New taxi stands roll into PB to help partiers

BY LEE CORNELL | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Pacific Beach Shore Club owner Billy Ramirez and the Ale House have teamed up to bring three new taxi stands to Pacific Beach.

Ramirez said a surge of activity where Grand Avenue meets the boardwalk prompted him to look into giving patrons a more reasonable option to hail a cab. Previously, bar and restaurant-goers were forced to fend for themselves to get a safe ride home, usually after consuming a little too much alcohol.

“I don’t have a couple drinks they shouldn’t be driving,” Ramirez said. “We want people to come down, enjoy the community but we want people to get home safe so they can come back again.”

The Shore Club and the Ale House split the $500 it cost to set up the stands at the bottom of Grand Avenue. They also got some help from Discover PB in negotiating a deal with the city’s Transportation Department to secure the taxi stands.

“It will be the city’s responsibility to put out that residents and visitors will still be able to use that parking spot until 10 p.m., when it becomes a taxi-only destination until the early hours of the morning.

The activity level where Grand Avenue meets the beach has gone up in recent years with the increasing popularity of the Shore Club, the Ale House and the Fire House, which is located across the street.

“In the last four years, this area has picked up a lot of energy with us coming in, the Fire House coming in and the Ale House as well,” Ramirez said. “We thought with the volume of business it was definitely necessary, and felt there was room for it.”

Ramirez said the added option for public transportation is a win-win situation for everyone and that he expects more establishments to look into adding taxis-only parking in different areas of Pacific Beach.

“I know a few of the other restaurants are approaching the city to get them done,” Ramirez said. “I think Miller’s Field has taken an interest in getting one done and Bar West, too.”
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Medical pot dispensary rules remain in flux in PB

By NEAL PUTNAM | Beach & Bay Press

Operational ground rules for the city’s medical marijuana dispensaries are again in limbo after the City Council repealed the ordinance it adopted just four months ago.

Operational guidelines for medical marijuana dispensaries in Pacific Beach and Mission Beach continue to be murky after the San Diego City Council voted 6-2 on July 25 to repeal its four-month-old ordinance rather than put the measure before voters — a move that might have cost the city almost $1 million in election and printing costs.

Council President Tony Young and Councilwoman Mardi Lightner were the only two to vote against repeal. With the repeal, medical marijuana dispensary rules will now go unregulated in terms of how collectives can operate. Many supporters of medical marijuana held collectives for the ordinance’s repeal. The city Clerk’s Office and the county Registrar of Voters Office determined there were $1,029 valid signatures collected, or about five percent of registered voters.

Before being reversed Monday, the regulations basically put most medical marijuana firms out of business because they had to be only located in light-industrial zones and each one had to go through a long police-approved conditional-use permit process. Under the repealed ordinance, dispensaries could not be located within 600 feet of schools, parks, libraries and churches, and had to be operated as nonprofit entities.

“Clearly, people do not support this ordinance,” said Alvarez. “I hope we can enact an ordinance that is fair to all people impacted by this.”

Other council members were unsure.

“If anybody else has more of an understanding of a certain skill set than the other person, we’re not afraid to explore those options and take that input into our plans that we’re going forward with,” he said.

Rorrison said he and his team at the Northern Division are focused on being accessible to the communities they serve, determining the distinct quality-of-life issues that are unique to each neighborhood and protecting public safety in all the neighborhoods through effective law enforcement.

“We are trying to do a fresh approach as far as being accessible to the community, to improve their life and help them with any issues that they have,” Orrison said. “Our main concern is public safety and law enforcement, but this division is unique in that we do deal with members of the communities on a regular basis.”

Rorrison emphasized the importance of getting to know each community and its distinct concerns. He has already attended meetings of the Pacific Beach and Mission Beach town councils and the Bird Rock Community Council, and is scheduled to attend community meetings in La Jolla in the near future.

“My calendar is full usually every week going to different groups to meet with the people who are involved with these core issues that affect their community,” Rorrison said. “They get to facilitate that and do what we can to provide the best service.

“I love my job,” he said. “I love the community where I work, I love this place. It’s nice to come to work that you really enjoy.”

To contact Rorrison, call (858) 552-1700, or visit www.sandiego.gov/police/neighborhood/northern.shtml.

To report non-emergencies, call (619) 531-2000.

“Before being reversed Monday, the ordinance,” said Alvarez. “I hope we can enact an ordinance that is fair to all people impacted by this.”

Rorrison has also worked with the Northern Division’s team to supervise the Fourth of July holiday festivities along the coast during the last five years. “We’ve all worked together before, and we’re glad to be back together,” Rorrison said. "The plus is that I come into a new assignment, but I come in with people that I know. We have a police department, but Northern Division is another family on its own.”

Rorrison said the teams member fees off of each other’s known skills and areas of expertise.

“Every place is unique in what they want and what they expect from the police department. We’re here to facilitate that and do what we can to provide the best service.

“I love my job,” he said. “I love the community where I work, I love this place. It’s nice to come to work that you really enjoy.”


“The Northern Division covers a vast area, serving a population of 218,056 people spread out over 54 square miles. Within the division, there are 12 distinct neighborhoods, each with varied and ever-changing concerns, priorities and needs from the SDPD.

“It’s a new challenge in each different area,” he said. “Every place is unique in what they want and what they expect from the police department. We’re here to facilitate that and do what we can to provide the best service.

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**MUSTREAD**

Book recommendation from the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library

TITLE: Now You See Her

AUTHOR: James Patterson & Michael Ledwidge

SYNOPSIS: To save her own life, Nina Bloom vanished. A successful lawyer and loving mother she would do anything to protect the life she’s built in New York. Now, to rescue an innocent man, she must return to her former life and confront the killer she thought she escaped forever. A fast-paced, action-filled novel.

Reserve this book at:

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www.pbconcrete.org

**LIVE MUSIC**

By BART MENDOZA | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Cory Phillips may fall under the category of singer/songwriter, but he’s not a mere, sensitive soul brandishing an acoustic guitar. Performing at RT’s Longboard on Aug. 12, Phillips’ music is pure groove with elements of soul, funk and pop. It is well-constructed and dripping in song hooks.

Song titles like “Alright Tonight” and “Women” give you an inkling to Phillips’ romantically minded sonic creations, radio-friendly tunes that are not too far from James & Jimmie and other rock/fun/dance favorites. Most crowds at small venue gigs just stand in front and watch the band. With Phillips, there’s a talent that should get guests dancing within the first few notes.

Cory Philips performs at 9:30 p.m. on Friday Aug. 13 at RT’s Longboard, 1466 Garnet Ave. 21 and up. www.myspace.com/coryphlips

The members of hard-rock heroes Mower have been busy of late with side projects. Looking to have a little fun with their musical influences, the band’s Dominic Moscattelo (vocals) and Chris McCredie (bass) have put together a new band, F.O.A., performing their favorite punk rock classics. Appearing at the 710 Beach Club on Aug. 13, the music may have shifted a smidge. But rest assured that F.O.A., like to rock Mower, still deliver a loud visceral thrill that will ring your ears for days after the show.

F.O.A. performs at 9 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 13 at the 710 Beach Club, 710 Gar- net Ave. 21 and up. $5. www.myspace.com/mower

Anyone who likes their night out a bit more active than just watching a band will want to check out the JB All-Stars, appearing at Tio Leo’s on Aug. 13. Part of San Diego’s growing salsa-music scene, the band is celebrating its 10th anniversary with this show, though they originally went under the name Quemada Rico Tumbao. Whether you go to hit the dance floor or simply take in the wonderful tropi- cal rhythms, this is the perfect combo or simply take in the wonderful tropi- cal rhythms, this is the perfect combo to shake up the most jaded of clubgoers.

JB All-Stars perform at 9 p.m. on Satur- day, Aug. 13 at Tio Leo’s, 5302 Napa St. 21 and up. Cover TBD.

A truly engaging performer, Afro- Brazilian musician Angela Patua’s sound is hard to pin down. She performs at Café Bar Europa on Aug. 16. At times, Patua’s music is just voice and percussion. At other times, accompanied by ukulele or acoustic guitar, she uses her commanding stage presence to seal the deal. Sometimes reminiscent of Nico, Otleta or Nina Simone, Patua’s music is clearly from the heart, guaranteed to move the listener. While not as smooth around the edges as typical coffee-house fare, anyone wanting to expand their musical horizons and thoughts on song arrangement will find much to enjoy in Angela Patua’s tunes.

Angela Patua performs at 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 16 at Café-Bar Europa, 873 Turquoise St. 21 and up. www.theturquoise.com/wordpress

Country music seems to be on a major upswing locally these days. All manner of new combos have emerged in recent months, including one of the best: Three Chord Justice.

Appearing at the annual Concerts on the Green on Aug. 14, the band mixes covers and classics like “Act Natur- ural” and “Big River” — all played with skill and passion. All six musicians are stellar, but it’s the combo of frontwoman Liz Grace’s vocals and guitarist Tom Wolcott that clinch it. If you like your music with a bit of twang and pedal steel, you won’t want to miss Three Chord Justice.

Three Chord Justice performs at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 14 at Concerts on the Green, Kate Sessions Park. All ages. Free. www.pbconcrete.org

**MUSTHEAR**

Singer Candy Kane and pianist Sue Palmer — local blues icons — will be appearing at the annual Concerts on the Green series Aug. 7 and 14. The women have worked together often over the years. Their latest album, “One Night in Belgium,” was recorded on tour during a 1998 Euro- pean road trip. While their own projects are certainly worthwhile, there is a special spark evident in the music when the two team up. Masters at blues, jazz, torch songs and even honky tonk rock’n’roll, Kane’s powerful vocals perfectly match Palmer’s virtuoso keys. With a huge set list featuring everything from standards (“Cry Me A River”) to rootsier material (“Give Me A Pig- foot and a Bottle of Beer”), this concert promises to offer up something for just about everyone.

~ Bart Mendoza

CANDYE KANE

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Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library, 4275 Cass St. • (858) 581-9934
It was 28 years ago in June that Martha Farnum Elementary School at 4275 Cass St. — the original site of the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library — closed. The school was shuttered after serving the Pacific Beach area for 30 years — its demise triggered by low enrollment.

The reason for the low enrollment was a decrease in the number of elementary school-age children in the area, which also included five elementary schools at Bayview Terrace, Crown Point, Kate Sessions and Pacific Beach elementaries.

The process of closing Farnum did not occur overnight, but instead began in early 1980. According to a published report from Feb. 29, 1980, the San Diego Unified School District conducted a study to find out what school closures would be financially beneficial to the school district. A Palo Alto consulting firm was paid $25,000 to create the list of schools, the end result being 21 elementary schools and three junior high schools. The list was divided into first- and second-priority schools. Farnum was placed on the second-priority list.

In stark contrast to the demographics in the Pacific Beach area during the early 1980s, the early 1950s told a much different story. When Farnum was hastily approved during the early 1950s to serve the area for 30 years, it served the area for 30 years. The Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library now stands at the spot, 4275 Cass St.

“North. The entrance was located on the east, Reed Street to the south, the Pacific Ocean to the west. The streets around us were all so wonderful and so were the kids. Most of them, anyways,” Martin said. Although Farnum was in a residential area, the streets around it could be dangerous, she said. Prior to 2000, there was no stop signs at the intersection of Thomas and Cass streets near the roadside.

After Farnum closed in 1983, Mission Bay Montessori temporarily located in University City in the summer of 1985. Between 1985 and 1996, the old Farnum property was vacant until construction began on the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library.

The library was completed and opened on April 26, 1997.

Looking ahead

Beach- and bay-area event highlights from Aug. 10 through Oct. 23

Beach- and bay-area event highlights

The Pacific Beach Town Council will host its monthly Sundowner Mixer to bring together merchants, residents and community organizers. The event takes place at Renue Integrative Health Center, 2206 Balboa Ave. from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The cost of the event is $5. For more information, visit www.pbtowncouncil.org.

PACIFIC BEACH HISTORY: 28 YEARS AGO

Farnum's demise triggered by low enrollment

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“I know [the closure] came down to us or Crown Point Elementary, where only one school would remain open. Crown Point was chosen over us because they could expand. Our school was maxed out and limited by the streets around us,” Lazaro said.

Another Pacific Beach resident, Rosalie Martin, attended Farnum from 1968 through 1975 in kindergarten through sixth grade.

“We loved the school and my teachers were all wonderful and so were the kids. Most of them, anyways,” Martin said. Although Farnum was in a residential area, the streets around it could be dangerous, she said. Prior to 2000, there was no stop signs at the intersection of Thomas and Cass streets near the roadside.

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Buddy the dog prepares to catch the ceremonial first pitch from columnist Kevin Di Cicco, left, before a Padres game with the Arizona Diamondbacks. The Notory-making catch by Buddy made ESPN’s Top Ten Plays of the Week.

Taking a bite out of baseball history

What’s in the Air, Bud?

By KEVIN B. CICCO

I write this article on the eve of Buddy attempting to make Major League Baseball history on July 28. We were recently invited by the San Diego Padres to participate in the ceremonial first pitch in an afternoon game against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The ceremonial first ball is a long-standing ritual of American baseball, in which a guest of honor throws a ball to mark the end of pregame warm-ups and signal the start of the game. Originally, the guest threw a ball from his/her place in the grandstand to the pitcher or catcher of the home team. At some point, this morphed into the guest standing in front of the pitcher’s mound and throwing toward (but rarely reaching) home plate, though sometimes he or she may stand on the mound as a pitcher would. The recipient of the pitch is usually a player from the home team.

President William Howard Taft initiated this ceremony at Griffith Park in Washington D.C. back in 1910. Who would have known that a bit over a century later, a dog would actually participate in this long-running tradition? Buddy’s career is based on breaking new ground and achieving what was thought to be impossible. Buddy catches about 900 pitches a day and has the ability to catch a (dog-friendly) baseball at nearly 90 mph. But as is with the long-running tradition, more often than not, the pitch does not often meet its target.

The city never required that SeaWorld do anything as part of its EIR. On the contrary, the San Diego Police Department’s Capt. Al Guaderrama, who heads the Northern Division, said that despite a busy summer at the beach he is very happy with the relatively low amounts of crime. Guaderrama said his crew will be gearing up for Labor Day weekend in the coming weeks.

The “Instant Justice” program was a huge success, according to Deputy City Attorney Terry Winbush. The program allowed eligible violators who were ticketed an opportunity to perform community service on Garnet Avenue the following day, in exchange for having their tickets dismissed. Winbush said the Beach Area Community Court is exploring running the “Instant Justice” program again for the upcoming Labor Day weekend.

Several PBTC members voiced their concerns to Guaderrama over a growing dog problem at Kate Sessions Park. They reported many instances of dogs being off-leash at the park and a failure by a number of owners to clean up after their dogs.

Guaderrama said his staff will work into the problem.

According to Katherine Miles, representative for District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer, the City Council is looking into revising an overuse-vehicle ordinance in the near future.

The PBTC reported that its annual wine-tasting fundraiser on June 26 was the most successful since its inception 10 years ago.

The San Diego Police Department’s Capt. Mike Meyer said his crew will be gearing up for Labor Day weekend.

Who heads the Northern Area?

Kevin Faulconer, the CEO of BDAC and the new CEO of the Community Center, said the event was sold out from the start of the game. Originally, the pitch was thrown to mark the end of pregame warm-ups and signal the start of the game. Originally, the pitch was thrown to mark the end of pregame warm-ups and signal the start of the game.

The San Diego Police Department’s Capt. Mike Meyer said his crew will be gearing up for Labor Day weekend.
Police are asking for information from the public about these three suspects in the recent armed robbery of the Ocean Beach Antique Mall, located at 4926 Newport Ave.,...
The site at 1621 Grand Ave., left, was turned into a real estate office in 1964. It was torn down in 1985 to make way for a Wendy's restaurant, Charlie Blane Realty and — as of May — the home office for the San Diego Community Newspaper Group. Courtesy photo

The site at 1621 Grand Ave. in 1964 was a Texaco station with a house on the adjoining lot. In 1964, Blane purchased that house for his realty office. After serving as Blane’s realty office for 22 years, Wendy’s approached him to purchase the site. Rather than sell, however, Blane offered the restaurant chain an opportunity to lease.

The site was then re-envisioned for Wendy’s restaurant. But when Wendy’s indicated it needed a larger lot of 2,500 square feet, and Blane didn’t want to move his offices again, the two parties arrived at a plan to divide the space into two offices of 1,250 square feet each. Wendy’s moved in on May 20, 1986.

Wendy’s first upstairs tenants were Bruce and Michelle Rawdin-Baron Financial Services, which was in business there for 20 years. Blane said that while it may seem unusual, architecturally speaking, to have a real estate office above a Wendy’s restaurant, it has worked out nicely for several reasons — particularly since it’s a good corner location.

Looking back 56 years ago, Blane said he opened his first real estate office at 4401 Cass St. on June 1, 1955. He then moved his offices to Grand Avenue in 1961. Back then, he remembers, Grand Avenue was only paved from Mission Boulevard to Ingram Street. The rest of the area still had dirt roads.

Blane said back in the late 1950s through the early 1960s, the Brown’s Military Academy and barracks existed where Vons does now. Blane still remembers watching the proud graduations cadets march up the street on Friday.

Also of interest, Blane said the present home of US Bank, across the street at 4427 Ingraham, was a real estate office, then a bank then a car wash before becoming a bank once more. After 56 years, Blane remains active as a residential and commercial Realtor.

There are few things as delicious and refreshing as a bloody Mary, especially when you’re hot and tired from biking. It’s the perfect pick-me-up. Plus, it’s healthy, since bloodies are made with tomato juice and chock full of delicious vegetables. It’s a win-win situation, as far as I’m concerned!

I recommend starting your trip at Mission Bay Park and following the beautiful path west as it traces along the bay. Take your time and enjoy the sights and sounds — kids on playgrounds, girls heading to the beach, guys playing volleyball. As soon as you get to the Catamaran Resort, get off the path and cross over Mission Boulevard toward the beach.

Bike along the strand until you get to the Shore Club on Grand Street. Enjoy your first bloody in an oversize goblet as you overlook the crashing waves and pier. The bloodies are a bit pricey at $8 each, but they are large and delicious. When the music starts to get really loud or the place starts filling up, you’ll know it’s time to move on.

Get back on your cruiser and head north until you get to Emerald Street. Hopefully you’ll get lucky and catch PB roller skating legend “Slo Mo” on your travels. If you aren’t familiar with “Slo Mo,” you’re probably not a local. But you’ll know him when you see him. Vover off on Emerald Street and hit up Back Back Grill for its Saturday and Sunday $3 Bloody special. They’re made with Ballast Point Bloody Mary mix, and if you’re feeling a little wild, try the bacon bloody Mary.

At this point, you’re probably feeling really good, so I’d recommend keeping the bike locked up and walking next door to Hennessey’s Tavern. Hennessey’s bloodies are made fresh and spicy with horseradish, Tabasco, celery salt, saltine rum, celery and lemon wheel. Hennessey’s bloodies are on special Saturday and Sunday morning for $4 each, so feel free to have seconds. After all these bloodies, call yourself a cab or walk home.

Mission accomplished!

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4410 Mission Blvd., (858) 274-7117
– HENNESSEY’S
4450 Mission Blvd., (858) 483-8840
– SHORE CLUB
4343 Ocean Blvd., (858) 272-7873

Here’s your new weekend mission: bikes and bloodies

Photo by Rachel Hutman
Divers probe depths to fish out abandoned ‘ghost netting’

On July 12, local scuba divers boarded the Humboldt, a 45-foot scuba-diving vessel donated by Waterhouse Communities in Mission Bay, and began a project to clean up hundreds of pounds of abandoned netting off the coast of the Coronado Islands.

The underwater cleanup effort was organized by Ocean Defenders Alliance (ODA), the only nonprofit marine conservation organization dedicated to the technical, yet dangerous, task of cleaning up “ghost gear” — abandoned lobster and crab pots, nets and lines. If there is any commercial fishing that goes on, they typically lose 10 to 13 percent of their nets,” said ODA founder and president Kurt Lieber. “Ghost netting is very difficult to see and people can get caught and drown in it, and because it’s hard to see, animals get stuck in it too.”

Currently, the Coast Guard picks up ghost gear down to 50 feet underwater, due to its danger to recreational boats. Deeper below the surface, however, ghost gear — including new illegal drift netting from the 1990s — remains entangled among reefs. The tangled nets can trap marine mammals, birds, and other sea creatures, potentially disrupting the ocean ecology.

According to Lieber, fishing boats do not typically have scuba divers onboard, so when nets or gear get caught on something underwater, they are simply cut, abandoned and paid for by insurance companies.

“It’s a dumping ground in the ocean, and there’s no legal ramifications for it,” he said. “I’m working with some lawyers to get a bill passed to make insurance companies liable for that.”

The ease of catching nets, meanwhile, is not equal to the ease of retrieving the mammoth litter. “It’s a long and tedious process,” he said, recalling one project involving a 1,400-pound net in only 80 feet of water that took months to complete due to harsh conditions.

Since ODA’s establishment in 2002, Lieber and his team have cleaned up more than 12,000 pounds of abandoned netting — around the ocean floor.

“Divers work to clean up so-called ‘ghost gear’ — including fishing debris and thousands of pounds of abandoned netting — around the ocean floor.”

Early-morning boardwalk stroll has medicinal effect

BOARDSWALK BEAT

By LEE CORNELL | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Recently, I woke up at the crack of dawn with a feeling of uneasiness eating away at my insides. I was anxious, restless and worried. I had a case of the Mondays but it wasn’t a Monday. I tried to close my eyes and go back to sleep but it was useless, and just made me more restless. Finally, I decided my best option was to get up and go to that special place that always seems to help me through tough times – the beach.

One thing I love about the beach is the way it dramatically transforms from night to day. As I proceeded on my journey the first thing that struck me was the calmness, the quiet, the silence which enveloped the normally-bustling boardwalk. There were far fewer people and most of them seemed to be in good moods.

I ran into my friend, Mark, who was brimming with happiness at the anticipation of his daily walk to the beach, where he jams out on his guitar early morning. A few minutes later, I passed a friendly black Labrador and couldn’t resist giving him a hearty back rub – much to his owner’s delight, I might add.

Next, I got a cup of coffee at my favorite café, the Pacific Bean, where I ran into more familiar faces. After a little while, I went to check on the surf and noticed the marker flags had yet to be posted by the lifeguards, meaning it was open game to surf anywhere we pleased!

With the morning quickly passing by, I thought about all the people and noise that would be arriving soon and how that would last deep into the night. I’m not normally a morning person, but I have to say this one felt quite refreshing. I even forgot what I had woken up so worried about.

REMEMBER WHEN?

My notes say I took this interior shot of Vons supermarket on Oct. 10, 1989. If there’s a baby in the photo, they’re now old enough to drink. Legally. What? I didn’t note that. Vons. In 1989, there were TWO in Pacific Beach — about 100 yards apart.
The San Diego Rowing Club captured six gold medals during the Southwest Regional Masters Championship in Oakland July 10. The club’s eight men’s teams and three bronze medals in this annual regional event against some fast competitors from Oregon, Northern and Southern California, and Arizona.

Master rowers from the San Diego Rowing Club (SDRC) brought home six gold medals from the Southwest Regional Masters Championships held on July 10 on the Lake Merritt Sprint course in Oakland.

In the regional sculling event, in which each athlete grips two oars, winners included Richard Yocum in the men’s single scull category; husband-and-wife team Cathy and Scott Kemper in the mixed double scull category; and Cathy Kemper and Pauline Gillis in the women’s double scull event for their age groups.

In the sweep rowing event, in which each rower holds just one oar, two San Diego boats took first-place honors. In the coxed four-men’s races, club members included John Jarvis, Jim Frager, Filip Sulc and Jeff Evans and Dave Frost. Andy Baxter, Berkeley Johnson and Art Sloate in their respective age brackets.

The latter crew, which repeated its 2010 gold performance, is shown at left. The club’s men’s eight with coxswain performance was impacted by the loss of a rudder for the entire 1,000-meter race. The near-gold result (the team missing the gold by 11-100ths of a second) was a photo-finish, despite the unfortunate lack of steering.

SDRC’s crews also took seven silver medals and three bronze medals in these annual regional events against some fast competitors from Oregon, Northern and Southern California, and Arizona.

Dick Williams was called all of these things and more during his time as a major league baseball manager. But if you don’t remember the rotund skipper for anything else, know this: he is the only manager in the history of the major league San Diego Padres who never had a losing season. And, with the team’s penny-pinching “small market” history, that fact speaks volumes.

His accomplishments as a manager earned him election to baseball’s Hall of Fame in 2008, and the acerbic Williams admitted he broke down and cried when he received the notification.

When Williams passed away July 7 from a ruptured aortic aneurysm in a hospital near his home in Henderson, Nev., at age 82, many fans and former players shed their own tears.

Born Richard Hirschfeld Williams on May 7, 1929 in St. Louis, he was an average athlete who played 1,023 major league games with five teams over a 13-year span.

Later, he found his calling as a no-nonsense field boss who earned a reputation for turning losing teams around, producing winners and breaking in young players.

His heavy-handed style of leadership often wore thin after several years, explaining his frequent change of employers from 1967 through 1988.

His 1984 team included young pitchers Eric Show, Dave Dravecky and Andy Hawkins. Speedy Alvin Wiggins batted first and was followed by the likes of Kevin McReynolds, Tony Gwynn, Steve Garvey and Graig Nettles. And crowds roared when Goose Gossage saved the game.

As a sports enthusiast and Padres fan, I proudly pinned my “Goose Saved the Game” pins to my cap, along with thousands of others.

As a mini-season ticket holder, the team’s improvement under Williams brought long-overdue electricity to home games at Qualcomm Stadium, or the “The Q,” as it is commonly referred to.

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The traditionally-lowly Padres soared to a record of 92-70 that season. The city was delirious as Williams’ squad took the National League pennant in a miraculous comeback after losing the first two games — handily — to the Chicago Cubs.

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ROWING

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

In masters rowing regattas, under the auspices of US Rowing, athletes from the ages of 25 years old up to 80-plus years of age race against crews of their same average age per boat.

Next for the club’s masters rowers are the Masters National Championships to be held Aug. 11-14 on the Oklahoma River in Oklahoma City.

The San Diego Rowing Club, founded in 1888, is one of the oldest sport clubs in the nation, with a proud tradition of juniors and masters rowing in San Diego. The Journal of San Diego History made the "Resilient History of the SDRC" its feature article for its spring 2013 edition.

Club members row from the Cugge- shall Rowing Center on El Carmel Point in Mission Bay. The SDRC welcomes anyone interested in learning about rowing — including adaptive rowers and Title I high school athletes.

For more information about the SDRC’s recreational and racing programs can be found online at www.sandiegorow- ing.org.

— Contributed by the San Diego Rowing Club

By BARry MEDINa | BEACH & BAY PRESS

San Diego has an amazingly vibrant music scene and the tradition of the Penetrators — a band that started in 1977, with that. Holy moly! — is of the next San Diego Music Awards.

"The last time I was there, my father had been very ill," Heffern said. "I am hoping that he can make it out to this, as it would mean a lot for me to have him feel that I have achieved something in my life."

Despite the passage of time, fans can expect the band to give its all during its two-song set.

“We still do every show as if it is the last one we will ever do. It’s just something that can’t be helped,” he said. "However, the shows are so physically demanding nowadays, and it takes so long to recover from them as old aches and pains from the younger shows like a broken tailbone, foot and car accident last year require daily medicine these days. But the heart is young, and yearning to play."

That said, the trophy itself may prove to be a small problem for Heffern.

"I hadn’t even thought of that," he laughed. "I don’t even know if I can take it on a plane back. I can just imagine trying to go through customs with that. Holy moly!"

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San Diego Music Awards takes place at 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 8 at Humphrey’s by the Bay, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. $30. For more information, visit www.sandiegomusic-awards.com.

SDMA to spotlight the cream of music crop at Humphrey’s
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