

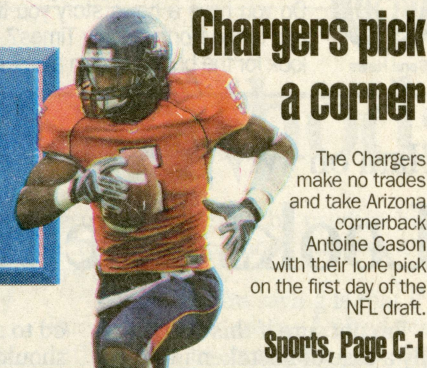
NCTIMES.COM

This newspaper uses recycled paper.



NORTH COUNTY TIMES

NEWS FROM CARLSBAD, LA COSTA, OLIVENHAIN, LEUCADIA, ENCINITAS, CARDIFF, SOLANA BEACH, DEL MAR AND ALL NORTH COUNTY



Chargers pick a corner

The Chargers make no trades and take Arizona cornerback Antoine Cason with their lone pick on the first day of the NFL draft.

Sports, Page C-1

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2008

Vol. 124, No. 118

AN EDITION OF THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

\$1.25 TAX INCLUDED

Beachgoers proceed with caution

Trepidation lingers near site of Friday's fatal shark attack

ZACH FOX
STAFF WRITER

SOLANA BEACH — The crowds were light Saturday, despite a sunny sky and warm temperatures, on the beach near where, one day earlier, a Solana Beach man died in San Diego County's first fatal shark attack in nearly 50 years.

Longtime beachgoers said they were undeterred by the surprising death of 66-year-old David Martin, a Solana Beach resident who had been swimming in the ocean with a group of triathletes.

Helicopters moved up and down the coast as the Sheriff's Department watched for sharks near the shore. None was spotted, said Lt. Mike McClain.

Martin died Friday morning after a shark bit his legs as he swam with a group of fellow triathletes about 150 yards offshore, according to authorities.

Teenagers and a few others braved the ocean Saturday, bumping their chests up against the breaking waves.

Lifeguards said fewer than a dozen beachgoers entered the water Saturday at Fletcher Cove, near the site of the attack.

Jack Wall walked into the ocean at 6 a.m. in a wet suit and put his fishing pole to work. He did not hesitate to enter the knee-deep water, he said.

"That was a freak occurrence," Wall said. "And there's only been one since 1959, so the odds have already been played out."

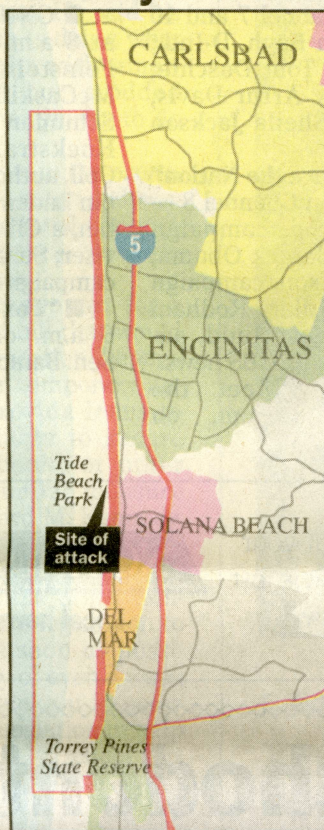
Still, the rare attack appeared to have rattled Wall as well as some dedicated swimmers and surfers. Wall said he is hesitant to return to his hobby of fishing off his surfboard in deeper waters.

Though there were few sunbathers for a warm, clear day, activity buzzed at the park overlooking the cove. A gaggle of reporters nabbed passers-by for sound bites as they walked past a

line of memorial flowers. And lifeguards barked into an intercom, urging the few

► CAUTION, A-6

Swimming advisory



NCT

People are advised to stay out of the ocean from South Carlsbad State Beach to Torrey Pines State Beach until Monday morning. Beaches will remain open.



BILL WECHTER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A warning sign and a nearly empty shoreline Saturday at Carlsbad's Ponto Beach were stark reminders of Friday morning's tragic event.

Ex-wife says victim 'just pursued life'

TERI FIGUEROA
STAFF WRITER

SOLANA BEACH — Dave Martin was a teenager living in Riverside when he laid eyes on North County — and fell in love.

"As soon as he saw this, he knew this is where he wanted to be," his former wife, Robin Martin, said Saturday afternoon. "He was always a beach guy. Always."

Sitting on the front porch of Dave Martin's home on Cliff Street in Solana Beach, Robin Martin smiled at times and teared up at others, as she recalled the life of the man to whom she was married for two decades.

She said Martin should be remembered "as a man who loved his family, loved his friends and really just pursued life."

It's been about three years since the couple separated. They later divorced. The two-story home is just blocks



BILL WECHTER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Robin Martin, above, was married to shark victim Dave Martin for two decades.

from the beach where the 66-year-old retired veterinarian died Friday, falling victim to a rare shark attack off the San Diego County coast.

► EX-WIFE, A-6

Researcher: Great white confirmed

Man who sat in on autopsy verifies original suspicions

CRAIG TENBROECK
STAFF WRITER

SAN DIEGO — A shark researcher who sat in on the autopsy Saturday morning of retired veterinarian David Martin confirmed initial suspicions that Martin's killer was a great white shark.

"Based on the evidence that we reviewed, I was able to determine that the shark was 15 to 16 feet long and, in fact, was a white shark," said Ralph Collier, president of the nonprofit



Ralph Collier

► WHITE, A-6

INSIDE: A 40-year veteran of ocean sports in North County is undeterred by the attack, Page C-7.