Whale watching returns for yet another season

By KEN DRA HARTMANN | VILLAGE NEWS

Every year, San Diego plays host to an event that provides tourists with another reason to visit local beaches and parks and the weather that (sort of) cooperates enough to enjoy them year-round. San Diegoans get to take advantage of living in an area boasting incredible biological diversity. One of the most impressive environments in which to see mother nature at her best is that property-value-increasing expanse of blue to the west, and this time of year, it is home to a truly fascinating, natural phenomenon. The gray whale migration is once again upon us. To provide a first-hand account of what one can expect when becoming an amateur whale watcher for an afternoon, the La Jolla Village News took to the high seas aboard the Hornblower Adventure to observe the California gray whale as the species makes its annual migrating expanse of blue to the west, and this time of year, it is home to a truly fascinating, natural phenomenon. The gray whale migration is once again upon us. To provide a first-hand account of what one can expect when becoming an amateur whale watcher for an afternoon, the La Jolla Village News took to the high seas aboard the Hornblower Adventure to observe the California gray whale as the species makes its annual

Film screening inspires parents, teachers to do their homework, too

By MARIA LAMB | VILLAGE NEWS

Bird Rock Elementary School (BRE) is transforming into a movie theater for two days to highlight the struggles of raising children in America today. The school will host two film screenings of the highly-acclaimed film “Race to Nowhere: The Dark Side of America’s Achievement Culture” — a documentary complete with compelling real-life stories of students, parents and educators and their struggles with issues like the prevalence of cheating in schools, the rise of stress-related illness and depression among teens, disengaged students and ill-prepared high school graduates who enter college. “We decided to show ‘Race to Nowhere’ at Bird Rock Elementary School because we feel that it is important to raise awareness and generate dialogue among parents, students, teachers and school administrators regarding the current assumptions on how to best prepare American youth to become healthy, bright, contributing citizens,” said Ronit Austgen, BRE PTA member and parent. The documentary was produced by a concerned mother-turned-filmmaker who illustrates the high-stakes, high-pressure culture that has become a reality for students across the nation. By the end of the film screening, the hope, Austgen said, is that parents, teachers and students can take a humbling look at the issues illustrated in the film and make a change for the better.

New state laws grow teeth

Changes abound for smokers, bullies, workers, animal protectionists

By PATRICIA VALDIV | VILLAGE NEWS

Fasten your seats belts (properly) and leave those unloaded handguns at home. A slew of new state laws that took effect Jan. 1 are sure to make life’s ride a little more interesting in 2012. At home. A slew of new state laws that took effect Jan. 1 are sure to make life’s ride a little more interesting in 2012.

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Fasten your seats belts (properly) and leave those unloaded handguns at home. A slew of new state laws that took effect Jan. 1 are sure to make life’s ride a little more interesting in 2012.
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Comfortable home located on over a half acre flat all usable lot in the heart of the prestigious Muirlands! The 1960 U-shape rambling ranch is just waiting your design touches! 6BD/6BA www.1450LaJollaRancho.com

LA JOLLA
$965,000
Prime corner unit at Shore Tower with North and West ocean views. This furnished turnkey retreat was completely remodeled including enlarged kitchen, granite, and travertine floors. Common tennis courts and pool. 2BR/2BA

LA JOLLA
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Just reduced in fabulous Montefaro! Gorgeously one level 3BR/3BA with family-room & chef’s kitchen. Located in the heart of downtown La Jolla! Over 2400 sq ft with pool, spa, BBQ & gym. Wonderful location.

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A fabulously appointed, custom built 4BR/4BA that is just steps to the beach. This Craftsman-style cottage includes all the finest materials sure to impress! Text H11300 to 85377 for more info!

LA JOLLA
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A pristine classic traditional and relaxed contemporary all in one, this home is ideal for the buyer who wants to relish in the California Lifestyle. 5BR/5.5BA www.7172CountryClub.com

LA JOLLA
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Drive down the secluded street of Coast Walk along the ocean bluffs to this fabulous Pacific Rim treasure! If privacy and unobstructed north shore ocean views are all important to your well being…this 5BR/5.5BA home has it all!

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LA JOLLA
$5,995,000
Grande Mediterranean villa built in 2000 with unobstructed ocean and north shore views! 5BR + 2 1/2BA, dramatic foyer, chefs kitchen/great room, library, theater, large yard w/room for pool! TEXT H24428 to 85377.

LA JOLLA
$5,995,000
Provence-inspired Lower Hermosa 6BR/5.5BA home walking distance from the beach! Gorgeously updated, the home boasts breathtaking ocean views, a central courtyard with pool and entertaining areas, and a superb gourmet kitchen.
The remains of Ismael Lopez, suspected in the Sept. 28 La Jolla murder of cab driver Mir Sahou, were discovered off the coast of La Jolla in November, according to police.

On Oct. 24, a recreational diver saw what appeared to be human bones in an underwater reef, approximately 150 yards off the beach near the 200 block of Coast Boulevard. San Diego Lifeguard Services divers and San Diego Police Dive Rescue Team members were alerted and searched the area for the bones, but did not find them. On Nov. 15, a second diver found bones off the shore, in the same general area as the first report, and turned them over to police.

Three subsequent dives by public safety personnel produced additional bones, including part of a skull with a bullet hole in it. The Medical Examiner’s Office examined the bones while the department’s Crime Lab extracted DNA from them. On Dec. 21, the Crime Lab determined the bones were those of fugitive Ismael Lopez.

Lopez was wanted in connection to the shooting death of Sahou. On the evening of Sept. 28, Sahou was working as a self-employed cab driver when he picked up Lopez at an undisclosed location. The cab stopped in the 8600 block of La Jolla Scenic Drive North, where Lopez allegedly shot Sahou. Lopez fled in the cab, which he abandoned in the 1200 block of Coast Boulevard. Paint transfer on the cab matched marks on the wooden fence above the location, leading investigators to conclude Lopez jumped the curb by accident or contemplated driving the cab into the ocean.

The Sahou and Lopez families have been notified of the finding. The Homicide Unit is working with the Medical Examiner’s Office to determine Lopez’s manner of death.

Staff and contribution

Thank you
for making us
La Jolla’s
preferred*newspaper.

* “Two out of three La Jolla residents prefer the La Jolla Village News as their number one source for local news and information.”

Suspect in cabbie murder found dead off La Jolla

The French Gourmet was fined nearly $387,000 on Dec. 22 for hiring undocumented workers.

How to Sell Your House Without an Agent

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

But with the proper information, selling a home isn’t easy. Perhaps, you’ve had your home on the market for several months with no offers from qualified buyers. This can be a very frustrating time, and many homeowners have given up on their dreams of selling their homes themselves. But don’t give up until you’ve read a new report entitled “Sell Your Own Home” which has been prepared especially for home sellers like you. You’ll find that selling your home by yourself is entirely possible once you understand the process.

The report, you’ll find 10 inside tips to selling your home by yourself which will help you sell for the best price in the shortest amount of time. You’ll find out what real estate agents don’t want you to know.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0763 and enter 1017. You can call any time 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how you really can sell your home yourself.

Ask The Lawyer

What is the proper way to list the beneficiaries on my IRAs?

When you open an IRA you fill out a form and you list one or more Beneficiaries. If you have not reviewed these Beneficiary Designations Forms lately, you should do so now. If you fail to list a beneficiary or if they have died, the asset is part of your estate and subject to probate. You want to avoid this court procedure.

The best way to list the beneficiaries is to name an individual or list of individuals. If the spouse is the appropriate beneficiary, it is best to list them as the beneficiary. The spouse can rollover the IRA into their own IRA. Other individuals can rollover the IRA into an inherited IRA, but they will be required to take a yearly minimum distribution. This amount is based on the beneficiaries’ life expectancy and the financial institution will figure it out for you.

In certain circumstances you can name a trust as a beneficiary and it can get the same rollover treatment. Check with your financial institution and your estate planning attorney. The benefit of a rollover IRA is that the funds can continue to have tax deferred treatment. The interest income and dividends will not be taxed until the money is taken out of the IRA. Now I have a question for you – Have you funded your Roth IRA yet?

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LA JOLLA VILLAGE NEWS

Page 5
er use of seat belts. CV’s section 27.315 states a driver must be properly buckled in as well. The lap portion of a seat belt must cross the hips and upper thighs of an adult and the shoulder section of a seat belt must cross the chest in front of the occupant. The shoulder portion of the seat belt can’t be tucked under an arm or behind a back.

Somewhere consumer crusader Ralph Nader must be celebrating. It’s been a long road since he single-handedly got federal legislation passed in 1966 that required seat belts as a standard feature in cars.

Both Assembly Bill (AB) 144 now makes the open carry of unloaded handguns illegal in most of California. The law, signed by Brown and supported by law enforcement officials, does not affect unloaded open carry for long guns— as in rifles and shotguns — except where banned. Locations include schools, school zones, state and national parks, post offices and federal buildings. Among those exempt from the law are law enforcement officials, individuals authorized to carry loaded weapons in public and people selling unloaded weapons at gun shows. The penalty for violating the law includes up to $1,000 in fines and up to six months in jail.

Alcohol and self-service

This was a marriage that wasn’t meant to last. AB 183 bans the sale of alcoholic beverages at self-service checkout stands in California’s retail stores. Also known as the Fresh & Easy law because it stemmed from the chain’s self-service format, the legislation requires retailers to sell adult beverages at full-service checkout. There must be a face-to-face transaction between customers and store employees. Supporters of the law included religious leaders throughout the state and many organizations, including Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, Consumer Federation of California, California Counseling on Alcohol Problems (Cal-Cap), Lutheran Office of Public Policy, and California Professional Firefighters.

Beer and caffeine

SB 59 bans the importation, production and sale of caffeinated beer beverages at retail locations throughout California.

Internet sales tax

AB 28 requires some online retailers located in states outside California to collect tax and pay it to the state beginning this summer. Online giant Amazon, which kicked and screamed about the legislation and even threatened to pull its business out of California, quietly did what it figured out how to make its own profit on the new law. It is offering to calculate and collect any local and state sales taxes for its third-party vendors for 2.9 percent of the taxes collected. The California Board of Equalization has estimated that the state loses more than $1 billion each year in unpaid use-tax revenue.

Reader privacy act

Go ahead and get that new digital reader you’ve been wanting — or download a copy of “Catch 22” from the Internet. Senate Bill (SB) 602 stops the government and third parties from snooping into previously easy-to-tap private reading records. We can now remember Joseph Heller for something other than his famous quote: “Just because you’re paranoid doesn’t mean they aren’t after you.”

Renters’ rights to recycle

Owners of multi-family housing with five or more units must now provide paper, plastic, bottle and can recycling services for California tenants, beginning in 2012.

No smoking here, there, anywhere

California has even gotten tougher on smoking with SB 132. The law means landlords may prohibit smoking in apartment buildings and other rental properties. A landlord who signs a lease bill to is ensured to apartment dwellers aren’t exposed to second-hand smoke from other residents who live above or below them. According to Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Pasadena) who authored the bill, more than 30 percent of Californians have to live above or below multi-family residences.

Gay history

California is the first state in the nation to require lessons about gay and lesbians in public schools. SB 88 requires that school textbooks and social studies include the historic accomplishments of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals and groups, beginning July 1. A coalition of pro-family groups, which was unsuccessful in stopping the legislation before it was signed by Brown in 2011, vows to reverse the law. The group says it will collect signatures for its initiative early in the year.

Gay-bullying

All 9, or Seth’s Law, is set to take effect on July 1. The law combats bullying of gay and lesbian students in public schools by requiring school districts to have a uniform process for dealing with gay bullying complaints. It also mandates that school personnel intervene if they witness gay bullying. The law is named for Seth Walsh who, in 2010 at age 13, hanged himself in his backyard. Walsh reportedly suffered relentless bullying at school after he came out as openly gay in the sixth grade.

LGBT equality, equal access to higher education

State universities and colleges and community colleges must create and enforce campus policies protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals from harassment and appoint employee contact persons to address on-campus LGBT matters.

LGBT equal benefits

Requires an employer with a state contract worth more than $100,000 to have non-discrimination policies in place for LGBT workers and their partners.

Medical radiation safety

Radiologists in California will be required to add radiation dose level to their printed and digital reports under SB 1237. Signed by Schwarzenegger in 2010, the law goes into effect on July 1.

Human traffic/slavery

Companies doing business in California that have annual gross global receipts in excess of $100 million will be required to publicly disclose efforts to ensure their supply chains do not support human trafficking or slavery. SB 657 was signed into law by Schwarzenegger in 2010.

No more shark soup

SB 376 bans the sale, trade and possession of shark fins in California.

Pet protection

Anyone with a misdemeanor or drug usage-abuse conviction is prohibited from possessing animals for five to 10 years after the crime under AB 1117.

Employment

If you’re lucky enough to have work in this economy — or if you are being considered for a job — you could be affected by a slew of new employment laws in 2012. Here’s a snapshot from the California Chamber of Commerce on new rules that have taken effect:

- Credit reports: Employers and prospective employers won’t be able to obtain and use consumer credit reports to review job applications beginning this year. AB 22 does not apply to some financial institutions or managerial employees. California is now in a club with Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Oregon and Maryland — the states that have already restricted credit checks by most employers from employment decisions.
- Pregnancy disability leave: SB 299 requires all employers with five or more employees to continue to maintain and pay for health coverage under a group health plan for an eligible female employee who takes pregnancy disability leave (PDL) up to a maximum of four months in a 12-month period. The benefits are at the same level and under the same conditions as if the employee had continued working during the leave period.
- "Gender expression:" AB 887 amends the Fair Employment and Housing Act to further define "gender" to include both actual gender and gender expression," as defined by the new law, and to make clear that discrimination on either basis is prohibited.
- Genetic information: SB 559 amends the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) to state that employers are prohibited from discriminating against employees on the basis of genetic information.
- Insurance discrimination: SB 757 prevents employers that operate in multiple states from discriminating against same-sex couples by not providing the same insurance coverage for domestic partners as they do for spouses.
- Independent contractors: The “willful misclassification” of independent contractors by employers carries penalties ranging from $5,000 to $25,000 under SB 459.

For a complete list of the new California employment laws, visit www.calchamber.com.
WHALES
CONTINUED FROM Page 1
5,000-mile journey from the frigid waters of the Arctic to the sunny lagoons of Baja California.

The most obvious thing one expects to see on a whale-watching cruise is a whale. This, however, may not happen, and most local companies — Hornblower included — prepare for this with a guarantee: see a whale or get passes for another cruise.

Upon boarding the boat, most passengers anxiously anticipate the sight they’ve been promised, hoping they haven’t just paid for one of the few cruises for which the whales choose not to make an appearance. What most don’t expect, however, is what also happens while on board: they have fun, while or no whale (some might even find themselves hoping they don’t see a whale so they have a free chance to come on board again).

As it turns out, our oceans are check full of life, and passengers would be hard pressing not to find themselves marveling at all the myriad components of our aquatic ecosystems, however large or small. At one point during our cruise, a pod of bottlenose dolphins decided to join us, riding our bow wave — jumping out of the water, turning in circles and spiraling alongside us for a couple of miles. And while yes, “whale watching” was printed on our tickets, we were pretty satisfied with this display—whether or not it was the cetacean we had paid for.

Another pleasant surprise: even for locals, puttering around San Diego Bay and out into the open ocean just off our coast provided an unexpected opportunity to view the city in a way we don’t normally see it.

As for our cruise, we did get the opportunity to see a whale. Not long after we passed through the last buoy marking the city’s boating spot, a spout a few miles out. We followed it, and were able to find and stay with one gray whale (or possibly two) — they look remarkably alike to the layperson), which twice granted us full view of its fluke (or tail) as it headed down for deep dives. We learned, both from the captain and from the on-board volunteer naturalists — trained by the San Diego Museum of Natural History — that gray whales breed every other year, and with a gestation of 12 months, the pregnant females heading down to Mexico at this time of year are likely the same ones we saw last year heading down to breed. They’ll come back this way in the spring with their newborns. We also learned the gray whale gets its namesake not from a naturally occurring color. In fact, the whales are born almost black, but eventually, barnacles that attach themselves to the whales scar the skin as they fall off, leaving behind a mottled, whitish-gray color.

Whales also have dominant sides of their body, just like humans. Whales that favor their right side tend to have more scarring on their side of their body, and just like humans, “left-handed” whales are in the minority; roughly 15 percent of all whales favor their left side.

There’s also the possibility, while out on a whale-watching cruise, that passengers might observe some man-made “whales.” Our ship happened upon a helicopter carrier and a Navy submarine — complete with a visibly happy, homeward-bound topside crowd — circling into the bay.

The views will change for each individual cruise. Some may see one whale, some may see 20 whales and others may see none at all. Some might encounter pods of playful dolphins while others might happen upon finicky sea lions. But one thing is guaranteed: the experience gives locals one more reason to love calling San Diego home.

RESTAURANT
CONTINUED FROM Page 3
Whelan imposed a fine of more than $277,000 on the business, and ordered that more than $319,000 be forfeited to the U.S. government. He also ordered the restaurant to pay $10,000 to one man who suffered a heart attack that his Social Security numbers.

Iredale filed court papers that twice granted us full view of its fluke (or tail) as it headed down for deep dives. We learned, both from the captain and from the on-board volunteer naturalists — trained by the San Diego Museum of Natural History — that gray whales breed every other year, and with a gestation of 12 months, the pregnant females heading down to Mexico at this time of year are likely the same ones we saw last year heading down to breed. They’ll come back this way in the spring with their newborns. We also learned the gray whale gets its namesake not from a naturally occurring color. In fact, the whales are born almost black, but eventually, barnacles that attach themselves to the whales scar the skin as they fall off, leaving behind a mottled, whitish-gray color.

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Or join us on Sunday at the
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Please call 858-268-3999 for more information and visit our websites:
www.sandiegobahai.org • www.bahai.org
GUEST COMMENTARY
Razing of Windemere Cottage a catastrophic loss of community’s heritage
John Boltthouse
Admirers of La Jolla’s architectural and cultural heritage are deeply saddened by the recent demolition of historic Windemere Cottage, formerly located at 1128 Virginia Way. This incredible 1894 structure was one of the first designs of Irving Gill, a celebrated master architect who would later conceive other iconic homes of La Jolla and San Diego. The Birch School, Windermere Cottage, La Jolla Women’s Club, La Jolla Recreation Center and many others, Windemere and other La Jolla structures of historic significance and architectural character were deemed worthy of preservation.

Until now.

Local debate summer of 2011, with indications that the cottage was at risk of being demolished, the La Jolla Historical Society and its allies worked hard to convince San Diego’s Historical Resources Board (HRB) to grant historic designation and, hence, greater protections. The society conducted extensive research to build its case, and the preponderance of the documentary evidence clearly showed Windemere met at least the minimum threshold for HRB’s own designation standards. The society’s efforts to secure historic designation were strongly supported by the La Jolla Town Council and the La Jolla Community Planning Association (LJCPA) and the city of San Diego has been resolved. With the filing of our lawsuit, we wanted both the LJCPA and the city to acknowledge the automatic appeal policy and procedures of the LJCPA were inconsistent with City Council Policy 600-24 and their adherence to approved bylaws. Although our family is regretful as applicants we were required to take this course of action, the purpose in filing our lawsuit was to assure protection of our historic landmark was being evaluated.

The La Jolla Historical Society believes that preservation and progress are not mutually exclusive. Preservation is progress. The extraordinary historic architecture of Pasadena, Santa Barbara, San Antonio, Texas and Charleston, S.C. stand as shining examples of communities that not only value their heritage but incentivize their protection. And they enforce these values, as reflected in the culture these communities demand of their government.

It’s up to us, La Jolla. Demand better.

—John Boltthouse is Executive Director of the La Jolla Historical Society.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
New Year’s Resolutions
With 2012 just days old, the La Jolla Village News asked several community members what their hopes are for the new year, some of them reveal personal goals, while others shared their aspirations for the community as a whole.

For 2012, I would like to do more shopping in La Jolla prior to going online or somewhere else. Also I would appreciate less diet soda and do more yoga.
Kathy Otten, La Jolla Living, LLC

2011 saw a resurgence in community pride. La Jolla was made a better place with major private and public improvements; including putting the art back in the art colony, cleaning street by street, reclaiming coastal access, preserving our past, turning on the lights, fixing and enhancing our streets, bringing back shoppers and rallying to those in need. My hope for 2012 will be to continue to work through the city to keep the culture these communities cherish.
Jo LaCava, LJCPA trustee

Three words to describe 2011 for me! ODIN LA! The grand opening of Och La Dance Academy in the Village has been my greatest memory of the year. It changes life beyond imagination, touches depth and inspires the human soul. My 17 dance master instructors and I look forward to growing with La Jolla.
Sally Sato Nagy, owner of Och La Dance Academy

NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS
It would be nice, every day during this year, to find a way to show thanks for the gift of living in La Jolla, nestled between the blue ocean and the Pacific Palisades, whose alluring beauty is perfectly complemented by so many kind, thoughtful and artistocratic residents who share this good fortune.

Rob Whitson, La Jolla Coast Digest president

Here are our predictions for 2012:

• La Jolla will become a hotbed of thriving small businesses, with nary a “For Lease” sign to be seen.

• The real estate market will revitalize just enough to keep locals out of foreclosure and bankruptcy.

• The weather will maintain its glorious norm, save for at least one day of snow so our children can experience a true white Christmas.

• School budget issues will become a thing of the past as our representatives will recognize the importance of education over pensions.

• Restaurants will be required to provide outdoor dining, and, in doing so, will find themselves on a sure path to success for years to come.

• Children will be made to appreciate all the qualities of living in La Jolla, recognize this lifestyle is unlike any other in the world and work to improve the lives of others.

• The tourists will still flock to our resort-like town to stay in its world-renowned hotels and shop and dine by the sea, but will arrive on foot, so that finding a parking spot and getting down Girard Avenue will not require the patience of 10 or 10,000 gallons of gas during the summer or holidays.

• The seas will be close to quiet, with a swim hour each day, during which they’ll promise to nap while the swimmers get their work out. Swimming in the local pools, the seals will create “Open Cove Swimming.”

• Finally, La Jolla will continue to become the town we know it can be: friendly, generous, pothole-free, open, flourishing and full of neighborly love.

Happy New Year.

Nancy Perretta and Jennifer Spengler, authors of DIY Whit’s End.

I am very impressed that the sense of community and mutual support seems to be returning to La Jolla. What makes people want to work or visit is the stunning natural beauty, the charming neighborhood village feel and the diverse people who make up our community. My hope for 2012 is that we continue to work together with cooperation and have the spirit of giving to appreciate our differences and debate civilly how to improve our quality of life. Our special events – Christmas Parade, LJ Art Fine Fair, La Jolla Film Festival, other events in the Cove (and potentially a major film 2012 ‘film Festival) – enhance the rich quality of life in La Jolla. I hope we continue to produce such events, and if I had my way, add a little more nightlife to the Village. Others call it paralyse, we call it fun!

John Menke, LJCPA second president

What will your New Year’s resolution be this year?

GUEST COMMENTARY
La Jolla Village News

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Ballito Bulletin 505 and Information Bulletin 620 (ICM) commission attorneys prior to rewriting and submitting their appeal policy and procedures to the city. When the city’s receipt of the ad hoc committee’s appeal policy and procedures, the city will review the amendment language for content and conformance with Council Policy 600-24 and the Brown Act. Both the city and the Brown Act submit their appeal policy and procedures to the City Attorney for review. City Attorney review, staff will work with the ad hoc committee on any needed changes. If the ad hoc committee’s appeal policy and procedures are approved by the City Council Policy 600-24, the city-approved bylaws shall and the Brown Act, they will be approved administratively by signature of the deputy director of planning and the deputy city attorney. Additionally, since the filing of our lawsuit, the city of San Diego on Aug. 4, changed the San Diego Municipal Code to comply with California state law concerning their own appeal review process involving environmental impact reviews.

Having accomplished our goals, we have decided to dismiss our lawsuit and concentrate in 2012 on obtaining the final approval from San Diego City Council for our mixed-use project on our 1.952-square-foot commercial lot. To date, our project has been approved by the city of San Diego planning staff, a city hearing officer and the San Diego Planning Commission. Currently, our project is under a signed letter or guest column of Deputy Mayor Sabine Lagardera or elsewhere. Also, I need to drink less diet Pepsi in La Jolla.

For 2012 the year we all get involved. Pick a project, pick a cause, or pick an organization; let’s continue making good things happen in La Jolla.

Bob Whitney and the Whitney Family
Salazar works closely with the artists to ensure their pieces are worth investing in before displaying their collection. His first rising star to showcase at the gallery is about as local as they come. La Jolla native Erik Skoldberg will be exhibiting his vibrantly colored acrylic-layering on canvas in his first-ever solo exhibition on Jan. 14 at Salazar Contemporary Art Exhibits.

“Erik is one of the artists that I’ve actually been grooming in a sense,” Salazar said. “He approached me as an artist, and he wanted some advice on his work. We went on and on and on, and after a year and a half, he was excited to showcase his pieces in his first solo exhibit.”

“Especially to start it in my hometown is great,” he said. “This [show] is really important to me.”

Skoldberg’s artwork owns vibrant colors in layered brushstrokes that range from powerful to subtle, and the artist entices viewers to interpret the images based on their own personal experiences.

“With so many people see different things in them — faces, trees, landscape,” he said. “I just love the combination of natural colors in Mother Nature.”

Because the artists showed their work at the gallery are just emerging into the art market, the contemporary works will sell at affordable prices.

Skoldberg, however, is quickly becoming a well-known artist to many in the community, as well as across the nation.

Most recently Feddx teamed up with Skoldberg to use his artwork in a nationwide marketing campaign, and he will show his pieces at a San Diego trade show in early January.

Salazar hopes to extend the idea of helping emerging artists like Skoldberg while also helping beautify the community by transforming vacant storefronts in the Mid-Wintermantral empty temporary exhibits spaces full of vibrant art.

“My goal is to bring in the art with the support of the marketing that the gallery has already established itself with.”

He is seeking property owners in La Jolla who have vacant storefronts and are willing to allow him to display monthly temporary art exhibits until the owners find a permanent tenant, “so that there isn’t another empty window in La Jolla,” he said.

“Don’t keep the inventory fresh. If it doesn’t sell in an exhibit, it goes back. On the next,” he said. “The ultimate goal of the gallery is to bring to La Jolla what they’ve been missing downtown.”

For more information or to contact Salazar about vacant properties in the village in need of artwork, visit www.alex-salazarfineart.com or call (858) 551-8453.

La Jolla is an exciting town, but it seems like there’s been a hull,” he said. “A lot of art galleries have gone out of business. It’s my philosophy that it’s not the art dealer. It’s not the space. It’s the art. My goal is to bring in the art with the support of the marketing that the gallery has already established itself with.”

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"FAMILY TIES" MAQUETTE PAINTED ALUMINUM 84" X 48" X 18"

"FAMILY TIES" MAQUETTE PAINTED ALUMINUM 84" X 48" X 18"
120 years of Mercy, and elegance at the Timken

In 1890, the Sisters of Mercy opened a five-bed dispensary named St. Joseph’s at Sixth and Market in downtown San Diego. A year later, it relocated to Eighth and University avenues, and moved again in 1924 to its present Fifth and Washington address, where it was renamed Mercy Hospital. Fast-forwarding to 1995, Mercy — by then grown to 520 beds, eight healthcare centers, more than 2,400 employees and 943 physicians — joined the Scripps system. The hospital has made many friends along the way, including the Mercy 1000 — donors who make annual gifts of $1,000 or more. The Mercy Hospital Foundation and the Sisters of Mercy annually invite the Mercy 1000 members to a holiday reception, the most recent of which was held in the Veranda Ballroom of the La Valencia Hotel on Dec. 7. Graciously hosted by Mary and Dan Mulvihill (Mercy Foundation founders) and Lata and Ashok Israni (of Pacifica Companies, the La V’s new owner), the elegant affair began with cocktails, tray-passed hors d’oeuvres and a sumptuous buffet of beautifully prepared foods. A saxophonist and a keyboardist entertained throughout the evening with jazz stylings and holiday tunes.

Mo King, chairman of the foundation, presented a short program highlighting the progress of the hospital. He introduced second-generation board members Michael Mulvihill and Tom Mulvaney (sons of previous board members), and then Mercy chief executive Tom Gammiere, who thanked the Mercy 1000 members for their generosity and for “helping us to continue to serve the mission that the sisters brought here so many years ago.” He read a letter from a fifth-grade student whose class had visited Mercy. She penned, “I decided to write to you because you do so much for our community. You help sick people, and most of the time they’ve done better.”

Sister Mary Joanne DeVicente, CEO of Mercy Hospital until her recent retirement, was there. It’s said her efforts raised more than $100 million for Mercy during her tenure. She thanked the donors for the part they had played, saying, “… and will continue to do so — right?” (The response seemed positive.)

The Jan. 4 dedication of Mercy’s new Conrad Prebys Emergency and Trauma Center was also announced, and guests socialized happily for the rest of the evening.

***

The next day, the wonderfully elegant Timken Museum of Art in Balboa Park (adjacent to the much larger San Diego Museum of Art) hosted its annual holiday party. Phemie Davis chaired the affair, with Linda Blair and Ruth Stan...
ton co-chairing. They did all the декорации, basing their theme on John Singleton Copley’s portrait of Mrs. Thomas Gage (a work in the Timken’s collection). Linens, chairs, floral décor and centerpieces — all were selected with faithful adherence to that Colonial American theme.

And the food was fabulous! English items included cottage pie and lamb Cornish pasties; colonial American dishes featured Virginia ham and blue crab corn fritters; and there were such Turkish treats as honey figs with feta, and apricot game hen plavi with almonds, raisins and exotic spices. Desserts ran to English bread pudding, chocolate chestnut cake and helva apple crumble. A tasteful addition was a string ensemble playing 18th century music.

Tim Zinn, the Timken’s new board chairman, spoke, thanking outgoing chairman Gary Meads for his 13 years of service. Gary was known as “The Dragonslayer” because of his talent for solving difficult problems. He instituted the Timken’s first strategic plan and also required to wear a sport coat.” He presented the box of buttons, saying, “We appreciate all you’ve done.”

Sotheby’s.)

Announcing the inauguration of a newsletter that will disseminate word of the Timken’s activities, Tim said “We’re the best-kept secret in town, and we want to become better known.”

While in London, Tim stepped at the Button Queen, which (he claimed) has 3 million different kinds of buttons. So what I have here is a set of laser buttons for Gary. That way he’ll be required to wear a sport coat.” He presented the box of buttons, saying, “We appreciate all you’ve done.”

Bibby’s Crêpe Cafe is now Bibby’s Crêpe Bistro!

Bibby’s is happy to announce its Grand re-opening: We have remodeled our establishment to bring you a wider variety of delicious menu items! Enjoy tasty omelets, bistro entrées, crispy panini, to our famous sweet and savory crepes, and our authentic belgian waffles.

The Broken Yolk Café

The Broken Yolk Café offers a large selection of home cooked meals in a comfortable and casual atmosphere. There are over 20 different omelets to choose from as well as a wide variety of other breakfast favorites which include pancakes, waffles and French toast. Feel more like lunch? Try one of our juicy ½ pound burgers or one of our large sandwiches.
**News & Events**

**Surfing community**

Well-known surfer and La Jolla native Ted "Shred" Smith died while surfing at Windansea beach on New Year’s Day. Smith collapsed in the water and was hauled to shore by friends, where lifeguard and fire-rescue personnel administered CPR. The cause of death is not known at this time. He was 52.

Smith, an avid short boarder and mainstay in the surfing community, was honored that night with a boisterous memorial, right. The beach where he died has been scattered with tributes to the beloved surfer, including flowers, candles, photos and messages like "RIP Ted Smith" spray painted onto the sides of the pump station.

Virtual memorials were set up, as well. Websites for organizations like the Windansea Surf Club, Surfline and Boardrast posted obituaries for Smith on their respective websites.

Diego Miller wrote, "Ted surfed really good, always rode a shortboard, and looked for the barrel. One Christmas morning years ago, I watched Ted surf perfect, sunny, glassy WindanSea better than anyone else in the lineup. He got barreled ten times before walking up the beach with a huge smile. That’s one of the many awesome memories I’ll always have of him."

--- Staff

**Family awarded nearly $18 million in UC jet crash**

A federal judge awarded nearly $18 million in damages on Dec. 28 to the extended family of four people who were killed in 2008 when a Marine Corps jet crashed into their University City home after losing both engines.

At the start of the trial on Dec. 13, the United States admitted sole liability for the crash, which occurred after the jet took off from an aircraft carrier for a routine training exercise. Both sides waived having a jury to decide damages.

U.S. District Court Judge Jeffrey Miller ordered $9.6 million to go to Don Yoon, 41, who lost his wife, Youmgi Yoon, 16, his 15-month-old daughter, Grace, his 7-week-old daughter, Rachel and his mother-in-law, Seokim Kim-Lee, 59, in the Dec. 8, 2008 crash. The rest of the award went to Yoon’s father-in-law, Sanghyun Lee, 67, and Lee’s three adult children, some of whom live in South Korea. Both sides agreed on a $63,000 loss on material possessions like clothing and Yoon’s belongings, which was at work when the jet crashed into the home.

Yoon’s attorneys had asked for $15 million for all parties, but after seeing the judge’s written ruling, they said they were satisfied. The U.S. Attorney asked financial experts to calculate how much Yoon’s wife would have earned as a nurse had she lived, but a specific award was not suggested.

Yoon testified he has been unable to work since the crash. His two children were buried in his wife’s casket and he visits the gravesite daily, he said.

Yoon said he looks forward to being reunited with his family in heaven.

"That is all I have to look forward to," he said.

Because the government admitted to military negligence, there was no testimony about mechanical defects in the plane or the traffic controllers who urged the pilot to keep flying to Miramar. The student pilot, 1st Lt. Dan Neubauer, told controllers he lost his second engine three miles short of Miramar and tried to aim the jet toward a canyon. Neubauer safely ejected 17 seconds before the jet crashed and was not injured. A number of military personnel lost their jobs afterwards.

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--- Neal Putnam
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the La Jolla and Golden Triangle Chamber of Commerce I wish each of you the best for the coming New Year. This coming year will bring many exciting events and activities.

Be on the lookout for our new social media sites. Starting in February we will have accounts on Google Plus, Facebook and Twitter, with more to follow. Additionally, the Chamber’s Google Plus page will link to the Web sites of all Chamber members. To coincide with these new networking opportunities we will have a membership drive in February.

Starting in March we will be accepting applications for candidates for the Board of Directors and various committee chairs. And we can all look forward to our “Gala” BOD Installation Party in May.

Our last meet at Ray’s Hawaiian Fusion was a tremendous success. Our special thanks go to the Managing Partner, Mr. Brian Lee, for his exceptionally gracious hospitality and the great food.

Our January Business After Five Mixer will be January 11 at 5:30 PM at the Cafe de Bristol Farms in the Costa Verde Center. The theme will be a Wine and Beer Tasting with great appetizers and I hope to see all of you there.

Join us at Café of Bristol Farms in the Costa Verde Center. The theme will be a Wine and Beer Tasting with great appetizers and I hope to see all of you there.

And we can all look forward to seeing many of you and the other Board of Directors and various committee chairs.

Cheers!

Board of Directors
OPEN HOUSES

LA JOLLA
Sat & Sun 1-4pm .............. 6653 Aranda Ave. ....... 3BR/2.5BA ........ $505,000-$1,075,000 .......... David Schroedl .......... 858-491-8827
Sat & Sun 1-4pm .............. 808 Prospect Dr ....... 2BR/3BA ........ $1,495,000 .......... Lynn Warner .......... 858-435-3831
Sat 1-3pm .......................... 533 Bonita Place ....... 3BR/2BA ........ $1,249,000 .......... David Morales .......... 619-994-2428
Sat 1-4pm .............. 1475 Caminito Clavilena ....... 3BR/3BA ........ $1,375,000 .......... Gudie Sinapel .......... 858-342-0035
Sun 1-4pm ......... 7542 Endo ....... 1BR/1BA ........ $599,000 .......... Susan Weber .......... 858-508-4757
Sun 1-4pm .......... 5510 Bonita Place ....... 3BR/2BA ........ $1,925,000 .......... Alex De Rosa .......... 858-572-3803
Sun 1-4pm .......... 7340 Borda Way ....... 4BR/2BA ........ $1,795,000 .......... Maryl Weightsman .......... 858-354-2913
Sun 1-4pm .......... 700 Via Escondida ....... 5BR/4BA ........ $2,000,000-$2,400,876 .......... David Schroedl .......... 858-459-0202

PACIFIC BEACH / MISSION BEACH / CROWN POINT
Sat & Sun 1-4pm .......... 1944 Missouri ....... 2BR/2.5BA ........ $375,000 .......... Stacey Studebaker .......... 858-349-3075
Sat & Sun 1-4pm .......... 1056 Chalcedony St ....... 4BR/3.5BA ........ $949,000 .......... Kathy Evans .......... 858-488-7355
Sat 12-3 Sun 1-4pm .......... 1369 Hornblend St ....... 3BR/2.5BA ........ $519,000 .......... Kathy Evans .......... 858-488-7355

POINT LOMA / OCEAN BEACH
Sat & Sun 11-4pm .......... 873 Loma Valyce Place ....... 4BR/4BA ........ $575,000 .......... Robert Realty .......... 619-652-8827
Sat & Sun 11-4pm .......... 885 Armada Terrace ....... 2BR/2BA ........ $995,000 .......... Robert Realty .......... 619-652-8827
Sat & Sun 11-4pm .......... 3751 Wicco St ....... 3BR/3BA ........ $1,575,000 .......... Robert Realty .......... 619-652-8827
Sat & Sun 11-4pm .......... 876 Armada Terrace ....... 4BR/4BA ........ $2,275,000 .......... Robert Realty .......... 619-652-8827
Sun 1-4pm .............. 4032 Villa Vela St ....... 1BR/1BA ........ $155,000 .......... Tami Fuller .......... 858-226-6264
Sun 1-4pm .......... 2305 Escondido St ....... 2BR/1BA ........ $425,000 .......... Tami Fuller .......... 858-226-6264
Sun 1-4pm .......... 3553 Quincey St ....... 2BR/1BA ........ $379,000 .......... Tami Fuller .......... 858-226-6264

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Sun 1-4pm .......................... 1056 Chalcedony St ....... 4BR/3.5BA ........ $949,000 .......... Kathy Evans .......... 858-488-7355
Sat 12-3 Sun 1-4pm .......... 1369 Hornblend St ....... 3BR/2.5BA ........ $519,000 .......... Kathy Evans .......... 858-488-7355

WANT “Top Dollar” For Your La Jolla Home?

Experts Say: Start planning for it 60 to 90 days before you sell. La Jolla (CA) – A recent interview with Jeffrey Middagh of Coldwell Banker, revealed several helpful tips for anyone who is thinking of selling their La Jolla home. Most owners of their homes will sell quickly. Everyone thinks that their home is special and will bring top dollar fast. In fact a lot of all new listings that go on the market eventually expire with the home still unsold.

If you’re going to sell your house in the next six months, there are some things you can do now that will help you get top dollar for your home when you do sell it.

There’s a free report available that shows you the things that buyers most look for in a home. How to make your house irresistible to buyers. You’ll learn:

Why buyers love model homes and how to make your house show like one.
How a little-known designer’s secret that could net you $1,000 to $5,000 more when you sell your home.
How to sell your house in as little as 24 hours – without ever putting it on the market.
Three things you can do to get your house on a buyer’s “must see” list.

Jeffrey has compiled a free report that he calls How to Sell Your House for Top Dollar – Fast! This report details several specific ways to prepare your house for sale and how to make your house irresistible to buyers. Jeffrey says the information in this report is the secret to his success in selling homes so quickly, and the reason he can guarantee to sell any house in less than 90 days. To get a copy of this free report, How to Sell Your House for Top Dollar – Fast! just call 688-0111 or 888-015 37.23 for a free 24 hour recorded message. Or order at www.LaJollaCreationEstate.com There’s no cost or obligation and your report will be mailed today!
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Situated at the top of the hill in the coveted West Muirlands with sweeping Ocean & Canyon views, this 5BR/4BA spacious home is perfect for entertaining. Situated on 0.45 acres with a 3-Car Garage. The private south-west facing backyard boasts endless hillside and ocean views, a pool, spa, and grassy yard. Call David or Marc for a tour.

Open Sunday 1-4 PM • 7020 Via Estrada

Seller will entertain offers between $2,000,000 & $2,400,876

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