



Glitter, glimmer of Garrison Street



Residents of Garrison Street continue their annual tradition of bigger and better when it comes to going all-out with Christmas decorations. The elaborate tradition, which caught fire around 20 years ago, is a rousing and popular spectacle that extends the block between Chatsworth Boulevard and Garrison Place. Thousands of strings of lights are strewn amid Nativity scenes, snowmen, Santas, angels and other festive attractions. More Garrison Street holiday photos, page 3.

PHOTOS BY PAUL HANSEN | THE BEACON

Planners not so pumped over World Oil plaza

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | THE BEACON

Not everyone is impressed by World Oil Marketing Company's plans to build a two-story, nearly 7,000-square-foot office building at the corner of Sunset Cliffs Boulevard and Voltaire Street in Ocean Beach.

The Ocean Beach Planning Board (OBPB) approved the project a regular session Dec. 3.

But unless project planners work with the planning board's recommendations, the aesthetically dubbed "Sunset Plaza" could forever be known as "Butt-Ugly Plaza" if approved by the city as is, according to OBPB chair Landry Watson.

According to Watson, the OBPB sent the project on to the city's Planning Commission with two

recommendations:

- that the top of the building be made to look nicer, and
- that the building is constructed and maintained using environmentally friendly practices.

"It's incumbent on project planners to make the changes to please us (the OBPB)," Watson said.

Watson said if the project builders don't want to cooperate, he might officially appeal the project.

City project staff can still approve the project without the suggested improvements, he said.

Watson said constructing and maintaining the building with environmentally sustainable practices like installing photovoltaic solar panels and avoiding the "blocky" features of the cur-

rent proposal would be a good start to working with the community.

World Oil Marketing Co. has been trying to build a gas station on the corner for several years. The currently empty, fenced-off site sits "catty-corner" to the Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market, 4675 Voltaire St., along one of the major thoroughfares in the community.

It became the site of a makeshift "people's garden" maintained by neighbors.

The original plans for a gas station met with some resistance from the community because some residents didn't want another gas station in the area, according to Watson.

SEE DEVELOPMENT, Page 5

Historic home act wins compromise

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | THE BEACON

Who knew having an old home could save you money?

Historically designated homes recognized by the city — including many in the Point Loma and Ocean Beach communities — can save owners thousands in taxes.

The statewide Mills Act started in the 1970s. The city adopted a Mills Act program in 1995, but it recently came under the mayor's budget microscope.

As a result, the City Council was recently put in the position of looking for ways to pay for the program while keeping checks on the estimated \$1.1 million in tax breaks being given to homeowners so as to not to create a revenue drain.

"So our goal was to recover the actual staff costs," said Cathy Winterrowd, a senior planner with the city. "We didn't have a number in mind that we wanted to generate a certain amount of revenue; it was just to recover staff costs."

Fee hikes totaling about \$3,000 per home were among the changes adopted by the City Council in recent weeks.

To be fair to those waiting in line, the council also decided that homes awaiting designation would pay about \$500 instead of \$1,185 just to be considered for a historic designation. The designation is a requisite for a Mills Act deal with the city.

The city now requires that new applicants for a Mills Act agreement present a 10-year plan to reinvest savings back into the program. The City Council's recently adopted changes also cap any tax



This beautiful historic home in the 2900 block of Nichols Street in the La Playa neighborhood of Point Loma is among the beneficiaries of the preservationist Mills Act. MERCY ARCOLAS | THE BEACON

losses to the city at about \$200,000 per year for the program. The city loses a little under \$100,000 in tax revenue every year because of new contracts, according to city reports.

Though the preservation community and the city butted heads over the proposed changes, at least one homegrown home historian said more fees for better regulation works to keep the historic ambience of some 885 homes in the city's Mills Act program.

"The fees would probably reduce some of the demand for the program, but the tradeoff is [that] we get better control over the properties in the program," said Bruce

SEE HISTORIC, Page 5



Another stunning example of a historic home in the La Playa neighborhood of Point Loma can be found in the 3100 block of Owen Street. MERCY ARCOLAS | THE BEACON

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These living wreaths made of succulents by Brien Prescott and Jody McFarland are festive and colorful.

COURTESY PHOTO

Funeral arranger fashions living wreaths

By JAN D. WELLIK | THE BEACON

Behind the doors of Beardsley-Mitchell Funeral Home on Sunset Cliffs Boulevard in Ocean Beach, Brien Prescott is more than the funeral arranger. He has a second life that few know about as a creator of living wreaths.

Prescott and his fiancée, Jody McFarland, grow succulents in their North Park backyard, watered completely with gray water from their washing machine. They collect the chemical-free gray water that comes from washing with biodegradable soaps and use it to water their backyard menagerie of succulents.

"We fell in love with the plants because we wanted to cut back on watering," said Prescott, a native San Diegan and owner of Gray

Water Gardens.

Succulents are drought-resistant plants, so they grow well in San Diego's climate. They are extremely resilient, grow easily and can be propagated quickly, Prescott said. The tiny tube hairs of most succulents grow back even after pieces of the plant are broken off, and the broken pieces can be transplanted in sandy soil to grow new life, Prescott said.

About two years ago, the two started turning their succulents into wreaths for friends and family. After seeing a small wreath at a native plant sale at the Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon, it inspired them to experiment with the process and produce larger sizes of 12-, 14- and 16-inch wreaths. They joined the San Diego Succulent Club and redesigned their backyard haven.

"It's therapeutic. It grounds me," Prescott said of digging in the soil. "It's like making a work of art and pasting in the right color of plant."

The living wreaths are not the typical holiday wreath — although they can be hung on the door, they prefer to be misted daily and lie flat as a centerpiece on the table. Another big difference between a succulent living wreath and the usual holiday wreath is that the succulents are bedded in dirt and moss, so they are constantly growing and changing, Prescott said.

Creating the wreaths is a way for Prescott and McFarland to unwind after busy workdays.

Prescott has been the funeral director in Ocean Beach since January and has been in the funeral business for five years. In a tense

“It’s like making a work of art and pasting in the right color of plant.”

BRIEN PRESCOTT
LIVING WREATH CREATOR

world of helping others cope with grief and loss, Prescott has the same resilient and friendly attitude as the succulents he nurtures. The time spent in the garden is “like reading a book,” he said. “Worries disappear and nothing can interfere.”

He also balances his days as an avid motorcyclist, camper, rock climber and former off-road bicycle racer. Like the active outdoor hobbies he pursues, gardening and the wreath-making process become effortless, he said, “like painting or building a model. You see it coming into its true image and time stands still.”

Unlike evergreens, succulent wreaths come in a range of colors, naturally, without bulbs and ornaments and tinsel. The succulents that Prescott uses range in color from orange and red to blue and green, and the textures have “lots of character,” he said.

The magic of the living wreath is that it can be taken apart and replanted, he said. “It’s recyclable and ever-changing.”

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Garrison Street continues its Christmas charm

While there may not be many houses on Garrison Street, its decades of tradition rivals the Christmas spirit of several other elaborately decorated neighborhoods in San Diego. Above, visitors from one of many tour buses stop to snap cell phone pictures of the glittery displays while, below, myriad Christmas icons beckon to those in the holiday spirit with Santa and a detailed Nativity scene.

PAUL HANSEN | THE BEACON



HTH teens put hearts, souls into environmental campaign

By MICHELLE HACKNEY | THE BEACON

"We were born to manifest the glory that is within us. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same."

— MARIANNE WILLIAMSON, AS QUOTED BY NELSON MANDELA

Emma Ballard and Josh Baker are inspiring people to make an impact on the world simply by letting their own light shine in their community.

Ballard and Baker are 16-year-old juniors at Point Loma's High Tech High International who have founded the OB Cleanup Crew through their internship at the San Diego Oceans Foundation (SDOF).

As part of the internship process, students are asked to complete a project throughout their semester in the work world. Many students opt for small projects that can be completed quickly, but Ballard and Baker decided taking on a larger task that would continue after they graduated would leave a better impression for generations to come. The impression they chose to leave was a selfless act of community service for the environment.

During a two-week immersion where Ballard and Baker attended the job site at SDOF for 8 hours a day, the two began to brainstorm ideas on how they could leave a legacy.

"We both agreed that bringing

awareness to the organization was crucial, as well as the need for more volunteers, and decided to enter the local community," said Ballard.

Ballard contacted the Ocean Beach Town Council to set up a meeting to discuss the OB Cleanup Crew because she felt it was important to have the support of influential community members who could assist with their plans for a mass community project.

The two students attended a Town Council meeting where they presented a speech in front of the board members and various other community leaders. They said the response was huge.

"Josh and I met a lot of people with wonderful connections and we began planning the first meet-up date," said Ballard.

Ballard and Baker say they chose to start off simple and planned a storm-drain stenciling day. Family, friends, people they met at the Town Council meeting and others they met while canvassing the community came out to help stencil more than seven drains.

"Josh and I are nearing the end of our internship through school but we both feel strongly about keeping the club going and remaining involved in the organization," said Ballard.

Future plans for the OB Cleanup Crew include street cleanups, recycling plans for

SEE TEENS, Page 4

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Point Loma-based High Tech High International High School students Josh Baker and Emma Ballard have helped establish the OB Cleanup Crew to promote environmental awareness and foster community pride.

KIRBY YAU | THE BEACON

TEENS

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

schools, possible snorkeling outings and the continuation of present programs that SDOF offers.

Canyon watch hikes are in the works as a way to monitor the upkeep of sewer pipes to avoid a possible pollution disaster in Ocean Beach. Ballard and Baker said their main goal is to get the community involved in the conservation of marine habitat so there is an impact being made in the community.

"I have been very impressed with the way these two students have taken this and run with it," said John Valencia, executive director of SDOF.

"This is the exact type of engagement and experience that High Tech High and SDOF hope for with interns," he said.

Since 1984, the SDOF has built a legacy of pioneering grassroots volunteer programs that increase understanding of marine animals, protect ecosystems and provide solutions to environmental challenges. Through their programs, community members

of all ages and backgrounds engage in hands-on volunteer work to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of San Diego's ocean, bays and waterways.

"I feel very passionate about the conservation of our natural resources," said Ballard. "Josh and I love the ocean and consider ourselves to be environmentalists, so we are proud of what we have accomplished," said Ballard.

Each semester, High Tech High sends out over 150 interns to various sites throughout San Diego. While interning at various sites, students work closely with mentors to develop a project that benefits the organization while seizing an opportunity to utilize their academic and creative skills in an authentic setting.

Projects like the one that Ballard and Baker have worked on is one example of the many student contributions through this program. High Tech High International is always looking for new mentors/organizations to provide opportunities to students.

For information, e-mail Erin Wyatt at ewyatt@hightech-high.org.

Gifts for the elderly

Finding a gift at this or any time of year can be difficult, but finding a gift for an elderly person with dementia, Alzheimer's or other disabilities can be even more daunting. Families will ask us our staff at Innovative Healthcare Consultants what might be appropriate and we offer you a small list at this time.

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This home in the 2900 block of Nichols Street in the La Playa neighborhood of Point Loma is representative of the campaign to preserve the historic nature of San Diego’s charming past.

MERCY ARCOLAS | THE BEACON

HISTORIC

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Coons, executive director of the Save our Heritage Organisation.

Historic homes benefit the city economically, according to one study.

University of San Diego economics and real estate professors concluded in a report this summer that a historical designation can raise the value of a home as much as 16 percent. That’s no surprise, Coons said, but what’s interesting is the effect on surrounding properties.

“Some economists call it an externality, or the ‘halo effect,’ but the idea is simple. Having those [historical] houses in the neighborhood increases the values of all the houses in the neighborhood,” he said.

This is on top of the boon to local craftsmen and historic-home specialists like Ron May.

May, an archeologist and president of historic preservation company Legacy 106, compiles reports on historic homes looking for an official designation.

“It’s truly foolish to penalize this program, which is actually making money for the city at a time when we’re in a financial crisis,” May said.

He said homeowners either restore the home themselves or hire professionals to restore a historic home’s façade, keeping much of the exterior as close to its original condition as possible. Homeowners can invest thousands just to become designated for the Mills Act before entering into an agreement or contract with the city, he said.

The process to prove the property as historically significant requires extensive research of the property. The property must gain approval of the city’s seven-member historic resources board.

The home of Katheryn Rhodes and Conrad Hartfell in the community of La Playa in Point Loma is considered historic because the home was once the home of Frank L. Hope, Jr., a famous master architect.

Rhodes has worked over the past several years to get the La Playa community a historic designation similar to other communities, like the Ocean Beach emerging historical district, she said.

There are about 15 homes already designated as historic in La Playa, Rhodes said.

Ocean Beach has about 70 homes in the Ocean Beach Cottage Emerging Historical District program, said Kathy Blavatt, an Ocean Beach Historical Society board member.

Blavatt said it’s beneficial to the city’s historical integrity to preserve and encourage historic cottages in Ocean Beach.

“People go to these places

because of these old houses,” she said. “It preserves the history of the place so it’s not just generic-looking.”

Historic districts along the Glenview Lane in La Jolla and the Gaslamp Quarter continue to drive tourism, according to city officials. Old Town San Diego and Balboa Park have nationally recognized historic designations, according to the San Diego Save Our Heritage Organisation website.

DEVELOPMENT

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

When the gas station project was rejected, a literal grassroots movement effectively adopted the concrete and asphalt corner, resulting in a community park that sprouted from the rubble.

The World Oil Marketing Co. later removed the unsanctioned park to the community’s dismay, Watson said.

The South Gate-based gasoline and petrol-products distributor brought the gas station proposal back before the city in 2004. The proposed project, however, was withdrawn by World Oil for unspecified reasons, according to city of San Diego project manager Morris Dye.

Now that the company has acquired the Dover Plumbing and

Heating building adjacent to the site at 4820 Voltaire St., World Oil is proposing to build commercial office space with some pedestrian-friendly landscaping and a possible eatery, Watson said.

Parking restrictions may prevent other future uses, according to city staff.

Leslie Burnside, the representative for the World Oil project was “not authorized” to speak to the press about the project, she said.

A date has not been set for when the project comes before city staff for approval, according to project managers.

The Ocean Beach Planning Board meets every first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Ocean Beach Recreation Center, 4726 Santa Monica Ave.

The board acts as an advisory board to the city on land-use and development planning.

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Formation of Restoration Advisory Board
Membership Solicitation

The Department of Defense recognizes the importance of stakeholder participation as part of its Installation Restoration (IR) Program. Therefore, Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL) is announcing the establishment of a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB is intended to enhance public participation by involving the local community in the environmental restoration process.

The RAB is an advisory body designed to act as a focal point for the exchange of information, between NBPL and the local community, regarding restoration activities. The RAB is intended to bring together community members who reflect the diverse interests within the local community, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the affected community and the installation.

RAB membership is a voluntary, non-compensated activity. RAB members will be asked to meet regularly to review and comment on technical documents and plans relating to the ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities at NBPL. Members will be expected to serve as a liaison with the community and be available to meet with community members and groups. Membership terms will be decided by the RAB. All RAB meetings will be open to the public. Technical support staff will be available to provide informational support and to assist RAB members with technical issues.

Community members interested in finding out more about the RAB are invited and encouraged to attend a community meeting that NBPL will conduct on **January 22, 2009, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**. At the meeting you will learn about the purpose of the RAB, membership opportunities and responsibilities, and hear an update on the status of installation restoration activities and future plans. RAB membership applications will be available at the community meeting. The community meeting will be held at the **United Portuguese S.E.S., 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego, California, 92106**. For additional information, please contact:

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Further information on Naval Base Point Loma is available at:
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GUEST COMMENTARY

Keep your pets safe from holiday season dangers

From the SAN DIEGO HUMANE SOCIETY

With the bustling holiday season hitting its peak today, the San Diego Humane Society (SDHS) and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals reminds pet owners to consider their pet's safety.

Holiday decorations, seasonal plants and festive treats can sometimes spell disaster for pets like cats and dogs and an emergency trip to the vet can quickly put a damper on any holiday celebration.

To keep your pets safe and healthy during the holidays, the SDHS recommends keeping the following tips in mind:

FOOD:

- Feasting on wonderful treats is all part of the fun but sharing those goodies with your favorite animal companion could be dangerous. Too much fatty, rich or even just new types of foods can lead to digestive problems.

- Bones can tear up or obstruct your pet's insides, and onions destroy a dog's red blood cells, leading to anemia. Chocolate, especially baking chocolate, can actually kill your dog, so keep it all well out of reach.

- Instead, indulge your pets with a special pet food or treat or place a few tablespoons of peanut butter stuffed in a favorite "food carrier" toy. Be sure all guests know the house rules about feeding table scraps to pets.

DECORATIONS:

- Twinkling lights around the house mean extra cords and plugs, which are very tempting "chew toys" for pets. Taping down or covering cords will help prevent shocks, burns or more serious injuries.

- Dangling tree ornaments seem like great toys to cats and dogs. Be sure dangerous ornaments such as glass and tinsel (which can be a choking hazard) are hung on high branches out of the reach of little paws and very well secured.

PLANTS:

- A number of holiday

season plants are toxic or can cause digestive upset to pets if nibbled or eaten, including ivy, holly mistletoe, poinsettias and lilies. Be sure all of the plants are kept out of reach of pets.

VISITORS:

- Guests coming in and out of your home will be at a peak and this increases the potential for pets escaping through open doors. Keep your pets safely indoors and always make sure they're wearing current identification tags and that their microchip information is up to date, just in case.

- Our pets can get just as stressed with increased guests, noise and activity. Make sure your pet always has a quiet, secure place to escape the commotion.

- Pets thrive on routine and increased activity or visitors during the holiday season can upset that routine. Try to keep your pet on his regular schedule for feeding and exercise and be sure the pet gets plenty of love and attention from you.

Serving San Diego County since 1880, the SDHS and SPCA provide vital services to animals and people alike through sheltering and adopting animals, providing positive reinforcement behavior training for adoptable animals and for owned animals through public training classes, investigating animal cruelty and neglect, providing adult and youth education programs, sharing animals through pet-assisted therapy and rescuing animals in various emergency situations.

A private nonprofit organization that receives no public or government funding, the SDHS and SPCA are supported solely by contributions, grants, bequests, investments, proceeds from the Humane Society's retail store, Muttique and some fees for service.

— *Provided as a public service by the San Diego Humane Society and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.*



GUEST COMMENTARY

Give the gift of life this holiday season

Despite widespread awareness that cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) saves lives, only 15 to 30 percent of cardiac arrest victims receive this crucial intervention. And for every minute without CPR, the survival rate for cardiac arrest falls by 7 to 10 percent.

Nationally, 166,200 out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest deaths occur every year — a statistic that could be greatly reduced by giving people the knowledge and tools to help.

As we approach the holiday season, we are excited to launch the "Heart Safe San Diego County" campaign aimed at increasing the number of San Diegans capable of providing bystander CPR.

This unique community partnership between the American Heart Association, San Diego Project Heart Beat and Supervisor Pam Slater-Price hopes to improve cardiac outcomes throughout San Diego County by increasing the availability and training of bystander CPR.

On Dec. 15, we began by reaching out to 650 9th-grade students at Westview High School in Supervisorial District

3, who received the American Heart Association's "CPR Anytime" training program in their health/physical education class.

All training sessions are being led by paramedics and/or emergency medical technicians from a local EMS agency.

These CPR-trained students, who we call "Holiday Heroes," will be encouraged to take their kits home to train family and friends in bystander CPR.

For every one student who takes home their CPR kits, it is estimated that they will train 2.5 more people — significantly expanding the reach of our program.

All "CPR Anytime" kits include DVDs with information in English, Spanish and closed-captioning.

The impact of "CPR Anytime" training in San Diego will be evaluated by the Community Program Assessment Tool (COMPASS), a database developed by the American Heart Association National Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC) Department.

COMPASS will measure the efficacy of the "CPR Anytime" program, including the number

of individuals directly and indirectly trained.

Through the COMPASS evaluation, we will be able to report our results to the County of San Diego and affiliated partners annually.

There will be no cost to the school districts.

Funding for this life-saving campaign was provided by the County of San Diego's Community Projects Grant program at Slater-Price's behest.

Additional support from private donors, corporations, or other sources would allow us to expand the campaign — and train more "holiday heroes."

This holiday season, learning to save a life could be the greatest gift of all.

For more information, call (858) 410-3850, or visit www.americanheart.org.

— *This guest commentary was submitted by San Diego County District 3 Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, Dr. James Dunford, board president of the American Heart Association — San Diego Division, and Maureen O'Connor of San Diego Project Heart Beat.*

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OPINIONS Signed letters to the editor are encouraged. All letters must include a phone number for verification. The editor may edit letters for clarity and accuracy. Letters should be 350 words or less. Views expressed are not necessarily the views of this newspaper or staff.

SUBMISSIONS Letters and photo submissions are welcomed. Those accompanied by an addressed, stamped envelope will be returned. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity.

DEADLINES All content must be received by 5 p.m. on the Thursday prior to publication.

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Arena to shudder with prehistoric thunder

By ANTHONY GENTILE | THE BEACON

San Diegans will get a rare opportunity to take a realistic look 65 million years into the past when "Walking With Dinosaurs — The Arena Spectacular" pays a visit to America's Finest City.

There will be nine productions from Jan. 1-4 at the San Diego Sports Arena.

"It could be a once-in-a-lifetime deal to see an event like this," said Ernie Hahn, general manager of the Sports Arena. "It's significant in my mind for sure."

"Walking With Dinosaurs" is based on the award-winning British Broadcasting Corporation's (BBC) television program that first aired in 1999.

The arena show made its debut in 2007 in Sydney, Australia, and has been on tour in North America since March.

Hahn can speak about the show from personal experience. He attended a performance in Los Angeles when the tour came to the Staples Center in September.

"You're looking at over \$20 million of robotics, dinosaurs and puppetry in a 100-minute show that is unlike anything else you've



The San Diego Sports Arena will be transformed into a menacing den of ancient history Jan. 1-4 during the "Walking with Dinosaurs" spectacular that will feature 10 species of lifesize and realistic dinosaur species. COURTESY PROMOTIONAL PHOTO

ever seen," Hahn said.

"It's so realistic that it feels like it would if you were actually back there at the time. You find yourself

mesmerized and captivated by the scenery around you," he said.

SEE DINOSAURS, Page 9

Offerings abound to help revelers ring in new year

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

With 2008 just about ready for the history books, it's time to look forward to the biggest party on the annual calendar — New Year's eve.

Times are tough, but for anyone wanting to celebrate the stroke of midnight and the promise that a new year brings, there is a plethora of options to choose from in every price range. Here is a look at some of the planned festivities:

- Hipsters will be drawn to the Pearl Hotel, 1410 Rosecrans St., which will be offering a New Year's celebration in its intimate poolside bar and restaurant with DJ Chris LaRose spinning tunes beginning at 9 p.m. The hotel's classy, retro décor instantly transports revelers back to a timeless yesteryear that's equal parts Rat Pack and Austin Powers but is completely sans kitsch. Dinner for two and a room at the hotel starts at \$300, but for anyone wanting to just stop in for a celebratory drink and year-end camaraderie, there is no cover. For more information, visit www.thepearlhd.com.

- Riley's Music Lounge, 2901 Nimitz Blvd., is offering classic rock from Temple of the Dad, a collection of fathers from Loma Portal Elementary School. With a set list that runs the gamut from AC/DC to Weezer, the band promises to be crowd pleasers. Always known for a boisterous good time, Riley's Music Lounge is located on the ground floor of The Quality Inn and is offering room specials for any overindulgers with a \$15 cover charge for music and party favors beginning at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.rileysmusiclounge.com.

- Hard rock fans will also have a local option, with Dream Street's (2228 Bacon St.) annual New Year's eve bash. Onstage at 9 p.m. will be "pirate rock" band Danni-

SEE NEW YEAR, Page 9

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DINOSAURS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

In the program, 10 different species of dinosaurs are represented over a span of 200 million years.

These species range from the well-known and perhaps most favorite species (Tyrannosaurus Rex and stegosaurus) to the lesser-known but crowd-pleasing varieties such as (plateosaurus and torosaurus).

The show follows the evolution of dinosaurs from origin to extinction.

"There's also a narrative, so people are learning about dinosaurs at the same time," Hahn said.

"That's why it's a great show for kids and for adults — it resonates with everyone," he said.

All of the dinosaur models are lifelike in size and appearance. The largest model is the brachiosaurus, which stands 36 feet tall and is 56 feet from head to tail.

"The fact that they're lifesize, they sound like dinosaurs would sound, they move like dinosaurs would move — it's incredible for their size," Hahn said. "It's all lifelike."

Performances at the San Diego Sports Arena are as follows:

- Jan. 1 at 7 p.m.,
- Jan. 2 and 3 at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.,
- and Jan. 4 at 1 and 5 p.m.

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster and range from \$29.50 to \$79.50.

"I've been in the arena for 17 years and I'm not sure I have seen any show of this nature," Hahn said. "It's incredible."



"Walking with Dinosaurs – The Arena Spectacular" will hit San Diego as part of a massive tour of North America that began in March. COURTESY PROMOTIONAL PHOTO

NEW YEAR

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

cus Live. Mixing Celtic influences with classic rock, the band offers a unique soundtrack for the night's revelry. Although the group's music has a foundation of acoustic guitars, this is no singer-songwriter, pop-oriented event. Dannicus Live is terrific bar or pub fare that rocks with the best of them. For more information, visit www.dreamstreetlive.com

• Anyone wanting to hear a little reggae when the clock strikes midnight is advised to head over to Winston's, 1921 Bacon St. The area's ultimate music-driven neighborhood bar promises to be the perfect spot for a friendly toast at midnight with music from reggae and funk purveyors The Devastators. Multiple San Diego Music

Awards nominees from 2004-2008, The Devastators will preview material from its upcoming third album. The day kicks off with a local art showcase from 4 to 8 p.m., with music underway at 9 p.m. There is no cover. For more information, visit www.winstonsob.com.

• Classic dance tunes from Motown to disco will keep the dance floor crowded at Humphrey's Backstage Lounge this New Year's eve. The club's recent remodel offers better sight lines to the stage, but the venue's location itself, overlooking San Diego Bay, offers one of the best views to take in as you ring in 2009. Music will be provided by one of the area's top dance groups, Detroit Underground, with tickets for the event set at \$49. For more information, visit www.humphreysby-the-bay.com/backstageMusic-Club.cfm.

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Wednesday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church hosts Christmas eve “Carols and Lessons” candlelight service at the church, 3598 Talbot St. in the sanctuary. For more information, call (619) 223-3193, or visit www.westminstersd.org.

Sunday, Jan. 4, noon to 5 p.m., Coastal Sage Gardening hosts Native Plant Sale & Open House. The event takes place at 3685 Voltaire St. For more information, call (619) 223-5229, or visit www.coastalsage.com.

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m., Point Loma Garden Club hosts its monthly meeting. The featured speaker will be Noel Tribbey, an Academy Award designer known for his floral décor work at large resorts from Las Vegas to Maui. The event takes place at 2818 Avenida de Portugal. For more information, visit www.plgc.org.

Sunday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m., annual meeting of the United Portuguese S.E.S., Inc. known as the “Contas.” The meeting takes place at the United Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. For more information, call (619) 223-5880,

or visit www.upses.com.

Sunday, March 1, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., inaugural Doggie Street Festival to promote pet adoption, featuring pet demonstrations, contests, vendors and services, live music and food. The free event takes place at NTC Park on Cushing Road at Liberty Station. For more information, visit www.doggiestreetfestival.org.

Tuesdays, 10 to 10:45 a.m., Preschool Storytime at the Ocean Beach Library, 4801 Santa Monica Ave. For more information, call (619) 531-1532.

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• January through Feb. 14, turn in boxtops for a drawing and chance to win a Webkinz Pet. For more information, call (619) 223-1683.
• Through January, yearbooks available for \$16.

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• Through Jan. 4, winter break. Classes resume Jan. 5.

PLHS

• Thursday, Jan. 22, 6 p.m., informational meeting for prospective parents and students. For more information, call (619) 223-3121, ext. 1130.

SACRED HEART ACADEMY

• Through Jan. 4, winter break. Classes resume Jan. 5.

SDCCD

• Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon, San Diego Community College’s Continuing Education Department offers free Qigong class, an ancient Chinese path to health. Classes take place at 3250 Fordham St., “A” building conference center. Walk-ins welcomed. For more information, call (619) 221-6973.

SILVER GATE

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ST. CHARLES BORROMEO

• Through Jan. 4, winter break. Classes resume Jan. 5.
• Thursday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m., PTG meeting.
• Friday, Jan. 9, 8 a.m., all-school Mass; pizza lunch for grade 6 fundraiser; grade 2 food bank

SEE CALENDAR, Page 11

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CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

field trip.

- Monday, Jan. 12, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., 2010 prospective kindergarten parent orientation and open house.
- Wednesday, Jan. 14, 6 p.m., 2nd-grade parent sacramental preparation in the Parish Event Center.
- Monday, Jan. 26, Surf Club registration due.

SUNSET VIEW

- Through Jan. 4, winter break. Classes resume Jan. 5.
- Jan. 12, Jan. 26, Feb. 2 and Feb. 23, 9:45 a.m., kindergarten tours in auditorium. This is an informational meeting for parents who have children turning 5 by Dec. 2, 2009. In addition to teachers, staff, principal and volunteers, nonresidents of Sunset View may obtain Choice and VEEP applications. For more information, call (619) 223-7156.

HEALTH

Saturday, Dec. 27, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Cold Stone Creamery hosts the San Diego Blood Bank bloodmobile at 2401 Truxtun Road in the Liberty Station Marketplace. For more information, call (800) 479-3902, ext. 0.

Friday, Jan. 2, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Cold Stone Creamery hosts the San Diego Blood Bank bloodmobile at 2401 Truxtun Road in the Liberty Station Marketplace. For more information, call (800) 479-3902, ext. 0.

SENIORS

Tuesday, Jan. 6, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Sharp Cabrillo Senior Resource Center hosts a free blood pressure screening clinic at the Peninsula Family YMCA, 4390 Valeta St. No appointments are necessary and the public is welcome. For more information, call (800) 827-4277 or visit www.sharp.com.

Wednesday, Jan. 7, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sharp Cabrillo Senior Resource Center hosts a free blood pressure screening clinic at the St. Agnes Catholic Church, 1145 Evergreen St. No appointments are necessary and the public is welcome. For more information, call (800) 827-4277 or visit www.sharp.com.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Through Jan. 4, Quilt Visions presents a new exhibit, "Playing with a Full Deck, Art Quilts from the Warren and Nancy Brakensiek Contemporary Art Collection," at Visions Art Quilt Gallery at the NTC Promenade of Liberty Station. The exhibition was originally organized by Sue Pearce and circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and features 54 quilts by renowned quilt artists. The exhibit is located at 2825 Dewey Road, Suite 100. For more

information, call (619) 546-4872, or visit www.quiltvisions.org.

VENUES

Canes Bar and Grill, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, (858) 488-1780

- Friday, Dec. 26, 8 p.m., Blue Sky Blonde performs with Fuzz Huzzi, Bombay Status and Deny the Silents. Tickets are \$9.
- Saturday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m., Chasing Claymores performs with Four Kings and Uncle Junkie. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.
- Wednesday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m., New Year's Eve 2008 featuring B-Side Players. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door.

Club Riley's, 2901 Nimitz Blvd., (619) 255-8635

- Mondays beginning Jan. 5, 9 p.m., CTK Comics That Kill comedy show. The cover charge is \$5 and includes free pool.

San Diego Sports Arena, 3500 Sports Arena Blvd., (619) 225-0176

- Jan. 1-4, varying times, "Walking with Dinosaurs: The Arena Spectacular," featuring 10 species of roaring, lifelike dinosaurs based on the award-winning BBC television series "Walking with Dinosaurs." Ticket prices range

from \$29.50 to \$79.50. Showdates and times: Thursday, Jan. 1, 7 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 2 and Saturday, Jan. 3, 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 4, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

- Saturday, Feb. 7, Smucker's Stars on Ice returns for 23rd season with "On the Edge," featuring a cast of Olympic, world and international champions, including Olympic silver medalist Sasha

Cohen. For ticket prices and information, visit www.sandiegosportsarena.com.

Winston's Beach Club, 1821 Bacon St., (619) 222-6822

- Friday, Dec. 26, 7 p.m., Steven Kendrick headlines at Ocean Beach Comedy series with "How Steven Kendrick Stole Christmas." Tickets are \$5.

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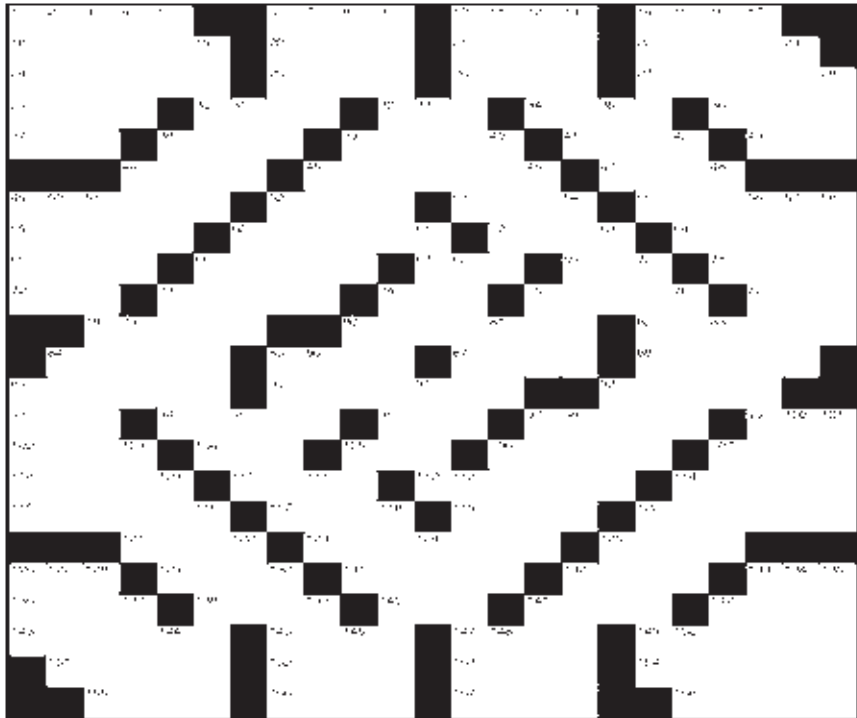
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- 1 Overcharge for tickets
 - 6 Musical symbol
 - 10 Stuff
 - 14 Recipe amount
 - 18 Life's work
 - 20 For — or money
 - 21 Bee housing
 - 22 British —
 - 24 Hire
 - 25 Kind of surgeon
 - 26 Abbr. in footnotes
 - 27 Black eye
 - 29 Midday
 - 30 Decorative jar
 - 32 Certain voter (abbr.)
 - 34 Arrow cousin
 - 36 Victim
 - 37 Playing card
 - 38 Do an office job
 - 39 Lopsided
 - 41 Praise
 - 43 DDE's nickname
 - 44 Phone
 - 45 Supreme ruler
 - 47 Enlarged
 - 49 Worker walkout
 - 52 Ali —
 - 53 Operatic song
 - 55 Benefit
 - 59 Terre —
 - 60 Saloon
 - 62 Kind of salt
 - 64 Pied — of Hamelin
 - 65 Multitude
 - 66 Less coarse
 - 67 Climbing plant
 - 69 Taxi
 - 71 Big book
 - 72 Court
 - 73 Vehicles on runners
 - 74 Schuss
 - 75 True-blue
 - 77 Portable bed
 - 78 Machine part
 - 80 — Alan Arthur
 - 82 NT book
 - 84 Intelligent
 - 85 Antitoxins
 - 87 Dry
 - 88 Joyfully
 - 89 Group of singers
 - 90 Wonder child
 - 92 Poorly
 - 93 Farm bird
 - 94 Altar
 - 96 Poem
 - 97 Day of the movies
 - 99 School org.
 - 102 Ship of myth
 - 104 Actress — Farrow
 - 105 Pair
 - 106 Car type
 - 107 Pencil remnant
 - 108 Javelin
 - 110 Bone (prefix)
 - 112 Clear and bright
 - 114 Backbone
 - 115 Felt-tip pen
 - 117 That girl's
 - 119 Sign gas
 - 120 Tap
 - 121 Astonish
 - 123 Paving material
 - 125 Tend
 - 126 Jump
 - 129 Birthright seller
 - 131 Put up
 - 132 — in-the-pulpit
 - 133 Small dog
 - 136 Nurse
 - 138 Kind
 - 140 Qty.
 - 141 Canine cry
 - 142 Hard-rind fruit
 - 143 Servile
 - 145 Say grace
 - 147 Particular
 - 149 Oozed
 - 151 Effrontery
 - 152 If not
 - 153 Weathercock
 - 154 Repeat performance
 - 155 Lascivious look
 - 156 Expensive
 - 157 Ceases
 - 158 Pilfer
- DOWN
- 1 Odor
 - 2 Kayak
 - 3 Inert gas
 - 4 Tilt
 - 5 Wooden pin
 - 6 Shut
 - 7 Traditional learning
 - 8 One of the Gabor sisters
 - 9 Common mineral
 - 10 Monster of Greek myth
 - 11 Tease
 - 12 Eager
 - 13 Military decoration
 - 14 Bother
 - 15 Cigar residue
 - 16 Slide
 - 17 Painter — Matisse
 - 19 Vituperate
 - 23 Hide and —
 - 28 Cereal grass
 - 31 Totality
 - 33 Supplement (with "out")
 - 35 Dust cloth
 - 38 Phony
 - 39 Yellow color
 - 40 Concern
 - 42 Profound
 - 44 Metropolis
 - 45 Roof part
 - 46 — de Janeiro
 - 48 Tiny amount
 - 49 George Bernard —
 - 50 Source of poi
 - 51 Gossiping one
 - 52 Dance orchestra
 - 54 Agreement
 - 56 Of ultimate doom
 - 57 Like a citrus fruit
 - 58 Fingerboard bars
 - 60 Layer
 - 61 Victory goddess
 - 63 A letter
 - 66 Floating wreckage
 - 68 Face
 - 70 — basement
 - 73 Walk proudly
 - 74 Follow in secret

- 75 Flower necklace
- 76 Lots
- 79 Scull
- 80 — Magnon
- 81 Endeavor
- 83 Wire measure
- 84 Himalayas guide
- 85 Spatter
- 86 Before
- 89 Abyss
- 91 Graven image
- 92 Headless nail
- 95 Life story, for short
- 97 Station
- 98 Norse god
- 100 Melody
- 101 Aid and —
- 103 Trees
- 105 Not wordy
- 106 Food fish
- 107 Tater
- 109 Nerve network
- 111 Brewed beverage
- 113 Dormant
- 114 Went down
- 116 Cattle thief
- 118 Atomizer
- 120 Changeable
- 122 Certain vote
- 124 — and haw
- 125 Impair
- 126 Showy actor
- 127 Portent
- 128 Discussion group
- 130 Raised
- 132 Bond or Dean
- 133 Tea variety
- 134 "Aida" is one
- 135 Cover girl
- 137 Charter
- 139 — Stanley Gardner
- 141 Stoop
- 142 Treaty
- 144 Rd. cousin
- 146 Red — beet
- 148 Light brown
- 150 Letters



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