Endings and beginnings at Mission Bay’s graduation

By DAVE SCHWAB

Mission Bay High Class of 2017’s graduation ceremony June 14 was an ending – and a beginning, which was a familiar theme, along with school pride, that cut across the speeches of the commencement program.

Speakers included senior class president Jacqueline Macias, MC Laura Barton, co-vealdictorians Alexandra Briski and Emery Reyna, principal Ernest Remillard and San Diego Unified School District Board Trustee Dr. John Lee Evans. “We finally achieved the most important goal – graduation,” said Barton during opening remarks. Macias noted the Class of ’17 began as “a mass of individuals trying to find our way,” and ended with “memories of special friends that will stay in our hearts forever.”

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2017

Mission Bay High students celebrate their graduation in the school’s stadium on Wednesday, June 14. A student (below) hugs Mission Bay teacher and senior class advisor Lauren Filamor during commencement ceremonies. PHOTOS BY THOMAS MELVILLE

Colorado man guilty of raping PB woman

By NEAL PUTMAN

After less than three hours of deliberations, a jury on June 15 convicted a man of kidnapping and raping a Pacific Beach woman, who was a German exchange student. The 21-year-old victim returned to Germany within a week after the Jan. 1, 2016 incident and declined to return to testify in the trial of Jacob Paul Skorniak, 51, who was found guilty of all charges. Skorniak, of Colorado, faces a maximum prison term of 81 years to life for his convictions of rape at knifepoint, kidnapping for rape at knifepoint, and digital penetration of an unconscious person.

Jacobs Paul Skorniak

Iconic Coaster Saloon in Mission Beach sold

Davies LLC – led by David Cohn of the Cohn Restaurant Group – has bought the real estate located at 744-748 Ventura Place in Mission Beach for $2.1 million and the business known as The Coaster Saloon for an undisclosed amount, according to The Franco Realty Group. Other items included in the sale were a Type 47 ABC license, an entertainment license and three upstairs apartment units. This is the first commercial property sold on Ventura Place in more than a decade.

The Cohn Group is planning to continue operating the establishment as The Coaster Saloon for now.
Tragedy in Mission Beach spurs swimming program for refugees, underprivileged kids

By DAVE SCHWAB

In April, the life of a Syrian teenage refugee, who was unfamiliar with the ocean, was claimed by a rip current at Mission Beach.

On April 12, 17-year-old Mohammed al-Mustafa, a budding photographer who liked soccer but couldn’t swim, pleaded for permission to join friends on his first trip to the beach. He promised his mother he wouldn’t go in the water.

Mohammed was adjusting to a new life as a refugee in the United States after fleeing war-torn Syria with his parents and four sisters. He was presumed to have drowned.

Rescue workers, with the aid of helicopters, searched for the boy unsuccessfully over three days. He then was overcome by strong rip currents.

The uninitiated.

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Out of the Boat Swim volunteers use their own vehicles to transport about 40 kids to and from the events on each activity day,” said Isabella Ames of Sunsational, who added, “The nonprofit is seeking donations to purchase a 12-passenger van to reach more children.”

As of June 26, $3,000 of a targeted $8,000 had been raised at www.youcaring.com/outoftheboatswim-820390, to buy a passenger van.

Noting requests for Out of the Boat Swim’s services now exceed their capacity, Ames pointed out Sunsational has agreed to match all donations for Out Of The Boat up to $4,000 until July 1.

Swim training for refugees and the underprivileged in the Out Of The Boat program takes place initially in private pools because of “the high influx of refugees” coming to San Diego, said Chris Monte, Out Of The Boat’s marketing coordinator.

“Our swim program helps new families adjusting to San Diego and a new culture,” said Monte noting, “it makes them feel more welcome during the integration process.”

Once refugees are trained in private pools, the venue switches to the ocean where junior lifeguards participate in swim training from July 24 to Aug. 18. A training beach day will be held Saturday, Aug. 12 at Mission Beach.

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IN ESCROW – SOLD IN 3 DAYS!

IN ESCROW – SOLD IN 3 DAYS!
Second Chance Dog Rescue helps find lost pets, and sometimes even a Pretzel

By DAVE SCHWAB

Recovering the lost Chihuahua, Pretzel, took some twists and turns before an all-out effort by the dog's caretaker to find the pooch finally got results when a local surfer, who'd seen the stray at Tourmaline Surf Park, saw a flyer posted in a veterinarian's office that led to his recovery.

Nearly every day, a dog or cat is lost somewhere in Pacific Beach, with pet owners posting messages on social media like Next Door – even offering monetary rewards – for their safe return.

Such was the case recently when Realtor Diane M. Sampson was reunited with Pretzel after he got spooked and ran away. Following an exhaustive two-week search, with Sampson unsuccessfully trying every conceivable means to find Pretzel – she almost lost hope. "We’d adopted Pretzel as a second pet so the dog we already had would have a buddy and playmate, and he slipped out," said Sampson, noting her family searched tirelessly on foot for a couple of days afterwards, then distributed 250 flyers around Pacific Beach "on every stop sign, telephone pole, animal hospital, etc." as well as multiple postings on social media site Next Door.

"We even paid for a Pet Amber alert (an online lost/stolen pet recovery service), as well as advertising on Craigslist and going to local animal shelters almost every day," said Sampson, noting the search, after two weeks, had been fruitless.

That fate intervened to lend a helping hand.

Enter PB surfer Tommy Campbell, a frequent boarder at Tourmaline Surf Park. "I was actually taking my dog to a new vet, Grand Animal Hospital, and I saw one of Diane’s flyers," said Campbell who’d repeatedly spied Pretzel on Tourmaline’s hillsides. "Instantly, I knew it was that dog."

Campbell said Pretzel "was really scared and wanted to socialize, but was (too) scared to. I'd just seen him again, and he looked a little worse than he had three or four days prior."

Sampson agreed the “grapeshot” approach is best to finding a lost dog. "Everything, all the (flyer) postings, with those that have been lost or found sections. Repost every day or every other day to keep fresh."

Microchip Fido for free at county shelters before fireworks

The Fourth of July barbecue might be fun for your people-loving pooch, but come evening, the loud, high-pitched whistles and booms of fireworks can send Fido running.

"Dogs can panic and they’ll do anything to escape from the noise," said County Department of Animal Services director Daniel DeSousa.

"That includes digging under, climbing over or even breaking through gates, screens, fences, windows and doors."

During their wild flight, dogs can get hit by cars, hurt by other animals or become lost. Last year, nearly 60 dogs ended up at County Animal Services on the Fourth of July and the first few days after the holiday. The year before, 67 dogs came in.

Some were quickly reunited with their owners because the dogs were licensed and microchipped. If you’d like to get your dog microchipped, you can get one for free from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at any one of the three County shelters through Sunday; July 2. The cost is normally $10.

Animal Services also recommends that you register your dog with Finding Rover. The free facial recognition app matches dogs’ faces with those that have been lost or found. One time, the app found a dog within five minutes.

Here are some additional tips:

• Avoid taking your pet to firework displays. Keep your pets indoors in a sheltered, quiet area.

• Some dogs become destructive when frightened so remove dangerous objects your pet may chew.

• Post information free at: Craigslist.org in both the Pets and Lost and Found sections. Repost every day or every other day to keep fresh.

• Also use secondchancedogrescue.org, petfinder.com; oliveralert.com; lost-dogsandiego.com; petharbor.com; ake- wals.com; thecenterforlostpets.com; lostandfoundpet.com; k9pi.com; helplost-pets.com; swiftreport.net; lostpetusa.net.

• Make sure you check animal control. Ask to please see all dogs, not just the ones up for adoption. Often strays, collar or no collar can be in isolation areas. If you don’t ask they will not tell.

• Check your local shelters every three days. (On days you do not personally visit, you can check their websites).

• If your pet is micro chipped, call the microchip company. Let them know the dog is missing and make sure your contact info is up-to-date.

• Consider contacting a pet detective – k9pi.com.

• Post on a big bright neon poster board, potentially a website that is easy to remember. PublicKey and Found sections. Repost every day or off-ramps.

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Debra is a Graduate Gemologist and former Diamond Instructor at the GIA (Gemological Institute of America). She has been a jewelry designer for over 25 years. We can work with you to design a piece that is completely your own and one of a kind. Bring in your most used and cherished jewelry to be cleaned, repaired, or have the stones remounted to have them looking like the day you purchased them. Diamonds on the Rock is located in Bird Rock at 5630 La Jolla Blvd. Call 858 750 2190 or Come in today!

Fall in love with your jewelry again

Developers McKellar-McGowan requested an amendment to the general plan and the Mission Beach Precise Plan and Local Coastal Program re-designating the project site from “institutional & public and semi-public facilities” to “residential.” “The Coastal Commission wanted us to revise the project taking four units out of our planned 63,” said Chris McKellar, CEO of McKellar-McGowan. “The Coastal Commission also liked our linear park concept, but wanted us to increase its size from 8,755 square feet to 13,940 square feet.”

Closed in 1996 because of declining attendance, the former Mission Beach Elementary School and its 2.23 acres were sold at auction by San Diego Unified School District for $18.5 million in May 2013 to the highest bidder, developers McKellar-Ashbrook LLC of La Jolla. In September 2015, the Mission Beach Town Council passed the following resolution: “MBTC strongly urges the City of San Diego to require the developers at the Mission Beach School development site at 825...”

SEE CONDOS, Page 11

Opponents’ environmental lawsuit still pending

By DAVE SCHWAB

Following Coastal Commission review, the City Council approved zoning changes on June 26 to a slightly downscaled project, with somewhat larger park space, that will redevelop the former Mission Beach Elementary School into condominiums.

The project, two actually, Mission Beach Residences and Santa Barbara Place Residences, are on two separate parcels on 2.23 acres of prime real estate in the heart of the beach community.

On April 11, 2016, overriding concerns about traffic, parking and alteration of Mission Beach’s character, City Council voted 6-2 in favor of the condo project, which had previously been unanimously approved by the city Planning Commission.

A month later, on May 10, a lawsuit on behalf of Mission Beach Citizens for Responsible Development, was filed against the redevelopment project by attorney Cory Briggs. The suit challenges the adequacy of the condo project’s environmental impact report as required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

De Anza Cove Revitalization Plan committee to review updated proposals

San Diego Audubon is encouraging residents to turn out and give input on the De Anza Cove Revitalization Plan on Thursday, June 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Mission Bay High School, 2475 Grand Ave.

At this meeting, for the first time, the City of San Diego’s De Anza Revitalization Plan Ad-hoc Committee, comprised of local individuals bringing a variety of expertise to guide the planning process, will review the updated restoration options. This is the first public meeting since November when the City revealed three draft alternative restoration plans for De Anza Cove.

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The iconic building located on the corner of Garnet Avenue and Fanuel Street in Pacific Beach has finished its exterior remodel and has been named The Rose Center after the late Dr. Nathaniel Rose.

In 1992, Rose purchased the building for $500,000 and opened Perl’s Urgent Care. In 2015, he sold the building to the Abeles Family Trust for $2.55 million and the business to the Marquee Medical Group.

During Rose’s 20-plus-year run, he helped thousands of patients and oftentimes for free. Rose passed away in November 2016 and is survived by his wife, Patricia Rose. He was one of the first African-Americans to graduate from USC with a medical degree and served in the Navy during the Vietnam War.

Rose enjoyed flying his friends and family to his house in Pelican, Alaska, which was only accessible by seaplane. He also enjoyed having a Corona while watching the sunset from his oceanfront home in La Jolla. Standing at more than 6-feet 5-inches tall, Rose was far from intimidating and was considered a generous gentle giant that overpaid his staff and contractors. Melody and David Abeles of the Abeles Family Trust (who purchased Rose’s real estate) saw Rose’s big heart and how he impacted the community.

When the Abeles family and the Franco Realty Group finished remodeling the building, they named it The Rose Center and installed a plaque along Fanuel Street that reads “This building is dedicated to Dr. Rose, M.D. In honor of his care for his patients and the Pacific Beach community.”

The Rose Center is 12,000-square-feet, houses about 30 small businesses, and is managed by the Franco Realty Group.

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Morning Art Camp at Spanish Village

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To List Your Camp Call Mike Fahey 858-270-3103 x 117
“We are, and always will be, Mission Bay Buccaneers,” Macias said.

Briski and Reyna, who shared valedictorian honors as well as a 4.55 grade point average, were brief — but pointed — in their remarks.

“I’ve never particularly liked endings, the last day of vacation, or the last chapter of a great book,” Briski confessed, adding, “Today we leave behind friends and teachers who have truly influenced our lives forever.”

Briski said: “I have thoroughly enjoyed the past four years at Mission Bay High School. With each new page, new understanding. With each new chapter, new growth in our lives.”

Briski concluded, “We’ve reached the end of this speech, and of high school. Go Bucs. Go Bears.”

In her speech, Reyna praised the athletic accomplishments of MBHS, which she noted included “a fledgling (women’s) lacrosse team that won a CIF championship,” and an internationally-renowned music program.

Reyna invoked the wisdom of Einstein who said, “Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.”

“Some of us are fish that are meant to swim,” noted Reyna. “I am proud to be recognized as valedictorian, and proud, though I’m not able to climb trees, to do what I’m truly designed for. This chapter in my life is close to an end, I will now have the freedom to explore what I am inspired to be.”

Remillard praised the Class of ’17 noting, “I am confident that they will do amazing things in the real world. You have raised the bar for future Mission Bay graduates.”

But Remillard cautioned students saying, “Your journey isn’t over. My challenge to the Class of 2017 is going to remain in place: Continue to work hard, challenge yourself as opportunities come your way.”

Get your hat on for Opening Day at the Del Mar Race Track

The Del Mar Races are almost here! Get ready for opening day by topping off your attire with the perfect Hat at The Village Shop in Pacific Beach (979 Cass St.) We suggest you bring in your dress to match a hat from our extensive selection. We stock dozens of hat makers in every price range. On July 15th from 3 to 6 pm we are hosting a Something Special Trunk Show featuring affordable dress hats for women. The selection is impressive with beautiful styles including fascinators and traditional summer hats in all colors and shades. What makes Something Special special is the look and the price. You can easily select a $100 look for less than $50. We have a complete selection of men’s hats as well.

Flag Day Honored

Marie Tolstad and Patrick Cohen of Coldwell Banker Real Estate Pacific Beach decorate a local resident's yard with flags in celebration of Flag Day. Tolstad has been honoring Flag Day in this manner for 30 years on June 14th. Another neighborhood event Marie & Patrick promote are the “Shred Document” event hosted post-tax season at her office in PB.

SDPD looking for man who beat victim with skateboard in Mission Beach

Authorities sought the public’s help to identify and locate a man who beat a second man with a skateboard after a roughly half-hour-long conversation in a parking lot on the Mission Beach jetty. The suspect was described as white, in his mid 30s, about 5-feet 10-inches tall and 190 pounds with blond hair. He was wearing a gray tank top and blue jeans. Anyone with information on the case is asked to call police at 858-552-1726. The victim had been dropping off wood pallets at a fire pit along the rock wall on the south side of the parking lot off Mission Boulevard on May 31.

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Coastal Bay softball wins tournament
Coastal Bay 10U girls softball, made up of students from Pacific Beach, Kate Sessions, Crown Point, and Bird Rock elementary schools, earned second place in the Peninsula Cool Breeze tournament in Ocean Beach in the Girls 10U Bronze Division, and won Coronado’s Bash at the Bay tournament in June. Top row: scorekeeper Mark Sullivan, team manager Julia Sullivan, pitcher Lauryn Burrow, third baseman Olivia Anderson, center fielder Fiona O’Neill, second baseman Ella Reavis, catcher Caitlyn (Kiki) Sullivan, co-head coach Jeff Anderson. Middle row: co-head coach Bob Murphy, first baseman Kaitlin Murphy, shortstop Lucia Meza, assistant coach Tim Hicks. Bottom row: center fielder Sydney Schmitz, left fielder Maraea Hicks, pitcher Eden Jaramillo, right fielder Evie Horton.

Powder Puff winners
The Mission Bay High School Powder Puff football game was played on Friday, June 9, with the juniors beating the seniors, 26-14. Three of the four touchdowns were scored by MVP, Shelby Moore. The exciting game included an entertaining half-time show by the junior and senior boys’ cheerleaders.

San Diego Lifeguards breakfast
On Friday, June 9, the town councils of Ocean Beach, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach and La Jolla, held a kick-off-the-season breakfast meeting of the San Diego Lifeguards at Mission Bay Yacht Club. The 2017 class of lifeguards (above) enjoy their breakfast of frittatas, fruit, coffee and juice. As the seasonal and full time lifeguards left the meeting, the town councils distributed donated gift bags to all the guards, in acknowledgment of their important service to the communities and all beach visitors.
MBHS seniors and their families attended a luncheon hosted by the Pacific Beach Woman’s Club on June 10th to receive their college scholarships. PBWC awards two scholarships every year to MBHS senior girls.

Left to right: Erin Mayer of PBWC, Alex Briskie, Sandra Baudoux and Kelly Laird of PBWC.

Hydrangea Cove beach cottage and garden décor has a new look, a new location and a new customer service manager: Hank the bulldog.

Formerly on Turquoise Street in north Pacific Beach for six years, the women’s gift shop and décor store is now in a reconfigured space at 845 Garnet Ave.

“We were so lucky to find this space, the owner of the building wanted us to be here,” said owner Susan Christopher, showing off her divergent wares in brightly lit, customized rooms. Her compartmentalized retail rooms cater to babies, greeting cards, jewelry, furniture and fabrics, among other items.

“We completely remodeled our new space to highlight the beach-cottage look, including rooms with coastal colors and wood accents,” Christopher said about her new retail space, which once was a Century 21 real estate office, before being owned by Tower Paddleboards, which has since relocated in Pacific Beach.

Established in 2011, Hydrangea Cove has become the destination for unique, curated gifts for weddings and babies. Other goods carried include candles, body and bath, jewelry, books and greeting cards. Complimentary gift wrapping is offered. The home décor end of the business features pillows, rugs, lamps, mirrors, coastal accents and vintage, one-of-a-kind furniture.

On a tour of Hydrangea, Christopher noted, standing in her greeting card room, that she’s “very picky about the cards,” adding “people come here just for the card selection, it’s pretty unique and well-curated. These are really lovely cards — and some of them are incredibly funny.”

“When I count my blessings, I count you twice,” reads one card on a homemade rack.

“These are cards from England,” said Christopher noting their quality is gorgeous” adding, “You don’t find these in San Diego.”

Christopher had an interesting tale to relate about how she got started in coastal retail.

“The shop for me was Plan B,” she said noting she was in banking for many years and transitioned into her new endeavor in 2008.

A Mission Beach resident since ’99, Christopher said, when she was re-thinking what she wanted to do during the recession, she thought, “I’d like to open a shop where I would like to go and pick up things for my beach cottage. There were shops like this that were disappearing because of the recession. But women still wanted to go somewhere where they could browse and relax.”

Named for her favorite, colorful flower, which likes to grow along the coast and reminds her of her native Connecticut, Christopher noted Hydrangea’s bath and body section carries perfumes, lotions and home fragrances, like “washed cotton.”

“Though Hydrangea is primarily for women, the shop does carry gifts for men for special events.

One room in Hydrangea is like a mini art gallery, much of it locally generated. There’s even a pet section, as well as a section for babies and a design studio. There is also some women’s apparel in the store, like broad-brimmed sun hats for ladies.

“We have a lot of customers who come from La Jolla as well,” said Christopher of her clientele.
Doughballs – fired up, ready to go in PB

By JONATHAN LO

James Markham, the mind behind MOD Pizza, Project Pie, and Piegology is unveiling his newest pizza restaurant creation: Doughballs.

Similar to his previous restaurants, Doughballs will be a fast-casual pizza establishment focused on making wood-fired pies on-demand based upon the customers’ customizations. Aside from eight to 10 prebuilt signature pizzas, Doughballs will feature a build-your-own-pizza option.

Locations

There will be two locations opening soon: at 822 Grand Ave. in Pacific Beach, and in Liberty Public Market in Point Loma. Markham is hopes to make the streets of foodies as well as connect to the ever-curious eaters who fill the halls of the market. As a testament to that, displayed on the wall of the PB Doughballs is his personal motto, “Life’s too short to eat crappy pizza.” He would never sell a pizza he would not eat.

Convenience

Doughballs will also focus heavily on customer convenience. Because the pizzas can be made in such a short amount of time, the PB eatery will have a drive-thru, as will all future locations (except Liberty Public Market). Moreover, Doughballs will be open until 11 p.m. on the weekdays and until 2:30 a.m. on the weekends.

Markham laments at how hard it is to get a quick quality pizza at late hours, so he decided to provide that service himself. He also noted that if there is customer feedback requesting even later hours, he and Doughballs will be happy to consider adjusting business hours.

When you do decide to grab that late night pizza, all prices on the menu will stay at a low flat rate with no frozen meats used at all; Doughballs will have its meat delivered fresh every day. Markham has partnered with some local farms and a bakery to provide the ingredients. Doughballs’ cheese will be a whole milk shredded mozzarella supplied by someone who Markham has partnered with for a long time. There will also be no frozen meats used at all; Doughballs will have its meat delivered and made in bulk.

Crackheads

Markham’s design company, JM Concepts, will also be releasing another concept in Liberty Public Market: Crackheads, an eccentric egg-centric restaurant serving gourmet breakfast sandwiches all day. Like with Doughballs, Crackheads cooks the items on its menu a little differently.

Instead of using a conventional pan to fry an egg, Crackheads will use a special steam oven to evenly and quickly cook the egg on both sides at the same time, completing the process in under two-and-a-half minutes. Crackheads will also feature other breakfast favorites with a build-your-own cereal bar, custom Pop Tarts, and even Pop Tart ice cream sandwiches.

Like Doughballs, Crackheads will have locally-sourced ingredients, and its sauce will all be made in-house.

The Pacific Beach Doughballs will open at 822 Grand Ave., which housed the former Crazy Bowls & Wraps eatery.

Doughballs – Where: 822 Grand Ave.
When: Scheduled to open in late June.

Condos

Santa Barbara Place to preserve the landmark Ficus tree at the site and create a true community park as required for a 2.23 acre parcel, incorporating the tree. Further, we strongly oppose the substitution of the required park with a ‘green’ strip along Mission Boulevard. We remind the city that the initial request was that developing the entire former school property site, consisting of three distinct parcels, would mandate a .35 acre population-based park for the Mission Beach community. The MBTC further supports the Mission Beach Precise Planning Board in its defense of the Mission Beach Planned District Ordinance.”

McKellar-McCowan originally proposed a total of 20 buildings housing 63 individual units in a mix of duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes and one single-family residence on the project site. Each condo unit has two dedicated parking stalls in a private garage.

The combined condo project was previously opposed by the Mission Precise Planning Board, arguing the project, as presently constricted, violates the community’s Planned District Ordinance, the community’s blueprint for development.

Community planners insist the project as proposed takes liberties with lot sizes, which have remained unchanged since the community was first developed. Mission Beach’s zoning was laid out in the early 20th century by San Diego developer and sugar heir John Spreckels.

Some are calling the Mission Beach Residences project the biggest development in the beach community in the last 50 years.
Emergency Exit is back to filling dance floors

By BART MENDOZA

After a hiatus of several decades, Emergency Exit is back. The quartet was a fixture of San Diego’s nightspot in the late 1960s and early 1970s, filling dance floors with a mix of what is now considered classic rock and soul.

Nothing much has changed in the ensuing years: their sets are still packed with a great collection of songs, from the Doors to KC & The Sunshine Band, tunes that are built to get clubgoers up and moving. In an era when bands don’t last more than a few years, the perseverance of this quartet is to be admired.

Emergency Exit: Friday, June 30 at Tio Leo’s, 5302 Napa St. 8 p.m. and up. Cover TBD. www.tioleos.com

The acoustic showcase, “Strummin’ Through Summer” returns to the Wavehouse, on Saturdays through August, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Humphrey’s Backstage Live, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. 8 p.m. $15. www.dizzysjazz.com.

Edwin McCain: Sunday, July 9 at Humphrey’s Backstage Live, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Singer-songwriter Edwin McCain appears at Humphrey’s Backstage Live on July 9. Best known for his hits, “I’ll Be” and “I Could Not Ask For More,” McCain’s heartfelt delivery is the key to his music.

Edwin McCain: Sunday, July 9 at Humphrey’s Backstage Live, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

World Championship Over-the-Line Tournament coming to Fiesta Island

The Old Mission Beach Athletic Club is calling all players, beachgoers, and sports enthusiasts to the biggest summer event in San Diego. The 64th annual World Championship Over-the-Line (OTL) Tournament will take place on July 8-9 and July 15-16 at Fiesta Island on Mission Bay. More than 1,200 teams will hit the sand at sunrise on Saturday morning, July 8, with their bats, balls and most creative team names to kick off 64 years of San Diego tradition.

The first three game days will start each morning at 7:30 a.m. and continue until sunset, concluding on Sunday afternoon, July 16, with the Men’s Open Championship. Games will be three innings for the first weekend of the tournament and four innings during the second weekend. The tournament will follow a double-elimination format for all participating teams in all nine divisions.

This summertime staple draws teams from all over the world but Over-The-Line originated right here in San Diego. The sport has grown dramatically from a few friends playing ball in the sand to an annual two-weekend tournament that attracts thousands of players and spectators.

Kelsey McGowan, 26, a San Diego native, was born and raised on OTL. She attended her first World Championship at just 3-weeks-old.

McGovern started her OTL career by playing in OMBAC’s Junior League and is now one of the top female players in the world. She and her teammates, Whitney Benjamin and Savannah Brown, place in the Top 8 every year at the World Championship so it’s no surprise they came in first place at OMBAC’s first-ever Craft Beer Festival and Mini-OTL Tournament in May.

“Your don’t win crazy amounts of money, you just love the game and you love the competition,” said McGowan. “The OTL players in San Diego have a close-knit family dynamic. What’s better than being on the beach in San Diego while playing your favorite sport with great people?”

For the McGowans, OTL is a family affair. Kelsey’s father, Guy, has been a member of OMBAC for more than 30 years and her mother, Lisa, is a five-time OTL World Champion.

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Median price of single-family homes tops out at $612,500

Home prices hit record highs in May, with the median price of single-family homes topping out at $612,500, according to housing statistics compiled from the Multiple Listing Service by the Greater San Diego Association of Realtors.

Condominiums and townhomes (all attached properties) also reached a record $394,000 median price in May. Home prices have seen a year-over-year increase of 8 percent for all previously owned properties.

Single-family home sales in May increased 8 percent over the previous month, and condominiums and townhomes (attached properties) posted a strong 11 percent increase. For the year to date 2017, sales of existing homes were down by about 2 percent over the prior year.

San Diego homes continue to be scooped up soon after they go on the market. In May, single-family homes were selling in an average of only 27 days, while condos and townhomes closed an average of 19 days after the for-sale signs have gone up.
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