Restaurant surcharges could violate state law
City attorney investigating claims
By DAVE SCHWAB

New City Attorney Mara Elliott is alleging that several San Diego restaurants, including some along the beachfront, are adding questionable legal, 3 percent surcharges to customers' bills without proper notice to compensate for a minimum-wage pay increase that took effect Jan. 1.

At a Jan. 5 press conference, Elliott said her office's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit has received information that "some San Diego restaurants are adding what they describe as a 'mandated' minimum-wage surcharge to customers' bills, as much as 3.5 percent above and beyond what the prices on the menu indicate."

"Many of these diners did not learn of this so-called surcharge – which is not mandated by any governmental entity – until they received their check," Elliott said at the conference. "This practice may violate California law, and specifically, its provisions against false advertising."

"Citizens are entitled to know upfront the cost of their meals and the basis for each charge included in their bill. Those restaurants who do not adequately inform their customers may be receiving letters from our office indicating that we are investigating them for potential violations of the law."

SEE SURCHARGE, Page 10

Local leaders discuss what’s next for Pacific and Mission beaches
By DAVE SCHWAB

Now that we’ve turned the corner on a new year, community leaders in Mission and Pacific beaches are weighing in on what they expect lies ahead in 2017.

MAD

Mission Beach entrepreneur John Vallas, who’s been lobbying for a proposed maintenance assessment district to pay for more trash pickup and other public services, said he has "a tremendous amount of anxiety regarding the future of Mission Beach" this year.

"There is a lot of misinformation floating around about how Mission Beach is going to create a permanent solution for the annual summer fly infestation, as well as how the community will be able to take care of its unique needs as the City continues to look for ways to cull the special services it provides to small pockets of communities, in the midst of another looming budget deficit," Vallas said.

"If the community doesn’t come together and work to provide solutions instead of attacking each other – I’m anxious that no solution to the summer flies, overwhelming trash, broken sidewalks and dirty alleys will be created in 2017."

Homeless

Henish Pulickal, a Pacific Beach Planning Group member speaking on his own behalf, cited one particularly vexing issue: "The homeless are a huge problem," Pulickal said. "This issue is past its boiling point, and we need to see leaders, Page 14
**Love Your Wetlands Day in PB on Feb. 4**

The 11th annual Love Your Wetlands Day will take place 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 4 at 2055 Pacific Beach Drive in Pacific Beach.

The Kendall-Frost/Northern Wildlife Reserve in the northeast corner of Mission Bay Park is the only remaining saltwater wetland in Mission Bay and is normally closed to the public due to its fragile nature. This annual event is one of the few opportunities for the public to actually visit the wetland.

You can learn about the marsh and its inhabitants, enjoy the environment in your backyard, see some restoration in process, participate in interactive booths, see animal presentations, learn about possible wetland expansions, enjoy a raffle, and walk in the marsh. For questions or to RSVP, visit bit.ly/LoveYourWetlandsDay2017.

**Ocean Beach Pier Surf Classic set for Feb. 4**

Hodad’s Burgers and AWOL Productions present the second annual Ocean Beach Pier Surf Classic starting at 7 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4.

AWOL is a local brand inspired by surf, skate and moto. Established in 2002, AWOL stands for A Way of Life. A lifestyle dedicated to bring the community of Ocean Beach together. The local surf competition is for all ages young and old in the community.

There will longboard, shortboard and family divisions along with trophies, prizes and a raffle. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Ocean Beach Community Foundation. Advance registration is required at obsurfclassic.com.

**ASLA new president**

The American Society of Landscape Architects, San Diego Chapter (ASLA SD), recently announced Pacific Beach resident Nathaniel Magnusson, ASLA (ASLA SD), and LEED AP, as its new president for 2016-2017.

Magnusson is a senior project manager with Schmidt Design Group Inc., where he is currently managing the Civita Park project that includes nearly 17 acres of parks and more than 40 acres of open space.

His experience includes numerous public and private projects throughout Southern California such as the Lake Skinner Recreation Area, Stone Brewing World Bistro & Gardens, Ariva Apartments, and the Maple Street Pedestrian Plaza in Escondido.

**Nicole Capretz on NY Times top 10 list**

The New York Times recently named Climate Action Campaign executive director Nicole Capretz as one of the top 10 Californians of the year. NY Times states: “The Climate Action Campaign founder is a force in environmental advocacy in San Diego.” Capretz is on the list with luminaries such as Elon Musk, Vin Scully, Gov. Jerry Brown and Senator Kamala Harris.

Capretz is known for her work crafting the City of San Diego’s groundbreaking, legally binding 100 percent clean energy Climate Action Plan. For more information, visit www.climateactioncampaign.org.

**Daniels joins San Diego Coastkeeper board**

San Diego Coastkeeper announces the addition of Marie Tahan Daniels to its board of directors. Daniels has been very involved in the San Diego community and has served as chair, committee member or board member for local organizations such as Kids korps USA, The New Children’s Museum, San Diego Natural History Museum and United Cerebral Palsy’s Beach & Country Guild.

In addition to her experience with local organizations, Daniels is president of Caelum Marketing, an agency specializing in public relations, digital marketing and events. She also runs an online media outlet Cur八个.com, which highlights upcoming events, food and lifestyle from San Diego to Baja.

“Marie has a passion for engaging in her local community and making a difference,” says Board President Elizabeth Taylor. “Marie’s experience working with local organizations will be very valuable for what the board has in store for the new year.”

---

**HURRY before it’s too late!**

**IN ESCROW**

**3748 YOSEMITE ST**

**ONLY ONE LEFT**

These BRAND NEW CONSTRUCTION homes feature 3 bedrooms, 3 ½ bathrooms, approximately 1,900 square feet of living space, a PENTHOUSE BONUS ROOM, and so much more! Enjoy the cool sea breeze on the roof deck during spring and summer, or heat up the multiple fireplaces in fall and winter. This is your opportunity to get into a home you can enjoy YEAR-ROUND!

You do NOT want to miss out on this rare find in the Crown Point Area, so give us a call NOW for more details!

*Photos are of similar homes by this builder. These homes for sale are currently under construction.*

**3750 YOSEMITE ST**

---

**CALL US**

We will handle all your Real Estate needs

KATHY EVANS
(858) 775-1573
isellbeach@aol.com

SCOTT BOOTH
(858) 775-0280
scottbooth2@gmail.com

---

CA BRE #00872108
CA BRE #01397371

---

*Previews International® and the Coldwell Banker Previews International Logo, are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. Broker does not guarantee the accuracy of square footage, lot size or other information concerning the condition or features of property provided by seller or obtained from public records.*

---

*Disclaimer: All Rights Reserved: Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All figures presented are intended for informational purposes only and not intended to depict future performance or trends. By accessing this information, you are responsible for protecting yourself from possible errors or omissions, and the buyer is advised to independently verify the accuracy of that information through personal inspection and with appropriate professionals.*
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP PRODUCERS FOR DECEMBER!

NICK TAYLOR
Top Listings Sold
Top Dollar

TREVOR PIKE
Closed Production
Top Listings Taken

FILLY GAINES
Top Selling Units

PACIFIC BEACH | $419,000
Located in desirable Loring Manor, this lovely upgraded 2 br end unit condo is a few blocks to the ocean, shopping, restaurants & has 2 car parking.
Marianne Kendall
(619) 708-3523
Mariannek@coldwellbanker.com

PACIFIC BEACH | $459,000
1st floor, single level 2br 1ba corner unit has upgraded interiors, in-unit washer-dryer & rare 1 car garage w/1 space behind garage & low HOA fees.
Trevor Pike
(619) 823-7503
trevor.pike@coldwellbanker.com

PACIFIC BEACH | $459,000
IN ESCROW!
Located in desirable Loring Manor, this lovely upgraded 2 br end unit condo is a few blocks to the ocean, shopping, restaurants & has 2 car parking.
Marianne Kendall
(619) 708-3523
Mariannek@coldwellbanker.com

PACIFIC BEACH | $419,000
Located in desirable Loring Manor, this lovely upgraded 2 br end unit condo is a few blocks to the ocean, shopping, restaurants & has 2 car parking.
Marianne Kendall
(619) 708-3523
Mariannek@coldwellbanker.com

MISSION BEACH | $1,150,000
Charming 2 br home / MLS# 160063328

POWAY | $535,000
Country Home / MLS# 170003883
Located in desirable Loring Manor, this lovely upgraded 2 br end unit condo is a few blocks to the ocean, shopping, restaurants & has 2 car parking.
Marianne Kendall
(619) 708-3523
Mariannek@coldwellbanker.com

MISSION BEACH | $1,150,000
Charming 2 br home / MLS# 160063328

POWAY | $535,000
Country Home / MLS# 170003883

HILLCREST | $1,100,000
Nice Craftsman Duplex / MLS# 170001469

PACIFIC BEACH | $1,750,000
Multi-Family Property / MLS#170001881

PACIFIC BEACH | $1,150,000
Charming 2 br home / MLS# 160063328

POWAY | $535,000
Country Home / MLS# 170003883

PACIFIC BEACH | $677,000
Very cute 2 br 1 ba home on a corner lot in desirable PB. South facing gives lots of light with high ceilings and has been completely remodeled!
Marie Tolstad
(858) 705-1444
mtolstad@aol.com | www.mtolstad.com

PACIFIC BEACH | $677,000
Very cute 2 br 1 ba home on a corner lot in desirable PB. South facing gives lots of light with high ceilings and has been completely remodeled!
Marie Tolstad
(858) 705-1444
mtolstad@aol.com | www.mtolstad.com

JUST LISTED!!

SOLD!

SOLD!
Big Josh Foundation fundraiser set for Jan. 30 at Miller’s Field

Miller’s Field in Pacific Beach is hosting the second major fundraiser to benefit a cancer-stricken employee, Big Josh Gehlbach, employed by Miller’s for several years, when he abruptly left work one afternoon with a headache. Later, he found himself in the ER diagnosed with a fast-acting form of cancer. He was immediately left work one afternoon, and full of positivity,” said Jeff Shaller, a colleague of Josh’s at Miller’s Field. “I then started working side-by-side with him and witnessed how truly big his heart is and how amazing a man he is. All you want to do is anything and everything to help him in a time of need.”

Leading up to the event, volunteers and friends of Josh will be selling 50/50 raffle tickets, with half of the money given to the Big Josh Foundation and the other half raffled off to one lucky recipient at about 10 p.m.

WANT TO HELP?
Where: Miller’s Field sports bar, 4465 Mission Blvd.
Info: Email liz@millersfield.com

Mission Bay soccer teams aim for playoffs

As January winds down, both Mission Bay High soccer teams have their eyes on the prize, a trip to the CIF playoffs.

Girls soccer
On the girls side, head coach Jorge Palacios had his team entering play this week with a record of 14-2-1, something he noted was a really great start for a young team. “We have five seniors, two juniors, three sophomores, and nine freshmen on the varsity team,” Palacios commented. “Our goals are to win our league title and a CIF title, represent our school well, learn and grow as players, people, and teammates, and have a lot of fun.”

According to Palacios, Diana Suarez is a standout senior as the team’s starting central midfielder, and one of its captains. The Bucs have two other strong senior captains in Lindsey Price and Kylie Kroeger, who are both three-sport athletes.

Palacios noted the team has been bolstered by the addition of a number of talented freshmen including Jeryn Young, Malaya Sharp, Andrea Clemente, and Lina Rodriguez, who leads the team in goals scored. “We had a strong start to our City League season, with an exciting last-second win over Mira Mesa 4-3 (earlier this month),” Palacios added.

Boys soccer
On the boys side, head coach Joe Panian’s team came into the week with a mark of 3-6 (1-0 in league play). According to Panian, senior Brain Senties has been controlling the midfield, sophomore Enrique Moreno is the team’s playmaker, while senior Luis Rosas and freshman Alec Plotegher are the goal scorers, respectively.

“The team has shown an ability to be explosive and score goals during the season,” Panian commented. “If the team finds consistency with their defensive play and balance between offense and defense, we will have a successful team by the end of the season.”

Panian added that his goals for the team still stand at his pre-season outlook, which is win the league and make it deep into the CIF finals.
Dumlao convicted of vehicular manslaughter

By NEAL PUTNAM

A jury convicted a man Jan. 18 of gross vehicular manslaughter in the death of a Pacific Beach girl in 2010 in a case involving “huffing” or inhaling chemicals from computer keyboard cleaner cans.

The jury also convicted Romeo Balbin Dumlao, 41, of driving under the influence of these chemicals from cans which were found in his car, which killed Ashley Hoffington at a stoplight at West Point Loma Boulevard and Sports Arena Boulevard.

The eight man, four woman jury deliberated one day in San Diego Superior Court before convicting him. The girl was critically injured in a collision and showed four cans to the jury which were found in his car.

The jury also determined that the girl’s mother and three others injured in the collision did not suffer great bodily injuries. This means Dumlao can only be sentenced for gross vehicular manslaughter and not receive consecutive sentences for the other injuries.

Rooney said the maximum sentence is around 10 years and eight months in state prison. Judge Louis Hanson set sentencing for March 3.

Behan remained in jail without bail. Armstrong said he has already served 6 ½ years in prison, and might only need to serve two more years before he is eligible for parole. That’s why Armstrong considers the verdicts a win.

Rooney argued the girl’s mother and three others did suffer great bodily injuries, noting that many still have pain in their bodies. “Seven years of pain is not minor,” said Rooney.

According to court records, Dumlao’s blood showed elevations of the drug Prozac, an anti-depressant, and two other prescription drugs. Armstrong said those drugs were at therapeutic levels.

Cindy Hoffington was stopped at a red light in her Toyota Camry at 9:15 a.m. and her daughter was strapped inside a booster seat in the back seat. Dumlao’s Toyota 4Runner rear-ended into her vehicle at approximately 50 mph and struck other vehicles.

Cindy Hoffington was the trial’s first witness on Jan. 11. Jurors began deliberations on Tuesday afternoon and returned verdicts Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 18.

By San Diego Superior Court Judge Dan Armstrong on Jan. 20, he was sentenced to two years in state prison. Judge Louis Hanson ordered to register as a sex offender.

A former Border Patrol agent who was convicted of having sexual relations with a 17-year-old girl in a Mission Bay hotel was sentenced Jan. 20 to two years in state prison.

David Rubin, who gave him credit for already serving 241 days in jail.

He was fined $1,800. A jury convicted him of oral copulation and digital penetration of a minor, and using a minor in sexual activity involving images on his cellphone. The same jury acquitted him of other four charges on Sept. 22, 2016.

“It’s hard to have remorse when you deny what you’ve done,” said Deputy District Attorney Marisa Di Tillio, referring to Spear’s testimony at trial.

“This was not a one-time thing. This was akin to an affair,” said the prosecutor. “He had multiple opportunities to walk away.”

Di Tillio asked Rubin to impose a prison term of three years and four months while his attorney, Kerry Armstrong, asked for a 270-day term in jail.

San Diego, CA 92117

www.montessoriSchool.org

Come visit us at our Open House
Friday, February 3
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

For more information or to schedule a tour please call
(858) 270-9350

Have COPD?
Explore your options

UCSD Hillcrest is researching COPD now
Qualify and you may receive

• Study-related care from a UCSD doctor
• Compensation for Travel

1-888-827-3247 1-888-UCSD-AIR

UC San Diego Health

Unlocking the Potential in Every Child

Call to schedule a tour today!
(858) 576-2120

The Child’s Primary School
A learning community since 1983

ENROLLING NOW

The school you wish you’d attended...

Pre-School • Elementary • Middle School
Excellence in Montessori Education
Serving San Diego families since 1975

Maria Montessori School
4544 Pocahontas Avenue
San Diego, CA 92117

www.montessoriSchool.org

The competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money.

You owe it to yourself to learn about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0763 and enter 1023. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
San Diego lifeguard legend to retire after 35 years, and countless rescues

By DAVE SCHWAB

If you ask retiring San Diego lifeguard Bill Bender's wife of 36 years, Michelle, about his 35-plus-year career, she’ll tell you Bill mostly “didn’t bring the details of his workday home with him every day.”

But Michelle noted, a typical conversation with her husband at the end of his long days might include: “I saved two children from drowning today,” or “I saved another boat from sinking today.”

Or even, Michelle continued, Bill might have said something more unusual like: “I figured out how to tow a dead whale to keep it away from the beach,” or “I jumped out of a helicopter, I was in the news, I had to bring his kids in to our office because they were making a 100-foot free dive and on my return I went unconscious,” Harris said. “He (Bill) saw me going unconscious, and as I started singing back down, he pulled me to the surface and shook me (awake).”

Harris, referring to Bender as a “legend,” pointed out he and other San Diego lifeguards “made 9,000 rescues this year alone.”

Of Bender, his friend and colleague, who will officially retire Feb. 9, Harris added, “he will be leaving a void to fill,” while noting Bill “still holds, at age 55, a lot of records and is really the hardest part of the job, going to come back,’” he said. “That's a feat, Harris noted, “few people 55 years and older can do at that level.”

Bender is a San Diego Lifeguard union chief Ed Harris, a colleague of Bender, noted he’s saved countless lives — including his own. “In 1993, I was in Cabo with Bill and we were making a 100-foot free dive and on my return I went unconscious,” Harris said. “He (Bill) saw me going unconscious, and as I started sinking back down, he pulled me to the surface and shook me (awake). I absolutely owe my life to Bill.”

Harris, referring to Bender as a “legend,” pointed out he and other San Diego lifeguards “made 9,000 rescues this year alone.”

Of Bender, his friend and colleague, who will officially retire Feb. 9, Harris added, “he will be leaving a void to fill,” while noting Bill “still held, at age 55, a lot of records and can still compete against the younger guards and win.”

That’s a feat, Harris noted, “few people 55 years and older can do at that level.”

Bender plans to continue to do a significant amount of both, after retiring.

Reflecting back on his lifeguard career, Bender said he’s proud of having played a role in the evolution of the San Diego Lifeguard service into a more professional organization emulated worldwide.

“We now have 24-hour lifeguarding service, and we’ve hired more guards so they don’t have to work alone at night,” Bender said. “Over the last 35 years, it’s just been rewarding to say we’ve been able to make those kinds of changes.”
You and your team are locked in a backroom of a 1920s speakeasy, and your task is to find and decipher clues allowing you to escape within an hour before the “big boss” comes to “kneecap” you.

That’s one of two scenarios played out, with a third on the way, at Quicksand Escape Games on Garnet Avenue. Escape rooms have been popping up all over San Diego with different themes. They excel in creating clever clues, which attendees must figure out to “escape” the room.

One of latest escape games has emerged in Pacific Beach. Owned and operated by Greg and Jenny Sanders, Quicksand’s escape room is concealed at the end of a long, white hallway on the building’s second floor.

“Escape rooms started as flash animated computer click games,” said Greg Sanders. “One of those games made it to ‘real life’ in Japan in 2006. From there it expanded and there is now a huge mature market for it throughout Asia and Europe. In the last two or three years, its really taken off and become much bigger in the United States.”

The Sanders’ escape room was the sixth in San Diego and first opened in July 2016. The couple note they’ve been ranked the top escape room in San Diego by Yelp.

First exposed to the game-room concept while traveling abroad in 2015, Greg Sanders said, “We started doing them in every city we went to,” adding, “We thought it would be a great addition to the Pacific Beach area for both locals and tourists.”

“They’re addictive,” concluded Jenny. It’s obvious the couple have taken great pride – and joy – in designing and outfitting their own theme rooms. Without giving away any clues, both Sanders-crafted diner and speakeasy are historical reconstructions of similar rooms from those eras, with clues concealed in all manner of ways utilizing props distributed inside both rooms.

“When you go into the rooms you observe and collect different things.”

Finding clues to fun at Quicksand Escape Games

By DAVE SCHWAB

The diner is a historical reconstruction of similar rooms from those eras, with clues concealed in all manner of ways utilizing props distributed inside the room.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

SEE ESCAPE, Page 10

NEW TO PACIFIC BEACH

Luxury Senior Living
Assisted Living • Memory Care

Oakmont Senior Living’s newest project is now under construction and scheduled to open in the late spring of 2017.

Oakmont offers a wellness center and a full-time nurse to assist with all of your daily living needs in the privacy of your own apartment home.

* Indoor and Outdoor Restaurant
* Salon & Fitness Center
* Movie Theatre
* Library
* Wellness Center
* Pet Park
* Private Family Dining Room
* Walking Distance to the Beach

Visit our Information Center at 4512 Cass Street.

Oakmont of Pacific Beach
955 Grand Ave
Pacific Beach, CA 92109
858-386-4773
oakmontofpacificbeach.com

Studio, One Bedroom and Two Bedroom Apartment Homes Now Available for Reservation
Second annual Vocal Summit at Dizzy’s

By BART MENDOZA

Anyone who enjoys jazz won’t want to miss the second annual Vocal Summit being held at Dizzy’s on Jan. 29. The night will celebrate the power and connection of the human voice, with sounds set to include swing, blues, soul, R&B and world jazz, such as French, Latin and Brazilian music.

On hand will be some of the area’s top jazz singers, including Allison Adams Tucker, Leonard Patton, Sacha Boutros, Gillian Margot and Whitney Shay, backed by an all-star combo of bassist Rob Thorsen, pianist Melanie Grinnell and drummer Julien Cantelm. With so much talent on the stage, this concert promises to be one of the year’s first jazz-themed highlights.

Vocal Summit: Sunday, Jan. 29, at Dizzy’s at Arias Hall, 1717 Morena Blvd. 7 p.m. $20. www.dizzysjazz.com.

You’ll never know what you might hear at an open mic night, but for both performers and audiences alike, the grab bag nature of such events is a lot of fun. One of the area’s best is the weekly event held at the 710 Beach Club each Wednesday. Open to all types of acts, the show includes the full stage, pro lighting and sound and even a backdrop of drums and amps for budding musicians. With each show a unique happening, anyone looking for fresh entertainment will love these performances.

Open Mic Night: Wednesdays at the 710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Ave. 7 p.m. 21 and up. www.710bc.com.

San Diego has one of the most vibrant jazz scenes in California and that fact is directly attributable to music programs such as those at Mission Bay High School under the direction of JP Balmat and Correia Middle School under the direction of M. Dwyer. On Feb. 3, both schools will team up for a special show at Dizzy’s, teaming the students with New Orleans trumpet legend Wendell Brunious.

Backed by pianist Mark Massey, bassist Glenn Fisher and drummer Marvin Smith, the students will perform classic material from the Crescent City, with funds raised by ticket sales going directly to keep these worthy music programs going.

Wendell Brunious: Friday, Feb. 3, at Dizzy’s at Arias Hall, 1717 Morena Blvd. 7 p.m. $10. Students 18 and under free.

You’re Invited!

UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE DATES

Sunday, January 29, 2017 10am – 12:00pm
Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:15am – 3:00pm

Visit anytime between 8:15am and 3:00pm. Interact with our students, teachers, and parents. Discover why so many families have made Stella Maris Academy their #1 CHOICE for high quality, affordable, Catholic education since 1947!

Now Enrolling! Call Today!
7654 Herschel Avenue • La Jolla • StellaMarisAcademy.org • (858) 454-2461

Scholastic Excellence • Spiritual Development • Faith Community
Fall in love with your jewelry again with new design from Diamonds on the Rock

Diamonds on the Rock is operated by Debra Levine and her son David. “I grew up working in my family’s jewelry store in Upstate New York and always prided myself on giving personal attention and great customer service” said Debra.

My favorite thing to do is help someone fall in love with their jewelry again. Many people have things in their collection that they do not wear because it may not fit their current taste. We can redesign, reset, trade or even buy your piece so that it will be worn again!

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!
Circus Vargas back in Mission Bay with new original production, Steam Cirque!

Circus Vargas embarks on a brand new epic adventure under the big top with their new production at Mission Bay starting on Feb 2.

The show
Goggles, gears, and gadgets set the stage for Circus Vargas’ retro-futuristic production, Trappel. Join them on a journey where children of all ages will marvel at the wacky and wonderful cast of characters that come alive in this exciting steampunk, science fiction fantasy-inspired circus odyssey.

Arrive 45 minutes early for an entertaining, interactive pre-show celebration, where kids can create their own magic under the big top, learning circus skills such as juggling, balancing and more. Meet and mingle with the entire cast after each performance. Capture the fun by posing for photos or selfies with your favorite cast members, all part of an unforgettable Circus Vargas experience.

CIRCUS VARGAS
Where: Mission Bay Park, 1101 Sea World Drive.
When: Thursdays 7:30 p.m. (Feb. 2 – opening night), 7 p.m. (Feb. 9) Fridays 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Saturdays 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:30 p.m., Sundays 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., Mondays 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays – no performances, Wednesdays 7 p.m.

SeaWorld transitioning to new ‘Orca Encounter’

As announced in March 2016, SeaWorld is transitioning from the theatrical orca shows to a more educational presentation reflecting more natural behaviors of the whales. The first of these “live documentary-style” presentations, called Orca Encounter, will debut at SeaWorld Orlando and SeaWorld San Antonio by 2019.

The storyline
An eccentric group of adventure seekers stumble upon a traveling circus in an imaginary Victorian city, far, far away. Steam Cirque’s peculiar protagonist, part magician-part inventor, attempts to industrialize the circus by incorporating his steam powered mechanical contraptions into the ordinary, typical circus rigging, filling the big top with new, imaginative acrobatic apparatus for the artists to perform their acts.

Creative inspiration
Husband and wife team Nelson and Katya Quiroga’s inspiration for this year’s production came to them over a casual dinner with friends. While reminiscing of traveling, their many adventures and how fast time has passed, Nelson remarked suddenly that he’d felt as if he’d been “Around the World in 80 days” referring to a novel from French author Jules Verne’s collection, “Voyages Extraordinaires.”

SeaWorld San Diego will continue constructed at the main pool. Guests to Orca Encounter backdrop is containing (bleachers) around the orca underwater viewing area pool and will provide our guests this educational presentation while the new Orca Encounter backdrop is constructed at the main pool. Guests to SeaWorld San Diego will continue to experience live orca presentations, as they make preparations for the new education-based Orca Encounter to begin this summer.
Volunteers create Peace Garden at Mission Bay High

A small idea to clean up part of the Mission Bay High School campus turned into a two-month project bringing MBHS alumni and the Pacific Beach community together and finishing with a Peace Garden for students to enjoy.

Well-established shrubbery that housed rodents was removed several years ago, leaving a barren dirt area and was an eyesore for teachers and students at the high school. Andee Hales, MBHS class of 1977, and parent of a MBHS senior, and Carlos Mocetuzma, parent of a MBHS freshman and owner of Mocetuzma Landscaping, spent countless hours planning the garden, specifying drought-resistant plants and drip irrigation, finding funding and donors, and organizing volunteers.

Working over several weekends in November, volunteers spent their time building, transporting materials, digging holes, and planting plants. George Podhorsky, a former MBHS student, volunteered his time in honor of his daughter, a MBHS student who was killed in 2019. Podhorsky installed the cinder-block bases of the four benches while Steve Soule, a MBHS alum, fabricated four wood bench tops.

Luke Saldana, parent of several former MBHS students, picked up two cubic yards of recycled potting mix donated by Village Nurseries and Kristina and Tom Watson (MBHS class of 1978) transported 90 Lantana camera plants.

On Saturday, Nov. 12, Andee and Carlos were joined by several more volunteers: MBHS vice-principal Nella Landau; Brad, Elkie, and Kerian Wills; Stacey and Tim O’Neill; Kim Schoettle; Kris Stone; and student Jaedon Ford who dug 90 holes for the plants and put together the tubing and other materials needed for the drip irrigation system. All of the irrigation materials were purchased at Home Depot (Geneseo) at a 50 percent discount.

Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary Schools purchased nine tons of decomposed granite at a discount provided by Southwest Boulder and Carlos and his team installed the DG. San Diego Unified School District board president, Dr. Mike McQuary, donated a peace pole to add the final touch.

“The Mission Bay High School Peace Garden is a fantastic effort from our close Mission Bay Cluster community,” MBHS principal Ernie Remillard remarked. “Since it is drought-resistant and low maintenance, our Peace Garden will be around for future generations to enjoy.”

Organ study scholarships

Miranda Kaack, sixth grader at St. Paul’s Lutheran School, along with St. Paul’s alumni Sam Rudenberg (class of 2016) and Margaret Campbell (class of 2014), were awarded scholarships for organ study in Concordia University Irvine’s third annual Keyboard Day.

CPMJA

On Friday, Jan. 27 (rain date Friday, Feb. 3), Crown Point Junior Music Academy students will be participating in the annual Jog-A-Thon to promote wellness through physical activity and raise funds for enrichment programs at the school. As the largest fundraiser of the year, students will ask family, friends, and neighbors to sponsor their effort and achieve with a goal to raise $12,000 for the 2016/17 school year. Pledges can also be made at 99pledges.com/fund/cpmjajogathon

Crown Point Junior Music Academy

Barnard Elementary School

Barnard Elementary School, San Diego’s largest and premier Chinese immersion public school, will host its annual Chinese New Year celebration on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Hundreds of students, parents, and community members are expected to attend this free, family-friendly event, which will be held on the school’s campus, located at 2445 Foggy St. To celebrate the incoming Year of the Rooster, Barnard Elementary welcomes the public to enjoy lucky lion dancers, martial arts demonstrations, Taiwanese Taiko drumming, Chinese cultural activities, and food and game booths for the entire family. While the event is free and open to the public, revenue from new year T-shirts will benefit Barnard Elementary.

Treasure Island

Sixty students, ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade, representing all six Mission Bay Cluster public schools, participated in the one week theater production, ‘Treasure Island,’ at PBMS on Jan. 14.
LEADERS

CONT. FROM PG. 1
reduce our tolerance towards aggressive trans-
sients and those organizations that support
them only by feeding them, and not providing
other services to create long-term solutions."

PB EcoDistrict
PBPG chair Brian J. Curry concurred that
there will be no shortage of problems and issues
to tackle in 2017. “We are looking forward to
finalizing conceptual development plans for
De Anna Cove, Pacific Beach Park (between
Pacific Beach Drive and the pier) as well as the
Balboa Transit Special Study Area on the west
side of Interstate 5,” said Curry.

“We also hope to further explore the best
possible method for efficient public transit
between the beach and future trolley station.
We will continue to promote the Pacific Beach
EcoDistrict and coordinate planning efforts to
implement the EcoDistrict goals and principals.
Immediate plans are to improve and expand
the Parkways project.”

Curry added, “We will continue to oppose
the City’s plan to expand the DecoBike bike
share kiosk locations that directly compete with
our local businesses, owners, as well as the two
existing locations on the boardwalk. We have,
and will continue to oppose, whole-house,
short-term vacation rentals in our community.
Finally, we will continue to pressure our mayor
to respond to the extremely high crime rate in
and around our business district.”

Farmers Market
Long-time PB community planner Chris
Olson had a less fanciful take on the new year.
“I wish for collaboration between communi-
ty organizations and the City of San Diego on
two priority areas,” Olson said. “Revitalize the
business district and connect it with the com-
munity by expanding the Tuesday Farmers
Market and moving it to Garnet Avenue.

Also, we must continue to improve safety,
access and connectivity on PB Pathways and
other roadways for motorists, bicyclists, skaters
and pedestrians. Signage and road paint is just
the beginning. We need to find a source of fund-
ing for infrastructure improvements.”

Marijuana
Community activist and PBPG member Scott
Chipman had a different focus.
“Looking forward to seeing more young fam-
ilies in PB,” Chipman said. “I’ve seen more cou-
ples with strollers in the last few years than in
the previous 10 years. Not looking forward to
more of our teens using and becoming addict-
et to pot (average age of introduction to pot is
12 years, 4 months) and more marijuana-
impaired drivers as a result of legalization.”

Discover PB
Of 2017, Discover PB executive director Sara
Benns noted, “As we closed out 2016 and head-
ed into the new year, our theme would be ‘under
construction,’ and construction means business.
If you drive around PB these days, you can’t help
but notice a lot of construction equipment and
work being done. While a nuisance for now, we
know all this construction is serious business ...
growing business to be exact.”

Benns added this year “Promises results, new
building businesses and stability for those who
have shown they are here to stay. From large
public projects like the Mid Coast Trolley Exten-
sion to private development like the new Oak-
mont project on Grand Avenue, PB is on its way
to welcome exciting new changes to accom-
modate our growing community and the future
of transportation.

“Here at Discover Pacific Beach our goals are
similar; to continue to assist our small-business
community as changes occur in how people
travel, shop and play and protect the integrity
of the locally owned businesses.”

Early in the new year, Benns said Discover PB
will “Be looking at expanding our Clean and
Safe program and launching our new street
banners. Throughout 2017, the organization
 hopes to start working with local commercial
brokers to help future small business owners
make smart decisions when investing in Pacif-
ic Beach, to be a voice for the commercial cor-
rors in planning projects such as the trolley
extension, and improving safety for pedestri-
an and bicyclists along Garnet Avenue and
connecting streets.”

Benns added the bill will begin the process of
developing a five-year strategic plan for the
organization as they enter a new stage of oppor-
tunity in economic development and place-
making.

“Of course, we will be continuing all our local
events to promote and keep our community
vibrant,” she said. “In 2017, I would like to see
the leaders of Pacific Beach continue to work
collaboratively to bring visions that have been
long in discussion closer to reality.”

Alcohol licenses
PB Neighborhood Watch coordinator Mar-
cella Teran had numerous concerns heading
into 2017:

“We need more police for our community,”
Teran said. “We need the ‘strong mayor’ to pro-
tect our neighborhoods and allow for more hir-
ing of police.”

“We need a moratorium on additional alco-
hol licenses, and a conditional use permit (for them),”
Teran continued. “The high number of alcohol
licenses are directly related to the number of police calls for fights and other
crimes on Garnet they receive daily. Their effects
are taken away from our neighborhoods, where we
are experiencing car break-ins, and other property
crimes.

“We need the City to enforce the city code
about short term vacation rentals, in single-
family neighborhoods. They are ‘visitor accommoda-
tions,’ and are eroding the community fabric of our neighborhood.”

Just Sold

VILLA SERENA APARTMENTS
4728 Lamont Street
18 Units
$6,500,000

GARY URTIAGA
Senior Vice President
(619) 804-9140
GURTI@cb.com
CA BRE #011099213

GABE CANDEA
Senior Associate
(619) 243-9892
GCandea@ARG1031.com
CA BRE #01992794

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A FREE CONSULTATION OR MARKET ANALYSIS

1631-1633 Missouri
$1,750,000

706-708 Balboa Ct
$2,149,000

VILLAGE
EWS
LA JOLLA
CHOICE
READERS
2016
AWARDS

THURSDAY · JANUARY 26, 2017
BEACH & BAY PRESS
Point Loma / Ocean Beach
Sun 12-2pm 741 Sunset Cliffs Blvd 10,025 sf lot $2,900,000 Helen Spear 619-813-8503
Sat 10-2pm 3902 La Cresta Dr 3BR/2BA $1,099,000 Deborah Ehlers 866-635-7867

Pacific Beach / Crown Point
Sun 1-4pm 1477 Chabodony 2BR/2BA $799,000 Melissa Mace 665-635-7667*
Sun 1-4pm 1209 Loring Street 5+BR/4BA $1,659,000 Helen Spear 619-813-8503

La Jolla
Sat & Sun 1-4pm 7315 Remely Place 5BR/6BA $5,300,000 Vonnie Mellon 858-395-0135*
Sat & Sun 12-3pm 8001 Paseo del Ocaso 4BR/2BA $2,495,000 Yvonne Oberle 619-316-3188
Sat & Sun 1-4pm 1814 Caminito Ascuna 4BR/3BA $950,000 Frager / Hixson / Robbs 858-405-9100
Sat & Sun 1-4pm 835 La Jolla Rancho Road 4BR/3BA/1.5BA $3,750,000 Susanne Gorrigan & Patty Cohen
Sat 1-4pm 1857 Caminito Velasco 4BR/3.5BA $1,999,998-2,199,998 Felicity Hunter 858-444-5973

Carlsbad
Sat & Sun 1-4pm 7294 Calle de la Playa 3BR/2BA $995,000 858-266-3085*
Sat 1-4pm 705 Calle de la Playa 3BR/2BA $1,299,000 858-266-3085*

Clairemont Condo
Panoramic Views of Mountains and Tecolote Golf Course
2929 Cowley Way Unit G, San Diego, CA 92117
Offered at $379,900


OPEN HOUSES

COLEMAN
Office/Residential | Free Wardrobe Use | Piano Moving
Last Minute Moves | Packing/Unpacking
Discount Packing Materials | Moving all over Southern CA.
7 DAYS A WEEK | FREE ESTIMATES FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1979
619.223.2255 STU AND MATT COLEMAN
BBB MEMBER | INSURED LIC # CAL T-189466

MARK JENKINS BEACH SPECIALIST
Feel free to contact me for all your REAL ESTATE NEEDS
858.212.7355 markjenkinsrealtors@gmail.com 41156385036

John Shannon
REALTORS | Broker | CalBRE #01928641
Solace Realty
“Finding your place in the Sun”
858.224.5709 SolaceRealty.com | john.shannon@me.com

~ The Best of North PB & Sunset Cliffs ~

OPEN HOUSE THIS WEEKEND

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 12-2PM

6 Blocks to Beach!
1209 LORING STREET
• 5+BR/4BA New Home
• Indoor/Outdoor Living
• Huge Garage/5-Car Parking
• Ocean Views & Deck
$1,659,000

Rare Oceanfront Lot
741 SUNSET CLIFFS BLVD
• 10,925SF Lot • Approx 66 Linear Feet of Ocean Frontage
• Site Approved for Approx. 6000SF of Building Space
$2,900,000

Call, email, or text for more information:
HELEN SPEAR Coastal Specialist 619-813-8503
HELEN@HELENSPEAR.COM
www.ISellCoastalSanDiego.com

To be part of this section or any other advertising
Please Call Us Today!
Heather Long (858) 232-5638 Heather@sdnews.com
Mike Long (858) 270-3103 x112 MikeL@sdnews.com
San Diego Community Newspaper Group
PHONE 858.270.3103 FAX 858.713.0095
www.sdnews.com
Team Cairncross’ New Coastal Listings

BREATHTAKING BAY VIEWS

3286-3288 Bayside Walk
North Mission Beach bayfront 2BR/1BR cottage w/ large bayfront patio with detached 1BR/1BA unit above garage. Amazing location with bayfront views from both homes! Great development opportunity able to build 2 units with almost 3,500sqft of living space on a 3,179sqft lot. NEXT DOOR HOME ZONED FOR 3+ UNITS ON 4,996 sqft LOT IS ALSO FOR SALE. Offered at $2,275,000

BAY VIEWS FROM EVERY ROOM

3770 Crown Point Dr #205
This spacious, upgraded 2BR/2BA unit in Crown Point offers bay views from every room, dual masters, 2 balconies, gas fireplace, in-unit laundry, & side-by-side 2-car parking + storage unit! Share no walls w/ neighbors & have close access to the shared rooftop deck! Building has spa, game room, sauna, rooftop deck, new elevator, underground gated garage, & storage for bikes/surfboards. Quick walk to the bay, park, boardwalk, & nearby restaurants. Enjoy SeaWorld fireworks & the downtown skyline. Offered at $639,000

LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL ALONG THE COAST CALL DANE TODAY!

Dane Scharetg
CA BRE #01501061
858-504-3263
dancoastalhomesales.com

Mission Beach Homes for sale!
3 Off Market!
– 817 San Jose Place: North Mission Beach
Charming Cape Cod with private ocean and bay view rooftop patio. 3BR/2BA 1350 sqft $1.395m
– North Mission Bayside Detached
2 bed plus office 2.5 bath with 2 car garage
– North Mission Oceanside Detached
3BR/3BA with 2 car garage
– North Mission Duplex with a 2/1 and 3/2
Pacific Beach Off Market!
Northwest PB Townhome
3BR/2.5BA, 1575 sqft $749,000

Kara Watkins Norgart
CA BRE #01389633
619-708-8276

3291 Bayside Walk
$3,250,000
Rare opportunity to own one of the best and largest, corner Bay Front Lots and Single Family Homes in Mission Beach. This Home comes with R-4 zoning and a lot size of 4,996 sq ft, creating a unique development opportunity for multiple units, or a great second home, vacation rental or primary residence. Can be sold with neighboring lot, 3286-88 Bayside Walk.

2774 Bayside Walk #1
$1,429,000
Gorgeous Bayfront and South facing corner lot condo is turnkey, fully furnished and ready for your enjoyment! Soak up the Beach and Bay Lifestyle from your private and expansive wrap around Patio, fronting Mission Bay, the views of the water and evening lights are breathtaking. This property has a solid history as a Vacation Rental, or make this your Dream Water Front Home!

Greg Flaherty
Broker/Owner
CA BRE #0995682
www.CoastalPro.com | 858-692-0185