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## SAMBA MOVES TO MB

The ninth annual Brazilian Day San Diego has a new venue this year - Mission Beach's Belmont Park. The event, to be held Saturday, Sept. 10 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., celebrates Brazil's independence day.

SEE PAGE 10



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## GUM POLE: ART OR ICK? IT'S SOMETHING TO CHEW ON



PB artist Autumn Love adds a Big Red heart to the gum pole last weekend. She believes the pole is definitely a form of art. Read our story about the gum pole on page 11. To see more of Autumn's artwork, visit [www.artbyautumn.com](http://www.artbyautumn.com) and also check out her paintings at The Mad Beet and Belli Capelli Hair Studio on Garnet Avenue.

PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE

## Residents raising funds to upgrade local dog park

By DAVE SCHWAB

It's been a dozen years since Capehart won out over Kate Sessions to become Pacific Beach's only off-leash dog park.

Due to the recent drought and watering restrictions, as well as heavy usage by dogs large and small, Capehart's two separate fenced-in areas have both been almost completely denuded of turf.

A push is now on to make both the small- and large-dog sections of Capehart, at 4747 Soledad Mountain Road, green once again.

SEE **DOGS**, Page 2

## Maruta Gardner's killer sentenced to 11 years

By NEAL PUTNAM

The drunk driver who killed activist Maruta Gardner in Mission Beach after she painted over graffiti was sentenced Tuesday to 11 years in prison in front of a packed courtroom.

All 77 seats were filled before Jonathan Domingo Garcia, 24, was sentenced by San Diego Superior Court Judge Kathleen Lewis, who turned down his attorney's request for probation.

SEE **MARUTA**, Page 13

The Market is *Moving*...Are you?



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## DOGS &gt;&gt;

CONT. FROM PG. 1

The group, Friends of Capehart Off-Leash Small Dog Park, spearheaded by beach-area residents Ron McChesney and Chris Cott, have started a GoFundMe fundraiser to re-sod Capehart.

"Our goal was \$2,500 and we raised \$3,750 in about 48 hours," said McChesney, noting the city's Parks and Recreation Department just green-lighted their proposal to sod Capehart's 5,700-square-foot little-dog section.

More than turf has been lost at Capehart the past couple years of drought.

"It's not just a dog park—it's a people park," noted Cott, adding, "A lot of people aren't coming any more because there's no more grass and they don't want their dogs to get all dirty and then have to wash them afterwards."

McChesney's lined up a company, Amsod of Escondido, which gave him an estimate of 33 cents a square foot to turf the park's small-dog section.

Noting there are "100 or more individuals who use this park," Cott pointed to the dusty plain of the small-dog section and said, "It wasn't a golf course. But it wasn't dirt either."

On a recent afternoon, PB resident Veronica turned out with her dogs at Capehart.

Asked if she thought sodding the



The Capehart dog park has no grass left.

PHOTO BY DAVE SCHWAB

small-dog section was a good idea, she responded, "Why would anyone say no?"

When the cost involved and watering were mentioned, Veronica's response was, "It's only one dog park."

Built for \$632,000 and opened in 2004, Capehart, with its distinct large- and small-dog fenced-in areas, has since been the place for dog owners to let their pets strut their stuff. The off-leash park, however, continues to have its critics.

More than a decade ago when it first opened, detractors argued the park was neither wide enough, long enough or well-tended enough to be a top-flight off-leash park the community could be proud of. Ultimately, the attempt by dog owners to create an off-leash park at Kate Sessions was scuttled by a neighborhood petition drive opposing it.

## WANT TO HELP?

Those wishing to learn more about the Capehart GoFundMe drive should visit [gofundme.com/2j8nsrnp](http://gofundme.com/2j8nsrnp).

Pointing out "everybody's been anticipating this (turfing)," Cott said, Capehart was the first thing he thought of upon hearing strict state regulations governing watering during the drought had been relaxed allowing irrigation once again.

"Now we can move forward," he said.

Besides turfing, McChesney pointed out fenced-in areas could use more concrete pads for chairs, that there is a need for more shade trees and sun umbrellas as well as more netting and permanently covered areas for the safety and comfort of guests.

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### Bucs win one, lose one

Mission Bay beat Escondido 31-28 in their home opener in Pacific Beach on Aug. 26. But the Bucs fell 26-25 to University City on Sept. 2 at home. Above, running back Kenyon Sims gains yards against Escondido. Below, Mission Bay cheerleaders encourage the Buccaneers against University City.

PHOTOS BY THOMAS MELVILLE



## Mission Bay's cross country, water polo, beach volleyball look for winning seasons

By DAVE THOMAS

As the new school year kicked off recently, a number of Mission Bay High teams are looking to make for winning campaigns this fall.

On the cross country scene, the Bucs under coaches John Jacobs (second year) and Barry Dancher (fourth year) have been building a strong base with exceptional younger athletes, though Jacobs notes the team's returning seniors and juniors are sure to perform well.

Seniors Dylan Kasper and Jason Watts are running well this year, both of whom have set their sights

on the state meet, according to Jacobs.

"This year we are focusing on building a more cohesive and competitive top five for both girls and boys," Jacobs commented.

### Beach volleyball

On the boys beach volleyball scene, head coach Nikki Caufield is hoping to move the program ahead in only its second year.

"Accordingly, all our players were playing beach volleyball for the first time and we were in a league in which we were the only first-year program," Caufield remarked.

"Thus, while we won some games last year, the season was primarily a learning experience for the boys in that many of the boys had never played volleyball, much less beach volleyball, before the season started.

"This year we return most of last year's squad and have added nine freshmen to the program in addition to some boys off last year's indoor squad for a total of 20 new and returning players."

According to Caufield, key returners include seniors Kieran Wills and Jacob Cayetano.

SEE **BUCS**, Page 10

## Bucs' girls tennis, volleyball hope to ace improvements

By DAVE THOMAS

For a pair of Mission Bay girls sports teams, the new season means new opportunities to improve.

On the tennis courts, head coach Trong Tong (sixth year) and his Bucs are looking to rebound from a trying season a year ago.

According to Tong, key players this season look to be freshman McKenna Mountain (No. 1 singles), senior Sabina Hagey (No. 2 singles), and the No. 1 doubles duo of seniors Lumila Raynal and Lindsey Price.

Tong said among the goals this season would be to make team CIF and win at least a round, along with getting Mountain seeded in individual CIF.

"In a newly reshuffled league this year, our improved team has already topped last year's performance with a 12-6 win over Lincoln," Tong remarked. "We also played High Tech in a closely contested match but lost 10-8. We got a highly talented freshman in McKenna, who will give our team a great boost and will hopefully make some noise in individual CIF."

### Volleyball

On the girls volleyball front, the Bucs under head coach Steve Upp won their first home non-league match versus Montgomery.

Mission Bay also saw action this past weekend in the Sweetwater Tournament (finished fifth out of

43 teams), winning both of its pool matches against Mountain Empire and Calexico, respectively.

Those wins put Mission Bay in the gold bracket, where it defeated El Camino and lost to Otay Lakes, respectively.

Mission Bay is led this season by senior tri-captains Alex Briski, Samantha Zambrano and Maddie Tandy. Other players to watch are sophomore Bethany Kepner and junior Kim Hollaway.

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# Taste the Heart of PB during its annual restaurant walk from Dawes to Lamont

Those hungry in PB can indulge their palettes at the Heart of PB Restaurant Walk 4 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14 between Dawes and Lamont streets.

Hosted by Discover PB, the beach community's Business Improvement District, the leisurely, self-guided restaurant tour allows guests to sample a variety of menus from local eateries for just \$25. Cost is \$30 at the door.

"These taste events are a great way for us to promote the diverse dining options in Pacific Beach and allows potential new customers to not just taste food from restaurants, but see their individual style and décor," said Sara Berns, Discover PB's executive director.

"The event also increases much-needed foot traffic to explore the shops and services you may drive by and not notice are there during your daily commute."

Noting there are several new restaurants involved this year, Berns pointed out that "just shows what a flourishing district and dining scene we have here in Pacific Beach."

"Proceeds from this event, and all our events, not only help promote our businesses, but are used towards our cleaning programs such as the

16 new trash cans we purchased and placed throughout the district," Berns added.

Seven new restaurants – Hammond's Gourmet Ice Cream, Pavara-ga Hawaiian Coffee, Buddy's Diner, PB Sushi, Barrel Republic, Vallarta Express, and Pieology – will be participating in the restaurant walk.

Other participating eateries include Café Athena, Mr. Frostie, Tavern at the Beach, The Patio on Lamont Street, Woodstock's Pizza,

Pacific Beach Cantina, Tap Room, Cerveza Jack's, The Fish Shop, The Broken Yolk Cafe, Yogurt on the Rocks, Costa Brava and Jamba Juice.

Tickets will be available for purchase at [www.pacificbeach.org](http://www.pacificbeach.org), or in person at Woodstock's Pizza, 1221 Garnet Ave., and Yogurt on the Rocks at 1886 Garnet Ave.

For more information, visit [www.pacificbeach.org](http://www.pacificbeach.org) or contact Ann Condon of Discover PB at 858-273-3303.



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Letty Oudone's pet dog Charley was struck and killed by a speeding hit-and-run driver making a left onto Loring Street from Bayard Street. Neighbor Tracey Benson painted his portrait (right) for Oudone.



## Beloved pet killed by hit-and-run driver highlights speeding problems in PB, MB

By DAVE SCHWAB

It's a tragic story that's served to bring Pacific Beach neighbors – and hopefully – their neighborhood, together.

Letty Oudone on Aug. 4 had let her dog out for a potty break in her driveway before work about 5:30 a.m. According to nearby neighbor Brooke Adams, her longtime pooch Charley was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver making a left onto Loring Street from Bayard Street.

"It is extremely dangerous with how fast cars go down Loring and with the parked cars blocking one's vision, and there is a dark part of the street there due to no street light and trees," noted Adams. "The person hit Charley and kept driving."

Adams felt the car driver "didn't even know they hit anything ... and if they hit something, I don't think they knew it was an animal."

Another neighbor, Tracey Benson, saw a posting of the tragic incident on NextDoor.

"This story really touched me because I have animals too – and I know how I would feel if this happened to me," Benson said. "Losing an animal due to illness or old age is

so difficult as they are members of the family. To lose an animal so traumatically is even worse."

To memorialize Charley, Benson, an artist, painted his portrait, and gave it to Letty.

"It was amazing," said Letty of her neighbor's memorial pet portrait. "He (Charley) was my buddy for eight years, my partner, my soul-mate, my best friend."

Lamented Letty, "The driver went over the curb, hit him (dog), and left, never stopping," while pointing out, "people come flying down Loring Street."

Of her pet portrait, Benson noted, "I knew there was nothing I could do to get her (Letty's) dog back. But I wanted her to have something to remember her dog. I feel so much empathy for her, and wanted her to know that others felt her loss too."

"I would like to believe that people are still good in this world, so I'll just keep on believing the person (car driver) didn't know," said Adams, of her reporting on Charley's tragic death in NextDoor social media.

Noting the dog's death made a lasting impression on her, Adams recalled, "She (Letty) was screaming, she literally picked Charley up (dead) and walked him home to

where she lives leaving a blood trail all the way down the street. ... I definitely thought the neighborhood needed to know about this tragedy and ... I would want everyone walking by that spot to know that my dog was killed there."

Of the incident's aftermath, Adams added, "I definitely feel like we all helped her (Letty) heal more than if she was alone. Dogs are just as important as people. They are our family members too."

Artist Benson noted "the worst places I have found for walking dogs are those streets that cross Mission Boulevard. Even having those intersections marked for pedestrians with flashing lights and markings on the asphalt does not ensure that cars will stop when they see you crossing the street."

"This is also true for crossing Garnet at the different streets that intersect with it. Both Mission Boulevard and Garnet are like freeways in the summer time."

"One never forgets their pets after they pass on," concluded Adams. "The experience of having that animal lives on in your memory long after they are gone."

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# Surfers in Mission Beach to catch waves to help at-risk youth

By DAVE SCHWAB

On Saturday, Sept. 17, hundreds of surfers will hit the water at Mission Beach in the seventh annual 100 Wave Challenge to support Boys to Men Mentoring aiding at-risk youth.

The goal is for each participating surfer to raise \$1,000 for Boys to Men Mentoring.

Boys to Men is a community of dedicated men able to guide and support young, often fatherless boys on their

journey to manhood. The community-based mentoring approach gives boys a variety of male role models who show up consistently, tell the truth, discuss growing up, praise them for their gifts and support them when they fail encouraging them to become the men they want to be.

Every week, Boys to Men mentors show up at middle and high schools and foster care facilities to give teenage boys a community of mentors who listen, encourage and believe in them.

Boys to Men mentor Craig McClain noted the international mentoring program is active in 30 cities on four continents. He talked about the need for the program and its mentors.

"Thirty-three percent of kids in the United States grow up without a dad," said McClain, noting the 100 Wave Challenge is the group's biggest fundraiser providing about 60 percent of annual donations.

"We raised \$60,000 last year and our goal this year is to raise

\$400,000," McClain said.

Noting many single-parent, at-risk families are poor, McClain said Boys to Men mentors outreach to 30 middle and high schools in San Diego consulting with school counselors to identify their most at-risk youth.

"They send them to us and we work with them during the school day or after school," he said. "Typically, two or three mentors sit with 10 to 15 teenage boys talking with them about how to deal with issues

## 100 WAVE CHALLENGE

**What:** Fundraiser for Boys to Men Mentoring.

**When:** 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17.

**Info:** [www.boystomen.org](http://www.boystomen.org).

they have, letting them know people care about them. It kind of gives them a sounding board for dealing with what's going on in their lives. What Boys To Men does is give these kids a chance to make a choice," he said.

**READ MORE ONLINE AT** [sdnews.com](http://sdnews.com)

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■ Twelve students from the Mission Bay High School Aquatics Program participated in the Swim 24 Challenge from noon Aug. 27 to noon Aug. 28 at UCSD Canyonview Pool. Competing alongside 20 other teams including a team with MBHS alumni and parents, they swam in shifts for 24 hours to raise money for the San Diego Junior Lifeguard Foundation.

President of the SDJGF, Greg (Buc) Buchanan, said, "The mission of the San Diego Junior Lifeguard Foundation is to save lives by funding aquatics safety education and drowning prevention programs for underserved youth in San Diego. Our ultimate goal is to teach every third- through fifth-grader in San Diego to swim. The money raised during Swim 24 funds these important programs."

Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for children under 5 years of age and the second leading cause for 5-14 year olds.

Altogether, 21 teams swam more than 1,600,000 yards, just under 1,000 miles, and raised over \$120,000. For more information, see [swim24.org](http://swim24.org) and [sdjgfoundation.org](http://sdjgfoundation.org).

**PB Middle**

■ Back to School Night is 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21.

**Barnard Academy**

■ Barnard Asian Pacific Language Academy Back to School Night is 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14.

**Kate Sessions**

■ Kate Sessions thanks Zack and his crew at Mission Bay Sports Center for donating paddle boards, kayaks and pedal boats for another fabulous Day at the Bay hosted for Kate Sessions families on Sept. 18.

■ Fall sponsorship opportunities are available, to place your business's banner on the fence, contact [sessionspresident@gmail.com](mailto:sessionspresident@gmail.com) for details. Friends of Kate Sessions would like to thank iCatch marketing for their support.

**PB Elementary**

■ The PBE community is gearing up for its annual Penguin Pride Night 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 23, featuring a cake walk, Adopt-A-Pet, the book fair, free games and prizes for all, and more.

■ The staff of PBE is excited to introduce the new Project Lead the Way program to all grade levels at PBE. The students will receive modules in engineering, biomedical science, robotics and more throughout the school year.

**Mission Bay Cluster**

■ Friday Night Lights! Mission Bay Cluster is hosting the second annual Future Bucs Night 6 p.m. Sept. 16 at the Mission Bay High School stadium as the Buccaneers play Clairemont High.

Elementary and middle school families from throughout the community of schools may join the fun, show PB pride and cheer on the Bucs. If your child would like to be part of some half-time fun out on the field, email your child's name, contact info, grade, and school name to Maria Mikus at [mmikus1@yahoo.com](mailto:mmikus1@yahoo.com) by Tuesday, Sept. 13.

Twenty students from each of the four elementary schools will be drawn at random. Children participating in the half-time event will receive free admission to the game.

**St. Paul's Lutheran**

■ St. Paul's Lutheran School of Pacific Beach is celebrating 70 years of serving the children of the PB community with the start of the new school year. Founded in 1947, St. Paul's has provided a Christian education to thousands of students over seven decades. Many students and families continue to be an integral and successful part of the community. For more information, visit [stpaulspb.com](http://stpaulspb.com) or call 858-272-6282.



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# Jazz piano spotlight concerts coming to Dizzy's

By BART MENDOZA

Anyone who enjoys great piano playing will want to check out Dizzy's over the next two Saturdays, Sept. 10 and 17. This weekend will feature Los Angeles-based singer Judy Wexler with the Danny Green Trio, with the following Saturday set to feature The Joshua White Trio.

Wexler is a compelling singer with a clear, rich voice that will perfectly compliment Green's lyrical playing. Meanwhile White's show is dubbed "Plays New Original Music," making it a must for fans of one of the genre's fastest rising stars. Two more concerts that show why Dizzy's is San Diego's best jazz venue.

**Piano spotlight concerts: Saturdays, Sept. 10 and 17, at Dizzy's, 4275 Mission Bay Drive. 8 p.m. \$15. [www.dizzysjazz.com](http://www.dizzysjazz.com).**

Fans of classic rock will want to see the debut of new covers band, The Moonage Daydreamers at Beaumont's on Sept. 9. The all-star combo includes bassist John Yelenosky of December's Children, guitarists Ariel Levine and Jon Erickson, as well as drummer T-Bone Larson, the latter two best known as members of dance band, The Amandas.

The match of the band and the intimate Bird Rock setting is perfect, but best of all the Moonage Daydreamers will be playing a great mix

of songs rarely found in cover band sets including gems from the likes of Bowie, Roxy Music and The Velvet Underground.

**The Moonage Daydreamers: Friday, Sept. 9 at Beaumont's, 5662 La Jolla Blvd. 9 p.m. 21 and up. [www.beaumontseatory.com](http://www.beaumontseatory.com).**

On Sept. 15, Lyrical Groove frontman Kendrick Dial will perform at Humphrey's Backstage Live. Dial is a masterful frontman, acclaimed for his spoken-word prowess and social consciousness, helping the band become one of the area's most popular groups, taking home San Diego Music Awards for Best Hip Hop Group in 2013 and Best Hip Hop Album in 2014 for their CD, Spoken Soul.

While Lyrical Groove is still going strong, here Dial makes a rare solo appearance, where he can shine on his own, ramping up the groove factor of his material to take full advantage of the venues great dance floor.

**Kendrick Dial: Thursday, Sept. 15, at Humphrey's Backstage Live, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. 7 p.m. \$5. [www.humphreysbackstagelive.com](http://www.humphreysbackstagelive.com).**

Reggae fans will want to hop on board the Bahia Belle Cruise on Sept. 16, when the night's performers will be Twisted Relatives. San Diego's reggae scene continues to grow by leaps and bounds, though only Big Mountain to date has made a commercial

breakthrough with any sort of chart action.

That's okay, as for most of these groups, it's all about the live experience and that's certainly the case with Twisted Relatives. Their Bob Marley-tinged take on island sounds will be the perfect party sounds as Bahia Belle sails around Mission Bay.

**Twisted Relatives: Friday, Sept. 16, at the Bahia Resort, 998 West Mission Bay Drive. 9:30 p.m. 21 and up. \$10. [www.bahiabelle.com](http://www.bahiabelle.com).**

Six-piece gypsy funk combo, the Moves Collective performs at the 710 Beach Club on Sept. 16. It's true the band uses some acoustic instruments, including mandolin and harmonica, but their take on folk music is expansive, mixing in elements of pop and soul as heard on tracks such as ultra catchy, "Let The Rain Speak."

The musicianship is strong across the board with great harmonies topped by superb harmonica playing courtesy of Gonzalo Dremoniz, but it's the band's melodic songwriting that makes them a standout. If you are a fan of bands such as the Grateful Dead or songwriters such as Warren Zevon, with the added twist of a dance rhythm, the Moves Collective may well be your favorite new group.

**The Moves Collective: Friday, Sept. 16, at the 710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Ave. 9 p.m. 21 and up. [www.710bc.com](http://www.710bc.com).**

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The popular Brazilian Day parade, which used to go down Garnet Avenue, will now be held totally within the amusement center's parking lot in Mission Beach.

PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE



## Brazilian Day to samba in Mission Beach

By DAVE SCHWAB

The ninth annual Brazilian Day San Diego, the largest Brazilian festival on the West Coast, has a new venue this year — Mission Beach's Belmont Park.

The cultural event, to be held Saturday, Sept. 10 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Belmont Park's parking lot, celebrates the South American nation's independence day on Sept. 7. It features a carnival-style parade, live music and a fair with Brazilian products and cuisine.

The free, family friendly event was moved this year after outgrowing its previous location on the streets of Pacific Beach. It's also being held a day earlier than usual on Saturday, to avoid conflicting with NFL opening weekend Sunday, Sept. 11.

Brazilian Day producer Paulo Batuta said the festival provides an unparalleled opportunity for the entire coastal community to come together and embrace the cultural flavors, sounds and arts of Brazil.

### BRAZILIAN DAY

**Where:** Belmont Park, Mission Beach.

**When:** 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10.

**Info:** [www.braziliandaysandiego.com](http://www.braziliandaysandiego.com)

"We're excited about our new location in Belmont Park, and we're now closer to the water, so we can incorporate people at the beach and on the boardwalk as well," said Batuta, who noted taking the event off the streets into a parking lot will be "less impactful on the community."

An exciting group of entertainers has been lined up for the special cultural event including Ronan Horta, Carlinhos Do Pandeiro, Fernando Ebano, Batala Los Angeles with Master Giba, Ailton Nunes, Tania Santiago, Zumba Party Fitness, Super Sonic Samba and Ragabond.

There will be non-stop entertainment on stages including musical bands, dance ensembles, a food

court, vendor's exhibition and a kids zone rounding out festivities.

Batuta talked about the origin of the Brazilian festival.

"We had been celebrating the Fourth of July on the beach on Mission Bay and the party got so big ... we didn't realize there were so many Brazilians here," he said, adding the decision was made then and there to turn it into an annual celebration of Brazil's independence. Batuta noted Brazil days are held worldwide including such far-flung spots as London and Toronto.

New this year to the festival will be a beer garden on Belmont Park's grassy area that will showcase Brazilian brews, including craft beers from Novo Brazil microbrewery in Chula Vista.

"This year we'll also have a bigger participation from health and fitness businesses, as well as Brazilian food, as always," Batuta said, adding the parade will be held totally within the amusement center's parking lot.

## BUCS »

CONT. FROM PG. 4

Other new and returning players looking to make an early season impact include seniors Dylan Kasper and Alejandro Torres, sophomore Zander Caufield, junior Stephen Tarbell and freshmen Ian Briski and Dusty Schrader.

The leagues have re-aligned for beach volleyball such that Mission Bay will be playing in a small-school division rather than the large-school division that the Bucs played in last year.

The season started a week ago

with a match against La Jolla High School, the San Diego County Open Division champions from last year that Mission Bay narrowly lost 3-2.

"We knew that playing the open division champions from last year would be a challenge, especially with a few boys just returning from injury and/or vacation, but we are really proud of the way the boys played Sept. 1," Caufield said.

"Last year we were swept by La Jolla, this year we narrowly lost 3-2, with our number three team of Dylan Kasper and Huntley Castner narrowly losing their match even though Huntley has been missing due to injury for nearly a month."

Most of Mission Bay's matches will be played on Thursday afternoons either in Ocean Beach and/or the "Pit" across the street from the Belmont Park roller coaster.

### Water polo

On the boys water polo scene, head coach John Knight and the Bucs are going after CIF gold.

A year ago, Mission Bay reached the CIF quarterfinals, with Knight noting this year's team goal being to win CIFs.

According to Knight, the team will be anchored by Andy Dorris, Mitchel Meara and Alex Bauer.

## Your Age Vs. Your Posture — Pilates will make a difference.

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A Pilates repertoire can provide long term anti-aging benefits plus it is less expensive than surgery. Of course pilates is not for everybody, but Jeff T. from PB says "I came to Mission Beach Pilates for help in correcting long-term posture problems and to loosen up some tight joints and muscles. My six weeks of classes with Jennifer really made a difference."



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# Should the PB gum pole stick around as art, or is it just disgusting?

By LAINIE FRASER

Henry Erickson and Greg Spellman are two 24-year-old Pacific Beach residents who moved from San Francisco to San Diego for college in 2009. They met their freshman year and bonded over their love to pub-crawl. Together, they moved out to Pacific Beach their senior year of college and have never thought of living anywhere else.

"We have the prime set up," Erickson said. "We live, work and play here."

Although the bar and restaurant they go to changes every night, there is one part of their night that doesn't.

"We gotta get to the pole every night," Spellman said. "It's good luck. Never had a bad night with it."

Spellman is referring to the telephone pole that is covered in gum on the corner of Bayard and Garnet. For years, this pole has collected random pieces of passersby's chewing gum.

Erickson and Spellman say they don't know when other people started sticking their gum on the pole or even when they started doing it.

"I genuinely think we were standing here one night, bro," Spellman said. "And you are gross and stuck your gum there, with all the others, for no reason and then we had a really great night at our usual spot and the next morning couldn't figure out what we did different. Our hung-over brains decided it was the pole."

Erickson and Spellman are not the only ones who don't know how or when the pole started, in fact no one spoken to could provide a definite answer.

Eve Anderson, a long time member of Discover PB and the Pacific Beach Planning Group, says she doesn't know who started it or why people have continued to add to it.

Unlike Erickson and Spellman, Anderson is greatly opposed to the gum pole and is disgusted by its presence.

"I don't know who the original culprit was or how the masticated remnants ended up there," Anderson said. "I guess we should be thankful there's only one pole like that in Pacific Beach. We sure wouldn't want to start a fad."

Anderson has noticed that the gum pole is not the only way that gum has a presence in Pacific Beach. She has noticed that there is gum all over the sidewalks on Garnet Avenue and along Mission Boulevard.

"I've been told that much of it is from people about to go in the bars who've been chewing since they left the last bar and are trying to get rid of beer breath or whatever," Anderson said.

"I don't know how true it is but you'll notice that the gum problem is only really bad on Garnet and on Mission Boulevard, which is where the bars are," she said.

Anderson wants to have the gum removed and the pole scrubbed. She thinks the only way to stop people from sticking their gum to the pole and spitting it out on the street is to start some sort of program similar to one the city got behind in regard to cigarette butts.

"We need a campaign, a fun, eye-catching manner to make people think twice about spitting gum on the sidewalk," Anderson said. "Something along the lines of the 'Hold your Butts' campaign, which has successfully helped to decrease cigarette litter."

Veronica Hayes was born and raised in Pacific Beach and has seen the gum pole for as long as she can remember.

"To be frank, it doesn't bother me," Hayes said. "I think it takes a

certain kind of person to live in Pacific Beach because of the culture here.

"The environment attracts a certain clientele. They are the type of people who stick their gum on a pole for no real reason. The gum pole just fits with the vibe of PB, take it or leave it," Hayes said.

Some people agree with Anderson and are absolutely disgusted by the pole, others fall in line with Hayes and aren't bothered by it and then there are people like Kevin Smith.

Smith has lived in Pacific Beach for more than 10 years and has never noticed the pole.

"It's actually funny," Smith chuckled. "I walk my dog past this thing everyday on our way to the beach and I have never noticed this. Is it art or something?"

According to Cathy Stringfellow, a multimedia art professor at San Diego State University, public art is defined as any media that has been planned and executed with the intention of being staged in the physical public domain. In her mind,

this pole is not that.

An artist collective is defined by Stringfellow as an initiative that is the result of a group of artists working together, and due to the lack of coordination, she feels this is not that either.

"I would never want to take the title of art away from anything present in our beach communities," Stringfellow said. "At the same time I am hesitant to give the label art out to just anyone and anything."

"Is graffiti considered art? This is somewhat a destruction of city property in my eyes, but beauty is in the eye of the beholder right?" she said.

The jury remains out on both the origins of the gum pole and what the future holds for it. Opinions of residents and visitors span both ends of the spectrum. Most people agree that if it poses no real health threat,



Autumn Love sticks another piece of Big Red on the gum pole in PB. PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE

although it may not be nice to look at, they don't mind it.

"My only fear is when it comes to my daughter," said Jennifer Little, a Pacific Beach resident.

"I can't tell you how many times I have to tell her not to touch it when we walk by it. Just a curious kid I suppose but the city could help me out. We have enough to deal with living in a beach community, could we not have a pole of god-knows-what in the center of it?"

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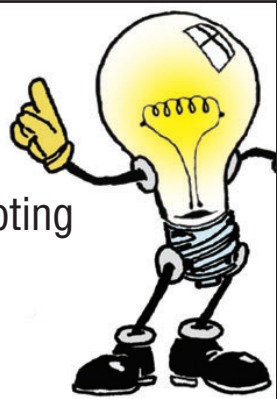
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS 100

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## MARUTA >>

CONT. FROM PG. 1

Deputy District Attorney Steve Schott  
asked for 15 years while the probation  
department recommended 11 years.  
Defense attorney Gerald Smith asked  
for no more than nine years if proba-  
tion was denied.

Lewis said she believed Garcia was “a

danger to others,” and mentioned his  
first hit-and-run accident that occurred  
in January, some three weeks before he  
killed Gardner.

Gardner, a retired teacher and princi-  
pal at Mission Bay High School, was  
struck at 5:45 p.m. by Garcia, who  
drove away without stopping. Schott  
described her as “a pillar of the com-  
munity.”



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CA BRE Broker's # 01312925 Mike Dodge

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1535 Loring

A meticulous collaboration between a visionary owner & renowned architectural firm, CDGI, resulted in an entertainer's dream that masterfully frames floor-to-ceiling, 270 degree views from Downtown SD to La Jolla encompassing bay, ocean, & city panorama. Estate features 4 beds + office, 5 full & 2 half baths, theater, gym, wet bar, infinity pool & spa, Olympic torches, 360 degree roof deck, 3 car garage (fits limo), & Lutron Home Works tech throughout. Check out video and more at 1535Loring.com  
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1684 Los Altos

This masterfully designed storybook Craftsman fuses pristine stone & woodwork w/ open & bright spaces, luxury tech, & seamless indoor/outdoor integration. A few blocks from Kate Sessions Park & nestled on a 20,000sqft lot w/ bay, city & ocean views, this 5+ bed estate lives beautifully w/ the conveniences of an indoor gym, game room, laundry on 2 floors including an impressive mudroom, & a state-of-the-art kitchen. Master is an ocean-view retreat w/ a private sunset terrace.  
**\$2,975,000**

Team Cairncross' La Jolla Listings



438 Ravina St

Where The Village of La Jolla meets the Beach Barber Tract, this early 1900's 6 bed-room charmer is a delightful stroll to shops, restaurants, schools, & the most beautiful beaches. Grand proportions and old world details are married with fun outdoor spaces including a pool & spa, outdoor cooking station, & enchanting, brick-paved patio off the kitchen. 4 fireplaces give this home a cozy atmosphere. 2 detached single-car garages & a 5-car motor court provide a rare advantage at the beach. Land zoned for up to 7 units.  
**\$3,495,000**



5751 Chelsea Ave

Experience breathtaking ocean views from this custom 5 bed, 6 bath La Jolla estate bordering Bird Rock & less than 400 ft. from the water's edge at La Jolla Hermosa Park. A gorgeous rooftop deck offers serene sunset and water views. Backyard features a dazzling pool & spa w/ plenty of space to play! An oversized 3-car garage makes parking a breeze w/ an elevator servicing all levels of the home! Finished basement includes billiard room, oversized laundry room, sauna, exercise room and bonus room.  
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