

OUR REGION

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THE SAN DIEGO
UNION-TRIBUNE

LOGAN JENKINS

Missing Jack Orr

Columnist wonders what the North County political consultant, who died last summer, would have said about today's scene. **B2**



ELECTIONS

Running for the bench

Court commissioner Garry Haenle (left) and Paul Cooper, (far left) counsel to the San Diego police chief, vie for seat. **B3**

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WILDFIRES

No relocation penalty

People whose lost homes in the wildfires can move or rebuild elsewhere without being penalized by insurance companies, the state will announce. **B3**

DEATHS

Obituaries for residents of the county. **B5**

WEATHER

Regional, statewide and global forecasts. **B8**

SOLANA BEACH

'HE DIED DOING WHAT HE LIKED'

Relatives remember shark attack victim

By Robert Krier

STAFF WRITER

Jeff Martin kept his composure yesterday until he reached a painful portion of his statement about his father, David.

"He died doing what he liked," Jeff Martin said, choking back tears, "surrounded by friends, in a place he loved."



David Martin

David Martin, 66, was the retired Solana Beach veterinarian and triathlete who was killed by a shark Friday morning as he swam with a group of nine about 150 yards off Fletcher Cove in Solana Beach.

On a blistering afternoon, Jeff Martin spoke for the family, which gathered on a bluff above where the attack occurred. As gentle waves lapped the shore, Jeff Martin and about a dozen relatives placed long-stemmed sunflowers and roses along a fence above the beach.

Other visitors, many who didn't know the family, also dropped off bouquets as a tribute.

The long-shot odds of a shark attack — and the place it happened — were an extra burden for the family, said Jeff Martin, a pilot for Alaska Airlines.

"I had been going down those steps since I was 3 years old," he said.

But the tragedy won't keep Martin, 41, like his father an avid beachgoer, out of the ocean.

SEE Victim, B3

► VICTIM

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Other beaches in county have typical turnouts

"I went surfing yesterday, and I'll be taking my boys out tomorrow," Martin said.

That's the way his father would have wanted it, he said.

David Martin, who moved to Solana Beach in 1970 and became well-known as the town veterinarian, was very unlucky, his son said. Sea lions are not common in the area, but one was spotted before the attack.

Two shark experts have concluded that it was a great white shark, probably there by chance when the swimmers passed. It apparently mistook the wet-suit-clad Martin for a sea lion, picking him out of the group.

"The odds are staggering," Jeff Martin said.

An autopsy Saturday by the Medical Examiner's Office determined that Martin died from blood loss because of shark

bites to his legs.

Beachgoers in Solana Beach, for the most part, honored lifeguards' advice yesterday to stay out of the water. Despite 95-degree temperatures, only about 1,000 people were on the shore, about one-fifth of what would be expected on a hot weekend day, said Marine Safety Capt. Craig Miller. The few who did venture in the waves went no more than about thigh deep.

At 7 a.m. today, the city and nearby agencies expect to lift an alert, which cautioned people to refrain from entering the water along an eight-mile stretch of North County coast.

Elsewhere around the region, beach attendance was about typical or even up.

"We didn't expect it to be this busy," said Bree Smeddon, a lifeguard at Silver Strand State Beach in Imperial Beach.

San Diego Lifeguard Lt. Greg Buchanan said crowds were about normal at city beaches.

"There's not a huge impact, from what we can tell," Buchanan said.

San Diego Lifeguard Lt. Andy Lerum said more than 173,000 people were drawn to

"It's a tragedy, but they realize that it's very rare."

MIKE BAUMGARTNER,
*Huntington Beach
marine safety lieutenant*

city beaches because of the heat and water temperatures that reached 62 degrees. There were 44 rescues, half of them at Mission Beach, because of strong rip currents.

In Orange County, crowds were reportedly normal in San Clemente. At Huntington Beach, despite water temperatures as low as 52 degrees, many people ventured in, said Mike Baumgartner, marine safety lieutenant with the city.

"People are talking about (the attack), but for the most part, they're keeping it in perspective," Baumgartner said. "It's a tragedy, but they realize that it's very rare, given the millions of people who go in the water."

On the bluff above Fletcher Cove yesterday, Jeff Martin thanked the emergency medi-



Relatives and friends of David Martin, the retired veterinarian and triathlete who was killed in a shark attack, gathered at a bluff above where the attack occurred. *Crissy Pascual / Union-Tribune*

cal technicians and Solana Beach lifeguard Mark Forster for their "heroic efforts to save Dad's life."

From 4 to 7 p.m. today, Solana Beach merchants on South Cedros Avenue will donate profits from sales to the Dave

Martin Memorial Fund. A silent auction also will be held with proceeds going to the fund.