Sun 1-4pm ... 909 Coast Blvd. unit 42BR/2BA ... \$1,250,000 Moira Tapia 858-337-7269

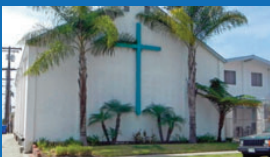
Sat 1-4pm ... 6327 Dowling6BR/3/BA ... \$1,575,000 Jim Holland 858-405-6442

Sat 1-4pm ... 5727 La Jolla Hermosa Ave5BR/3.5BA ... \$1,750,000-1,850,000

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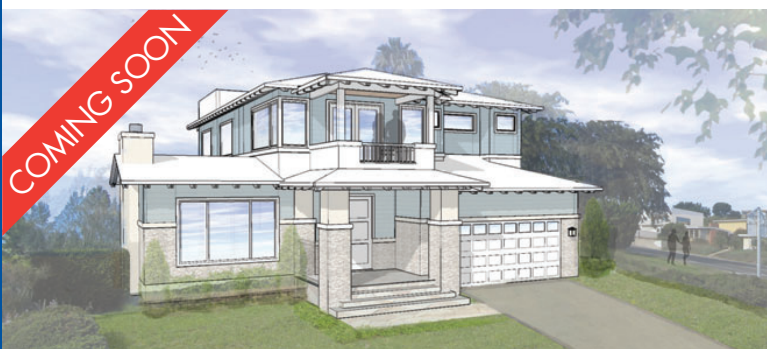
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COMING SOON

770 Van Nuys: Coastal Craftsman featuring 4bd/3.5ba, 3243 sq ft, 2 car attached garage, on an 8,200 sq ft lot. Panoramic ocean, bay and city views from both levels of the house as well as the rooftop deck. Your dream home awaits you...Call us NOW for more information!



ALL IN ESCROW

1119-1125 Grand Ave.: NEW Construction 2bd + bonus room/ 2.5ba townhomes only 4 blocks from the ocean featuring dual master suites, multiple patios/ decks, a large open great room w/ a fireplace, & a bonus room. Enjoy the large 3rd floor deck w/ an outdoor fireplace-perfect for any time of year! Kitchen boasts granite counters, stainless steel appliances & ample cabinet space. All four units went into escrow before construction was completed!



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1304 Oliver - \$1,175,000

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3745 MISSION BLVD UNIT C - \$495,000

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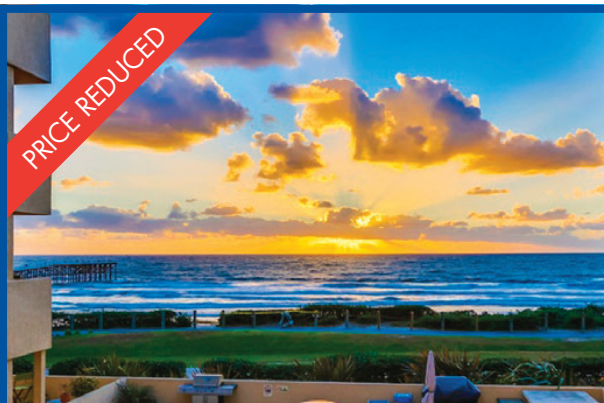
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