





SCHOOLS

Fielden and Sydney Schmitz finished first and second in their divisions at the fourth annual Schoolyard Dash 5K, which raises funds for local schools.

SEE PAGE 10



ENTERTAINMENT

The Benedetti Trio's Tribute to George Harrison at Dizzy's Feb. 10. Led by guitarist Fred Benedetti, the trio includes two vocalists, Regina Moomjean and Julia Piccone.



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SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

THURSDAY · FEBRUARY 9, 2017

Mayor Kevin Faulconer watches as a backhoe begins ripping down the facade of the building that houses the Plunge swimming pool. The framed photo shows the Plunge (née Natatorium) building in the 1920s. PHOTO BY DAVE SCHWAB

Plunge pool rebuild begins at Belmont Park

By DAVE SCHWAB

Elected officials, stakeholders and Mission Beach residents paid homage to a local landmark, a fallen hero and a public-private partnership, during a Jan. 30 groundbreaking ceremony kicking-off restoration of Belmont Park's historic Plunge swimming pool.

The event included a plaque unveiling dedicated to Maruta Gardner, a Mission Beach educator tragically killed in 2016 by an intoxicated driver while painting out graffiti near the Mission Beach jetty.

'Many of us who grew up around Mission Beach learned to swim at the Plunge ... our children learned to swim there.'

GARY WONACOTT, MISSION BEACH TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

every aspect of the Mission tion crews and heavy equip-Beach community - she embodied public service," said Phylicia Cicalo-Aiken, Mission Beach Women's Club president. "The plaque will stand as a testament, honoring her work and commitment to our community for future generations and serve as a reminder of her love for Mission Beach."

In remarks before sledge-"Maruta was involved in hammer-wielding construc-

ment began toppling the existing building, Mayor Kevin Faulconer talked about its significance. He noted San Diego pioneering developer John D. Spreckels created the Plunge swimming pool as the centerpiece of Belmont Park in 1925.

"It was the largest saltwater pool in the world,"

SEE **PLUNGE**, Page 11

PLUNGE INTO HISTORY

In 1925, in an effort to stimulate real estate sales and to promote his electric railway, John D. Spreckels built the Mission Beach Amusement Center, now Belmont Park.

One of the amusement center's star attractions was the Glant Dipper roller coaster. Along with the coaster, the Natatorium, which was later renamed the Plunge swimming pool, was constructed as a centerpiece of the park.

The 60-foot by 175-foot pool was, at the time, the largest saltwater pool in the world holding 400,000 gallons of water. The build-

SEE **HISTORY**, Page 11

PB leaders initiate clean and safe plan

New pilot program for community

By DAVE SCHWAB

Public officials, businesses and residents collectively launched a clean and safe program to remove trash in Pacific Beach and make the community safer, while offering the homeless a hand up at a Feb. 3 press conference on Garnet Avenue.

District 2 Councilmember Lorie Zapf hailed the efforts of Discover PB, the community's business improvement district, which took the lead, along with civic leaders, in inaugurating the clean and safe pro-

'This is an absolutely exciting program.'

> **BRIAN CURRY** PB PLANNING CHAIR

Zapf also made a contribution from her office, \$20,000 in grant seed money for the new pilot program, presented in an oversized novelty check.

In comments, Zapf alluded to an email she got from an East Coast police officer who said he and his family would

SEE PROGRAM, Page 13

Accused homeless killer, Guerrero, ruled mentally competent for trial

By NEAL PUTNAM

A psychiatric hospital has made a finding that Jon David Guerrero is mentally competent to stand trial for three bizarre murders of homeless men in Ocean Beach, downtown, and Mission Bay.

Guerrero, 39, appeared Feb. 1 before San Diego Superior Court Judge Margie Woods for a judicial ruling of his mental competency, but his lawyer won a three-week delay to review the hospital's report.

Woods set another hearing for Feb. 22 and criminal proceedings remain suspended. Guerrero was returned from Patton State Hospital on Jan. 19 and he remains in the



David Guerrero

central jail without bail.

Deputy District Attorney Mackenzie Harvey said Wednesday the hospital made "a finding that he's mentally competent" and this has to be confirmed by a

The first victim was Angelo DeNardo, 53, who was attacked where he was sleep-

SEE TRIAL, Page 6

Planning group in favor of Pacific Beach as proving ground for autonomous vehicles

By DAVE SCHWAB

In January, Pacific Beach Planning Group voted to send a letter asking that the beach community be considered as one of 10 proving grounds being sought nationwide for so-called driverless vehicles.

A "driverless" car, also known as an autonomous, self-driving or robotic car, is a vehicle capable of sensing its environment and navigating without human input. Such vehicles can detect their surroundings using a variety of techniques such as radar, lidar, GPS, odometry and computer vision. Some of the technology behind driverless cars dates back to the '20s and '30s, while the first truly self-sufficient cars appeared in the '80s.

Benefits of autonomous cars could include less traffic collisions and injuries, less need for insurance, increases in traffic flow, driver relief from navigation chores, lower fuel consumption and reduced need for parking space in cities. Disadvantages may include technological challenges, liability questions, and consumer concern about their safety, as well as the possible loss of driving-related jobs in the transporta-

SAN DIEGO CHOSEN AS AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE PROVING GROUND

one of 10 proving grounds for autonomous vehicles in the nation. The region has advanced features in its local transportation network and a global reputation as a high-tech hub for research and wireless innovations.

"This is great news for the San Diego region," SANDAG chair and County Supervisor Ron Roberts said. "We are at the start of a new transportation era, and it's tremendously exciting for our region to be part of a national initiative to foster innovations and best practices that will enable the safe deployment of driverless

SANDAG, Caltrans, and the City of Chula Vista jointly submitted the application to the federal government for the designation. The application garnered support from major auto manufacturers and technology companies, including Toyota, Qualcomm, Teradata, and

The U.S. Department of Transportation DENSO International America Inc. To see has designated the San Diego region as the list of supporters and other background materials related to this initiative, visit www.sandag.org.

"The designated proving grounds will collectively form a Community of Practice around safe testing and deployment," U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said.

"This group will openly share best practices for the safe conduct of testing and operations as they are developed, enabling the participants and the general public to learn at a faster rate and accelerating the pace of safe deployment," Foxx said.

As part of the nationwide pilot, proving ground sites will bring together auto manufacturers, local cities, public agencies and private companies to test autonomous vehicles on designated facilities. The test sites will share information and work together to develop best practices.

tion industry.

"We've been talking about driverless cars for years," said PBPG board member Henish Pulickal, who made the motion asking the advi- of a Balboa Avenue trolley station, sory group to draft a letter seeking the city's aggressive Climate Action to become a driverless car test site.

Pulickal suggested the plan group among them. "put together a list of 10 different

reasons why PB is a great location for driverless cars." He himself listed several reasons: the community's street grid pattern, the coming Plan and the need for car sharing

SEE VEHICLES, Page 7



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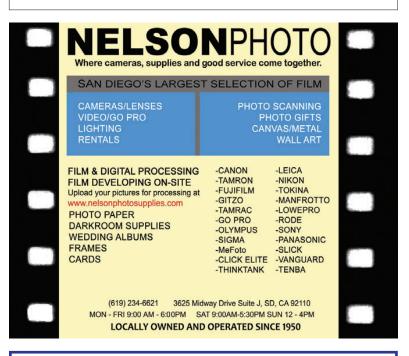


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Dalai Lama to speak at UCSD commencement

Friends of the Dalai Lama Foundation, founded by Ven. Lama the 14th Dalai Lama, recently 2017 U.S. tour stop.

The University of California San announced that the exiled spiritu-Diego, in partnership with The al head and leader of the Tibetan people will offer the keynote address at the invitation-only Tenzin Dhonden the Personal UCSD All Campus Commence-Emissary for Peace to His Holiness ment June 17. This will be his first





Johnny Pernicano of Pernicano's Restaurant and a member of Pacific Beach Kiwanis received the Pug Sanford award for community service from PB Town Council on Saturday, 1-21-17.



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Shannon T. O'Neill

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Mission Bay girls basketball turns it around, boys in position for post-season success

By DAVE THOMAS

As the high school basketball season moves a step closer to CIFs, the Mission Bay High boys and girls teams are trying to position themselves for the playoffs.

Girls basketball

On the girls side of things, head coach Vince Ichihara had his Bucs sitting at 10-10 (6-0 Central League play) heading into action this week.

In recent play, Mission Bay topped Christian 56-43 to take control of over Clairemont.

Senior Sammy Zambrano and freshman Maggie Acquaah are averaging 11 points a game, respectively. Sophomore Natalie Mcdermott is averaging 10 points a game, with freshman Noella Coiquaud tallying eight points a game.

"We have a very balanced attack and there always seems to be someone different stepping up night in and out," Ichihara commented.

Sophomore Ryleigh Maple is the team's only true post player and has done great inside for the Bucs, according to Ichihara. The coach

defensive specialist who also has knocked down big shots at times.

Maggie Acquaah (5-foot 5-inches tall) has dominated bigger teams on the glass, averaging almost 10 rebounds a game to go with her 11

"We are currently ranked fifth in our division and are on track to not only make the playoffs for the first time in four years, but also be a topfour seed and host a playoff game at Mission Bay," Ichihara remarked.

"We started the first 10 games of the league, gaining a two-game lead the season 1-9, missing different combinations of starting players each game. Since having all of our team together, we are 9-1 and on a seven-game win streak."

Boys basketball

On the boys side, head coach Marshawn Cherry has the Bucs at 16-8 coming into this week's play.

Sophomore sharp-shooting point guard and great competitor, Rejean (Boogie) Ellis, continues to be the team's leader and leading scorer.

Sophomore Jamaryee Norton is the team's second-leading scorer, getting to the rim and piling up

added that Brooklyn Grooms is a points, while fellow sophomore Ronnie Latting is the team's leading rebounder and shot blocker.

> Sophomore Andre Scot is an athletic slashing guard, getting to the rim and possessing a great midrange game. Senior Marcus Nickerson is a lightning-quick, athletic lock-up guard, capable of scoring in many ways.

> "I am very happy with our current position; we are tied for second in the league and looking to finish the second half of league off strong," Cherry commented. "We are preparing for the playoffs and hoping to get the one or two seed in Division I."

As Cherry pointed out, coming into the season he didn't know what to expect with this team, losing all the seniors from last year and the core of the team being sophomores.

"They have all performed great and each brings a lot to the team," Cherry pointed out. "But the X-factor is senior Marcus Nickerson; his defense and leadership has been invaluable to the team's success. We wouldn't be in the position we are in today without him."

Celebrate San Diego Rally at Petco Park's Park at the Park on Feb. 11

cials and community leaders are home, including Padres Hall of joining forces on the Celebrate San Famers Trevor Hoffman and Randy Diego Rally, to be held Saturday, Feb. Jones, Padres manager Andy Green, 11 at Petco Park's Park at the Park. former Chargers Nick Hardwick and The free public celebration will Rolf Benirschke, San Diego Police feature special appearances by ath- Chief Shelley Zimmerman, San

Local sports teams, elected offi- letes and leaders who call San Diego Diego Gulls head coach Dallas Eakins, and more.

> Gates to the Park at the Park (Gaslamp Gate on 7th Avenue at K Street and East Village Gate on 10th Avenue at K Street), will open at 10 a.m., and the event ends at 3 p.m.





Feb. 23 - Pulitzer winner Tracy Kidder in an interview with Dean Nelson. His new book A Truck Full of Money is about Kayak founder Paul English. Other Kidder books include Mountains Beyond Mountains (about humanitarian Paul Farmer), House, The Soul of a New Machine,

and Strength in What Remains.

Everything you want to know (including ticket info) is here: www.pointloma.edu/writers



The intersection at Mission Boulevard and Garnet Avenue has been the site of 16 total collisions, with 17 serious injuries recorded between 2001-2015, according to Circulate San Diego.

PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE

PB has No. 3 most dangerous intersection

By DAVE SCHWAB

Pacific Beach made Circulate San Diego's "The Fatal Fifteen" list of most dangerous intersections for pedestrians.

The problematic intersection at Mission Boulevard and Garnet Avenue was No. 3 on the list and has been the site of 16 total collisions, with 17 serious injuries recorded between 2001-2015, according to Circulate San Diego.

There were only two intersections ranked more deadly on the list – University Avenue and Marlborough Avenue, and University Avenue and 52nd Street.

City spokesperson Anthony Santacroce said plans are in the works to improve Pacific Beach's busy intersection at Mission Boulevard and Garnet Avenue.

"We'll be installing accessible pedestrian push buttons there, which are audible signals to go along with the visual signals layer of instruction already there to warn pedestrians and tell them what to do," San-

THE FATAL FIFTEEN

- 1.) University Avenue and Marlborough Avenue
- 2.) University Avenue and 52nd Street
- 3.) Mission Boulevard and Garnet Avenue
- 4.) University Avenue and Park Boulevard
- 5.) University Avenue and Menlo Avenue
- 6.) Sixth Avenue and Broadway
- 7.) El Cajon Boulevard and 36th Street
- 8.) Paradise Valley Road and Deep Dell Road
- 9.) University Avenue and Fairmount Avenue
- 10.) Fifth Avenue and B Street
- 11.) Fourth Avenue and B Street
- 12.) Euclid Avenue and Naranja Street
- 13.) Palm Avenue and 16th Street (SB)
- 14.) Coronado Avenue and Thermal Avenue (SB)
- 15.) Fifth Avenue and Broadway

tacroce said. "That adds another ridors in San Diego regardi layer of instruction and safety to the usual visual signals you find in your normal crosswalk."

Santacroce noted, in addition to the new high-tech pedestrian push buttons, that the city will also be "upgrading street lighting to LED lighting at that intersection," which, he added, will give brighter and more clear lighting to that part of the street.

Santacroce was uncertain exactly how soon improvements at the intersection will be made, other than to say it's a "high priority."

Pacific Beach civic leaders and residents reacted to the news that their beach community has one of the city's top three most lethal intersections.

Sara Berns, executive director of Discover Pacific Beach, noted the community's business improvement district, as well as other community leaders, have been working with the efforts of Vision Zero to address pedestrian safety on Garnet Avenue, one of the six most dangerous corridors in San Diego regarding pedestrian vs. vehicle fatalities.

SEE **DANGER**, Page 6

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News

TRIAL >> CONT. FROM PG. 1

ing under the Interstate 5 bridge near Mission Bay on July 3, 2016. An autopsy determined he died before his body was set on fire.

Shawn Longley, 41, was found dead in Ocean Beach on July 4 and Dionicio Vahidy, 23, died July 10, four days after he was mortally

wounded downtown.

The prosecutor said one surviving victim had a railroad spike cut could allow the DA's office to seek into his sinus cavity and he was left blind in the Midway District. The fifth victim in Golden Hill was also don, said Guerrero had "extensive attacked with a railroad spike. She mental health history." He had said police found railroad spikes and a mallet in Guerrero's downtown apartment, along with identification from two victims.

Special circumstance charges

alleging Guerrero committed multiple murders have been filed that the death penalty.

Guerrero's attorney, Dan Tanbeen to Patton for a short time in 2009 after he was charged with stealing a bicycle from a homeless woman and knocking her down.

DANGER »

"Vision Zero is a collaborative citywide effort to bring that fatality number down to zero," Berns said. "Local efforts include a vision for Garnet Avenue to include a consistent visual crosswalk plan along the entire street that includes the scramble crossing at Mission Boulevard and Garnet Avenue. Unfortunately, that effort has been denied by the City because of the impediment to traffic.

"We believe we need to start looking at Garnet Avenue as less carcentric, and more of a complete street, which gives equal opportunity for safety and travel to the pedestrian, bicyclist and car. We have a great community of diverse mobility here in Pacific Beach already with bikes, skateboards, walkers and cars, and that needs to be recognized," Berns said.

Long-time Pacific Beach Planning Board member Chris Olson said he would like to see San Diego successfully implement a "pedestrian scramble" like the one done by Vision Zero in Los Angeles. Information on that is available at meeting (Feb. 22)."

visionzero.lacity.org.

Mike Beltran, chair of Pacific Beach Planning Group's Traffic, Parking and Streets Subcommittee, gave his take on why Mission Boulevard and Garnet Avenue is so bad.

Beltran noted that "at Garnet and Mission you have pedestrians wanting to go west to the beach, east to the shopping on Garnet and all directions for food and beverages. The lights going east and west have no turn signals, so vehicles have to wait for pedestrians to cross before making those turns, and by the time the cross walks are clear, the lights start to turn causing drivers to speed through the intersection."

Beltran offered a possible solution previously tried successfully elsewhere.

"My idea to fix this intersection is to create a pedestrian scramble similar to the one found in downtown San Diego at the intersection of Market and 5th," he said.

"This allows pedestrians to cross diagonally as well so the intersection can be cleared more quickly and vehicle traffic can carry on. It is my goal as the chair of the Traffic, Parking and Streets Subcommittee to bring this issue up at our next

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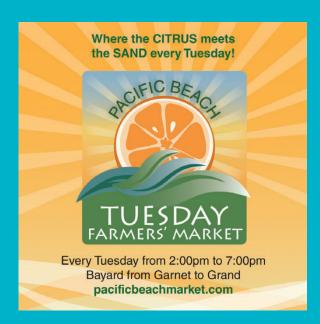
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PBPG chair Brian J. Curry agreed, commenting "We just want to get out in front of it (technology)."

"Will driverless cars read speed limits signs?," quipped board member Joe Wilding.

After the Jan. 25 PBPG meeting, Pulickal pointed out the technology behind driverless vehicles is becoming increasingly less expensive.

"Electric car companies are working to retrofit cars," he said, adding "The current cost of retrofitting a car is now \$8,000, but may be down in a few years to \$1,000 or less."

have been designated as potential cities for a driverless-car pilot program, Pulickal pointed out a similar test program is already underway in Pittsburgh. The community planner added that statistics show an average car is "Only driven 4 percent of the time and is parked, and therefore unused, as much as 96 percent of the time."

concluded.

The driverless car trend had members of the San Diego Association of Governments, the region's traffic-planning agency, enthused

"This is great news for the San national America Inc.

Noting San Diego and Chula Vista Diego region," said SANDAG chair and County Supervisor Ron Roberts. "We are at the start of a new transportation era, and it's tremendously exciting for our region to be part of a national initiative to foster innovations and best practices that will enable the safe deployment of driverless vehicles."

SANDAG, Caltrans, and the City of Chula Vista jointly submitted the "Parking is a big issue," Pulickal application to the federal government to give the region a driverlesscar test designation. The application garnered support from major auto manufacturers and technology companies, including Toyota, Qualcomm, Teradata, and DENSO Inter-

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The Benedetti Trio will be at Dizzy's, 1717 Morena Blvd., on Feb. 10.

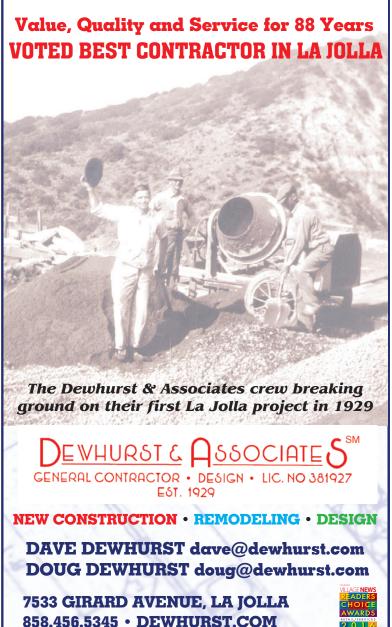


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The Benedetti Trio's George Harrison Tribute at Dizzy's

George Harrison, taking place at Dizzy's on Feb. 10. Led by virtuoso Moomjean and Julia Piccone, augmented for this show by bassist Jeff Pekarek. The show will cover matethe solo years, recast for acoustic guitar and vocals. With songs set to Comes the Sun" and "Something," Beatles fans will love this show.

George Harrison Tribute with The Benedetti Trio: Friday, Feb. 10, at Humphrey's Backstage Live, at Dizzy's at Arias Hall, 1717 Morena Blvd. 8 p.m. \$15. www.dizzysjazz.com.

While Blaise Guld is technically a much deeper than that. Performing at Beaumont's on Feb. 11, it's Guld's cool, seemingly effortless stage presence that sets him apart. If there to and Sade. had been a singer-songwriter in Sinatra's Rat Pack, Guld would've local favorite is her terrific original fit the bill. With a set list that includes ace originals as well as hits which blend equal parts melody by the likes of Bruno Mars, Bobby Brown and the Doors in the mix, ing or dancing. this night will be a great soundtrack to a Saturday evening out.

Jolla Blvd. 9 p.m. 21 and up. worth seeking out. www.beaumontseatery.com.

smooth jazz performer, prolific cover. www.thedana.com/dining.

pianist Keiko Matsui's introspective Beatle fans won't want to miss instrumental music actually has far The Benedetti Trio's Tribute to more nuance than that. Performing two shows, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., at Humphrey's Backstage guitarist Fred Benedetti, the trio Live, Matsui's catalog does include includes two vocalists, Regina contemporary jazz, but songs can also show the influence of world music, R&B and Latin sounds.

Currently touring behind her rial from throughout Harrison's 43rd album, "Journey to the career, from The Beatles through to Heart," Matsui's concert doesn't quite fall on Valentine's Day, but the romantic themes that run through include such classics as "Here much of the music and the reflective nature of the songs, make this a great date night option.

> Keiko Matsui: Saturday, Feb. 11, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. \$35. humphreysbackstagelive.com.

Gabriela Aparicio performs at the singer-songwriter, his talents go Firefly on Feb. 14. Aparicio, who sings in both English and Spanish, has a wonderfully sultry voice, somewhere between Astrud Gilber-

> What, however, has made her a songs, such as "You Captivate Me," and Latin rhythms. Great for listen-

Aparicio is currently in the studio working on a new album for release **The Blaise Guld Trio: Saturday,** later this year, but in the meantime, Feb. 11 at Beaumont's, 5662 La any performance from her is well

Gabriela Aparicio: Tuesday, Feb. 14 at Firefly, 1710 West Mission Although classified by many as a Bay Drive. 6 p.m. 21 and up. No





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EDUCATION NOTEBOOK>>

Mission Bay High

- ACES/ASAP by the numbers:
- 29,965 students have attended ACES since opening in 2013;
- 2014 was the last closure at ACES due to staffing;
- 152 is the highest number of students helped in one day;
- of students for the current school year, nearly a 75 percent increase from 61 per day over the first three
- our ACES team, namely Anderson,



On Feb. 1, Mission Bay High School's ACES (After-school Center for Excellence and Support) tutoring program had its 30,000th student - 106 is the daily average number come through the doors and their ASAP (ACES Student Athlete Program) (above) celebrated the efforts of coach Marshawn Cherry and the boys basketball team.

Bi, Borg, Chenelle, Dodd, Jacobs, - 13 staffers currently make up Lancia, McKee, Moura, Rasmussen, Sanchez, Turner, Vadnais;

- 12 students from UCSD EducationCorps volunteer at ACES and in our AVID program;
- 6 teachers make up the new ASAP team namely Dodd, Kane, Jacobs, Lancia, McKee, and West;
- 5 Cs relate to the vision of ASAP: 1) Promote student-athlete Culture and 2) Communication between coaches and teachers; 3) seek/navigate rigorous Curriculum and 4) be College-Ready; and 5) develop leadership and Character;
- 4 amazing staffers make up the IMIN arc team namely Keyri, Elizabeth, Luis, and Jasmine;
- 2 people deserve a special shout out for all of their support, MBHS's Ernie Remillard and Lisa McDonnell from 21st Century Assets;
- 1 big thank you to everyone at MBHS classified and certificated for all of their support and dedication.

Pacific Beach Middle

■ PBMS Talent Show and food trucks. Join family and friends on Friday, Feb. 10, for dinner with food trucks at 5 p.m., followed by the annual PBMS Talent Show at 6 p.m.

PB Elementary

- PBE will be celebrating its new Maker's Space with a ceremony and science fair on Feb. 24.
- Friends of PBE is gearing up for the annual online auction March 6-13, and is seeking donations from businesses. The spring auction event, Island Nights, is set for April 7. All proceeds directly benefit PBE by bringing programs such as science, music, and art to all students. For tickets or sponsorship information, visit www.pbe.schoolauction.net/islandnights.

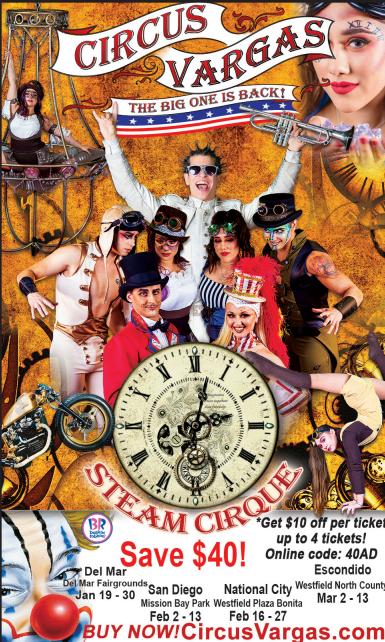
Kate Sessions

■ The Kate Sessions Jog-A-Thon is on Wednesday, Feb. 15. This schoolwide event raises money to fund the special programs at Kate Sessions Elementary while encouraging health and fitness.

FOPBSS

■ More than 300 participants turned out to De Anza Cove for the fourth annual Schoolyard Dash 5k and 1-mile Fun Run on Jan. 29. Supporting Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary Schools, proceeds from the Schoolyard Dash fund programs and activities at local schools.





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PLUNGE »

CONT. FROM PG. 1

said Faulconer, adding Spreckels "generously donated it to the city" after his death.

Pointing out the storied pool was "in desperate need of repairs," Faulconer praised developer Pacifica Enterprises for "turning Belmont Park into a world-class destination. Restoring the Plunge is going to continue that momentum."

Noting the Plunge's restoration is "a public-private partnership if there ever was one," Faulconer said the partnership is "making sure the Plunge is restored the right way, at no cost to taxpayers."

After acquiring the lease to Belmont Park in 2012, Pacifica Enterprises and the City of San Diego negotiated a new lease in 2015 and entered into a partnership. Pacifica has committed to advance \$5.2 million to rebuild the facility owned by the city. The company will recoup the \$5.2 million through rent credits over the next seven to 10 years.

Pacifica also has agreed to pay for any cost overruns, which have been significant. The total cost to rebuild the Plunge building is approximately \$11 million. The facility is scheduled to reopen in early 2019.

Zapf gave kudos to Pacifica.

"We have witnessed Pacifica's

HISTORY »

ing encapsulating The Natatorium was styled after the Spanish Renaissance style buildings that were erected in San Diego's Balboa Park between 1915 and

About a year after the amusement center opened, Spreckels died. In turn, his organization granted the entire amusement center to the City of San Diego for the enjoyment of its people. The Mission Beach Amusement Center remained popular through the '30s and '40s and was eventually renamed Belmont Park in 1955.

In 1940, the salt water of the Plunge began to damage its filtration system and fresh water was brought in. The Plunge then became "the largest indoor heated pool in Southern California," at 12,000 square feet.

By the late '60s and '70s, Belmont Park began to fall into disrepair and eventually closed in December 1976. The Giant Dipper, which was privately owned at the time, started to become an evesore and demand for its demolition

Meanwhile, the Plunge was closed along with the rest of the park in April of 1987 due to failed city earthquake

munity gem to its historical stan-District 2 Councilmember Lorie dards and creating a world-class facility for all to enjoy," Zapf said.

"The Plunge has been around commitment to restoring this com- nearly 100 years," noted Mission



The Plunge pool filled with swimmers in the 1960s.

and fire requirements. In 1988, Belmont renowned environmental marine artist, Park reopened with a new look.

Though the Plunge endured many modifications, certain features historic to the pool, such as the steps into the pool and the pedestal, located at the bottom of the steps, were rescued and allowed to stay. The "Orcas off Point Loma" whaling wall, painted by world-

Beach Town Council president Gary Wonacott. "Many of us who grew up in and around Mission Beach learned to swim at the Plunge. Our

Wyland, in 1989, was another of these existing features.

But since March 2014, the Plunge had been closed for repairs and it was eventually determined it had to be razed and rebuilt. The restored Plunge and fitness center are scheduled to be open by early 2019.

children learned to swim there and, in some cases, our grandchildren learned to swim there."

parents learned to swim there, our Plunge include the complete restorato begin later this year.

tion of the historic swimming pool, along with reconstruction of the building that surrounds it. A brand new state-of-the-art fitness center will be created on the new building's second floor operated by the nationally-acclaimed Fit Athletic Club.

Boasting a predominantly glass façade, Fit Plunge will integrate exterior light with interior coastal textures. The new building will feature a glass retractable-roof system. It will also promote natural air circulation and prevent some of the deterioration issues that plagued the old building from moisture and saltwater, while incorporating some of the Spanish Renaissance architectural features seen throughout the

"The Plunge has been closed and in dire need of a comprehensive revitalization for far too long," said Dario De Luca, president/COO of Pacifica Enterprises. "We are confident the revitalized swimming pool, coupled with the new athletic center, as the re-imagined and reconstructed Fit Plunge, will serve as a source of great pride for the Mission Beach community for generations to come."

Pacifica Enterprises and its construction contractor, Lusardi, began demolition of the old Plunge building in mid-January. Construction of the new building and fitness center, as well as the restoration of the Pacifica Enterprises' plans for the Plunge swimming pool, is expected

Pilates for Guys and Here's Why

While women tend to dominate Pilates classes, Pilates holds plenty of benefits for men who rise to the challenge. Whether you're a powerlifter, or you've never tried Pilates, a Pilates class can help fine-tune your performance. How? The Pilates method is a system of physical and mental conditioning formerly known as contrology. A big part of Pilates is focusing on those muscles that don't typically get a lot of attention. In my 20 years of experience working with men, their muscles are a little tighter than women's, especially in the hips and hamstrings, but exercises can be easily modified to allow those areas to stretch out gradually. Men that add Pilates to their routine can show improvements in a just a few sessions, including muscle strength, control, balance and posture. While I'll never know what makes one guy pursue Pilates and another try it only once, one thing is true: Pilates does benefit men just as it does women.





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Kelli Denton R.N., is the director and

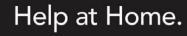
has more than 35 years of nursing experience that includes oncology, infusion therapy, home health and home care. Denton explains that all caregivers are live-scanned fingerprinted, have extensive background checks through the Ca. DOJ (Dept. of Justice) and FBI on a national level. All employees are also bonded and covered with worker's comp. Effective 6.1.16, all home care agencies were required to be licensed with Ca.'s Dept. of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division and are subject to un-announced state surveys, which Denton welcomes. "Licensure keeps us on top of our game and will weed out those agencies that are not compliant with regulations".

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Albion Pros soccer ready to kickoff season

By DAVE THOMAS

Are you ready for some exciting soccer action in your neighborhood? If so, you don't have to go too far.

The Albion Pros will return to Mission Bay High School Stadium for their home games this season.

Finishing 16-4 last season, Albion will lean on a roster this season that includes the talents of of Jose Merlo, Ricky Mckenzie, David Luquen, and many others.

Albion looks to continue to set the standard in the league, moving its training facility to the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista as well as bringing in UFC Gym as its sports performance partner.

The 2017 team consists of the foundation that was responsible for the success in 2016, as well as several additions in key positions, that will be prepared for the pre-season home opener (5 p.m. Feb. 11, Mission Bay Stadium) vs. East Bay FC Stompers. Albion's first league game is March 11 vs. Oxnard; and the U.S. Open Cup is in May.

In late January, the team hosted its 2017 launch party at Primos Public Corner near



Albion Pros supporters, called The Deep End, at MBHS.

PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE

Qualcomm Stadium.

The event was held to allow returning fans (and new ones to the team) to learn more about the upcoming season.

This Saturday's pre-season home opener will provide fans the opportunity to learn more about the team, its coaching staff, and check out the team's new uniforms.

According to Albion director of operations, Tim Reintgen, "This pre-season's schedule is full of high-caliber matches, with our NPSL playoff rival East Bay FC Stompers on Feb. 11, and Phoenix Rising from the USL on Feb. 25, all leading up to our league

home opener March 11. Those two matches will set the tone for the new season, with a commitment to success and a style of play that will entertain the fans."

As Reintgen also pointed out, Albion's commitment to success involves myriad of things.

"We will continue to set the standard in the NPSL, with state-of-the-art facilities, sports performance, and the integration of our youth academy, providing a pathway for them to play professional soccer," Reintgen added.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

PROGRAM >> CONT. FROM PG. 1

no longer be coming to PB for vacations after a recent bad experience with rowdy partiers and panhandlers in the community.

"We have to do something, we want them (tourists) to come back to this wonderful community," Zapf said.

"We are proposing a threepronged approach that includes cleaning, security and homeless outreach," said Discover PB's executive director, Sara Berns. "What we're proposing here is something that will change the entire community. The goal of our clean and safe program is to create upward mobility for the unhoused, creating opportunities for them."

Berns introduced hotelier Elvin Lai, Discover PB's vice president and owner of Ocean Park Inn. Lai said he's been seeking answers to making the community safer and cleaner after one of his patrons was hospitalized several years ago after an altercation with aggressive panhandlers.

Goals of clean and safe include:

- Sweeping and removing litter from sidewalks, right-ofways, curbs and gutters in front of businesses;
 - Removing graffiti;
- Emptying and maintaining trash receptacles;
- Having roving street team members patrolling the community on foot and by bicycle looking to help curb public intoxication and other unacceptable behavior; and

 Referring the unhoused to social services along with offering them employment opportunities.

Acting Northern Division Tina Williams remarked that "public safety is a shared effort," while adding clean and safe "is a fine example of San Diego Police Department partnering with the community down here at Pacific Beach."

Caryn Blanton, of PB Street Guardians, praised clean and safe for changing the community's focus on homelessness from "a soup kitchen concept" to a "potluck concept," wherein everyone contributes as well as benefits from working together to combat social ills.

Moonshine Beach owner Ty Hauter noted he deals with the homeless every day.



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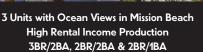


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with spa tub and dual sinks. Huge, private, south facing backyard. Wrap around backyard porch, front entry porch and rooftop deck with views to Mexico and the Coronado Islands.



OPEN HOUSES





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~ The Best Coastal San Diego ~



Ocean Views

4944 Cass 310

- Extensively remodeled 2BR/2BA
 - South West Facing unit
 - Chef's equipped kitchen

• Sunset Balcony \$595,000 - \$625,000



Unobstructed Ocean Views

1031 America Way - Del Mar

- •3BR/3BA Townhome
- Spacious Master Suite
- •Gourmet Kitchen & tons of light.
- Walk to all that Del Mar has to offer \$1,100,000

Call, email, or text for more information:



HELEN SPEAR Coastal Specialist

619-813-8503 Helen@Helenspear.com



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DOING MORE FROM FOR SALE

That's the sign of a RE/MAX agent

ASTAL PROPER

Team Cairncross' 92109 Properties



Bayfront Penthouse 1125 Pacific Beach Dr. #401

Highly rare bayfront penthouse in Pacific Beach w/ panoramic views across Sail Bay. Designed as a personal residence for the developers of the building, this home boasts unusual features such as a gated entry lanai w/ bay views, vaulted living room ceilings, private roof deck w/ built-in kitchen, in-unit laundry, & 2 exceptionally convenient garage parking spots. Currently a 2 bed + office w/ great potential for alternative configurations. Bldg. is blocks from the ocean & features a bayfront pool & spa! \$2,895,000



Newly Built in Mission Beach 815 Dover Court

Premium brand new 5BR detached home in Mission Beach with bay views, elevator, 3 car garage, & ground floor "lockout" bed & bath with private entry. No expense spared on this light & bright home featuring a island kitchen with SS appliances, fireplace, private interior courtyard, ample windows, multiple balconies, canned lighting, & more! Bring your checklist. This is a home you can grow with featuring great options for hosting guests and/or collecting rental income! \$2,100,000



LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL ALONG THE COAST CALL DANE TODAY!



Dane Scharetg 858-504-3263 sdcoastalhomesales.com



Mission Beach Homes for sale!

3 Off Market!

- Off Market New Construction Mission Beach Home 3 bed 3 bath Ocean view rooftop deck with built in BBQ North West Mission Beach
- ~North Mission Bayside Detached 2 bed plus office 2.5 bath with 2 car garage
- ~North Mission Oceanside Detached 3BR/3BA with 2 car garage
- ~North Mission Duplex with a 2/1 and 3/2



Bay Front Beauties!

Kara Watkins Norgart CA BRE #01389633 619-708-8276 www.KaraWatkins.com



Sun-Filled Bayfront 2BR Condo 3770 Crown Point Dr #205

This spacious, upgraded 2BR/2BA unit in Crown Point offers bay views from every room, access to the shared rooftop deck! Building has spa, game room, sauna, rooftop deck, new sale price ever for this category! Congratulaelevator, underground gated garage, & storage for bikes/surfboards. Quick walk to the bay, park, boardwalk, & nearby restaurants. njoy SeaWorld fireworks & the downtow skyline. \$639,000



NEW 92109 Price Record!

1684 Los Altos Road

This gorgeous craftsman near Kate Sessions Park sold last week for a record \$2,780,000 dual masters, 2 balconies, gas fireplace, in-unit representing the highest sale price since 2008 laundry, & side-by-side 2-car parking + storage for a detached home in 92109 with the excepunit! Share no walls w/ neighbors & have close $\,$ tion of waterfront properties! Per current MLS $\,$ records, this sale has claimed the #3 highest tions to everyone involved in the sale of this beautiful, custom home.

> Check out more information at 1684LosAltos.com



3291 Bayside Walk

Rare opportunity to own one of the largest corner Bay Front Lots in Mission Beach. Includes R-4 Zoning to develop Condos, or a beautiful Single Family Home! \$3,250,000



3286 & 88 Bayside Walk

Great opportunity to redevelop this Bay Front Duplex. Bay views from both units! \$2,275,000



Steve Cairncross

CA BRE #00859218

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TeamCairncross.com | 858-859-3370



2774 Bayside Walk #1

Enjoy the Beach & Bay Lifestyle with this ground floor, turnkey condo that has a private, expansive patio that directly fronts Mission Bay! \$1,429,000



Greg Flaherty Broker/Owner CABRE #00935682 www.CoastalPro.com | 858-692-0185