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Daylight saving time ends Nov. 3 DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK







### **FALL FEST & DIA DE LOS MUERTOS**

The Beachside Fall Festival at Belmont Park (above) continues through November with a hay maze, pie eating contests, and live music on the weekends. At Old Town, the Fiesta de Reyes Día de los Muertos celebration will take place Nov. 1-3. See page 13 for more on Día de los Muertos.

# Three men plead guilty to manslaughter in PB shooting

By NEAL PUTNAM | BEACH & BAY PRESS

hree men have pleaded guilty in the shotgun slaying of a man in a Pacific Beach house on Dec. 29, 2018.

Deputy District Attorney Flavio Nominati said Tuesday the gunman, Carlos Yslas, 25, faces between 27 to 30 years in state prison for the shooting death of Marcanthony Mendivil, 44.

38, pleaded guilty to voluntary man- mitted to personally using a gun in a to voluntary manslaughter slaughter and felony assault. Both men homicide. San Diego Superior Court will receive a stipulated prison term of eight years, said Nominati.

> A murder charge was dismissed against all three when they pleaded guilty to manslaughter on Oct. 18. A fourth man, Paul Charles Weinberger, 51, has a preliminary hearing set for Nov. 18.

The sentence for Yslas includes

Pedro Ramirez, 27, and Freddy Sosa, a penalty of 25 years after Yslas adentering the home at 1:45 a.m. and Judge Fred Link set sentencing for Yslas and Ramirez on Jan. 10, 2020. Sosa will be sentenced on Nov. 15.

The shooting took place at Weinberger's house in the 2300 block of Wilbur Avenue in Pacific Beach. The motive for the shooting has not been discussed in court. Nominati said shot him twice while wearing a mask.

Nominati told a judge at the arraignment Jan. 4 of Weinberger and Sosa that the gunman "executed him while he was in his bed."

Weinberger was not believed to be at the house when the shooting occurred. His attorney, former District Attorney Paul Pfingst, said Weinberger gave Mendivil permission for him to stay Yslas carried a shotgun in a bag upon the night as he lived elsewhere.

# RESIDENTS, SDPD TALK **OVER PUBLIC SAFETY IN PB**

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

t the Pacific Beach Town Council meeting on Oct. 16, San Diego Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team and Neighborhood Policing Division fielded questions on homelessness and crime, while the newly forming Guardian Angels PB chapter introduced itself.

Billed as a public safety town hall, the event featured acting Northern Division Capt. Matt Novak and SDPD lieutenants Corissa Pich, Raul Rivera, and Lisa McKean, as well as community liaison officer Larry Hesselgesser.

Novak noted he's previously worked on police gang, narcotics, and beach units. Of the Guardian Angels, Novak said: "We're meeting with them in the near future and we'll work hand-in-hand to ensure they are working within the law. Our goal is to make your community safer with any group that is out there."

Novak said he's well aware of PB's quality of life and substance abuse issues "with alcohol, the many bars, and narcotics activities."

During Q&A following officer presentations, one audience member asked why the unsheltered weren't being ticketed for defecating on the sidewalks, and why that wasn't considered a public health threat.

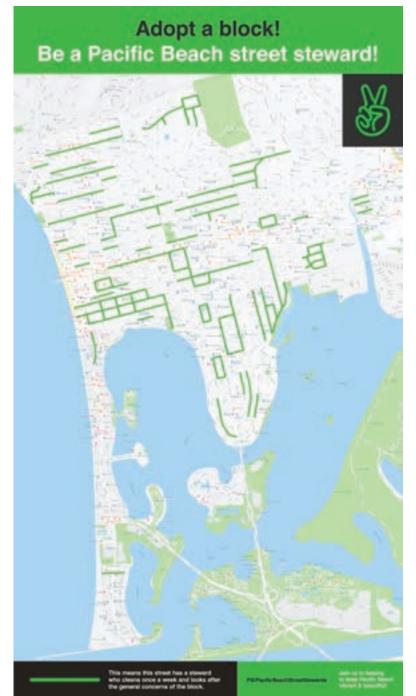
See SAFETY, Page 12







# Pacific Beach Street Stewards helping keep community clean



By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

cean Beach Street Stewards have become so successful they are branching out to Pacific Beach with a new chapter. Aaron Null, a 10-year OB resident, recently created a Facebook page asking residents to fill in the gaps in beautifying OB by adopting a block to clean each week.

Now Null's got longtime friend Alex Davenport has followed suit in Pacific Beach.

"Aaron and I have been close friends for several years and when I saw he was promoting this movement that he put together, I commented on one of his Facebook posts saying, 'We should do this in PB.'" Davenport said. "And he said, 'Let me help you out."

Being a surfer, networking for Davenport began by tapping into his existing social groups.

"Being a surfer, obviously there's a heightened level of environmental awareness with people directly interacting with the environment through surfing and other outdoor activities," he said. "There is a hardcore group of people I knew would be interested

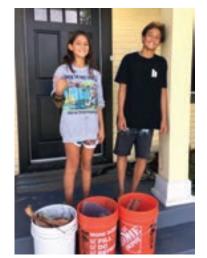
in participating, based on past experience.

"The Facebook platform also allowed me to seek out people to participate and start the concept with them." Davenport launched PB Street Stewards on Sept. 23 and now has 70 volunteers participating after just a month. He described his approach to community beautification as "really casual."

"Typically, folks in neighborhoods will choose to adopt one or two blocks in the immediate vicinity around their house," he said. "When they do, we update our map with green lines indicating someone has adopted that block. We encourage people, when they walk their blocks, to be personally accountable and pick up trash about once a week. We don't want people to feel super pressured. At the same time, we want everybody to participate on a long-term basis."

Null noted PB "has been a little different animal" in launching a new street stewards program. "It is a more spread-out neighborhood so it is taking longer to fill in, but it is coming along," he said.

"It was a little tough to get early



Kaimana and Sasha Seeley show the results of their recent street cleaning efforts.

adopters," added Null. "But once we hit a threshold, we've seen it blow up. We're at 70-plus volunteers there now (90 in OB), 80% of them female."

Said Null, "I'm starting to work with some groups of people who represent housing in PB, as well as PB Town Council to spread the word more."

Davenport is keeping his ultimate objective in mind.

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# **Scooter corrals blocking street sweepers**

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

ome Mission Beach residents are complaining that scooter corrals are impeding street cleaning putting the community at risk of flooding.

"Mission Beach is, at most, a few feet above sea level," said Mission Beach Town Council vice president Greg Knight. "The streets of the community are swept four times a week, (Mondays and Thursdays on one side, Tuesdays and Fridays on the other), and a large amount of sand, leaves, and trash is blown down our streets. If not removed, that trash then goes down the storm drains and blocks them."

Added Knight, "It is therefore imperative to keep the storm drains clear of debris, or else there is a risk of severe flooding during the rainy season and big storms."

On July 17, Knight said community leaders met with mayor's representatives and agreed to identify potential corral locations throughout Mission Beach.

"We were assured that



A street sweeper goes around scooters parked in the designated scooter corral.

street sweeping would not be affected because the City would inform the scooter operators of the street sweeping schedule and that the operators had agreed to move the scooters out of the corrals before each sweeping occurred," said Knight. "This promise has not been kept. Scooters are not removed for street sweeping and the sweeping trucks have to drive around the corrals. As a result, trash and leaves are not being removed."

Responding, City of San Diego senior public information officer Anthony Santacroce, said: "The City is working directly with scooter operators to keep street-sweeping routes clear and has levied

multiple citations to operators who have not complied. Operators are notified about any obstructions, especially in device-heavy areas like the beach communities."

Added Santacroce: "Scooter operators have three hours to remove devices that are illegally parked. If action is not taken, the City will impound devices at the expense of the operator. The fee is \$65 per scooter and \$1 per day."

Noted Knight: "This is actually happening in all the beach communities. This is a matter of utmost importance and needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency before the rainy season hits and the accumulated debris ends up in the storm drains."

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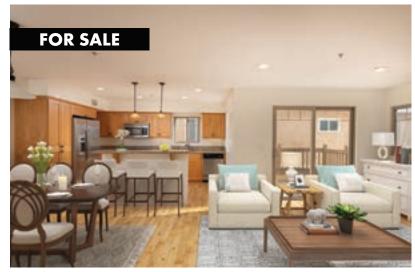
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COMPASS









# Campland, Audubon Society compromise on De Anza Cove usage

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

compromise agreement between San Diego Audubon Society and Campland on the Bay guarantees new RV spaces Campland is creating on the De Anza boot will be as far away from the public bayfront—and future wetland restoration—as possible.

The City Council voted 6-3 June 24 to allow Campland to do asbestos clean-up and existing mobile home removal within 24 months at the now-abandoned De Anza mobile home park. Under its agreement with Audubon Society, Campland will now place new campsites only in the northeastern corner of their De Anza Cove leasehold boundary.

Campland's plans call for adding 150 more RV campsites to the existing 260, while re-opening the scenic coastal bike and pedestrian path around De Anza peninsula as part of its five-year lease extension with the city.

"This agreement we reached in early October says Campland won't put those 150 new RV spaces along the bank of Rose Creek, nor along the boot of De Anza," said Andrew Meyer, Audubon Society's director of conservation.

"We applaud Campland and



Campland on the Bay plans on repairing the waterfront bike and pedestrian paths around the De Anza peninsula.

the city for agreeing to site all new RV infrastructure as far from the site of projected sea-level rise and future wetlands as possible. We think this is a winwin for the environment, and a win-win for future users of Mission Bay," Meyer said.

During a recent tour of De Anza mobile home park, vacant since 2015, Jacob Gelfand, Campland's vice president of operations, discussed the advantages of the lease extension with the city.

"If not for a partnership between a lessee and the city, [the mobile home park] just would continue to deteriorate and become a magnet for crime and other issues," Gelfand said. "It's unfortunate that the narrative that has emerged suggests there's some sort of conflict between the needs of campers and the environmental community.

"For us as a lessee and a business, our business depends on having good water quality, a beautiful environment, and preserving a relationship between campers and wildlife.

"Campland has played an intimate role in protecting and helping to clean up the existing marsh providing equipment and staff and volunteer campers to help the clean-up efforts every year," added Gelfand. "We've done everything we can to support all the different environmental organizations who work to protect the natural resources of the bay."

Noted Gelfand: "Hundreds of thousands of San Diegans, about 50% of our business, and guests from all over the country use Campland as a staycation destination. It is the most affordable way for them to

access Mission Bay, the largest aquatic park in the country."

Gelfand pointed out Campland accommodations start at \$65 a night, contrasted with high-end hotel rates, which can exceed \$300 per day.

During the city's June hearing on Campland, environmentalists argued the company's new short-term lease will further delay the long-awaited wetlands restoration for Rose Creek and the Kendall-Frost Marsh. Only about 5% of wetlands remain of Mission Bay's original 4,000 acres

Tommy Hough, Audubon Society campaign coordinator,

said the nonprofit wildlife group will keep a watchful on Campland's clean-up and abatement efforts.

"The June deal between Campland and the city postpones implementation of the 'wildest' wetland restoration plan in northeast Mission Bay for up to eight years, undercuts the public planning process already underway, and SDAS remains concerned about lapses in California Environmental Quality Act steps taken by the city," Hough said. "Audubon will not challenge the project's Coastal Development Permit (CDP) on the basis of new RV spaces, but remains free to oppose and challenge the CDP on any other grounds."

Once regulatory permitting is secured, which likely won't happen until 2020, Gelfand said Campland will then begin cleaning and removing the abandoned, asbestos-filled homes, repairing the waterfront bike and pedestrian paths around the De Anza peninsula, and repurposing existing infrastructure to expand affordable coastal access, as the City finalizes its Mission Bay Park Master Plan update for De Anza.

For more information on Campland on the Bay, visit campland.com or FriendsofCampland.org.



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# Residents report increased sightings and pet attacks from coyotes

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

ave your pets gone missing? Do you live near a canyon or wooded area? If you answered "Yes," coyotes may well be the cause of those disappearances.

Responding to a recent rash of reports of coyote sightings in coastal areas on the social networking service Nextdoor, San Diego Community Newspaper Group reached out to local residents and wildlife experts to discuss problems presented by urban coyotes.

Recently on Vickie Drive in north Pacific Beach near Kate Sessions Park, two friends and their five dogs reported on Nextdoor being "stalked and chased by a bold coyote who was not at all scared."

That post touched off an extended string of comments and opinions about urban coyotes and what could — or should — be done about them.

Sandy Cole of Crown Point North knows first-hand the threat posed by urban coyotes: she's lost a dog and four cats to them over the past couple of years. They've even tried, thus far unsuccessfully, to get her chickens.

"They just picked them off, one a time," Cole said. "They are everywhere and they're hungry and thirsty, and they just had babies so they're hunting. They'll come



Residents have reported multiple coyote sightings in north Pacific Beach and the surrounding areas.

any time of day or night. They are not afraid of anyone."

John Doe (requested anonymity) of Bird Rock has lived in the same home for 20 years. "Until this year, there was never an issue or problem with coyotes," he said. "But this year, more and more people — four or five on my street —seem to be missing their cats. One cat that had been severely wounded by a coyote was rescued, but did not survive."

The coyote (Canis latrans) is a widely distributed native North American canine with 19 subspecies weighing on average between 15 and 44 pounds. They live in family units or loosely knit packs of unrelated individuals. They're primarily carnivores eating deer, rabbits, hares, rodents, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates. But they will eat fruits

and vegetables, too.

Babs Fry, a local realtor who operates the nonprofit A Way Home For Animals, Inc. — which helps find stray dogs — said coyotes definitely threaten domestic canines.

"Resident dogs are at far greater risk than strays or loose dogs," Fry said. "Strays or loose dogs are operating on survival and are keenly aware of their surroundings. Household pets left out, or unattended in yards, are unsuspecting and therefore easy prey. Sadly, we are teaching coyotes to hunt our pets because when an abundance of outdoor cats, unattended dogs or roaming pups is available, it's an easy food source that requires less effort than hunting natural prey."

Cole of Crown Point tried everything up to and including

C10-0000242-LIC

purchasing wolf urine to mark her territory in the hopes the scent of a higher predator would keep coyotes away. It didn't work.

But she did, ultimately, find a solution of sorts.

"I got four cats, two males and two females, at six weeks from different litters and they all grew up together," she said. "Animals tend to have gangs or packs to become stronger and protect themselves. My (new) cats truly act as a team. They have packed together and protect each other."

Cole spoke of what she felt the ultimate coyote solution should be.

"I don't want to kill them," she said. "They [coyotes] need to be removed to somewhere out in the wild where there's enough food for them — jack rabbits, squirrels, gophers, etc."

"Animal control will not deal with wildlife," noted Bird Rock's John Doe, who offered this advice: "Keep your animals indoors once the sun goes down. We're sharing some of the same geography. They have litters and go out and try to forage and bring game back to their pups. And if you're walking your dog(s), keep them on a short leash. Coyotes have been known to come out of the brush and grab animals at the end of long leashes."

# DEPT. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE ANSWERS QUESTIONS ABOUT URBAN COYOTES

Lesa Johnston, education and outreach coordinator for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in Sacramento, answered these SDCNG questions about urban coyotes:

### Q. Are coyote numbers increasing, and are they a threat to pets?

A. "There is no available data that demonstrates a population increase. However, scientists are reporting that urban coyote conflicts appear to be rising. Coyotes eat small animals, so unfortunately they will eat small pets (cats and small dogs). Coyotes are opportunistic omnivores and will eat a variety of plants and other animals. Urban covotes that live within a neighborhood can pose a threat to unprotected pets: cats, small dogs, chickens, rabbits can easily become a food source for coyotes if precaution is not taken to protect them."

### Q. What can people do to discourage coyotes from coming around?

A. "Coyotes like all wildlife, seek food, shelter, cover and space in which to live. The number one thing people can do is remove food and attractants and modify heavily vegetated areas to discourage cover and resting places for coyotes. Keep trash contained and covered, remove fallen fruit from the ground and keep pet food inside. Do not feed wildlife.

If there is no food sources available, the presence of coyotes can be minimized."

# Q. What government agency is responsible for taking care of issues dealing with coyotes and other wildlife?

A. "The federal government, state government, county government, and city government all have roles in managing wild-life. For responding to coyotes, it depends on the location and type of problem. CDFW typically only responds when a human has been bitten or injured by a coyote."

# Q. Can a government agency be contacted to trap and remove coyotes to a more favorable location?

A. "It is illegal to trap and relocate coyotes. Moving coyotes to a new location just moves the problem around. Coyotes are territorial, so it is unlikely that they will be successful after relocation. Residents can hire a trapper to trap and humanely euthanize coyotes. No depredation permit is required from CDFW. ... State law designates coyotes as a non-game mammal that can be taken (killed) at any time of the year and in any number. Essentially, they have no protections except within city limits where no hunting is allowed."

# Q. Do coyotes pose a threat to humans at all? Would they attack a small, unattended child?

A. "Coyotes pose very little threat to humans. There are only a handful of bites on humans (there are many, many more bites from pet dogs each year). That being said, it's always prudent to make sure small children are supervised in areas where wild animals are known to be present."

### Q. What are the do's and don'ts of confronting a coyote?

A. "Never approach a sick or injured coyote. Report sick and injured animals to local animal control. Coyotes are naturally curious animals. Often, a 'stalking' coyote is not actually stalking, but is curious and investigating. However, a coyote following a human is not a good idea to let continue — especially when walking pets. Coyotes can be scared away by loud noises (shouts, yells, air horns, whistles, cans with coins/rocks).

Don't run or turn your back on coyotes. When trying to scare off a coyote, make sure they are able to run away (make sure you don't corner or "trap" a coyote)."

# Q Do you expect coyote sightings to increase as more and more land gets developed?

A. "We anticipate that as the human population increases, particularly in newly developed areas, people will see more wildlife. Additionally, habitat loss is the number one threat to wildlife. With land development, we could also see more wildlife hit by cars or killed by ingesting pesticides."

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# Fill your lunch or late night cravings at Steak N Fries

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

teak N Fries will satiate hungry palates yearning for authentic Phillystyle cheesesteak. Hailing from the City of Brotherly Love, owner Angel Pagan's mission is to bring cheesesteaks — and a slice of Philadelphia — to San Diego.

"This is our first [restaurant], my wife and I," said Pagan, who's observing his two-year anniversary at 1039 Garnet Ave. "We were thinking of doing it in New York or Philadelphia, but the market there is saturated. We decided on PB because we like the location along the beach. There were a few (cheesesteak places) here already. But we thought we could come out and have it be a little unique."

Pagan likes where he's at.

"We get some pretty good lunch business in the daytime, dinner business and late-night," he said.

Philadelphia memorabilia, lots of sports teams as well as the iconic Liberty Bell, grace Steak N Fries' walls.

"We want people to come in and not just buy cheesesteaks from us and fries, we want them to come in and have an experience," said Angel of his family-owned business. "We've had guys come in here and say, 'I



thought I was in South Philly for a second."

What sets his sandwiches apart?

"The ribeye is fresh and we slice it in-house daily," answered Pagan. "No one else has that. That's what separates us. When you order it: We make it. And we use rolls from Philadelphia."

And cheesesteak is exactly what you'll get at Steak N Fries. Along with chips and sodas, patrons can select from steak, cheesesteak, loaded cheesesteak, pizza steak, chicken cheesesteak, grilled cheese, steak n fries, chicken n fries, fries and cheese fries costing \$4 to \$13.

In naming his eatery, Pagan tried a bunch of permutations of names referring to his family or his native city, before settling on

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Info: steaknfries.com, 858-352-6600

the mainstay of what he serves.

Steak N Fries opens at 11 a.m. every morning, seven days a week, and doesn't close until midnight.

Angel praised the loyalty of his customers, whom he said come from all over. "That's what's making us successful," he said. "We have support from locals, the military and colleges around here. We have support from tourists."

It doesn't hurt that there are pubs nearby on Garnet that cater to Philly sports teams.

"We get a lot of people from the tri-state area, Philadelphia, New Jersey and New York all the way up to New England — Boston, Connecticut," Pagan said.

Pagan added: "I just want to thank everyone for their support, and accepting us into their community as a business. We're looking forward to being here for a long time."

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# LIVE MUSIC – Jaden and Willow Smith coming to SOMA

By BART MENDOZA | BEACH & BAY PRESS

wo of pop music's current reigning stars, Jaden and Willow Smith kick off their U.S. tour on Nov. 12 at SOMA. Both are the children of actors Jada Pinkett Smith and Will Smith, though they are carving their own paths in acting and recording. While the pair, who will be performing both solo and in duet, has had modest success with their music, their live performances have cemented their status as major stars in the making. The night's music will focus on Jaden's latest album "Erys," but fans can expect most of both of these artists singles to be aired during this show.

Jaden & Willow: Tuesday, Nov. 12 at SOMA, 3350 Sports Arena Blvd. 7 p.m. All ages. \$34.50. somasandiego.com.

On Nov. 3, Mission Bay High School's Mambo Combo will perform a special matinee concert in Copley Plaza at Balboa Park's Old Globe Theatre. The free event is part of the historic venues Day of the Dead celebration. Under the direction of the school's musical director, JP Balmat, the band will perform a



Jaden and Willow Smith will perform at SOMA, 3350 Sports Arena Blvd., on Nov. 12.

mix of original music and standards such as "Besame Mucho" and "Oye Como Va." Balboa Park is always a great place to visit, with the Old Globe a particular jewel in its crown. The Mambo Combo's music will offer a wonderful soundtrack to a morning in the park.

The Mambo Combo: Sunday, Nov. 3 at Copley Plaza at The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way. 11 a.m. 21 and up. Free. tioleos.com.

Tribute bands to two of the biggest pop-punk bands going today, Blink 182 and Green Day, perform at Moonshine Beach on Nov. 7. Blink 180True

and Green Today, both offer up a greatest hits set from their respective trios, but the nod here goes to the former, playing the best-known songs of one of San Diego's best-known bands. From "All The Small Things" to "Rock Show" you can expect a boisterous sing-a-long to pretty much every tune on their list. Blink 180True: Thursday, Nov. 7 at Moonshine Beach 1165 Garnet Ave., 9 p.m. \$10. moonshinebeachsd.com.

Two acclaimed guitarists, San Diego's Peter Sprague and Israeli Roni Ben-Hur, join forces on Nov. 1 for a special show at Dizzy's. Sprague is simply one

of the top guitarists to ever call San Diego home, with numerous releases and a resume that includes making music with everyone from Dianne Reeves to Rebecca Jade. Meanwhile, Ben-Hur is currently based in New Jersey, noted for his jazz music programs and camps. Ben-Hur hasn't released a solo album since 2009, preferring instead to work in collaborations, such as this meeting of musical minds. If you're a fan of virtuoso guitar playing, this one's for you.

Peter Sprague and Roni Ben Hur: Friday, Nov. 1, at Dizzy's at Arias Hall, 1717 Morena Blvd. 8 p.m. \$20. dizzysjazz.com.

Jazz and big band fans won't want to miss Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band, performing two shows at Humphrey's Backstage Live on Nov. 3. Featuring 18 musicians, including such names as saxophonist Eric Marienthal, the band started out in 1999 earning multiple Grammy nominations, including two wins, along the way. Touring behind their new album, "The Gordian Knot," anyone who enjoys dance music from the 1930s and 1940s will enjoy this modern twist on the sound, adding in funk and soul,

for a sound that's true to original, though with a new edge.
Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat
Band: Sunday, Nov. 3, at
Humphrey's Backstage Live,
2241 Shelter Island Drive.
6:30 and 8:30 p.m. \$34.
humphreysbackstagelive.com.

One of San Diego's longest-running bands, The Siers Brothers, performs at Tio Leo's on Nov. 8. Still fronted by brothers Mark and Steve Siers, the band has been playing classic rock and related tunes for nearly four decades, with a repertoire full of evergreens such as "Mustang Sally" and "Sultans of Swing." As fun as the band's music is, after this much time as a local institution, a Siers Brothers gig can be as much about catching up with old friends as it is about the tunes.

The Siers Brothers: Friday, Nov. 8 at Tio Leo's, 5302 Napa St. 9 p.m. 21 and up. \$10. tioleos.com.







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# **EDUCATION**NOTEBOOK>>

### MISSION BAY HIGH

Mission Bay High School's ACES after-school tutoring program (see photo) has served 60,000 students since opening in 2013. After receiving a federal grant that funded the program for five years, ACES is now supported by FOPBSS (Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary Schools) and principal Ernie Remillard, and relies on a collaboration between MBHS tutors, University of California-San Diego EducationCorps volunteers, peer tutors, and a parent volunteer. ACES is designed to address the needs of the whole student, develop campus community, provide assistance in all subject areas, and offer opportunities for one-on-one support.

### PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE

■ On Oct. 15, Pacific Beach Middle School students in the yearbook/media class went on a field trip to the iTV/channel 16 studios at the San Diego County Office of Education (see photo). Students toured the TV production facilities, wrote, filmed, acted in, and produced their own videos under the supervision of professionals at iTV. The students had a fun time, picked up great new skills, and immediately put those skills into practice back in class at the PBMS studios.

■ The PB Middle School Surf Team competed in the (surfsss.org) Scholastic Surf Series

contest in Mission Beach on Oct. 6 and finished third out of 12 teams. Lucia Meza earned second place in



Crown Point Junior Music Academy kicked off Red Ribbon and Bully Prevention week with an assembly on Oct. 21 with special guest Assemblymember Todd Gloria as he spoke to the students about staying healthy and being good friends to one another. A Partner in Education, Shigong Guerrero from Red Dragon Championship Martial Arts Pacific Beach, presented different types of bullying and how to help each other resolve bullying behavior.



Pacific Beach Middle School eighth-grader Ellie B frames a shot with an iTV producer at San Diego County Office of Education.

girls short board; Bobby Meza got third body board, and Graham Allen placed fourth in boys shortboard.

### CROWN POINT JUNIOR MUSIC ACADEMY

■ Friday, Nov. 8 is Family Movie Night with "Toy Story 4." Doors open at 5:30 p.m., movie starts at 6 p.m.

### BARNARD MANDARIN MAGNET ELEMENTARY

• Families from Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary School visited the San Diego Convention Center on Oct. 10, in support Barnard third grade teacher Kathy Liu's nonprofit organization, Joey's Wings. Joey's Wings hosted a special public viewing of "Cranes for a Cure," an exhibit of more than 2,000 paper cranes designed to promote awareness of childhood cancer.

Ms. Liu founded Joey's Wings after her 9-year-old son, Joey, died of cancer in 2014. Its mission is to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer, which only receives 4 percent of federal cancer research funding. "Cranes for Cure" is inspired by Joey's love of origami and symbolizes the hope for a cure to childhood cancer. In China and Japan, cranes are considered to be mystical creatures, and paper cranes are traditionally given as lucky and benevolent charms. Every year, more than 2,000 lives are lost to childhood cancer. The more than 2,000 paper cranes in the display are meant to honor each of those lives.

"I loved seeing my teacher's cranes on display at the convention center," said Barnard third grade student India Z. "It is amazing that she is making so



From left: Volunteer parent Spanish tutor Jose Delgado, MBHS IB coordinator Tracy Borg, history teacher John Keast, lead peer tutor Ashley Slomba, math teacher Gualter Moura, UCSD EducationCorps lead Ryan Le, history teacher Gebel Anderson, Spanish teacher Alberto Sanchez, special education teacher Jared Enyart, English teacher Mariana Balastrieri, peer tutor Matteo Russell, science teacher Tamara Rasmussen, ACES coordinator Dr. Ron Lancia, and UCSD EdCorps volunteers Emily, Amanda, and Angela.

many cranes to help all the kids out there who have cancer." For more information about Joey's Wings, visit joeywings.org. For information on Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary School, or to find out about the District's School Choice program, visit sandiegounified. org/barnard. The choice application window for the 2020-2021 school year will open until Nov. 20.

### PACIFIC BEACH ELEMENTARY

■ The Pacific Beach Elementary School garden had several volunteer pumpkin plants sprout in spring, which students moved to straw bales and nurtured for several months. Over 20 pumpkins were harvested and cured in late summer for each classroom to decorate and display at their second annual PBE Halloween Carnival on Oct. 26.

Come and meet the new principal Jennifer Grondek at the Principal's Chat at 8 a.m. Friday, Nov. 1 in the auditorium.

### KATE SESSIONS ELEMENTARY

■ The Kate Sessions community is fortunate to have a Child and Youth Behavioral Program on campus that is available to all military branches at no cost. The many military students have access to direct intervention assistance in the classroom and group support to help them deal with new school adjustment, deployment and separation, fear,



Barnard third teacher Kathy Liu and student India Z pose beneath the 'Cranes for a Cure' Pediatric Cancer Awareness art installation at the San Diego Convention Center.

grief and loss and daily life issues. The help, friendship and compassion the students receive from the counselor at Sessions is invaluable.

### MISSION BAY CLUSTER

■ The next Mission Bay Cluster meeting will be 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7 at Mission Bay High School library. A presentation on Emotional Wellness by Nami Villegos, Ed.D. is part of the agenda.

### **FOPBSS**

■ FOPBSS Mom's Night Out will take place 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2. Meet new PBMS and MBHS moms and mingle with old friends while enjoying food served up by chef Bernadette Chaplin. Email mmikus1@yahoo for details.

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# Wells surfaces as leader for Mission Bay High water polo

By DAVE THOMAS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

s the clock has been ticking down on his final season for Mission Bay boys' water polo, senior attacker Forrest Wells has been making the most of it.

According to head coach Lyndsay Sutterley, Wells is an individual who can change the atmosphere of a practice and game.

"He is always the one who you can rely on to bring up the team," Sutterley said. "He can inspire with just his words, a leadership trait few have innately. He plays a role on the team that is more than a tally on a stat sheet."

Coming into this season, Sutterley noted she was looking forward to Wells developing to his greatest athletic potential, especially defensively.

"He is extremely coachable and desires to better himself as an athlete and a person," Sutterley said. "I have enjoyed seeing him develop into a leader in the pool and at Mission Bay High. As an active member in ASB (Associated Student Body) he truly is a great presence for team and school community."

Beach & Bay Press recently caught up with Wells for an interview.

**BBP:** How old were you when you began water polo and what got you interested in playing the sport in school?

Wells: I started playing water polo my freshman year because it was a new sport that I knew nothing about. My friends and I just showed up with no idea what to expect.

**BBP:** Coming into your final season, what have you been looking to accomplish for the team and individually?

Wells: Our team has a unique chemistry that makes us close in and outside the pool; my last year in the pool all I want is for our team to make it to CIF and show others what we can do. I don't have anything to accomplish as an individual because it's not about me or the rest of the seniors, it's what the team wants.

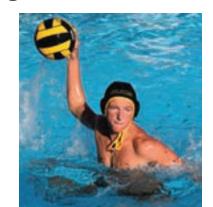
**BBP:** Are you involved in any other sports, clubs etc. at school?

Wells: Other than water polo I am on the Mission Bay swim team, who last year made it to CIF Division II finals. I am a member of ASB at Mission Bay, and ECO Club.

**BBP:** Do you have a college lined up for next fall and would you like to play water polo at the next level following high school?

Wells: I am still in the process of applying and Oregon State University and UC Santa Cruz are by far my top picks. I would love to stay in the pool in college but I'm not so sure about college water polo

**BBP:** For any boys wanting to come out for the water polo team



Mission Bay High senior Forrest Wells is on target for a great final season in the pool.

COLIRTESY PHOTO

next season, what advice would you give them?

Wells: Always be willing to try a new sport, especially water polo. Not all schools have a water polo team and it is a great sport that will introduce you to new people and experiences you could never have on land. If I had any advice it would be start swimming now because you won't stop for the next four years.

# Valia looking to serve up successful senior season

By DAVE THOMAS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

s she plays her final season of scholastic tennis at Mission Bay, Rosina Valia hopes it is one to remember. The senior is the No. 2 singles player for the Bucs.

According to head coach Trong Tong, going from practically a beginner in her freshman year to being a team captain the past couple seasons, Valia has been an invaluable asset to the team.

"She prides herself on exhibiting exceptional sportsmanship at all times," Tong said. "She is always respectful to not only the coaches but also her teammates as well as her opponents. Rosina shows true leadership skills by being helpful to newer players and supportive of all her teammates while having strong work ethics.

"In leading by example, she has a nearly impeccable attendance record when it comes to practices. At the same time, Rosina constantly strives to improve or help others improve during practice, and she has become a more versatile player as a result," Tong said.

"She has gone from playing No. 1 doubles in years past to competitively playing No. 2 singles this season, which is a testament to her willingness to get out of her comfort zone. Lastly, she also doubles as the team manager for our boys' tennis team, which has been an absolute blessing for me as a coach."

Tong went on to say that this season could be one Valia will look back on with a lot of smiles when all is said and done.

"A couple of seasons ago, Rosina and her doubles partner, Amanda Edmunds, were literally just a few points away from an Individual CIF berth, but things, unfortunately, didn't go their way," Tong said.

"I'm quite hopeful that she'll turn that around in her final season with us as she more than deserves it after all her hard work and dedication. Despite being new to our singles lineup this season, I expect that Rosina has what it takes to qualify for Individual CIF and also hopefully lead her teammates back to Team CIF."

Beach & Bay Press recently caught up with Valia for an



Mission Bay High's Rosina Valia during

interview.

**BBP:** How did you get started playing tennis and at what age?

Valia: I started playing tennis my freshman year. My mom told me about it and it sounded like a fun sport to try.

**BBP:** What have you enjoyed most about playing tennis at Mission Bay?

Valia: I love all the new friendships you make within your own See VALIA, Page 12



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### **VALIA**»

CONT. FROM PG. 11

team and other teams. Everyone is super nice and supportive including the coaches.

**BBP:** Did you set any goals for yourself in this your final season at Mission Bay?

Valia: This year, my biggest goal is to make it to individual CIF for the first time and to help my teammates get there too.

BBP: Are you involved in any volunteer or community activities outside of school?

Valia: I am not currently involved in any out of school volunteer programs, but I am an active member of the school's Eco Club.

BBP: Are you planning on college next year and possibly playing tennis too?

Valia: I am definitely planning on going to college, hopefully at my dream school Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and playing tennis even if I just hit on weekends for fun.

Editor's note: Mission Bay High varsity fall sports coaches are welcome to email suggestions for player profiles in upcoming issues. Email: hoopsthomas@yahoo.com.

### **SAFETY**» CONT. FROM PG. 1

"That doesn't meet the legal criteria," answered Rivera. "It's not against the law to be homeless or mentally ill. You just can't take people off the street without making a (psychological) assessment as best we can in the field. Officers make detentions based on that consultation."

Rivera added the standard police are held to is whether or not any particular activity is immediately dangerous to others.

"A lot of people need help, and just because they're mentally ill or a drug addict, they can't just [defecate] on the street and get away with it," responded the audience questioner.

Rivera said homeless issues can be reported to hot@pd.sandiego.gov.

"It's not a perfect system," noted Pich. "What I can tell you is we want to help." Pich gave neighborhoodpolicing@ pd.sandiego.gov as the email for people to call.

From the audience, past Pacific Beach Planning Group chair Brian Curry suggested a change needs to be made on the Get It Done app.

"Illegal dumping is the category for reporting encampments or activities like people with bikes and bike parts," Curry noted. "You need something more descriptive than illegal dumping."

The Guardian Angels were represented by the new chapter's president, Paul McBride, and Sarah Bonesteel. "We're here to support crime safety," said Bonesteel, adding, "We have a lot of programs other than patrols."

"We do things the proper way working within the law on our patrols," said McBride. "We use a non-violent approach to empower the community, and we are not allowed to carry weapons."

Following the meeting one attendee, Mission Beach Town Councilmen Greg Knight, said he was impressed by the angels.

"I actually signed up for the Guardian Angels, mainly to see if it is an organization that we could use in Mission Beach," Knight said. "I figure the best way to test the waters was to sign up myself and see how it all works. Whether it is the Guardian Angels, Neighborhood Watches, or the volunteer police group, we need to get people walking at all hours keeping a watch out on the community."

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### **Maruta Gardner** Day on Nov. 3

The third annual grassroots Maruta Gardner Day of Service, a continuing memorial to the late educator and community activist, will be Sunday, Nov. 3 starting at 9 a.m. near Bonita Cove Park playground, 1100 W. Mission Bay Drive.

"Please join us for a beach cleanup and some community bonding in honor of our friend and local hero," said event organizer Dawn Reilly. "Grabbers, gloves and bags will be available. Wear a hat and sunscreen. Bring a refillable water bottle. We are happy to provide letters of certification for community service and volunteer hours."

Gardner was tragically killed in 2016 by an intoxicated driver while painting out graffiti in Mission Beach.

Nov. 3 is significant because that's the date the City Council declared honoring the late former principal of Mission Bay High School.

"She is responsible for encouraging many of us to take active roles in various clubs and boards," noted Reilly. "Maruta was so highly regarded in the beach communities that several local groups team up to turn Nov. 3 into a tribute to this amazing woman.

"We will always remember her, but we can best honor her spirit on that day by following her example: performing community service, and in doing so inspire others to serve in the future, and strengthen our community bonds. I am hoping together we can create a true day of service as part of her legacy."

Organizations participating in Maruta Gardner Day have includes Mission Beach Town Council, OMBAC, Mission Beach Women's Club, Pacific Beach Town Council, Pacific Beach Library, Friends of PB Library, Beautiful PB and Mission Bay High School.

# JANITORIAL SERVICES

# Annual Día de los Muertos celebration in Old Town this weekend

By JILL DIAMOND | BEACH & BAY PRESS

esides Halloween and fall football, another October event gaining in popularity is Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead.

Over the years, the holiday traditionally celebrated in Mexico and San Diego has grown to attract people from all walks of life. This year, the Fiesta de Reyes Día de los Muertos celebration will be held once again in Old Town in the Fiesta de Reyes plaza Nov. 1-3.

"Día de los Muertos is a community-wide celebration of the history, Hispanic culture and rich heritage of the region. It is at this time of year that the spirits of loved ones who have died are thought to return to Earth to celebrate with friends and family," said Fiesta de Reyes Día de los Muertos celebration spokesperson Mike Simms.

He said the tradition of celebrating the dead goes back to pre-Columbian cultures in what is now Mexico. As European influences came into play, the

JOHN SHANNON, Broker REALTOR\*

Views

traditions became mixed with Christian traditions and it evolved into the celebration we have today.

### What to see and do

While at the event, the state park will offer a celebration of activities and attractions for the entire family that will be a tribute to those who have passed away. From a professional artist painting a large Day of the Dead skull in the middle of the park to a public altar where visitors can place remembrances, there's something for everyone. Additionally, there will be a vibrant Día de los Muertos parade that will proceed around the plaza on Saturday at 5 p.m. featuring many local groups and performers.

Simms added the Fiesta de Reyes courtyard at the north end of the state park will be full of fanciful, humorous, and visually stimulating décor offered as tributes to many of San Diego's early citizens. Many life-sized Catrina skeleton dolls in fancy dress hold court at Fiesta de Reyes throughout the fall season.

"Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos, has been celebrated in Old Town for more than 10 years and has become an event that people who used to come with their parents are now bringing their children to," Simms said.

"The event in the state park is more than a street fair as so many other Día de los Muertos celebrations in the area have become. We embrace and celebrate the meaning of the holiday and people – especially families – are attracted to that. People of all ages and ethnicities attend. The state park event sees many families attending together with multiple generations of progeny.

"The sentiment of setting aside time to remember our ancestors and loved ones who are no longer with us with reverence and joy is very appealing. It has truly started to become an international celebration. Many cultures all over the world embrace the concept of celebrating the dead at certain times of the year, so Día de los Muertos fits into those traditions as well," Simms said.



Face painting is a popular part of the Día de los Muertos celebration in Old

COURTESY PHOTO

Attendees echoed the sentiment like Robert Barros, Day of the Dead artist, who said: "We love the Day of the Dead celebration in Old Town as a place to showcase our Day of the Dead art. It's a refreshing break from the wild streetfair environment of most events around the holiday. The focus on tradition, remembering the dead

and art has us choose this event every year."

Eric Minella, manager of Historic Interpretation at Fiesta de Reyes in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park said, "I've been creating altars and larger-than-life public displays for Día de los Muertos in Fiesta de Reyes and Old Town for more than 10 years. It has been a joy to watch the celebration grow in popularity each year because the sentiment behind it is so touching – and I think it's important for kids and families to embrace."

The activities in the state park start at 11 a.m. each day and go until 9 p.m. on Saturday and 5 p.m. on Sunday. The party will continue in the Fiesta de Reyes plaza until 9 p.m. on Sunday. Free parking is available throughout Old Town with extra parking available across Taylor Street in the Caltrans parking lot all day on weekend days and after 5 p.m. on weekdays.

For information and a complete schedule of events, visit fiestadereyes.com/ddlm or dayofthedeadsd.com.

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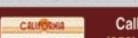
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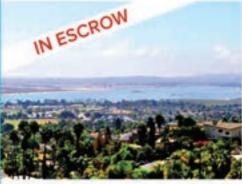
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### **Greg Flaherty**

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