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THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009

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The young and the irritable

An agitated seal pup checks out an unidentified surfer in Ocean Beach south of Newport Avenue on Tuesday. The pup, which likely was trying to catch a little rest from the large surf that has been pounding local beaches this week, reportedly was none too happy with passersby disturbing his rest time. Lifeguards eventually coned off a small area around the seal to help separate him from contact with humans.

COURTESY PHOTO BY JOE EWING

SD River to get cleansing from volunteers

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN | THE BEACON

The sixth annual San Diego River Days — “two weeks of discovery and giving back to the San Diego River” — are scheduled May 9 to 17, with the whole thing kicking off at the Dog Beach paw print at the end of Voltaire Street in Ocean Beach on May 9 at 8 a.m.

The Dog Beach cleanup fol-

lows at 9 a.m.; subsequent activities include a bike ride, a hike in a proposed wilderness area, a river garden open house and a look at the river's future education center site. You can find out more about the Days' 30 events by accessing sandiegoriver.org and clicking on the appropriate link.

What you can't do is hope to discover the river's significance

throughout local history, at least not firsthand. After all, we're talking a length of 52 miles, stretching from Santa Ysabel in east San Diego County to the El Capitan Reservoir to Lakeside, Santee and Mission Valley to Ocean Beach. The waterway's less-than-pristine condition in some areas stems from decades

SEE RIVER, Page 7

Experts breathe sigh of relief as threat of swine flu diminishes

By ALYSSA RAMOS | THE BEACON

Despite officials closing three San Diego city schools, fearing students infected with swine flu may spread the virus, experts say the H1N1 flu is no more dangerous than the average strain.

San Diego County health officials reported 29 confirmed cases of the strain May 6, while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 642 U.S. cases in 41 states including 67 in California — and two confirmed deaths. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported 1,516 cases in 22 countries worldwide and 30 deaths, as of press time.

Experts such as La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology's (LJIAI) Alessandro Sette, Ph.D., said the virus is not as virulent as they first thought, offering insight into several possibilities for the public's reactions toward the H1N1 virus.

“The early data that was coming out in the first few days would suggest a fairly severe mortality rate.

The data that is now crystallizing is suggesting that is not the case,” Sette said. “It is not that different than the seasonal flu.”

Although Sette studies infectious diseases and is not a sociologist, the scientist said a number of factors could have spurred public fears regarding the swine flu, including a lack of public knowledge regarding the seasonal flu and the word pandemic.

“There's a certain confusion of pandemic versus epidemic,” Sette said. “Pandemic doesn't mean severe — it means widespread disease. Epidemic means an outbreak. When an epidemic is all over the world it is a pandemic, but it doesn't mean it has a high mortality.”

A pandemic can spread benign infections, according to Sette.

“I think the lack of information early on, on how much society is affected by the seasonal flu, made people more prone to panicking,” Sette said. “In general, when some-

SEE FLU, Page 2

Area's hungry, homeless see stepped-up relief

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | THE BEACON

She takes down names and hands out groceries to the men, women and families who've found themselves living out of their cars or otherwise in need of a small bag of food.

Leigh Ann Bearce, who coordinates a handful of volunteers at the Loaves and Fishes food bank inside Holy Trinity Church, 2083 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., packs plastic grocery bags full of goodies like Slim Jims, peanut butter, bread and tuna for people struggling through tough times. Loaves and Fishes even offers soap and shampoo.

With the help of different groups of volunteers, Bearce has been with the Loaves and Fishes program since November 2006 handing out food every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The program has existed for 30 years in churches throughout Ocean Beach.

But over the last year, the type of people coming through her door has changed as the national and local economy has taken a dive.

“I see more families now,” she said. “I can't give you an exact number but it's increased.”

On this day, just after being interviewed, Bearce opened the doors of the Loaves and Fishes to yet

another family in need.

A mother corralled her two children behind her as she carried the youngest in her arms. The toddler wore only a diaper made from a small, striped beach towel fastened around his waist with a shoelace. The man with them clutched a manila folder full of papers to his chest as he tailed them. The folder may well have contained the family's most important documents. He didn't seem like he wanted to talk.

Counting the number of homeless families and individuals in San Diego is the job of the San Diego

SEE HOMELESS, Page 5



Volunteers Josh Wolfinger, left, and Douglas Veronda collect and bag food for the Loaves and Fishes food bank program in Ocean Beach before distributing it to the area's homeless and hungry population.

PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN RUIZ | THE BEACON



Look for the new OB Local Business Directory delivered with The Peninsula Beacon next Thursday, May 14th or delivered to your door in selected areas of Ocean Beach on Saturday, May 16th.

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OceanBeachSanDiego.com

Peace advocates to take a stand on Sunset Cliffs

By JOSEPH GREENBERG | THE BEACON

For five minutes on Sunday, May 10, peace lovers will gather at the intersection of Guizot and Froude streets near Sunset Cliffs and stand in silence to send a message of effecting positive change to the world.

The Mother's Day event will begin at 12:40 p.m. with free coffee for participants. The five-minute, hand-clasped stand of silence will officially begin at 1 p.m., ending at 1:05 p.m.

"The whole premise behind the event is that we can all afford to take that small amount of time. If people don't want to show up early for coffee they can show up at 12:55 to participate," said event organizer Caroline Bunyard.

"We each bring our own bell to ring a few minutes before 1 p.m. to usher in the five minutes of silence. We will ring them again after the five minutes have passed," Bunyard said. She also encourages participants to ring those bells in whichever way they choose.

There will be nothing for sale, nothing to buy, according to Bunyard. Organizers will not even be accepting donations. The stand is not officially affiliated with any kind of political or religious message.

"We are going to hold hands and be silent ... each person can envision the positive change in the world they wish to see," said Bunyard.

Bunyard's organizational efforts have included passing out flyers she paid for herself and the recruitment of volunteers. She said she has attracted significant interest in the stand, which is in its third year.

"Last year's [Ocean Beach] turnout

was 25 to 30 people," Bunyard said. "It was kind of a pathetic little number. This year, we are reaching out much farther. I personally want to make a huge statement and I want people to walk away from this with a feeling that we are all in it together."

This will be Bunyard's first time organizing the event, which was originally started by a women's group in Ohio. The event has grown to span across the U.S. and include the participation of 12 other countries.

"When I close my eyes during the five minutes of silence, I envision connecting with the people participating throughout the world and it takes on a much bigger feeling," Bunyard said.

Bunyard sees the world her children are growing up in and realizes it's not the same one she had.

"It doesn't seem fair," Bunyard said. "I wish people in general would wake up and realize we are not doing [future generations] any service."

The event is not so much about making those changes in the moment, according to Bunyard. She said the event is simply taking five minutes to think about things people can change to make the world a better place for the generations to come.

Two weeks ago, there were only 10 other locations where participants were gathering to stand for peace as a part of the movement. Today, that number has grown to 144 different locations in 12 different nations with more people reportedly getting involved every day, Bunyard said. For information or for ideas in forming additional gathering locations, visit www.standingwomen.org.



Giving the gift of life

San Diego Blood Bank worker Corrine Manzon, left, checks on blood donor Kevin Otsuka at Loma Portal Elementary School on Thursday, April 30. Otsuka, president of Point Loma Little League, helped raise awareness that one of the league's parents has been diagnosed with a condition that requires blood donations. PHOTO BY KIRBY YAU | THE BEACON

FLU

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

thing is not known, until there is [data] and how easily it spreads it is legitimate to be on your highest guard."

An average of 36,000 people in the U.S. die from the seasonal flu each year, Sette said. According to the CDC, the deaths resulted from complications. The CDC says older people, young children and others with health conditions are at greater risk for complications, adding that "every year in the United States, on average 5 percent to 20 percent of the popula-

tion gets the flu; more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications..."

"Obviously we need to be totally vigilant and to monitor this strain. Influenza strains do mutate over time," Sette said. "It's helpful to point out that viruses do mutate in either direction, but viruses in circulation tend to become less virulent."

Sette said the Ebola virus would be an example of an ineffective virus. Although Ebola is deadly, the virus kills its host so quickly that it can't spread, Sette said.

Scientists like Sette can create a vaccine for a new influenza strain such as H1N1 — or swine flu — in

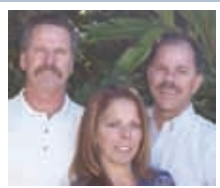
a few months, he said. And if the virus mutates, Sette said, they would most likely need to create a new vaccine.

"Influenza viruses mutate over time. Eventually viruses mutate enough to require new vaccines," Sette said.

Jack Brandais, spokesman for San Diego Unified School District, said parents will continue to receive taped messages regarding the outbreaks. As of May 6, the three county schools that had closed last week due to suspected swine flu had reopened.

For more information, visit www.sandi.net, www.sdcounty.ca.gov or www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu.

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International outreach: It's in the bag

By PATRICIA M. WALSH | THE BEACON

The common reusable bag, in its myriad materials, patterns, sizes and colors, has become perhaps the most recognizable modern-day icon for activism and environmentalism.

On Saturday, May 9 at the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library, that bag will also be a sack of hope for children here and around the world.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., students from the Cambio Club at High Tech High International (HTHI) in Point Loma will partner with the local chapter of Voices of Women to lead a workshop on making the reusable bags.

Proceeds from the bags will support the Cambio Club's mission to raise money for a school in Ecuador. Materials will be provided and each bag will cost \$7 with a two-bag minimum.

Bags previously made by the students will also be on sale for \$7 each.

"It's all part of the 'think globally and act locally' [movement]," said Melissa Agudelo, a history teacher and the club's liaison at HTHI. "It's also a way for us to raise money and awareness about the United Nation's millennium goals. Environmental sustainability is one of the four goals, and since this project is taking bags off the street it's achieving that goal."

The UN's other millennium goals are to end poverty and hunger, strengthen universal education and ensure gender equality.

Saturday's bag-making event and the money it raises are made possible by a variety of unique relationships that stretch the globe and include the Voice of Women who

mentor the students in the Cambio Club, which is a participating member of the O Ambassadors, a project of Oprah Winfrey and Free The Children's Craig Kielburger that encourages young people to become active global citizens.

The Cambio Club was created at High Tech High International in February 2007. Since then, the club has raised \$2,600 — \$1,000 of which has come from making and selling reusable bags.

The Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library is located at 3701 Voltaire St. Pre-registration to make the one-of-a-kind bags of hope, which also have a unique pocket feature that folds the bag into a small square, is encouraged and can be done by e-mailing rsvp@voicesofwomen.org.

For more information, visit www.voicesofwomen.org.



Cambio Club students at High Tech High International who are making reusable bags to raise money to support a school in Ecuador include, from left, Ana Lam, Serina Chantrachuck, Lamont Weir II, Carmen Mason, Marissa Wong, Alexx Igaki, Rishika Daryanani, Andrea Salvani, Cecilia Yeung and Sabrina Bryant.

PHOTO BY PATRICIA M. WALSH | THE BEACON

Rebirth of Old Town's iconic park to debut Saturday

By KEVIN MCKAY | THE BEACON

San Diego's colorful history will take center stage Saturday, May 9 as residents gather to celebrate the rebirth of Old Town's engaging state historic park once known as Bazaar del Mundo and, most recently, its publicly unpopular operation as Plaza del Pasado.

Renamed Fiesta de Reyes — meaning "celebration of kings" — the sprawling tribute to early California history will be marked by grand opening festivities from 1 to 9 p.m. throughout the courtyard and complex bounded by Juan and Calhoun streets.

Among the activities and sights will be roaming performers, stilt walkers, jugglers and musical entertainment by one of Old Town's highly regarded mariachi groups, Los Rios.

One of the highlights of the grand opening will be "Zirk Ubu's Circus and Traveling Medicine Show" — a one-ring circus that will feature a bearded woman, Flying Man, street performers Mango and Dango, a bed of nails, sword swallowing, mys-

tical healings, potions and other forms of entertainment. The show takes place beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Old Town San Diego Historic State Park is known for capturing the ambiance of California's first European settlement as California was evolving from a Mexican pueblo to an American frontier town.

The transformed Fiesta de Reyes will sport a very different look than San Diegans have been used to seeing, according to Chuck Ross, president of the Old Town Family Hospitality Corp. that will operate the facility.

"Old Town is important to San Diegans because, besides being the birthplace of California, it embodies

culture and what it is that San Diego stands for as a whole," said Ross. "We have been saying for some time that we wanted to create something new, something different. That is what we have done."

"We have created a new look and a new feel with very different landscaping and ambiance than even many longtime San Diegans are used to seeing," he said. "We think we have been successful because it has been perceived very well by those who have seen what we have done."

For more information, call (619) 297-3100, or visit www.fiestadereyesblog.com.

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Ask The Lawyer

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The best way to list the beneficiaries is to name an individual or list of individuals. If the spouse is the appropriate beneficiary, it is best to list them as the beneficiary. The spouse can rollover the IRA into their own IRA. Other individuals can rollover the IRA into an IRA, but they will be required to take a yearly minimum distribution. This amount is based on the beneficiaries' life expectancy and the financial institution will figure it out for you.

In certain circumstances you can name a trust as a beneficiary and it can get the same rollover treatment. Check with your financial institution and your estate planning attorney. The benefit of a rollover IRA is that the funds can continue to have tax deferred treatment. The interest income and dividends will not be taxed until the money is taken out of the IRA.

Now, I have a question for you — have you funded your 2009 IRA yet?

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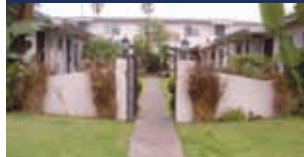
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Ocean Beach | \$595,000



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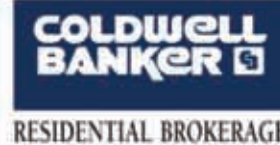


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NewsBriefs

Police seeking clues to nature of man's death

Police said they still have no clue what led to the apparent homicide of 56-year-old Richard Swink, a homeless man found stabbed near the Ocean Beach Branch Library on Santa Monica Avenue on April 29, at about 6 a.m.

Police are distributing pictures of Swink throughout the neighborhood in hopes someone will come forward with additional information about the death, said San Diego Police Department Lt. Kevin Rooney.

"We're hopeful that putting those flyers out, that somebody's going to call," Rooney said. "But as of now we have not received any tips."

Swink was a longtime San Diegan who was a transient at the time of his death, Rooney said.

Police say a man originally alerted an Arco gas station attendant along Sunset Cliffs Boulevard that a man was lying injured on the ground near the library.

Swink suffered a stab wound, according to investigators.

"We simply don't know what preceded him being [found] on the sidewalk," Rooney said.

Residents with information can call the police department at (619) 531-2293, or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

MTS rolls out smart card to bus, trolley riders

Three area agencies launched the county's new Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) smart card Friday, May 1, designed to replace paper transit passes for 90,000 riders throughout the

region.

The reloadable Compass Card automatically deducts fare amounts as passengers swipe it through electronic validators; it can also be electronically registered to replace monthly and 30-day paper passes.

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), MTS and North County Transit District launched the program at Downtown's Santa Fe Depot. The Compass Card is now the only monthly pass for Coaster and Premium Express riders. MTS bus, trolley, Sprinter and Breeze passengers will begin with the card next month.

San Diego-based Cubic Corporation built the system, which places San Diego among cities worldwide that use it.

OB Exposed! in 15th year of capturing Peninsula

The Ocean Beach Historical Society (OBHS) is looking for a few good photos — from you.

The OBHS is launching its 15th annual OB Exposed! photography contest and exhibit in its bid to grow the historical society's archives chronicling the Peninsula area's visual history.

The popular event will be highlighted by the exhibit on Friday, May 15 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The deadline for entry is Wednesday, May 8. Submissions should be turned in at James Gang Graphics, 1931 Bacon St. in Ocean Beach. Each entry will cost \$1, according to Pat James, OBHS president.

The May 15 exhibit takes place at the Masonic Center, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. in Ocean Beach.

The photo contest is open to all age levels, style and experience, and submissions may be either color or black and white, James said. The only caveat is that the entries must have been taken in Ocean Beach or Point Loma.

Categories include:

- best in show;
- best color;
- best vintage (historic photos);
- best special effects;
- best child's under 16; and
- people's choice (voted on by show attendees).

There will be another category for professional photographers whose work will be displayed but will not be part of the judging, said James.

Submissions must be matted or mounted on card stock or other art paper and not have frames.

This year's awards presenter will be Ocean Beach resident Noah Taffola, who received a media award for his "Wonderland" series that airs on KPBS-TV.

The Ocean Beach Historical Society's archives are currently housed at the Point Loma United Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. — the same location the OBHS has its monthly meetings.

For more information, call (619) 225-1753, or visit www.obhistory.wordpress.com.

Harvey Milk breakfast to honor slain activist

The Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast Committee and the Greater San Diego Business Association will hold its premiere breakfast Friday, May 22 from 7 to 9 a.m. in honor of the slain gay activist and his civil justice agenda.

Milk, who would have been 79 on May 22, was reportedly the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California. The Harvey Milk Breakfast will be held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 1355 North Harbor Drive. Tickets are \$35. For further information, call the Greater San Diego Business Association at (619) 296-4543.



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HOMELESS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Regional Task Force on the Homeless. Every January for the last four years, the private nonprofit group has counted individual homeless people across San Diego County.

About 400 task force volunteers count heads over a four-hour period throughout the 18 cities in the county, according to Kiefer Rich, the task force's project manager. Volunteers enter the numbers into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) used by the city and county to apply for housing grants.

As of January 2008, the task force reported at least 7,582 homeless individuals throughout the county. But there's probably more than that, Rich said.

The San Diego State University (SDSU) Institute of Public Health hasn't released this year's numbers as yet, but Rich said numbers are "relatively similar." He expects a preliminary report from SDSU within a month.

Arriving at an exact number remains a difficult task, Rich said. Families underreport homelessness out of fear and the social stigma associated with homelessness.

"You can imagine what it's like trying to find people who don't want to be found," he said. "A lot of families are hesitant to fill out a survey, because they might run into problems with the law (such as Child Protective Services)."

While service providers find it difficult counting minors, families and individuals who don't want to be found, the group does have success tracking others.

Military veterans still make up a significant portion of the region's

homeless population. According to the 2008 task force survey, veterans comprise one-sixth of the population in need of housing.

Since 1981, the Veteran's Village of San Diego (VVSD) on Pacific Highway has provided transitional housing, job and medical resources for veterans. About 146 veterans currently live in the housing near the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, according to VVSD CEO Phil Landis. The village is in the middle of an expansion.

City Council approved about \$2.1 million in funding on May 5 to build another two-story transitional housing that can hold up to 96 beds as part of the final phase of expansion. The affordable housing will be offered to veterans on a sliding scale, depending on their income, Landis said.

Landis has noticed many younger veterans returning from the current conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan have started to seek help at the VVSD, Landis said.

"It's heartbreaking, but that's the reality of it," Landis said.

The VVSD tracks individuals for about six months after participants complete a counseling or transitional housing program. Many find work to sustain themselves, Landis said.

"It takes remarkable courage and self determination but a large number successfully do that," Landis said.

Landis said the current fiscal crisis hasn't affected the VVSD. The group has not had to lay anyone off or shutter any programs. The VVSD, however, still needs to raise about \$1 million to complete the rest of the project and will hold fundraisers to do so.

Like the VVSD, several churches in the beach communities — includ-

“It really starts with getting a good meal. When people aren't eating right they start making bad decisions.”

GUS
LOAVES AND FISHES PARTICIPANT

ing the Loaves and Fishes program in Ocean Beach — rely heavily on donations.

To help augment a limited food supply of Holy Trinity's Loaves and Fishes, the Point Loma Methodist Church will host a dual-benefit concert and spaghetti dinner Friday, May 15 at the Point Loma Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd.

"We want to raise some money from the dinner and fill the cupboards up bursting with food," Bill Joyce, president of the United Methodist Men's Fellowship. "This is a chance to raise money to buy supplies and food because they never have enough food."

The spaghetti dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. and costs \$5 per individual or \$15 per family. A classic rock concert will feature local musicians like Glen Fisher and the First Fridays Club, which is made up of elementary and middle school kids who know how to rock. A bag of canned food such as canned tuna, canned vegetables, canned fruit and peanut butter is the price of admission.

While proceeds from the spaghetti dinner will go to fill Loaves and Fishes coffers to buy needed items, the food will go directly to the orga-

nization's food chest.

The food will help individuals like Gus, a San Diego native who declined to give his last name because he didn't want his real name published on the Internet. After working in kitchens on the East Coast for several years, he returned to San Diego about four years ago. He soon found himself living out of a van in Ocean Beach.

Gus said while he is on the hunt for a job, the Loaves and Fishes program helps him get by.

"It really starts with getting a good meal," Gus said. "When people aren't eating right they start making bad decisions."

Those bad decisions can often lead homeless people to trespass onto private property or commit crimes to survive. The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) has a Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)

that enforces the law and helps individuals get the resources they need, said SDPD Northern Division Capt. Shelley Zimmerman.

"It's not a crime to be homeless," Zimmerman said. "[But] business owners [can] authorize us to enforce any and all applicable laws so long as the business owners are involved in the prosecution."

HOT is scheduled to make a presentation to the La Jolla Town Council on Friday, May 15 at the La Jolla Town Recreation Center, 615 Prospect Place, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

While business owners and residents call to complain about homelessness in every part of the city, Zimmerman said HOT and the department tries to help first.

"There's a lot of resources for them and we try to get them help," Zimmerman said. "But they have to be willing to take that help."

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EDITORIAL

May 19 special election is no time to sit on sidelines

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN

Australia enjoys lots of buzz about its total greatness, from both seasoned visitors and those who admire that wonderful place from afar (for the record, I'm in the latter camp). First of all, it's the only spot on earth that's at once a nation and a continent; right away, that duality sparks fascinating visions of a brawny public spirit and government machinery. Second, the British founded it as one giant penal colony, with the first of those opened in 1788, which means that today's native, non-Aboriginal Australians are descendants of people with supposedly criminal pasts. The tie that binds may be a dubious one, but at least it's a tie for which the U.S. has no historic match, and that makes it sort of exotic and — well — cool.

Another common element in Australian life centers around something at which we might look askance — mandatory voting. Nobody throws you into the Coral Sea if you fail to cast a ballot on election day, but you can eventually be subject to a series of fines and, in extreme cases, a jail sentence. Even as we puzzle over this state of affairs, we must acknowledge that for better or worse, its effect yields a definitive public consensus on the issues. And this hasn't hurt. Australia enjoys a much higher standard of living than its Asian neighbors, and the Mercer Worldwide Quality of Living Index routinely ranks cities like Sydney and Melbourne among the best in the world.

On Tuesday, May 19, California will hold an election on six propositions, whose topics range from changes in the budget process to lottery modernization to mental health funding to elected officials' salaries. It's no surprise that each proposal touches on fiscal matters in one way or another — California is more than \$65 billion in debt, with most of that supported through taxes, and there's nowhere near enough tax money to go around these days.

Accordingly, maybe we're all feeling as though our votes are futile — special elections tend to be poorly noticed anyway, but *calitics.com*'s Brian Leubitz wrote on April 28 that "[T]he turnout will be abysmal; perhaps we'll get 20 percent of registered voters to vote. If the voters tell the Legislature to go to hell, nobody should be shocked. These voters are the most active and the most partisan. On the right, they can't stand

taxes, and on the left, well, they have a heart and cannot stomach the thought of additional cuts."

Leubitz also said that if the voters fail to pass Proposition 1A — which conceivably limits future deficits by increasing the state's "rainy day" fund and extends recently passed state taxes for up to two years — the rest of the proposals won't matter, because "the budget will explode. In effect, the task that the Legislature couldn't accomplish, saving the budget from collapse, is now somehow the voters' responsibility ... [W]hy must the voters do the heavy lifting that the Legislature has failed to do?"

I know the feeling. I used to live in Ventura, at a time when City Council continually foisted deadlocks onto the public for a vote when it couldn't come up with solutions on its own. We didn't put those guys in office because we'd always agree with 'em, damn it; we put them in office to lead us through good times and bad. Their persistence in seeking constructive solutions on downtown growth issues and affordable housing might not have gained them a following, but at least the democratic process would have worked.

And you just can't claim a viable democratic process with one person in five casting a ballot. That's like benching four of your five starters during a basketball game — Michael Jordan, after all, didn't win seven titles by himself, any more than we can expect a working consensus on the state budget, no matter how lopsided in either direction the May 19 result may be.

The people who created this nation understood that forgoing a vote is also a means of helping shape a free society. I can relate. I choose never to vote on judgments, for example, because I just can't reconcile the arbitrary (and very private) nature of the judges' decisions. But a wholesale sit-out, especially at this pivotal point in California history, can't help but impact an already disgraceful situation of our own making. That's why in my wildest dreams, in which Sydney and Melbourne are frequent visitors, I'll sometimes find myself thinking out loud: Maybe Australia's on to something.

— Martin Jones Westlin is editor of *Downtown News*, a sister publication of *the Peninsula Beacon*.



GUEST EDITORIAL

Hard work on budget reform lies ahead

By LORI SALDAÑA

After several weeks of painful negotiations, fiery speechmaking, a GOP leadership coup and all-night legislative sessions, the California State Legislature passed a budget on Feb. 19.

The budget includes \$41 billion in solutions that address the current-year shortfall and enacts the 2009-10 budget four months early. It includes \$15.12 billion in expenditure reductions, including more than \$13 billion in cuts, \$14.4 billion in taxes, and \$11.9 billion in borrowing.

This formula may change pending the state's tax receipts later this spring and whatever the state receives in the federal stimulus money.

We have difficult work to do on creating jobs, addressing the foreclosure crisis and jumpstarting the state's economy, so getting this budget passed and enacted is necessary if we are to move forward on the state's other pressing needs.

If the Legislature hadn't passed the budget, the state would have halted construction on a number of infrastructure projects resulting in the loss of tens of thousands of jobs and the state becoming increasingly unable to provide much-needed assistance to increasing numbers of unemployed and financially distressed Californians.

Budget solutions crafted in negotiations between Democrats, Republicans and the governor reflect the state's nearly \$42 billion shortfall and the nation's grim economic reality.

There isn't much to like in this budget and there is a lot all sides have to learn to live with until the economy improves, but dealing with the budget is an essential step to addressing these other economic issues.

In a surprising move, the California Chamber of Commerce, the state's premier advocate for business interests, came out in sup-

port of the plan, acknowledging that a combination of cuts and revenues will be necessary to save the state from a fiscal meltdown. That shows you the severity of our budget situation and its effect on the entire economy.

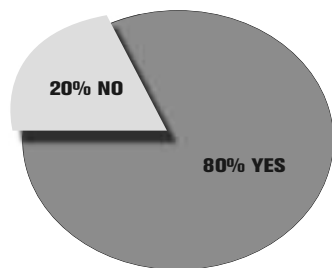
I believe we have prevented the worst from happening — the complete debilitation of state government with dire consequences for the rest of the state's economy.

Now our work begins to create jobs, reform the budget process and keep people in their homes.

— Lori Saldaña represents the 76th Assembly District and serves as the Assembly Speaker Pro Tem.

poll

Results of polling for our online question ending May 6: "Would you like to see the creation of a new Peninsula Town Council?" Votes cast: 25



NEW QUESTION: Do you think a separate San Diego Coastal Unified School District is a viable idea? Cast your vote through Wednesday, May 20.

VOTE ONLINE AT
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Tuesday, May 19: California special election quick hit

Visit the League of Women Voters (<http://ca.lwv.org>) to read about the propositions in full under "The Next Election" on the main page. See who supports and opposes the measures. If you

don't have time to read the background on the propositions, scroll down to read "what a yes or no vote means" and a summary of the proponents and opponents arguments.

In a nutshell:

- Prop. 1A changes the state constitution to limit government spending and increase the "rainy day" fund.

- Prop. 1B amends the state constitution to set aside \$9.3 billion in supplemental education funds to replace Prop. 98 that requires a minimum level of state funding for schools and community colleges.

- Prop. 1C allows California to borrow against future lottery profits, enhance the flexibility of the lottery to increase its prof-

itability, and replace lottery payments to education with increased education funding from the state's general fund.

- Prop. 1D redirects funds for early childhood development programs to temporarily pay for the state's general fund costs for existing programs for children up to age five and to help balance the budget.

- Prop. 1E redirects funding that expands mental health programs to the state's general fund for two years.

- Prop. 1F prohibits the governor, members of the legislature and other elected officials from receiving pay raises when the state is running a deficit.

The League of Women Voters opposes Prop. 1A, 1C, 1D and 1E.

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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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RIVER

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

upon decades of urban runoff and neglect, although myriad kayaking and fishing spots underscore the river's cultural significance.

While the San Diego River Park Foundation eagerly cites the river's vices and virtues, it's quick to point out its proud place in the city's past. Our present-day Downtown, in fact, depended largely on the river's presence for its growth — in the mid-19th century, when Broadway was known as D Street, the river served as the main water source

"One way to look at it," explained foundation director Rob Hutsel, "is that it was like a big delta. The river would come out of the mountains and through the valley and then spread out in a big, broad floodplain." Fifty-two miles of sediment would wash into San Diego Bay; once it got there, the contents then backed up into a separate body of water the Spanish settlers called False Bay — the name was meant as a warning to newly arrived parties not to enter it.

The Spanish, in fact, were creating settlements in the present-day Downtown since 1759 — and they chose that spot due to the availability of water from the San Diego River. By 1850, the year California attained statehood, area maritime trade was booming; soon after, Alonzo Horton saw fit to create a "New Town" city core at the spot we know today as Downtown.

"The folks wanted the seat of government to be Downtown," Hutsel said, "so they stole it from Old Town and took it down there. In time, the San Diego River actu-



Volunteers will take a stab at trash and debris around Dog Beach in Ocean Beach on Saturday, May 6 when the sixth annual San Diego River Days event gets under way. KIRBY YAU | THE BEACON

ally continued to supply water Downtown, so [Horton's parties] would take it there in buckets and barrels and that kind of thing." In time, Hutsel continued, pump stations would extract water for mechanical transport to the city core. The pumps were turned off in 1920, Hutsel said, "because the city was building reservoirs upstream and didn't need to pump the water anymore."

Logistically, things have stayed stable since then — but the point is that history played into those logistics longer than anyone around here can remember. River Days may be a heckuva lot of fun, but it's also a testament to a Downtown who in no small part owes its regional stature to an indispensable waterway.



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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- Ernst & Young Analysis
- Revised JLL Financial Analysis
- Question-and-Answer Session With Consultants and CCDC Staff

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS – 6 to 7:30 P.M.

Thursday, May 21

Serra Mesa – Kearny Mesa Branch Library
9005 Aero Drive
San Diego, 92123-2312

Wednesday, May 27

Scripps Miramar Ranch Branch Library
10301 Scripps Lake Drive
San Diego, 92131-1258

Wednesday, June 3

Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library & Performing Arts Center
5148 Market Street
San Diego, 92114-2209

According to consultants, the current Civic Center Complex could need an estimated \$125 million or more in improvements, including removal of hazardous materials such as asbestos. The annual downtown office space costs to the City exceed \$15.3 million for owned and leased facilities. Some argue that current economic conditions warrant a "hold steady" position and renewal of existing leases. Others argue that the City of San Diego should continue to explore the possibility of a public/private partnership, like Horton Plaza and PETCO Park, to redevelop the property, as a possible alternative to save taxpayer dollars and improve public services.

Participate in the discussion.



For more information, visit www.ccdc.com and click on the Civic Center Complex link.
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Mom's Day not quite what founder envisioned

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN | THE BEACON

The National Retail Federation says Americans spend more than \$10 billion on Mother's Day gifts and treats every year, adding that the outlook for 2009 is about the same. That figure is dwarfed, to say the least, by the \$210 billion we fork over during the winter holidays. Still, the "billion" is the daunting part—lay Mom's bucks end to end, and they'd stretch about 40 times around the world, or to the moon and back.

And to the moon again.

That's exactly the problem. To hear the day's founder tell it, 14 cents spent in Ma's honor is 14 cents too many. The late Anna Jarvis pretty much pooped her own party in later life — such was her disgust over the commercialization of the event.

"I wanted it to be a day of sentiment, not profit," she once lamented, calling the profiteers "termites" and dedicating the last 30 of her 84 years to sabotaging the honor she helped create. Indeed, she and her sister Elsinore spent the family inheritance on their failed campaign — billions of dollars later, Mother's Day is the third most profitable day of the year, trailing only the winter holidays and Valentine's Day in total haul.

It all started innocently enough in 1907, two years after the death of Jarvis' mother (also named Anna). The younger woman, a native of Taylor County, W.Va., saw to it that her Mom's last wish — the establishment of a day to honor all the nation's mothers, living and dead, as the givers of life and comfort — was first marked at a modest church service, during which she

passed out a white carnation to each of the 500 mothers in attendance. On May 10, 1908, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Grafton, W.Va. held a service fettering Grafton's moms.

That year, influential Philadelphia businessman John Wanamaker joined Anna's efforts in creating a national campaign. Soon after, a bill proposing the establishment of Mother's Day made it as far as the U.S. Senate floor.

The legislators failed to pass the measure — but by 1909, 46 states informally observed Mother's Day, and the bill's reintroduction was only a matter of time. In 1914, on the heels of Anna's furious campaign efforts, President Wilson signed a joint resolution marking a national observance every second Sunday in May (Anna's mother died on that day in 1905).

The younger Jarvis' patience and tenacity had been roundly rewarded — but familiarity would soon breed contempt. Simple good wishes took deleterious wing, landing on printed cards, inside candy boxes and at overhyped restaurants. Even the otherwise pious Wanamaker, who by now had spearheaded the big Wanamaker department store chain (and would eventually become U.S. postmaster general), eagerly profited from the sale of Mother's Day goods, just as he would over the year's other major holidays.

In 1923, Jarvis unsuccessfully sued New York Gov. Al Smith to stop a Mother's Day fundraiser; years later, she vigorously campaigned against the issuance of a Mother's Day postage stamp and was arrested for disturbing the peace during a Mother's Day flow-

er sale. Even as the years brought surges in revenue, Jarvis' anti-holiday rhetoric grew to fever pitch.

"A printed card," Jarvis said, "means nothing except that you're too lazy to write to the woman who has done more for you than anyone in the world. And candy! You take a box to mother and then eat most of it yourself. A pretty sentiment."

Ironically, and unknown to Jarvis, the Florists Exchange — a major player in the Mother's Day flower trade — picked up Jarvis' nursing home tab. Blind, broke and childless, Jarvis died in 1948, rife with the discouragement she'd experienced amid the perceived ruination of her dream. Perhaps it's just as well. Today, Mother's Day is celebrated in 40 countries, presumably with the same commercial zeal reflected in those billions of American dollars.

I think Anna overstated her case. Flowers, after all, are an indispensable part of the human experience and a stable ecosystem; their exchange is presumably a gesture of love and respect, which makes them an especially appropriate Mother's Day tribute. And yes, we are all guilty of dipping into that candy box — but c'mon. It's the thought that counts, and it's a cinch Mom offered you the goodies of which you eagerly help relieve her every second Sunday in May.

But Jarvis' distaste is also understandable. There's a gluttony about such commercial success, and it doesn't constrain itself to Mother's Day, Christmas or any single day of the year. Jarvis learned this lesson the hard way — and she died amid the belief that she'd inadvertently placed a sacred trust in a nationful of the wrong hands.



Paper Tales owner Michelle Magarian White, center, and artist Helle Greer, in green, led customers in a free paper-crafting event last weekend in Point Loma for National Scrapbooking Day and Scrapbook Expo. COURTESY PHOTO

Paper Tales offers specialty items for mom

For Peninsula residents who would like to give a mother or grandmother something personal or handcrafted this Mother's Day, Paper Tales might just be the answer. The Point Loma paper-craft boutique, known for its eclectic, unusual and ever-changing assortment of papers and everything related, provides everything needed to make special cards, scrapbooks or other personalized gifts. In its first year of business, the shop has become a haven for scrapbookers and paper artists looking for one-of-a-kind items and vintage delights.

The store carries several hard-

to-find brands of paper and boasts the largest collection of rubber stamps, papers and embellishments in California.

Mothers and daughters can also spend quality time together by taking a class at Paper Tales. The shop offers small classes that both beginners and veterans can enjoy.

A new canvas class will allow guests to incorporate personal photos to create a special memory.

Paper Tales is located at 3960 West Point Loma Blvd., Suite N. For more information, call (619) 222-2510.

—Katie Moore-Western

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May A Look Ahead

COMMUNITY/CIVIC

Saturday, May 9, 1 to 9 p.m., free dedication weekend of the revitalized Fiesta de Reyes in Old Town, formerly Plaza del Pasado and Bazaar del Mundo. Fiesta de Reyes is located between Juan and Calhoun streets. For more information, call (619) 297-3100, or visit www.fiestadereyesblog.com.

Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Voices of Women (VOW) will host students from the Cambio Club at High Tech High International (HTHI) as students teach both adults and children how to make reusable grocery bags. Materials will be provided and each bag will cost \$7 with a two-bag minimum. The event takes place at the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library, 3701 Voltaire St. For more information, visit www.voicesofwomen.org.

Saturday, May 9, 9 to 11:30 a.m., the Jenna Druck Foundation hosts a leadership workshop, "Building the Heart of Communication for Girls and Women," designed to honor the relationships between teen girls and the women who support them. Registration is \$5 and scholarships are available. The event takes place in Marina Village. For details and registration, visit www.jdleadership.org.

Saturday, May 9, 9 a.m. to noon, the Friends of Famosa Slough host a work party to plant and care for native plants, remove invasive species and pick up litter at the salt marsh wetlands. Participants are asked to meet at the southeast corner of West Point Loma Boulevard and Famosa Boulevard in the Ocean Beach/Point Loma area. For more information, call (619) 224-4591 or visit www.famosa-slough.org.

Tuesday, May 12, 9:30 to 11 a.m., the League of Women Voters of San Diego will host a special discussion of propositions appearing on the May 19 California special election. The event takes place at the Pacific Beach Branch Library, 4275 Cass St. in Pacific Beach. For more information, call (619) 223-6314.

Wednesday, May 13, 7 p.m., the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library hosts author Ona Russell speaking on "The Literary Case for Darwinian Evolution." Set against the backdrop of the celebrated 1925 Scopes "Monkey Trial," Russell uses her interdisciplinary knowledge of literature, history and law to present her perspective in a well-researched and fascinating program. The event takes place at the library, 3701 Voltaire St. For more information, call (619) 531-1539.

Wednesday, May 13, 10 a.m., the Point Loma Garden Club hosts its monthly meeting themed "A Camera in Your Garden." The open meeting will feature tips, techniques, a slide show and ideas on how to use garden photographs for life enhancement. The event takes place at the Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. For more information, visit www.plgc.org.

SCHOOLS

CORREIA

- Wednesday, May 13, 4:15 to 5:45 p.m., SSC meeting.
- May 16-23, 8th grade East Coast expedition.
- Tuesday, May 19, 2 to 3 p.m., Correia Middle School campus tours.
- Monday, May 25, no school for Memorial Day.
- Thursday, May 28, spring open house.
- Thursday, June 4, 9 to 11 a.m., Pastry with Patty.
- Thursday, June 4, 5 to 9 p.m., spring concert/art department showcase.

DANA

- May 11-15, all day, Scholastic Book Fair in Room 103.
- Wednesday, May 13, 6:30 p.m., Dana Association meeting and year-end celebration.
- Thursday, May 14, 6:30 p.m., Parent/Child Book Club meeting in library.
- Sunday, May 17, 7 p.m., Shakespeare Festival performance in Ann Tripp Jackson Theater. Tickets are available for \$5 online at www.showboxoffice.com.

SEE CALENDAR, Page 11



Who Has The Best Photo of the Peninsula Area?

Announcing the Sixteenth Annual Peninsula Beacon AMATEUR Photo Contest

Enter your best photo portraying the Peninsula area taken in the past year. Photos will be displayed at the Beacon booth during the June Ocean Beach Street Fair. The public will vote for their favorite pictures. Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 photos & winning photos will be published in the Beacon.

Photos taken over the past year (June '08-June '09) may be entered!

Contest Rules:

- Photos must be taken by an amateur photographer and must be shot within the 92106 or 92107 zip code areas — between June '06 and today. Locations where the entries may have been taken include Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Shelter Island, Loma Portal or Sports Arena/Midway District. The subjects of eligible photos may include anything in the area suitable for public viewing.
- Retouched or computer enhanced photos will not be accepted.
- Color or black and white prints are eligible. Slides are not allowed. Entries should be no larger than 8 x 10 inches and not smaller than 3 x 5 inches. Please don't send a photo in a frame.
- Only one entry per photographer is allowed.
- AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS ONLY PLEASE!
- Please include photographer's name, address, phone number, date the photo was taken and a brief description of the subject.
- The safe return of entries is not guaranteed. Remember, these photos will be mounted for public display — expect some wear and tear.

Photos may be picked up up at the Beacon Office after July 2nd.

HURRY! Deadline for entries is Tuesday, June 23rd, 2009

Entries may be dropped off at:
The Beacon Offices
4645 Cass St., Pacific Beach
(Across from the Post Office)

or Mailed to: The Beacon
ATTN: Photo Contest
PO BOX 9550
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CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

LOMA PORTAL

- Through Friday, May 8, Teacher Appreciation Week.
- Monday, May 11, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Foundation meeting in library.
- Tuesday, May 12, 3:35 to 4 p.m., popcorn sales after school.
- Thursday, May 14, 1:05 to 1:30 p.m., pizza and bake sales after school.

OB ELEMENTARY

- Friday, May 8, 10 a.m., Mrs. Ritchey's class play "The North Wind and The Sun;" afterschool basketball.
- Monday, May 11, testing.
- Tuesday, May 12, 6 p.m., PTA meeting.
- Wednesday, May 13, 2:15 p.m., Chess Club.
- Thursday, May 14, Bank Day; Spanish, dance and art clubs meet after school.

SACRED HEART

- Friday, May 8, noon dismissal; 5 to 7 p.m., sports pizza party.
- May 11-15, \$1 free dress each day for Rady Children's Hospital.
- Monday, May 11, 9 a.m., Father Clay from the Hopi Indian tribe in Arizona speaks to the 3rd grade.
- Tuesday, May 12, 7 p.m., Shakespeare Festival at the school.
- Wednesday, May 13, StandUp For Kids collection day; 3 p.m., SHA band lessons; 7 p.m., Shakespeare Festival.
- Friday, May 15, noon dismissal.
- Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sacred Heart Parish/School Festival.
- Monday, May 18, 9 a.m., all-school cleanup at Dog Beach.
- Tuesday, May 19, progress

- reports online for grades 4 through 8.
- Wednesday, May 20, 4th grade train trip to San Juan Capistrano; StandUp for Kids collection day; 3 p.m., SHA band lessons.
 - Thursday, May 21, 8 a.m., all-school Mass at Sacred Heart Church; 7 p.m., SHA band concert at Parish Hall.
 - Friday, May 22, 11 a.m., 8th grade versus staff volleyball game; noon dismissal.
 - Monday, May 25, Memorial Day, no classes.
 - Wednesday, May 27, StandUp For Kids collection day.
 - Friday, May 29, 11 a.m., May crowning at Sacred Heart Church; noon dismissal.

SILVER GATE

- Friday, May 8, 7:15 a.m., Mother's Day breakfast.
- Friday, May 15, Student Council family movie night.
- May 18-22, book fair all week.
- Thursday, May 21, open house.
- Monday, May 25, no classes

- for Memorial Day.
- Friday, May 29, 7:45 a.m., principal's chat for all parents in library.
- SUNSET VIEW**
- Today, May 7, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., blood drive in auditorium.
 - Today, May 7, PTA staff appreciation lunch.
 - Friday, May 8, 9:10 a.m., flag assembly.
 - May 11-15, Classified Appreciation Week for office staff and aides.
 - Through May 13, STAR testing for grades 2 through 4.
 - Wednesday, May 13, fiesta.

WARREN-WALKER

- Today, May 7, 6th grade social development talks at middle school.
- Friday, May 8, Spirit Day.
- May 11-22, standardized testing dates.
- Wednesday, May 13, 8 to 8:30 a.m., coffee for parents of incoming 2009 kindergartners; 5 to 5:30

VENUES

- Canes Bar and Grill, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, (858) 488-1780
- Today, May 7, 7 p.m., Pullman Standard performs with Dakota Fish, Veronica May and Humbolt Road. Tickets are \$6.
 - Friday, May 8, 9 p.m., Split Finger performs with Four Minutes Till Midnight and Uproot. Tickets are \$10.
 - Saturday, May 9, 9 p.m., Tainted Love ('80s tribute band) performs with DJ Lemon. Tickets are \$15.



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 <p>5028 Newport Ave. O.B. 619-222-0722</p> <p>Happy Hour 5-6pm 1/2 Price Pitchers \$2 off All Pichers all night</p>	<p>Happy Hour 5-6pm 1/2 Price Pitchers \$11 Micro Pitcher after 6pm</p>	<p>Happy Hour 5-6pm 1/2 Price Pitchers \$2.75 Sunshine Lemonade all night!</p>	<p>Happy Hour 5-6pm 1/2 Price Pitchers Super Pint Night</p>	<p>Happy Hour 5-6pm 1/2 Price Pitchers</p>	<p>Happy Hour 5-6pm 1/2 Price Pitchers NBA & NHL</p>	<p>Happy Hour 5-6pm 1/2 Price Pitchers \$2.75 Bloody Marys \$3.75 Margs, \$2 PBR's \$8 Bud Pitchers</p>
 <p>5034 Newport Ave. O.B. 619-223-0558</p> <p>Every Day: Happy Hour 5-7pm everyday. \$1 off U-call it 8pm-1am</p>	<p>Super Pint Night</p>	<p>\$1 off Well Drinks, \$2 off Martini's, 1/2 price pitchers \$2 off anything on our menu all night!</p>	<p>\$3 off pitchers after 7pm</p>	<p>PBR & Miller High Life bottles \$2.50 Shot of the Week \$3</p>	<p>PBR & Miller High Life bottles \$2 Shot of the Week \$3 NBA & NHL</p>	<p>\$2.75 bloody mary's all day</p>
 <p>5083 Santa Monica Ave. 619-222-PIER</p> <p>Nightly Specials: Happy Hour 4pm -Close</p>	<p>Nightly Specials: \$2 Tacos and \$5 Tequila Happy Hour 4pm -7pm</p>	<p>Nightly Specials: \$5 Whiskey Drinks Happy Hour 4pm -7pm</p>	<p>Nightly Specials: \$6 Burger and a Beer Happy Hour 4pm -7pm</p>	<p>Nightly Specials: 25% off bottles of wine</p>	<p>Every Saturday \$9 Coors Light Pitchers and \$2 Mimosas Happy Hour 4pm -7pm</p>	<p>Every Sunday \$9 Coors Light Pitchers and \$2 Mimosas Happy Hour 4pm -7pm</p>
 <p>4993 Niagara Ave suite 103 619-222-1722</p> <p>Happy Hour ALL DAY MONDAY & Tues-Fri 2-6pm Happy Hour ALL DAY 11am-close</p>	<p>Crab Races: 6:30-9pm \$50 cash prize, \$7 Burger and any Beer-ALL DAY</p>	<p>Pitcher Night: 4-close \$10 pitchers all drafts/house margaritas</p>	<p>Thirsty Thursdays: 6pm-close \$3 U Call It (all beers, call liquors) \$2 Tacos</p>	<p>Normal Happy Hour: 2-6pm</p>	<p>Brunch 10am-3pm \$2.50 Mimosas, \$5 Man-mosa, \$3 Strawberry Mimosas, \$4 Screwdriver/ Tequila Sunrise</p>	<p>Brunch 10am-3pm Brunch 10am-3pm Normal Brunch specials. 4pm-close \$1 PBR drafts, \$10 Pitchers all drafts/ margaritas</p>
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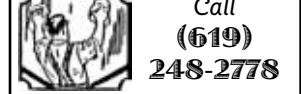
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