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Guests ride the Giant Dipper, which received a vintage paint job, at Belmont Park on May 27. See story on page 13.

THOMAS MELVILLE / BEACH & BAY PRESS

City Council votes against boardwalk scooter ban

SEE PAGE x

Surf Rider Pizza opening soon in Mission Beach

SEE PAGE x

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Parents of musician killed by tree in PB reach settlement

City of San Diego attorneys have reportedly reached a $700,000 settlement with the parents of a local musician and dance instructor killed when a tree fell on her car during a heavy rain storm in Pacific Beach two years ago.

Nicki Lynn Carano, 48, was crushed when an uprooted tree eight feet in diameter fell across Ingraham Street near Fortuna Avenue in blustery conditions on Jan. 31, 2016, according to City fire officials and the county medical examiner’s office.

The tree, 100 years old and 50 feet tall, crushed three parked, unoccupied vehicles and Carano’s small sedan as she drove by.

Carano, who played in the all-female band Nectarine, died on her way to Ocean Beach to perform with her band Spider Tree.

According to published reports, Carano’s parents, Anthony and Carole Ann Carano, filed a wrongful death lawsuit in 2016. The suit alleged that city officials had “actuated and/or constructive knowledge” that there was a defect in the tree. It also claimed that the city had a duty to inspect trees near the roadway for flaws and contended the City failed in its duties to keep the area safe and to warn of any hidden danger.

San Diego County and the state of California were also named in the lawsuit.

City Council reportedly will be asked to approve the settlement at its Tuesday, May 22 meeting.

According to her Facebook page, Carano was from Tucson and attended Chairemont High School in San Diego. She taught dance, drums and musical theater for more than 15 years at numerous local campuses, including the Academy of Performing Arts San Diego, Mesa Community College, UC San Diego and Coronado School of the Arts.

A dance scholarship was established in her name at Mesa Community College.

I Love A Clean San Diego, volunteers and students create ‘Waves of Change’

By GILLIAN WEINSTEIN | Beach & Bay Press

On May 24, I Love A Clean San Diego (ILACSD) empowered 1,049 elementary school students, teachers, and volunteers to be a wave of change at Mission Beach for the 25th annual Kids’ Ocean Day. During the four-hour event, students and volunteers channeled their appreciation for our ocean into action to protect it.

With a litter cleanup along Mission Beach and Bay, students and volunteers improved the health and beauty of San Diego’s environment, preventing debris from entering the ocean and harming marine wildlife. After the cleanup, the group formed a stunning aerial art image of the sun setting over ocean waves and the words “Waves of Change.” This powerful, captivating image called for San Diegans to take action for the oceans.

“We want to change from a ‘throw away’ society to one that is more in tune with our life and environmental cycles,” said Pauline Martinson, executive director of ILACSD.

All the students who participated in Kids’ Ocean Day attend local Title I schools and otherwise may not have the means to go to the beach. For 140 students, this event was their first beach experience.

The students cleaned about a mile of Mission Beach, from Belmont Park to South Mission.

“We typically collect about 400 pounds of trash at this location,” Martinson said. “This year, we also covered the bayside. If there is 400 pounds just within a mile of the beach, imagine how much trash blankets our entire beach.”

With eight million metric tons of plastic waste entering the world’s oceans each year, a cleaner future will only be possible by prioritizing conservation over convenience and decreasing the consumption and disposal of single-use plastic items. By drawing attention to the issue of plastic pollution, the young participants hope this message inspires all San Diegans to make changes that benefit the environment.

“Creating a connection between the beach and these young children is essential for them to understand how their inland actions affect the health of our ocean. Inland littering is where the massive trash issue typically begins,” Martinson said.

“Further upstream is where we are finding the biggest, heaviest, most toxic items so the majority of our cleanups are actually inland to make sure we pick it up before it makes its way down the water shed,” Martinson said.

For more information about ILACSD, please visit CleanSD.org.

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“Further upstream is where we are finding the biggest, heaviest, most toxic items so the majority of our cleanups are actually inland to make sure we pick it up before it makes its way down the watershed,” Martinson said.

For more information about ILACSD, please visit CleanSD.org.
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4 br 2 ba Open layout / MLS#180015098

JUST LISTED!

JUST LISTED!

JUST LISTED!

JUST LISTED!

PENDING!

PENDING!

PENDING!
World Beach Games to put Mission Beach in international spotlight

By Dave Schwab | Beach & Bay press

The 2019 Association of National Olympic Committees World Beach Games were ushered in with fanfare at a May 24 press conference attended by local and international dignitaries at Mission Beach.

In 2019, from Oct. 10-15, more than 1,300 athletes from around the world will be competing in 15 action sports during six days of competition on sand and water from Ventura Place and south to the jetty.

“It was approximately three years ago today that San Diego began the process for bidding for the inaugural World Beach Games,” said Vincent Mudd, Local Organizing Committee president of the games to be held next year. “These games are going to be an innovative sports platform that incorporates vibrant beach, water and action sports that are part of San Diego, some of which originated here.”

Noting beach sports are “part of our daily lifestyle, what we affectionately call ‘Tuesday’ in San Diego,” Mudd added that being awarded the 2019 games is a “testament to the authentic, youthful energy that our region and our state presents, the culture and diversity from our tribal nations to our Culinary Baja mega-region.”

“The beach games will be a sports platform with a purpose,” Mudd said, “the focus will be on sustainability through our clean water and clean games.” He added the games will be “an innovation showcase of cutting-edge technology deployed at the beach, which will play a key role in every aspect of these games.”

Sports will include a triathlon, basketball, BMX cycling, climbing, beach handball, karate, sailing, skateboarding, beach soccer, surfing, open-water swimming, beach tennis, beach volleyball, waterskiing and wrestling.

Gunilla Lindberg, Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) secretary general and IOC executive board member, said the event will be the “first global beach games but not the first beach games in the world.”

Pointing out 206 international Olympic committees will be participating, Lindberg characterized Mission Beach as “the perfect place for the athletes,” adding, “we need something hip and competitive, young people want to compete and have fun.”

Timothy Fok, chair of the ANOC Coordination Commission for San Diego, noted the beachfront “has all the natural conditions for beach games,” adding, “many of the sports activities were born here. Sustainability is also a very important message, clean games is an important part of that development.”

Comforting guests while pointing out San Diego’s typical “May gray” will give way to sunshine by October, District 2 Councilmember Lorie Zapf said, “This partnership is going to be an innovative sports platform that incorporates vibrant beach, water and action sports.”

Vincent Mudd
LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE PRESIDENT

These games are going to be an innovative sports platform that incorporates vibrant beach, water and action sports.

Nick Perera, captain of the United States national beach soccer team, noted it is one of the fastest-growing sports for those age 33 and under.

“We’re excited about the games coming here and hope to showcase the best of beach soccer and our team as well,” said Perera.

Mike McDowell, San Diego Sports Commission president, describing the World Beach Games as “a big deal with long-term ramifications.” He pointed out San Diego is a major international destination with 32 million visitors annually.

McDowell said the World Beach Games “will show why San Diego is America’s Finest City.”

Business, tourism leaders support visitor tax increase ballot initiative

By Dave Schwab | Beach & Bay Press

A new citizen’s initiative seeks to ask voters in November to sanction an increase in the City’s transit occupancy tax to fund the convention center expansion, homelessness programs, create new jobs and continue road repaving and other infrastructure improvements.

The Yes! For a Better San Diego campaign proposes a 42-year increase in the city’s visitor tax that they claim would raise $6.4 billion over the life of the measure: $3.78 billion to expand and update the convention center, $2.02 billion for homeless services and $604 million for street repairs.

The campaign has been endorsed by the San Diego Tourism Authority and the San Diego County Hotel-Motel Association, joined by local businesses in the coastal areas.

See Yes, Page 12
Shocked, angry and relief for some was the local reaction to the City Council’s 6-3 vote May 22 against an emergency ordinance prohibiting motorized scooters on coastal boardwalks.

District 2 Councilmember Lorie Zapf, who proposed the ordinance, was joined by District 1 Councilmember Barbara Bry and District 5 Councilmember Mark Kersey in supporting a motorized scooter boardwalk ban.

Council members Chris Ward, Myrtle Cole, Scott Sherman, Chris Cate, David Alvarez and Georgette Gomez all turned thumbs down on the proposal. They argued either that they weren’t convinced of its necessity, or that they felt the issue hadn’t yet been properly vetted. Sherman from District 7 said the problem was more about irresponsible people riding, than about the vehicles being ridden.

“I am disappointed that my colleagues failed to realize the tremendous public safety problem electric scooters present on the boardwalk,” said Zapf. “I intend to continue working with the police department, the lifeguard service and community leaders to refine the proposal so that it can gather majority support on the council.”

Later during discussion of the council,” she said.

The City gets no revenue from the motorized scooter rentals, not even sales tax, but the taxpayers are on the hook for the cost of police enforcement, emergency response and negligence lawsuits from people who will be injured due to the reckless decision made today by City Council,” she said.

A group of friends ride motorized scooters on the boardwalk in Mission Beach.

“We won’t be weighing in on the topic,” said San Diego Fire-Rescue spokesperson Monica Munoz. “We enforce the municipal codes and other laws when they are enacted.”

Asked if the boardwalk is considered a sidewalk, San Diego Police Department spokesperson Lt. Brent Williams answered: “Some parts are sidewalks and already prohibited. Some parts are a Class 1 bike way. That’s what the item at City Council was about.”

Concerning enforcement of the 8 mph speed limit on the boardwalk, Williams said: “Scooters do go faster than 8 mph, and 8 mph is the posted limit. Enforcement of this is also done on the boardwalk, and will continue to be enforced by SDPD.”

There was considerable agreement from Zapf’s constituency in Mission and Pacific beaches and Mission Bay, that motorized scooters on the boardwalk are a safety threat that needs to be addressed.

“I was disgusted,” said Scott Chipman, a 43-year PB resident. “The presentation on safety issues could not have been more convincing showing case after case of dangerous conditions on the boardwalk... Multiple videos of scooter crashes causing injuries were shown. The two City Council members who have beach boardwalks in their districts pleadings were ignored. The recommendations of police and life guard chief were ignored.”

Concurred Marcie Beckett, of PB, “Shame on City Council. The bay walk used to be a safe place for families to bring their little kids to ride bikes or roller skate. But not anymore, due to the advent of motorized scooters zooming along without the skill or time to react to the unpredictable little ones. “The City gets no revenue from the motorized scooter rentals, not even sales tax, but the taxpayers are on the hook for the cost of police enforcement, emergency response and negligence lawsuits from people who will be injured due to the reckless decision made today by City Council,” she said.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

PB planners discuss scooter ban, trolley stop and Rose Creek

In May, Pacific Beach Planning Group was updated on hot-button issues including short-term vacation rentals, dockless bikes and the Balboa Transit Station, as well as a pedestrian bike bridge proposed for the trolley stop.

District 2 Councilmember Lorie Zapf’s aide Monique Tello said Zapf was surprised by a recent 6-3 vote denying her request for an emergency ordinance banning motorized scooters on beach boardwalks. But Tello said Zapf would continue to lobby for tightening of regulations governing scooters, which can exceed the 8 mph speed limit possibly threatening public safety.

Tello said Monday, July 16 is the scheduled date for the next full City Council hearing on short-term vacation rentals. Mayor Kevin Faulconer is expected to be releasing his own proposal for amending regulations governing short-term rentals earlier that month.

Trolley station

Later during discussion of the new Balboa/Pacific Beach trolley stop, board member RJ Kunys outlined his own proposal for alleviating problems with trolley stop access by non-motorized vehicles via construction of a new pedestrian bike bridge closer to Mission Bay.

“The City plan is for access to Balboa transit stop from the current Rose Creek bike path, going a half mile up to get to the transit area,” said Kunys. “People are not going to do that, because they would have to ride through one of the most dangerous, high-volume traffic areas for cars and people in an underpass jammed beneath I-5.”

Kunys offered an alternative.

“I’m proposing putting the pedestrian bike bridge halfway in between the Balboa Avenue bridge and Clairemont Drive,” he said. “Adding that way it would not cause drop-off jams on streets.”

De Anza plan

Pam Heatherington, of the Environmental Center of San Diego, expressed concern about the interconnection between the De Anza Revitalization Plan to revitalize the aquatic regional park, and construction of the trolley stop.

“What is the nexus between these two projects?” she asked.

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German Language Summer Camps

Does your child speak German? How about a German language camp at German Pacific School San Diego? GIPSSD offers four weeks of very creative, imaginative camps with many hands-on projects. This year's topics are: "Princesses, Knights and Dragons" (a fairy tale journey through Europe), an "Artist's workshop" and "European Children's Book Characters". (See detailed plans on website.) GIPSSD, a nonprofit school with four locations in La Jolla, Clairemont, Carmel Valley and Poway, also offers classes on Saturdays and on weekday afternoons. The younger students learn German by playing, singing, theater, stories and games. Later the students focus on reading and writing. During their time at GIPSSD students take different exams which lead to the AP exam and the German Language Diploma (ESD I and II). The ESD II exam is proof of the language proficiency for students applying at German universities. Registration for Summer camps is now open! More info: gpssd.org 858-461-9118 or emailgermanpacificschool@gmail.com

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NIKE TENNIS CAMPS at University of San Diego

Join the fun and get better this summer at the Nike Tennis Camps at University of San Diego. Veteran director, Bill Scott, joined by USD Head Women’s Coach, Sherri Stephens, and Head Men’s Tennis Coach, Ryan Keckley have another summeramazing lineup up with fun both on and off the court! With six weeks of junior overnight and day camps for boys & girls ages 9-18 of all ability levels, tournament training and high school players, there is a camp option for everyone!

Highlights include: 5-6 hours of daily on-court instruction, a Nike Tennis Camp t-shirt, and fun evening activities for overnight campers. Camps run on-campus June 25-July 29.

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Ceramics and Art Camp for Kids. Summer 2018

Morning Art at Studio 6. A 2 part class with 2 career artists each week. Each week is different! Discover clay sculpture, make animal mugs, finger puppets, dragons and garden gnomes. Learn about carving and glazing. Try the potter’s wheel. Meet a variety of art mediums: Water color mono prints, Mixed Media Mandalas, Mixed Media monster sculptures. Survive sun scorch and 3-0 losers.

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Health and Safety Tips for Your BBQ

San Diego is home to the best weather in the country. Even during our chilliest days, we love to grill - it’s a way of life in sunny southern California. What we don’t love is the clean-up. It’s messy and takes us away from our family and fun time. If you are like most people, your grill could use some serious attention. Grease drippings are not only a safety hazard; they can cause unhealthy grilling conditions and other health hazards. Following a few basic safety rules is the key to successful grilling. So before you bust out the spatulas and tongs this weekend, take some time to learn about grill safety with these tips.

1. Know Your Grill

You should always keep the instructions for your grill handy. Even if it’s not your first barbecue, occasionally review the manual and you will remind you of how to operate it.

2. Clean Your Grill

A clean grill is a safe grill for several reasons. There has been reports that metal bristles from some soring brushes can break off and get left behind on the grill and ultimately end up in the food. Some people who have ingested these bristles have ended up in the hospital.

3. Location, Location, Location

When you’re deciding what to grill, don’t forget to consider where to place the grill itself. The location of your barbecue grill makes a big difference in terms of grill safety:

- Always grill outside in an open space. Never grill in garages, tents, trailers or on balconies, you run the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning or setting fire to the structure.
- Place all grills on a non-flammable surface, such as a concrete patio.
- Make sure the grill is a minimum of ten feet from the house, deck, eaves and tree branches.

4. Get the Facts on Worst

Always be prepared for grilling mishaps so you can keep them from becoming grilling tragedies. There are several ways to keep a bad situation from becoming worse:

- Keep a fire extinguisher close by.
- Control grease fires by tossing baking soda on them.
- A bucket of sand can be used to put out errant fires.
- Have a water source, such as a garden hose, nearby. An ice cube or more of these will help to keep a fire under control or extinguish it entirely.

Grill safety really comes down to common sense. Make sure your grill is in good working condition. Clean-up after your cookout only takes a few minutes – about the same amount of time it takes a fire to get out of control.

For professional BBQ, grill and oven cleaning using non-toxic, biodegradable, USDA-approved products (commercial and residential), call California BBQ & Oven Cleaning Services today! (858) 210-2034, www.CallBBQ.com
Dining

No need to choose between Geno’s or Pat’s for cheesesteak in PB

By GILLIAN WEINSTEIN | BEACH & BAY PRESS

An authentic Philadelphiaan has brought their famous cheesesteaks to Pacific Beach. Calozzi’s Cheesesteaks opened on Garnet Avenue in April 23 and has been busy satisfying East Coast cravings.

Owner Al Calozzi grew up working at his family’s cheesesteak restaurant in Philadelphia. In 2006, with nothing but a rickety wooden table, a propane grill, and a beach umbrella, he brought his passion for genuine Philly cheesesteak “in the area.”

The popular cheesesteak sandwiches range from $10.75 to $12.50. Calozzi’s eatery was named “the 10 Best Cheesesteaks That Aren’t Made in Philly” list by Men’s Journal. It also has a 4.5 star rating on Yelp, with many San Diegans leaving outstanding reviews about how there is finally a “real Philly cheesesteak” in the area.

When Calozzi is asked what everyone’s favorite sandwich is, he answers, “all of them!”

Olive Cafe celebrates 13 years of feeding Mission Beach

By DAVID SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Having recently marked the 13th anniversary of Olive Cafe in Mission Beach, owner Sarah Mattinson recalled how it was starting out.

“The was one full-time employee, one part-time employee – and me,” she said, noting there have been more than 100 employees since. “I didn’t have a lot of employees in the beginning because we were building the business.”

On May 12, Olive Cafe held a 13th-anniversary bash, providing free coffee and cookies in a birthday-like atmosphere.

“We had a lot of people, and a lot of older employees, come out for it,” said Mattinson. A lot has changed in the intervening years. The restaurant at 805 Santa Clara Place has more than doubled in size, and the business has branched out into a nearby bakery and part-time ice cream shop.

“Tia just loved how [the deli] was part of the community and everyone would meet there,” said Mattinson. After moving to San Diego, Mattinson got a scholarship to attend University of San Diego, where she majored in business, with an emphasis on purchasing and procurement.

“One of the best classes I took was negotiations, along with women in management courses, and that has definitely helped me,” she said, noting of her business success, despite the long hours and stress. “It’s my baby that I’ve watched grow. Being here every day really paid off in building the local clientele.”

Describing her 2 1/2-year-old bakery as “a labor of love,” Mattinson said she helped build the local clientele.

Mistress of quesadillas, burritos, wraps, salads, sandwiches and desserts.

In a past life, Olive Cafe was two, single-family homes. Said Mattinson, “Someone in south Mission said their grandparents lived here 25 years in a one-room house.”

The dwelling-turned-cafe now sports a fireplace and a truly warm, homespun ambiance.

Mattinson feels fortunate to be centrally located in Mission Beach. “We’re really lucky because we have a parking lot near-by and bike racks,” she said.

Mattinson makes a point of being civically active. “I try to be a big part of the community. I’m involved in the women’s club, and town council,” she said. “I want to see our town do good things.”

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Olive Cafe owner Sarah Mattinson.

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Info: 858-291-8222, olivecafe.biz.

Olivesource.com
Surf Rider Pizza opening in Mission Beach and Crown Point

BY ALAN S. PLEAT | Beach & Bay Press

Surf Rider Pizza Co. is expanding its reach in the San Diego area by opening a new take-out spot in Crown Point on Ingraham Street, along with remodeling its outpost in Mission Beach on Mission Boulevard.

The original Surf Rider Pizza is in operation at 2163 Abbott St., in Ocean Beach.

The 1,890-square-foot Mission Beach location will feature a renovated and modern indoor bar serving local craft beer and wine, an upper-level outdoor bar welcoming the ocean breeze, and, of course, a pet-friendly patio.

The Crown Point outpost will not serve beer or wine and doesn’t have a dine-in option. This location will offer its customers a slightly edited menu that will accommodate exclusively take-out and delivery orders. The Mission Beach and Crown Point locations are expected to open this summer.

The creative mind behind the expansion is Hilary Rossi, the founder of Surf Rider Pizza and also the vice president of food and beverage for The Patio Group. It was the summer of 2010 when Rossi, and business partner Rachael Musico, found the perfect spot, a former pizzeria at 2163 Abbott St., to start their business.

“Why not?” Rossi thought. “I would love to share my pizzas with my San Diego community. Plus, we can add a bakery to the mix and create a confectionary playground for Rachael to offer fresh treats for dessert.”

Surf Rider specializes in East Coast-style pizza available whole or by the slice with a large selection of different toppings available. The Ocean Beach restaurant offers a casual dining experience for patrons who are seeking a neighborhood pizza place that serves slices alongside cold pints of local craft beers. Located just one block away from Ocean Beach Dog Beach, the eatery is proudly a dog-friendly establishment.

The most popular pizza is the Surf Rider Pizza signature pie. This pie features white sauce topped with Romatoes, and fresh basil. Other fan favorite pizzas include the traditional Hawaiian pie, spicy vegetarian pie, and the Hilaroni pie.

The restaurant also offers Italian favorites such as stromboli, cheesesteaks, Italian sausage sandwiches, and fresh-baked cupcakes, as well as a selection of other freshly baked homemade desserts.

Specialty salad dishes such as the spinach chicken salad, the Greek salad, and the surf side salad are on the menu as well. Everyday specials include two slices and a 16-ounce drink for $6.50, two slices and any bottled beer for $11.50, and two slices and any draft pint for $12.50.

Surf Rider Pizza Co. is owned and operated by The Patio Group, which owns and operates a collection of San Diego dining staples such as The Patio on Lamont, Saska’s Steakhouse, Swell Coffee Co, Cultivate, Fire Side, and Harvest.

The 1,100-square-foot venue will reportedly feature seven sandwiches on its grab-and-go menu as well as items exclusive to PB. Agua frescas – nonalcoholic combinations of fruits, cereals, flowers or seeds blended with sugar and water – will initially mark the beverage menu, with beer and wine to follow.

The proprietors recently launched branches in Tijuana and Santa Ana. They announced an expansion to Little Italy earlier this year; that venue is scheduled to open in the fall and offer Southeast Asian dishes and desserts. They are also exploring growth possibilities in Orange and Los Angeles counties.

Surf Rider Pizza Co. is expanding its reach in the San Diego area by opening a new take-out spot in Crown Point on Ingraham Street, along with remodeling its outpost in Mission Beach on Mission Boulevard.

The original Surf Rider Pizza is in operation at 2163 Abbott St., in Ocean Beach.

The 1,890-square-foot Mission Beach location will feature a renovated and modern indoor bar serving local craft beer and wine, an upper-level outdoor bar welcoming the ocean breeze, and, of course, a pet-friendly patio.

The Crown Point outpost will not serve beer or wine and doesn’t have a dine-in option. This location will offer its customers a slightly edited menu that will accommodate exclusively take-out and delivery orders. The Mission Beach and Crown Point locations are expected to open this summer.

The creative mind behind the expansion is Hilary Rossi, the founder of Surf Rider Pizza and also the vice president of food and beverage for The Patio Group. It was the summer of 2010 when Rossi, and business partner Rachael Musico, found the perfect spot, a former pizzeria at 2163 Abbott St., to start their business.

“Why not?” Rossi thought. “I would love to share my pizzas with my San Diego community. Plus, we can add a bakery to the mix and create a confectionary playground for Rachael to offer fresh treats for dessert.”

Surf Rider specializes in East Coast-style pizza available whole or by the slice with a large selection of different toppings available. The Ocean Beach restaurant offers a casual dining experience for patrons who are seeking a neighborhood pizza place that serves slices alongside cold pints of local craft beers. Located just one block away from Ocean Beach Dog Beach, the eatery is proudly a dog-friendly establishment.

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Mission Bay High School hosts its annual Spring Concert on June 1. Featuring the school’s Concert Band, String Orchestra and Full Orchestra under the direction of music director JP Balmat, the event neatly showcases some of the area’s top young musicians, many sure to rise to prominence.

Funds raised at this event go to help fund the program. San Diego’s music scene has remained vibrant despite downturns in the music business in recent years. Programs such as this, which nurture young talent, are one of the reasons why.

Spring Concert: Friday, June 1 at Mission Bay High, 2475 Grand Ave. 7 p.m. missionbaymusic.com.

Rock-a-billy fans won’t want to miss an appearance from Levi Dexter and the Gretsch Brothers appearing at Tio Leo’s. Dexter first came to prominence in 1977 with his band, The Rockats, helping to pioneer the rock-a-billy revival. For this tour Dexter is joined by guitarist Katsuo Yamaguchi, aka the Gretsch Brothers, performing songs from their joint album, “All Thru The Night.”

Legendary guitarist Uli Jon Roth performs at Brick by Brick on June 8. Best known as guitarist for German heavy metal rockers, the Scorpions during the 1970s, in the ensuing years Roth has become a teacher and mentor to musicians around the world. The night is being billed as a “Triple Anniversary Tour” with a set of music from his past Scorpions group, Electric Sun, as well as highlights from new compilation, “The Tokyo Tapes.”

Uli Jon Roth: Friday, June 8 at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave. 7 p.m. and up. brickbybrick.com.

Foo Fighters frontman Dave Grohl himself would do a double take if he walked into a Foo Fighter gig. Performing at the 710 Beach Club on June 8, The Foo Fighters do an impressive job of impersonating the Foo Fighters, right down to singer Nicky Rich, who comes across as a dead ringer for Grohl.

Foo Fighters: Friday, June 8 at the 710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Ave. 9 p.m. 21 and up. 710bc.com.

For this tour Dexter is joined by guitarist Katsuo Yamaguchi, aka the Gretsch Brothers, performing songs from their joint album, “All Thru The Night.”

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Uli Jon Roth: Friday, June 8 at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave. 7 p.m. and up. brickbybrick.com.

The Taz Taylor Band and Bunch of Heathens.

Mission Bay music director JP Balmat with the Preservationists.

Mission Bay music director keeps the jazz age jumpin’

BY DAVE SCHWAB | Beck & Re Press

Mission Bay High School music director Jean-Paul Balmat is passionate about his music.

That is why he’s been able to cobble together a multi-faceted program, including a mammoth and jazz-ensemble band, the Preservationists, literally from scratch.

A saxophone player since fourth grade, Balmat noted he was inspired by now-retired MBHS band director Rey Vinole.

“I told myself, ‘One day, that is what I want to do. I want to come back to Mission Bay and keep this program going,’” he said.

Characterizing himself as “a dorky kid,” Balmat confessed to being “in the band room every day at lunch practicing.”

Admitting being “as local as it gets,” Balmat was born and raised in PB, having attended Kate Sessions, Pacific Beach Middle and Mission Bay High schools. “This is my home. I have deep roots in the community,” said Balmat.

A 2002 MBHS grad, Balmat was inspired by now-retired MBHS band director Rey Vinole.

One of the nation’s premier traditional youth jazz bands, the Preservationists continue to be featured at venues throughout San Diego County and California including: Anthology, House of Blues, Dizzy’s, Petco Park, Seaworld, Tango Del Rey, Lux Art Institute, Ocean Beach Music and Art Festival and the Sacramen-to Jazz Festival.

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MUSIC
Sixth grader Sophia Sidell (left) competed with her team in the 4x400 relay and sixth grader Tori Guerin competed in the shot put at the San Diego Unified middle school track meet at La Jolla High School on May 5.

Seventh grader Sam Arevalos ran as the anchor for his 4X400 relay team, winning first place at the San Diego Unified middle school track meet at La Jolla High School on May 5.

Eighth grader Lucky Donohue competes in the long jump at the San Diego Unified middle school track meet.

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760-929-7555. Income and other
Belmont Park’s Giant Dipper may not be the smoothest roller coaster ride – the twists and turns likening to the feeling of a high magnitude earthquake – but for San Diego natives, like Timothy Cole, it’s certainly one of the most nostalgic. “It just captured me,” said Cole. who joined the Save the Coaster Committee back in the ’90s after the ride was shut down for the second time in 1976. “There was like a spirit about it or something.”

Inspired by the colors of its original coaster car, still on display in the ticketing office, this Mission Beach thrill ride has recently been repainted in rich coats of red, black and gold – just in time for summer. Though most residents can remember the Giant Dipper’s previous pink-and-green hues to match the logo of San Diego Seaside Co., Cole remembers being part of the paint crew during the 14 years before the coaster reopened in 1990. “When I tried accenting the track in pink, I thought ‘Ugh, it looks like Pepto-Bismol’” said Cole. “So, then I tried painting it in green, and that really set it off.”

For Cole, this coaster is more than just a ride. “It’s a piece of art,” said Cole. Frank Prior and Fred Church were the artists who designed the Giant Dipper for Belmont Park, which is now registered as a national historic landmark. Though they also built Giant Dippers for the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Venice Amusement Park, and Redondo Beach Park, there’s something unique about the one in Mission Beach.

“When he designed this one, Church wrote ‘San Diego’ on the horizon, and that’s how he came up with the rough outline for our Giant Dipper,” said Cole, who is a craftsman of model roller coasters himself. “It’s almost like the signature of San Diego written on Mission Beach.”

While the formerly green track was his own contribution to Church’s artwork, as for the recent color changes, Cole says, “the colors were dated. It was time.”

The colors and coaster cars might be new, but Church’s artistic carnival construct is the same as it’s been since 1925. The exciting, rickety thrill ride remains, as the red warning sign at the front reads, “not for the faint of heart.”

Judy Swink, one of the Save the Coaster Committee presidents, recalls not only helping Cole power up the track, but also braving the ride with her friend from Coney Island once the coaster was back up and running. “She was unimpressed by the Giant Dipper at first, but after she rode it, she was quick to apologize to me,” said a chuckling Swink. “It’s an exciting ride. But now, I’m at the age where I have neck issues, and I say, let’s not tempt fate.”

But the Ocean Beach resident admits she tempted fate a couple months back when Cole “twisted her arm” to come down for the inauguration of the newly painted coaster cars. “It’s an iconic image for generations of San Diegans who grew up coming to Mission Beach,” said Swink.

When he has guests in town, Cole still makes an effort to visit the Giant Dipper, on which he took his first coaster ride at the age of 14. “When I go down there now, and see the whole park is still running, I somehow feel like I played a key role,” said Cole, now an honorary member of the American Coaster Enthusiasts.

“Since it opened, every 10 years or so, it’s gone through the same cycle of trials and triumphs. I love the way people still care about it, enough to keep it going. It’s a magic roller coaster, that’s what makes ours special.” Cole said.

Belmont Park adds attractions, food options and concerts for summer

For many, summer is a time to either kick back the heels or kick-start an exciting adventure. This line of thinking is the basis for the atmosphere Michelle McKee, and the rest of the Belmont Park team, have been working to establish at the Mission Beach amusement park. From new hands-on attractions to culinary concepts, the goal is to have “something for everybody.”

“We’re just trying to do something different, something more than just rides,” said McKee, director of marketing for the park. Belmont Park recently decided to join forces with their culinary neighbors, Draft Coffee and Beach House (formerly the Wavehouse), to co-brand and create more opportunities for both sections of the park. One of the latest changes has been the reintroduction of Beach House’s Summer-Fall Concert Series, which began last Sunday.

Branden Gugtil, food and beverage manager of Draft and Beach House, is hoping to make the space a music hub, bringing back the glory days of when Draft was the popular music venue. Cunes.

“I believe the potential is definitely there and that we can make this a place for both high-profile and local bands,” said Gugtil. “I think once we really get our feet under us and the talent knows that the venue is a good place to play, that the level of artists will increase.”

But the most popular perk to the joint-management system has been May’s “5 for 5” deal, where, after 5 p.m., visitors can get $5 beers and burgers. This deal also extends to the park’s amusement rides and several attractions.

Two of the newest attractions are the Sky Ropes Island Adventure, a three-story obstacle course for all ages, and Jungle Gems. Inspired by Californian heritage, the idea behind Jungle Gems is to get guests to experience the old western days as they sift for real crystal, topaz, ruby,opal, emerald and even shark teeth in the man-made ravine. Each person gets a “rock menu” where they can match the gem to its name. It’s an experimental and educational side to the park.

“A lot of kids are playing so much with their electronic devices that they don’t get out in nature and play with their hands,” said McKee. “This is a whole different type of attraction.”

After 5 p.m., each large gem bag is only $5. Belmont is also doing a promotion where, if a guest finds one of the man-made gems, they can trade it in for a free Beaver Tails pastries, the park’s new beach-side treat. The Canadian-based pastry is hand-stretched, whole wheat dough, that’s fried and topped with different sweet treats, such as a chocolate banana nut spread and fresh banana slices.

“If you like churros, and you like funnel cake, you’re going to like these,” said McKee.

In June, the park will also be hosting a Father’s Day Car Show with beer tastings and deals on food and drinks at Draft and Beach House. Plus, Belmont Park is bringing back its Summer Kids’ Series, hosting free activities and entertainment for kids on Tuesday nights throughout summer and into fall. “We’re always looking at how we can improve our park experience,” said McKee.
Mission Bay High teams wrap up CIF competition

Track and field
The Bucs sent five athletes to the CIF Prelims meet including City League champ Nick Archer (high jump, triple jump); Jesus Hernandez (110m hurdles champion), Brooklyn Grooms (pole vault); TK Berhe and Alec Pletogether.
Only Archer, who hit a season-best 4'700.5 in the triple jump, was able to make the CIF Finals. Archer took eighth in Division II, giving Mission Bay its only points. “This was a great year for our track team as we secured back-to-back league titles,” head coach Danny Perez said. “We will move forward to the Eastern League to take on stiff competition.”
Next year’s schedule will include the likes of San Diego, Serra, Morse, Saints, Our Lady of Peace, Hoover and La Jolla.

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Reported by Danny Perez
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