



**DIANE BELL**

## Philanthropist gives helping hand to save sea lion pups

Adopting a “no pup left behind” mantra, ecology-minded billionaire **Ted Waitt** has stepped up his foundation’s efforts to save starving sea lion pups stranded along the coast of Southern California.

Last week, the Gateway computer co-founder had set aside \$25,000 to be matched by public donations. He now has bumped his commitment to \$100,000, a large portion to be used to treat and expand veterinary staff tending to the rescued pups at care centers along the coast.

Half of the funds, \$50,000, will help construct a temporary rehabilitation facility in the L.A. area to relieve pressure on existing intake centers.

The money is from Waitt’s La Jolla-based foundation, directed by **Jacob James**, who is working closely with the National Marine Mammal Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and others. They also are working with Northern California treatment facilities to open up space so recovering pups can be transferred there.

Aside from dealing with the immediate crisis, Waitt wants a study of the cause of the strandings, with an eye to preventing such catastrophes in the future. He is dispatching at least three of his employees, including James, to work as care center volunteers.

Meanwhile, National Marine Mammal Foundation Director **Cynthia Smith** says there were 1,100-plus strandings in the first three months of 2013. SeaWorld San Diego saw a slight drop in numbers last weekend to about five rescues a day, but Smith cautions that these young pups, who were born last year, are expected to be arriving here through June. She added that veterinarians who are helping out at the treatment facility in San Pedro are trying to stretch funds by staying at private homes in the area.

**Back in the saddle:** It’s back to work for former Mayor **Jerry Sanders**. After long-awaited R&R in Italy with his wife, **Rana Sampson**, he officially stepped into his new role as president/CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce on Monday. Former regional AT&T head **Mark Leslie** has been filling in for Sanders for three months and is staying this week to ease the transition. Then Leslie is headed off for his own R&R — a golf trip with his son in Oregon.

“We hiked more than 1,000 miles in Italy,” reports Rana, who called their trip phenomenal. She retired from her executive post at the S.D. Center for Children and is now deciding what to do next. “I have loved every job I have ever had and I will look for another job where I can learn a lot.”

One of Sanders’ first duties as Chamber honcho will find him holed up with **Bob Filner**, his successor as mayor, and other business leaders in Mexico City on a four-day Chamber trip in mid-April. Tijuana Mayor **Carlos Bustamante** is also slated to attend. Oh, to be a gecko on the wall of the Hotel Presidente InterContinental.

## NRC IS OK WITH PLANT RESTART

Regulators say plan to run San Onofre at 70% power poses no safety hazard

**MORGAN LEE • U-T**

A request for a license amendment to restart one of San Onofre crippled nuclear reactors does not pose a significant safety hazard, the Nuclear Regulatory

Commission announced Wednesday in a preliminary determination still subject to public comment.

Plant operator Southern California Edison has proposed restarting San Onofre’s Unit 2 reactor tempo-

rarily at 70 percent power as it looks for a long-term solution to the rapid degradation of tubing within recently replaced steam generators.

The nuclear commission found that Edison’s request to operate at reduced power does not involve an increased risk of an accident or create the possibility of a

new or different accident.

Comments on the agency’s safety determination will be accepted for 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, with an additional 30 days to make a request for a public hearing.

Nuclear commission spokesman Victor Dricks said comments would be

considered by staff in their final determination.

Currently, the license requires the plant operate safely over the “full range of operating conditions,” including full power. The rule change would cap maximum power at 70 percent for the duration of a refueling cycle — typically

SEE SAN ONOFRE • B3

## ‘BRIGHT’ IDEA



Physical therapy major Katrina Patchett relaxes in the sunshine between classes Wednesday at San Diego State University while watching other students move along. Clear skies will return this afternoon, and highs will range from the mid-60s at the coast to nearly 90 in the desert. **HAYNE PALMOUR IV • U-T**

## U-T WATCHDOG

### REVIEW OF DETECTIVE’S DUI SENT TO DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Involvement of 3 sergeants, another detective at issue

**JEFF McDONALD • U-T**

An investigation into how four San Diego police officials responded to the alleged drunken-driving crash in December of a detective has been referred to the District Attorney’s Office.

A spokeswoman for City Attorney Jan Goldsmith confirmed Wednesday that the matter was forwarded to District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis. Goldsmith’s office prosecutes misdemeanor cases, and the DA handles felonies.

“We have completed an initial investigation and have referred the matter to the District Attorney’s Office,” city attorney spokeswoman Gina Coburn wrote in an email. “The DUI case remains in our office as we

SEE WATCHDOG • B3

### CITY TAKES FREE OFFER ON OFFICE LEASING NEGOTIATION

**MATT CLARK • U-T**

**SAN DIEGO** The city has taken the offer of its former lease negotiator to help renew leases for 515,000 square feet of downtown office space at no charge, according to a Wednesday news release from Mayor Bob Filner.

The release was sent to the region’s media on Wednesday, two days after U-T Watchdog asked for an update on the city’s office space plans.

On Tuesday, the city canceled the award of a contract for the services to another company, upsetting at least one participant in a

SEE LEASES • B2



Mayor Bob Filner appointed a lease expert to a position of special assistant. **JOHN GASTALDO • U-T**

## OBAMA BACKS FUNDS FOR BORDER CROSSING

Administration requests \$226 million for San Ysidro Port of Entry in 2014 budget

**SANDRA DIBBLE • U-T**

Efforts to continue the reconstruction of the congested San Ysidro Port of Entry got support from President Barack Obama on Wednesday, with the administration’s request for \$226 million in funding for the project as part of the fiscal 2014 budget.

The current estimated cost of the overall project is \$732 million, considerably higher than an earlier estimate of \$577 million.

If approved by Congress, the new

**\$732**  
MILLION

Estimated cost of the overall project.

funds would be used to realign the I-5 freeway to connect to Tijuana’s El Chaparral crossing, Mexico’s counterpart to San Ysidro that was opened last October. Cars entering

Mexico currently are routed to El Chaparral through a temporary access road.

The additional U.S. funds in the Obama budget proposal also would be used to pay for 17 additional northbound inspection booths, adding up 63, according to the U.S. General Services Administration, which is overseeing the project.

“This project is critical to the economic security of our region,” said U.S. Rep. Susan Davis, D-San Diego, in a statement issued jointly

SEE BORDER • B4

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## LOCAL REPORTS

## PUBLIC SAFETY

## Police seek help in finding man in assault case

## OCEANSIDE

Police on Wednesday released a composite sketch of a man who fondled a woman and tried to drag her into the bushes on the San Luis Rey Mission church grounds last month.

The woman hit her attacker and ran away after the attack, about 3:30 p.m. March 18, Oceanside police Lt. Aaron Doyle said Wednesday.

Police are hoping tipsters can lead them to the suspect, who had a tattoo of a snake on the back of his left forearm.

The suspect was described as Latino, in his 30s, about 6 feet tall and about 220 pounds. He had black or brown shoulder-length hair, a mustache and a large mole on his neck.

Tipsters can call police Detective Joe Ingorvaia at (760) 435-4824, or the WETIP anonymous hotline at (800) 782-7463.

TERI FIGUEROA • U-T

## Man killed when attempting to cross street in wheelchair

## SAN DIEGO

A 70-year-old man using a wheelchair died shortly after being struck by a pickup Tuesday night in City Heights, San Diego police said.

The man was attempting to cross University Avenue at 36th Street when he was hit by a pickup driven by a 46-year-old man, police Officer

Dino Delimitros said.

He was identified by the Medical Examiner's Office as William James Powell.

SUSAN SHRODER • U-T

## 21-year-old stabbed in effort to fight off group of robbers

## SAN DIEGO

A man was stabbed three times in the torso Tuesday night in Mira Mesa as he attempted to fight off four males who stole his gold necklace, San Diego police said.

The victim, a 21-year-old man, was leaving an AM/PM convenience store on Carroll Centre Road, near Kearny Villa Road, about 8:35 p.m. when he was assaulted, police Officer Dino Delimitros said. The injuries were not considered life-threatening.

The attackers were described as male Asians in their teens or 20s. They fled in a white four-door sedan.

SUSAN SHRODER • U-T

## Masked man sought in robbery of Rancho Bernardo Circle K

## SAN DIEGO

Police are looking for a man who robbed a Circle K in Rancho Bernardo early Wednesday.

The robbery at the store on West Bernardo Drive near Rancho Bernardo Road was reported at 12:08 a.m.

The robber, who wore a mask, was

described as 6 feet tall and thin.

DEBBI BAKER • U-T

## Stabbing in Bay Terraces may be gang-related, police say

## SAN DIEGO

A 19-year-old man was stabbed in Bay Terraces on Tuesday night in what police believe was a gang-related attack.

The victim was walking his dog at Penn Athletic Field on Dusk Drive about 8:50 p.m. when two men in the bleachers made gang signs at him, San Diego police said.

The man started to leave, but the pair drove up in a black Hyundai and confronted him, police said. He was cut several times on his arms, police said.

DEBBI BAKER • U-T

## Pharmacy hit by robber who used note to demand drugs

## SAN DIEGO

A man who claimed to have a weapon robbed an Albertsons/Savon Pharmacy in Torrey Highlands on Tuesday night, San Diego police said.

The robber handed a pharmacy employee a demand note for narcotics, police Officer Dino Delimitros said.

The incident occurred about 5:20 p.m. at the store on Highland Village Plaza near Camino del Sur.

The thief was described as Latino with a light complexion, in his 30s, and about 5 feet 8 inches tall.

SUSAN SHRODER • U-T

## SCIENCE

## Famous geneticist, physicist to visit area

## SAN DIEGO

Two significant names in science and medicine are scheduled to visit San Diego this week.

Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health and one of the most influential geneticists in the country, is set to spend part of today touring Life Technologies, the Carlsbad company that's a world leader in the development of gene-sequencing instruments.

Collins also is scheduled to meet with the company's executives to discuss potential advances in the life sciences, a topic that's been in the news lately.

Last week, President Barack Obama announced the BRAIN initiative, a program that's likely to devote billions of dollars over time in a quest to find ways to simultaneously monitor and map neurons. The end goal is to see how healthy brains work and what happens when autism, Alzheimer's and other diseases and disorders develop.

Collins is a major advocate of the initiative, which is being designed with help from scientists at the Salk Institute for Biological Sciences and the University of California San Diego.

On Saturday, famed physicist Stephen Hawking will come to Kearny Mesa to attend a tree planting in memory of one of his oldest friends and benefactors, the late San Diego philanthropist Dennis Avery. Hawking and Avery were classmates at Cambridge University in England.

Avery became an attorney and was heir to the Avery Dennison label fortune. He also became a philanthropist, donating money to support Hawking's work in theoretical physics. Avery and his wife, Sally Tsui Wong-Avery, also donated \$6 million to found the Chinese Bilingual Preschool in Kearny Mesa, which opened in 2011.

Dennis Avery died in July. Hawking was scheduled to attend the funeral, but became ill and had to stay in England. The 71-year-old Hawking has been visiting California in recent days. Saturday's tree planting, which will not be open to the public, is scheduled for 2 p.m.

GARY ROBBINS • U-T

## SAN DIEGO CITY

## Mission Bay Park gets \$2.5M for upgrades

With revenues rising again for hotels and other businesses, a fundraising mechanism approved by city voters has been triggered for the first time and will lead to \$2.5 million in additional improvements this year to Mission Bay Park.

The money is available because Proposition C, which 67 percent of voters favored in 2008, calls for a significant portion of excess revenues generated by leases there to be reinvested in the 4,235-acre park.

The initiative was supposed to be a financial boon for Mission Bay Park, but the economic recession saw lease revenues dip and no extra money was generated until now.

City Councilman Kevin Faulconer announced the \$2.5 million sum during his State of the District address Wednesday night. The money will go toward an estimated \$400 million in repairs and other planned park projects.

Proposition C listed seven goals, in order of priority, to achieve with the extra park funding. Dredging topped the list followed by wetland expansion, stabilizing erosion controls, expanding preserves for endangered or threatened species, completion of bicycle and pedestrian paths, restoration of sea walls and other deferred maintenance.

The remaining 25 percent of the revenues are to be spent on six regional parks, including Balboa, Chollas Lake and Otay River Valley.

One quirk to the initiative is that the regional parks get the first crack at excess revenue and are guaranteed the first \$2.5 million. So even though revenues slightly exceeded \$23 million in 2011 and 2012 all of the extra money went to regional parks and none to Mission Bay Park.

Lease revenues were \$28 million this year, exceeding the threshold enough to provide money to Mission Bay Park for the first time.

CRAIG GUSTAFSON • U-T

## COURTS

## Not guilty plea from woman in kidnap case

## EL CAJON

A woman accused of kidnapping her 3-week-old niece who was found safe later in Lakeside pleaded not guilty Wednesday to felony child abduction and misdemeanor child endangerment.

Deborah Ann Fowler, 46, also pleaded not guilty to auto theft, a felony. If convicted, she faces up to five years in custody.

El Cajon Superior Court Judge Charles Ervin set Fowler's bail at \$100,000.

The baby's grandmother and legal guardian called the Sheriff's Department about 11:15 a.m. April 5 and reported Anissa Von Goerlitz missing from her Spring Valley home.

The grandmother told deputies she believed Fowler had taken the baby.

Border Patrol searchers found Fowler and the baby in good condition about 7:30 p.m. near Channel Road.

DANA LITTLEFIELD • U-T

## Conviction in shooting draws 28-year sentence

## SAN DIEGO

A man convicted of manslaughter in connection with the fatal shooting of a 22-year-old man in Southcrest two years ago was sentenced Wednesday to 28 years in prison.

Cesar Swain, 27, pleaded guilty in San Diego Superior Court to voluntary manslaughter, with gun-use and gang allegations, and a charge of inducing a person to give false information to police.

Swain and another man, Jovan Garcia, were arrested in March 2011, a few days after Jesus Hernandez-Leal was shot as he rode a small motorcycle on Boston Avenue near 36th Street. He died at a hospital.

Garcia was found guilty in trial of first-degree murder and will be sentenced next month.

DANA LITTLEFIELD • U-T

## IMMIGRATION

## Coalition aims to curb path to U.S. citizenship

A new coalition in San Diego County is lobbying Congress to support a plan that calls for enhanced border enforcement, decreased legal immigration and the end of automatic citizenship for those born in the United States.

The platform from the San Diegans for Secure Borders Coalition comes as elected officials, business executives, law-enforcement leaders and grassroots activists on various sides of the immigration debate — in this region and nationwide — are issuing their own proposals. Congress is debating what could be the largest revamp of the nation's immigration system since the 1980s.

Members of the Secure Borders Coalition said they want to show that many Americans do not support a pathway to U.S. citizenship for unauthorized immigrants living in this country. They also said the federal government must ensure border security before considering any legalization measure for the unauthorized.

The coalition was formed by San Diego residents Jeff Schwilk and Rob Luton.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Alpine, met with the coalition last week and endorses the recommendations. "Grassroots will continue to have an important part in the immigration and border security debate. Without security, there's no real reform," Hunter said in a statement.

The coalition's plan includes the following points: secure borders, enforce federal immigration laws, require all employers to use the E-Verify system, reduce legal immigration totals, end birthright citizenship and fix and enforce the guest-worker system.

Legalization for immigrants living in the U.S. without permission would take place only after all the suggested security and enforcement measures are effective, the coalition said. Its definition of legalization includes permission to stay and work, but not access to citizenship.

The coalition includes groups such as tea party chapters, Veterans for a Secure San Diego and San Diego Christians for Secure Borders.

ELIZABETH AGUILERA • U-T

## TRANSPORTATION

## Brake rotors ordered for Sprinter after tests

## NORTH COUNTY

Transit officials said Tuesday that they have ordered a full set of replacement brake rotors for the idled Sprinter trains, adding that the repair process is "moving swiftly and efficiently."

The North County Transit District shut down the Oceanside-to-Escondido Sprinter system starting March 9, after it discovered accelerated wear on all 12 trains' brake rotors.

Officials from the agency said the full set of brake parts should arrive by late April. At that point, they hope to announce a Sprinter "relaunch" date.

They initially estimated that the network would be offline for two to four months.

On Sunday, the agency conducted a successful test run on one Sprinter train between Escondido and San Marcos, a transit spokeswoman said. That followed the installation of a limited supply of 100g replacement rotors.

Test runs were expected to continue through today.

Officials had expected to order the full set of replacement brake parts in May, according to a news release from the transit district.

Despite several requests, the agency has not provided cost figures for either the limited or full set of replacement rotors.

The transit agency has said that it ordered two limited sets of replacement rotors for testing and would determine which was the best to use. Frances Schnall, a transit district spokeswoman, said Wednesday that the agency went ahead with a full order from Kovis, a Slovenia-based rail parts maker, because its rotors "performed so well" in testing.

The Kovis order includes rotors for all Sprinter trains, plus spares. Altogether, the agency expects to receive 96 rotors to outfit the trains and 34 spares.

Schnall said the agency won't cancel its second order of a limited number of solid rotors, made by Faiveley Transport of France. It will keep those on hand once they arrive, she said.

CHRIS NICHOLS • U-T

## LEASES • City cancels its contract with firm that won bid

## FROM B1

competitive bid process.

The Watchdog broke the story in May 2012 of how lease expert Jason Hughes had offered to do the negotiations for free but was turned down by Filner's predecessor, Jerry Sanders. Hughes is president and CEO of the tenant representation firm Hughes Marino and the man who last negotiated all three of the city's downtown leases.

According to the release, Filner has appointed Hughes to a position as special assistant to the mayor, and will advise the mayor on the city's downtown office real estate needs.

Hughes' 25 years of commercial real estate experience will come at no cost to the city, according to the release.

"I appreciate Jason's commitment to public service in this advisory role, which he will perform without compensation from any party," Filner said in the release.

Hughes referred comment to Filner's office for this story. Previously, he estimated the cost of renegotiating the city's three downtown leases would be about \$1 million.

The city's current cost for occupying the three down-

town towers totals \$13.1 million per year, according to a September 2012 office space analysis the city commissioned.

Hughes' appointment comes just one month before the expiration of one of the downtown leases, at 600 B Street, for 139,000 square feet. Commercial real estate experts say they recommend their clients start negotiating leases of that size at least two years before they expire, which was pointed out in several stories while Sanders was still the mayor.

It is not known whether the city has begun renegotiating the 600 B Street lease, as Filner's office has not answered the questions submitted on Monday. The city's two other leases for downtown office space both expire in about a year.

Gary London, president of The London Group Realty Advisors in San Diego, said a tenant waiting to renegotiate a 139,000-square-foot lease one month before it expires would be unprecedented. Nonetheless, he said the city is in a good position due to real estate market conditions downtown.

"The city is not operating smartly, and if they were a private company they would have resolved this is-

sue a year ago or at least six months ago," London said. "They just happen to be the luckiest non-private company in town right now, because the office market is not that strong and they have a lot of options."

Hughes' offer to renegotiate the leases for free first came in August 2011, and was rejected by Sanders in favor of launching a competitive bid to find a company to accept payment to represent the city. Not taking no for an answer, Hughes submitted a bid for \$1.

The city has not disclosed the outcome of the bid process.

Commercial real estate services firm Cassidy Turley provided documents to the Watchdog showing the city recommended awarding the contract to the firm in September 2012. On Tuesday, the city sent a letter to Cassidy Turley canceling the bid after an 11-month process.

In a statement, Cassidy Turley San Diego President Dan Broderick said the company was disappointed and surprised the bid would be canceled after the city said the firm was determined to represent the best overall value for the city. The statement did not specify what costs Cassidy Turley bid for

the contract.

"We are frankly even more surprised that the mayor has decided to retain volunteer services on something as important as the city's real estate footprint downtown," Broderick said. "We are evaluating our options and what response, if any, we will make to the termination notice and decision to change courses on retaining paid services versus volunteer help."

The reason for Hughes' free offer stems from now-dead plans under the Sanders administration to build a new City Hall, a project sold to the public as a way to save the city money on office leases. Hughes questioned the project's supposed savings. The city said Hughes was misinformed as it continued exploring the project. After the project was dropped, Hughes floated the free offer, which would give him the chance to prove he was right.

London praised Filner's decision to accept the offer.

"How could you not take him up on it? He's the most experienced guy," London said. "For reasons that don't really matter, he said he would step up and do it for nothing and to this mayor's good credit he's taken him up on that offer."