



THE PENINSULA BEACON

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

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When it comes to Christmas yule, OB rules!



The holiday season hit full tilt Tuesday with the arrival of the Ocean Beach community Christmas tree on Abbot Street next to the beach. Above, Gerry Boehmke, an employee with the city's Storm Water Department adjusts the star atop the Canary Island pine. Left, workers ease the tree into its base as a curious crowd gathers. Below, Boehmke and Rov Davis with Ocean Beach Services make final preparations as the 60-foot tree is readied for decoration. PHOTOS BY PAUL HANSEN | THE BEACON



Holiday spirit soars in true OB tradition

Christmas parade hits 30-year mark

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

For anyone who considers the holiday season to be overwrought with commercialism and advertising campaigns, Ocean Beach has the antidote in the form of its annual OB Christmas Parade. Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, the event draws huge crowds but still manages to retain a small-town charm.

On Dec. 5, at 5:05 p.m. the festive procession once again heads west down Newport Avenue from Sunset Cliffs Boulevard to Abbot Street, ending at Veteran's Plaza and the OB community Christmas tree, which arrived Tuesday.

Ocean Beach has many fine hol-



The 30th annual Ocean Beach Christmas Parade rolls into action Saturday along Newport Avenue beginning at 5:05 p.m. PHOTO BY PAUL HANSEN | THE BEACON

SEE PARADE, Page 10



Pointer defender Jordan Sparkman (14) sprints for the end zone with a recovered Mt. Miguel fumble during last Friday's 42-35 Point Loma CIF victory.

PHOTO BY SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

Thriller puts PLHS a step away from CIF finals at Qualcomm

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

On the first play from scrimmage in Point Loma High's Nov. 27 CIF quarterfinal playoff game, Pointers quarterback Keegan Fitzgerald rolled to his left before throwing over the heads of Mt. Miguel's rushers to Davis Callejon.

Outrunning defenders as he sprinted diagonally across the Mesa College turf, Callejon turned the play into a 61-yard touchdown in the first

seconds of action.

On the game's final play — with 18 seconds remaining and the Matador quarterback attempting to stop the clock by spiking the ball — Pointer Jordan Sparkman fell on a fumble, ending Mt. Miguel's desperate fight to tie the Division III struggle, preserving a 42-35 victory for the Dogs.

In between, the two teams

SEE PLAYOFFS, Page 8

Surf Report

SATURDAY

Hi: 10:39 a.m.
Low: 4:22 a.m.
Size: 2-3 ft.
Wind: 0-8 knots

SUNDAY

Hi: 12:47 a.m.
Low: 5:28 a.m.
Size: 2-4 ft.
Wind: 6-14 knots

Pipeline vote Tuesday

The City Council eyes a plan to pipe methane gas from the Point Loma wastewater plant instead of trucking it. **2**

Seasonal splendor

The Point Loma Holiday Home Tour returns Saturday with its showcase of Peninsula gems. **3**



Mental stimulation

Warren-Walker School's G-Bots team shows it has the right stuff as it heads to a championship tourney at LEGOLAND. **4**

City may opt for pipeline over methane trucking

By ANTHONY GENTILE | THE BEACON

The City Council is expected to vote Tuesday, Dec. 8 whether to amend the city's current contract to truck excess methane gas from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant through Peninsula neighborhoods.

If the vote is passed, the city will use existing San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) fuel lines to move the gas — a solution that would remove volatile trucks from the equation.

"It's the right thing for the environment and it's the right thing for the Point Loma community to get these trucks off the streets," said District 2 Councilmember Kevin Faulconer.

"This is a much better solution and it is one that the neighbors and I feel very strongly about," he said.

Faulconer has held weekly meetings with city staff, SDG&E officials and community members. He said he is excited to bring the issue before City Council.

"It's a great win for Point Lomans and it's a great example of what you can do when you work closely with the community," Faulconer said.

The original project that involved trucking the gas was first presented to local planners in 2007.

If the City Council votes down the alternative pipeline method, the city's existing plan is to begin construction on the so-called Ben-

eficial Use of Digester Gas project next spring, with the first trucks likely hitting the road this fall.

Since being apprised of resident opposition to the city's Beneficial Use of Digester Gas project, Faulconer has been persistent in pursuing an alternative to the trucking.

Faulconer presented the alternative to use existing SDG&E fuel lines during a community forum Sept. 9.

A feasibility study was then conducted by SDG&E last month to confirm the company could accommodate the transmission of the methane gas from the wastewater plant.

"The resolution to put this in the existing underground pipeline is a huge win for our Point Loma neighbors and it would not have happened without strong community support," Faulconer said.

Faulconer learned of resident opposition in August that grew out of an effort by Homeowners for a Green and Safe Point Loma, a citizens group that has been vocal in opposing the city's gas trucking option.

Catalina Boulevard resident John Pedersen spearheads this group.

"I'm going to track this along with the neighbors to make sure it comes to fruition," Faulconer said.

Faulconer said he was unable to gauge the sentiment on the City Council but observers said strong opposition to the pipeline alternative is not likely.



Taking advantage of resources

With the San Diego Sports Arena looming in the background, a rescue helicopter scoops water from the flood control channel at the San Diego River between the Ingraham Street Bridge and Interstate 5 to extinguish a Thanksgiving Day fire about a mile away in a heavily wooded area inhabited by homeless people. PHOTO BY PAUL HANSEN | THE BEACON

Ambulance driver pleads to making criminal threats

By NEAL PUTNAM | THE BEACON

An employee of a Midway-area ambulance business will be sentenced Dec. 15 after pleading guilty last week to making a criminal threat and carrying loaded firearms in his car.

Brandon James Murray, 27, could face a maximum term of three years in state prison, according to court records. Murray worked for Alert Ambulance and several of his co-workers told police Murray made threatening

statements to them before police pulled him over Aug. 24 around 2:15 p.m. when Murray and his wife left their residence in the Colina del Sol neighborhood.

San Diego police found four handguns and ammunition when they stopped Murray's car.

Murray also pleaded guilty to inflicting corporal injury to his wife, Jennifer Flores. Murray admitted in a court document to making a death threat to a co-worker.

"I battered my wife causing a

traumatic condition," Murray wrote, according to court documents.

Murray had been charged with 12 counts — mostly criminal threat charges. The judge dismissed the remainder of the charges, however, after Murray pleaded guilty to three of the counts.

Murray's co-workers told police that Murray had threatened to "hurt everyone at the office."

The judge denied bail and Murray remains in custody.

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*check our website for the schedule!



{ Live Demonstrations & Refreshments }

Home tour to showcase Peninsula's gems

By ANTHONY GENTILE | THE BEACON

This year's Point Loma Holiday Home Tour has a little bit of a twist — one that's sure to delight the four-legged variety. The annual event that showcases a variety of stunning Peninsula homes will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

"It's going to be a great event," said event organizer Cordelia Mendoza. "There are a lot of garden walks in the spring, but there aren't a lot of holiday home tours in San Diego."

Proceeds will go to the Best Friends Animal Society, a Utah-based nonprofit whose goal is to find a home for all homeless pets. Prior to this year, All Souls Episcopal Church in Point Loma ran the event.

"They abandoned it because it's a volunteer-intense event. They kind of retired it," Mendoza said. "To keep that tradition of a Point Loma Holiday Home Tour going, I thought it would be great to do it and have it benefit Best Friends Animal Society."

The canine theme will be prevalent throughout the tour. Helen Woodward Animal Shelter of Rancho Santa Fe will have adoptable dogs at each home and a 22-vendor marketplace at 3725 Oleander Drive will feature doggie items, vintage jewelry, home accessories and art. The event includes a pet-food drive.

The walking tour features six distinct Peninsula homes, ranging in style from modern to colonial revival. Among the homes is a mod-

ern house above Sunset Cliffs that San Diego Home & Garden Magazine selected as its 2009 Home of the Year.

"They're all showstoppers in their own right," Mendoza said.

Mendoza said one of the larger houses that stands out on the tour is a 1926 English Tudor in La Playa.

"It has a breathtaking yard that terraces down and has a rock slide into the swimming pool," Mendoza said. "The outside looks just like a storybook house and then you go in and it's fantastic."

Other highlights include a silent auction and the appearance of Jasmine the beagle. Jasmine starred on the National Geographic Channel's "DogTown" before being adopted into a San Diego home.



The Point Loma Holiday Home Tour will showcase exterior and interior showstoppers from around the Peninsula area from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and can be purchased online and at Cottage Antiques, 4873 Newport Ave.; Point Loma Pet Pantry, 3704 Voltaire St. #108; Walter Andersen Nursery, 3642 Enterprise St.; or Bone Appetit, 4845 Newport Ave.

Tickets can also be purchased at the marketplace on the day of the event for \$30.

For more information, visit www.bfhometour.org. Best Friends Animal Society is online at www.bestfriends.org.



Neighborhood Market

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The Point Loma Holiday Home Tour springs into action Saturday, Dec. 5 with a stunning walking tour of six elegant homes around the Peninsula. The tours will include a showcase of gardens, designs and interior marvels like this home on San Fernando Street. The event will include a canine theme this year that will be prevalent throughout the tour. Advance tickets are available now but tickets may also be purchased the day of the event.

COURTESY PHOTOS

PLHS scores big with Johnson grant

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

Point Loma High School will soon be adding a new weight room after receiving a \$90,000 Champions Grant from a local stock car racing legend.

Jimmie Johnson, who recently made NASCAR history by winning his fourth consecutive season championship, returned to his home town San Diego this week to announce area grant winners selected by his Jimmie Johnson Foundation in partnership with Lowe's Toolbox for Education.

In all, 11 local schools received a total of \$491,781, bringing the total to \$1.5 million doled out by the foundation over the last three years.


The announcement was made Monday at Crest Elementary School

in El Cajon, where Johnson was once a student.

Later, after visiting Marines at Camp Pendleton, Johnson appeared at a public "homecoming rally" at the Santee Lowe's store. Point Loma's grant was the only local project showcased at this event.

An annual golf tournament hosted by Johnson raises funds that he and wife Chandra give to youth here and in Oklahoma and North Carolina.

Pointer parents Lisa Tumbiolo and Ron Gemmill combined their writing and construction expertise to apply for the funds from the foundation. Point Loma High's senior class president Josh Morse created a video that was submitted with the school's application.



Holiday Night

on the Promenade

December 12th
4:00 - 8:00 PM

HOLIDAY NIGHT ON THE PROMENADE
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G-Bots take robotics to higher level

By ANTHONY GENTILE | THE BEACON

A team of middle school students at Warren-Walker School is building a strong robotics reputation — plastic brick by plastic brick. The Warren-Walker G-Bots will represent the Peninsula area in the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) SoCal Championship Tournament on Saturday at LEGOLAND California.

“Engineering is not taught in middle schools very much and this is an opportunity for them to get a hands-on experience of putting a robot together, testing it out and seeing if it works or not,” said Lynn Collins, a G-Bots coach. “It’s practical application. It’s not something out of a textbook.”

The G-Bots qualified for the southern California regional with a strong showing at the FLL qualifying tournament held Nov. 15 at Eastlake High School in Chula Vista. Competing against 22 other middle school teams, the G-Bots took first place in technical design of their project and second in overall mission challenges completed.

“It’s a pretty significant thing for these guys,” Collins said. “In the last week, they really buckled down and made it all come together and they did awesome. They were pretty incredible.”

The team is made up of 10 Warren-Walker Middle School students, including Andrew Williams, Ziven



Warren-Walker School G-Bots will represent the Peninsula area on Saturday during the FIRST LEGO League SoCal Championship Tournament at LEGOLAND.

Vonk, Emilio de la Garza, Betsy Tainer, Luke Celeste, Larsen Hayes, Hans Vonk, Spencer Collins, Ruben Medina-Coe and Aden Khalil. Lynn and Ken Collins coach the team.

The G-Bots started working on the project when the 2009 FLL Challenge, “Smart Move,” was unveiled in September. Since then, the students have dedicated about seven hours per week outside of school to the project, mostly on Friday afternoons and Sundays.

“This is not a class. They volunteer to do this,” Collins said. “They had to organize themselves. They had to with the help of coaches meter their time to get things done in order to put it all together.”

The challenge was split up into two parts. In the project phase, teams had to identify a problem with travel within their self-defined community and create a five-minute presentation. The G-Bots delved into high-speed rail.

“We looked at magnetic levitation and the use of that for future trains, because high-speed rail is going in along the coast for the future and they wanted to learn more about that,” Collins said.

In the robot game part, teams confronted transportation problems by using robotics and sensor technology. The G-Bots had to create and program a robot to complete various missions in a specific amount of time.

“They had to build something that wouldn’t fall apart, would rotate and move and had a mechanical arm,” Collins said. “They have to have patience to sit there and program this thing to go so many rotations to the right and follow a line.”

The nonprofit organization FIRST — or For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology — was founded in 1989 with the vision of sparking the imagination and creativity of students by making problem solving more interesting.

“It starts with the fact that the United States is not leading in the areas of engineering and science,” Collins said. “There was a big push to try and get young people started early thinking about engineering and science.”

The G-Bots already appear to be doing more than just thinking.

PLNU author gains national acclaim with spiritual book

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | THE BEACON

Is it possible to experience divine moments in everyday occurrences such as a having conversation with a loved one, sharing a meal with family or while learning to ride a bike for the first time?

Point Loma Nazarene University journalism professor Dean Nelson tackles these questions in a new book that is gaining national media attention, “God Hides in Plain Sight: How to See the Sacred in a Chaotic World.”

“If we’re paying attention, we can see God in all the details and all the nitty gritty in our lives,” Nelson said.

In a modern twist to an old subject, Nelson said he takes the seven sacraments of the ancient church and applies them to everyday life.

According to Nelson, having a deep conversation can be like experiencing the sacrament of confession. Nelson also compares the simple act of sharing a meal with a “depth and richness that is more than just quelling hunger” to the sacrament of the Eucharist.

According to Catholic catechism teachings, the sacrament of the Eucharist brings people closer to God through consumption of bread and wine representing the “body and blood” of Jesus Christ.

Nelson said his journalism background has helped him tackle tough religious issues. He is currently working on a book about the life of English physicist and theologian John Polkinghorne.

Polkinghorne is a particle physicist turned priest who has written much about religion and science. Religion and science are two disciplines that do not need to be “hostile” to one another, Nelson said.

Because religion and science are two areas traditionally at odds, scientists usually don’t approach religious topics with the same intellectual work applied to the sciences.

“Journalists ... don’t treat faith issues with the same kind of rigor as they would questioning a politician,” Nelson said.

Author of several books about spirituality, faith and personal empowerment, Nelson uses his journalistic training to anecdotally examine issues of faith and religion. He has a Ph.D. in journalism from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and occasionally writes for various publications, including the New York Times and USA Today online.

Nelson started the journalism program at Point Loma Nazarene University in 1984. He hosts the “Writers Symposium by the Sea,” which takes place on the university campus in March. The symposium includes interviews with renowned writers from around the world to showcase and encourage good writing.

Nelson will be signing his new book at Berean Christian Store, 8807 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information and to read Nelson’s blog, visit www.deannelson.net.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Fumbling a downtown stadium study could well force a turnover

By RUBEN BARRALES

Building a new San Diego Chargers stadium downtown could bring immense economic and civic opportunity to the East Village and the entire San Diego region. With this and the region's best interests in mind, including keeping the Chargers here in San Diego, we must determine the financial viability of this site quickly.

The financial viability study, which was recently approved by Centre City Development Corp. using money from its general fund, is a four to six month process that will help the city determine the financial ramifications of placing the stadium in the current bus yard for the Metropolitan Transit System, located East of Petco Park. The biggest hurdle for the potential stadium is how to finance the approximately \$1 billion project, which further underscores the importance of expediting this financial review.

Community leaders, including the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, are excited about the prospect of a new stadium in one of our most prominent redevelopment areas. Turning the Metropolitan Transit System's bus yard into a state-of-the-art stadium would be an effective catalyst to bolster redevelopment in East Village, but we must act quickly to ensure feasibility.

Dragging our feet on the opportunity to move the Chargers to the East Village will only open the window for municipalities outside of our region to throw their hat in the ring and woo the Chargers to other locations. Having a hometown NFL team can generate hundreds of

millions of dollars per year for the local economy, and in order for San Diego to remain in the running, we must expedite this financial viability study as quickly as possible.

While these possibilities are met with excitement by many of San Diego's community leaders, the uncertainty of the proposed location is leaving many East Village property owners and residents nervous. The prospect of an unknown future for the area may cause anxiety among property owners who may have difficulty leasing space, developers who may need to put pending projects on hold, and business owners that may face a myriad of unknowns, all of which would have a negative financial impact on the San Diego region.

Reviewing the project in a timely manner will tell whether the benefits of a downtown stadium outweigh the risks.

While a downtown football stadium could have a long-lasting positive impact on the East Village and the San Diego region, in the short term we need to focus on analyzing the financial possibilities of building on this site with an exceptional sense of urgency. The speed with which we conduct this study can have a significant impact on the businesses and residents of East Village and may very well determine San Diego's ability to remain a viable home for the Chargers.

— *Ruben Barrales is the president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce.*



GUEST COMMENTARY

A gift of love — at just the right time

By NATASHA JOSEFOWITZ, Ph.D.

It's been a few weeks since he died, time to start looking through some of his belongings. I started with the drawers by his bedside. I found the usual: eye-glasses, a flashlight, a pocket reading lamp, a letter opener, some change, his Kindle, nail clippers, and — a bill dated last February for a sapphire bracelet from Bowers — I startled.

I have never worn sapphires and have nothing to go with such a bracelet; also, it was purchased months ago, and I certainly didn't receive anything. So if it was not for me, who was it for? I immediately dismissed the thought of another woman, but wondered whether he wanted to thank someone for a favor once given — but we always told each other everything. As it was Sunday, I couldn't call the jewelry store and so puzzled over this strange find.

Monday morning I called and was told that indeed such a bracelet had been purchased for me by my husband. Didn't he pick it up? No, I said — I didn't see it. I was asked to look in my safe and when I answered them that I couldn't find it anywhere, a search was conducted and the object was found in their safe.

I was so shaken by this that I asked my secretary, Erika, to drive down to the store with me. At my arrival, I was handed two boxes beautifully wrapped. The square box contained lovely sapphire earrings and the larger box

a tennis bracelet of small sapphires and diamonds — and I was told the story.

My husband went to the jewelry store last February looking for a sapphire bracelet, as it was a stone he knew I did not have. He ordered a sapphire tennis bracelet to match the ruby one he had bought me previously — “She could wear them together,” he told Chris, the salesman, “but she has no earrings to match.” He found nothing ready made to his liking, so he decided to design from scratch, carefully selecting a matched set of sapphires the sparkling blue color of the stones in the bracelet and small diamonds to surround them. He even secretly brought in a pair of my favorite earrings to match the size and style I like best and remembered to have them made as clips because I don't have pierced ears.

He had to go many times, and it must have been an effort as he was already in quite a bit of pain. He explained that he wanted it for my birthday in October. By this time, I'm crying, my secretary is crying, Sheila, the owner of the store is crying, and Chris's eyes are red.

He explains that this was very important to Herman, and he took a very long time choosing the stones and the setting. Once when he came in, Chris told him he looked tired, and Herman replied that he had cancer and

was dying and did not think he would still be here for my birthday in October. On June 25 he called and said he was going for lunch at the Rotary and would be picking them up afterwards, to please wrap them up very beautifully. They would be for our wedding anniversary in July. After lunch, Herman's pain became worse and he had to lie down. He probably planned to pick it up the next day — except that the next day he was taken up by ambulance to hospice and never got better.

I could not believe that this was happening. I had in front of me a posthumous gift from my husband, once again, once more, a gift of love. He had just given me a lovely pin — a coral rose — and I thought it would have been his last present to me — and now this bracelet and earrings. I put both on and walked out sobbing.

Having been so loved and having loved so well in return are the rarest of gifts that anyone on this earth could experience. And so with this bracelet he was telling me once more and for the last time how much he loved me. It will be difficult to wear it without crying — without the pain of missing him so much, but then he would have wanted me to wear it, and so I always will.

— *Natasha Josefowitz, Ph.D., is a regular columnist for La Jolla Village News, a sister publication of the Peninsula Beacon.*

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NewsBriefs

Friday Night Liberty has 'creative twist' Dec. 4

Liberty Station will play host to the December installment of Friday Night Liberty Open Studios on Friday, Dec. 4, beginning at 5 p.m.

The theme of the event this month is "Holiday Gifts with a Creative Twist" — allowing participants to explore and wander the NTC Promenade arts and cultural district to enjoy a free evening of art, music, food, drink, exhibits and an array of holiday gifts and idea.

The event will include child-friendly activities and U.S. Marines will host a Toys for Tots collection drive at Barracks 19, 2690 Historic Decatur Road, to accept drop-offs of unwrapped toys.

Friday Night Liberty is a monthly first-Friday evening of artist studios, galleries and events throughout NTC Promenade Arts & Cultural District at Liberty Station in Point Loma. NTC Promenade is located in 7 historic buildings at Roosevelt and Dewey Roads.

For more information, visit www.NTCPromenade.com/what.php

The next Friday Night Liberty will be held Jan. 8.

Sammy's Woodfired Pizza launches toy drive

Sammy's Woodfired Pizza is preparing to fire up its annual childrens' toy drive for kids and adolescents at the San Diego Center for Children, many of whom will remain in residential care at the center through the holidays.

This year's toy drive takes place from Tuesday, Dec. 8 until Sunday, Dec. 13. San Diegans are encouraged to drop off new, unwrapped toys or games for children between the ages of 6 and 18.

Among the Sammy's locations accepting drop offs:

- Liberty Station in Point Loma
2401 Truxtun Road, Suite 102
(619) 222-3111
- Costa Verde in University City
8650 Genesee Ave.
(858) 404-9898
- Pearl Street in La Jolla
702 Pearl St.
(858) 456-5222
- Gaslamp Quarter in downtown
770 Fourth Avenue
(619) 230-8888

OB First Baptist slates 'The Christmas Carol'

The Ocean Beach First Baptist Church is preparing to launch a top-notch, orchestrated production this holiday season with three performances of "The Christmas Carol."

The production captures the classic Christmas tale of Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the Cratchet family (with a twist), along with a live orchestra and original choreography.

Free childcare is provided.

A cookie reception follows the shows, slated for 7 p.m. on Dec. 11, 12 and 13 at the church, 4790 Santa Monica Ave. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$15 per family.

Members of the cast and crew will be appearing in the 30th annual Ocean Beach Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 5:05 p.m. For more information about the church production, call (619) 223-7187.

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Pointer running back Stephan Jackson (21) picks up yardage in CIF playoff action last Friday night against Mt. Miguel. The Dogs take on Steele Canyon in tomorrow night's semifinals match at Mt. Carmel High. PHOTO BY SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

PLAYOFFS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

staged a classic football game, one that might long be remembered by players and fans from both schools.

Sparkman later experienced a defender's dream when, following a big hit by teammate Callejon, he corralled the loose ball and returned the pilfered pigskin 24 yards, giving his team a 14-0 second-quarter lead.

But the game was no cakewalk. The Pointers saw leads of 14-0 and 28-21 evaporate. The Matadors, breaking several long runs and passes, fought back to take leads of 21-14 and 35-28 before the Dogs put the final bite on their determined opponent with two late touchdowns.

"Playoff football — there's really nothing like it," said Pointer head coach Mike Hastings.

The game offered drama in huge doses. Consider:

In the third quarter, the Matadors took a 21-14 lead on a 14-yard pass with 7:45 remaining.

Following the Matadors' kickoff, the Pointers tied the game on their first play after Leslie Rogers broke free on a 68-yard run with 7:29 left.

On the first play after the Pointers' kickoff, a Mt. Miguel fumble was again scooped up by Sparkman and the 6-foot-6-inch senior ran the ball back to the Matador one-yard line. From there, Fitzgerald followed his offensive line into the end zone on a keeper with 6:35 left.

So, in just 1:10 of play, the Pointers turned a 21-14 disadvantage into a 28-21 lead.

The Matadors, however, scored late in the third and early in the fourth quarter. Yet the Dogs weren't

Tonight, we answered the bell and came back fighting.

MIKE HASTINGS
PLHS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

finished either.

A 55-yard sweep by Morris Mathews shook the Matadors and, with 8:08 left in the final frame, Rogers sprinted to the end zone from 15 yards out to tie the score at 35.

The same two runners combined on the game-winner, with Mathews covering 10 yards before Rogers exploded for a game-winning 56-yard dash, providing a 42-35 lead with 5:10 left to play.

"We practiced hard, and hard work pays off in the end," said Rogers later.

Pointer defenders then took care of business, getting the ball back with 3:10 to play. However, the Pointers were forced to punt, giving the Matadors 1:44 for one desperate last chance.

"Tonight, we answered the bell and came back fighting," Hastings said. "And we're going to continue to fight and find a way to win these games."

Tomorrow night, Dec. 4, the 8-3 Pointers take their five-game winning streak against Steele Canyon, which tied Mt. Miguel for second-place (3-1-1) in the Grossmont South League and brings an 8-3-1 overall record to the campus of Mt. Carmel High. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. The winner advances to the Dec. 11 CIF finals at Qualcomm Stadium.




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Crafts fair adds holiday flair to weekend magic

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

With the third decade of the Ocean Beach Christmas Parade set to light up the evening Dec. 5, community leaders are also promoting a pair of daylight happenings for all ages.

Shoppers looking to pick up a unique gift for this holiday season will likely want to check out the 15th annual OB Holiday Craft Fair on Dec. 5, 12 and 19.

The multi-day event will take place at the Veterans Plaza, located at the foot of Newport Avenue, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

"It's all handcrafted items, more than three quarters of it made by local artisans," said Claudia Jack, a spokeswoman for the Ocean Beach Town Council's OB Tree Festival Committee.

Denny Knox of the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association (OBMA) said the craft fair boasts plenty of fun and will be set up

next to the OB community Christmas tree next to the beach. With its scenic draw, the area lures many tourists to Veterans Plaza this time of year for a slightly unusual, but heartwarming, reason.

The surf webcam there also includes the tree this time of year, so people have been letting their friends and families around the world know a time to watch online," Knox said. "Then they go out in front of the tree to wave hello to everyone. It's become quite a tradition."

Nearly 30 vendors will take part in the craft fair, a key fundraiser for the OBMA's holiday efforts each year.

"All proceeds go to the Holiday Food and Toy Drive and it's a great way for the vendors to show their wares," Jack said, noting the event's beachfront location and wide range of items to be displayed. "There's something for everybody."

All proceeds go to the Holiday Food and Toy Drive and it's a great way for the vendors to show their wares. There's something for everybody.

CLAUDIA JACK
SPOKESWOMAN, OBTC'S OB TREE
FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Additionally, the younger set won't want to miss the adjacent 5th annual OB Surf & Skate Contest in the OB Pier parking lot (Dec. 5 only) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open to all ages, the event will feature open skate sessions and a best trick contest.

While registration will be available until 11 a.m., advance registration at Ocean Beach Skate & Surf is advised.

The Veterans Plaza Craft Fair takes place at 5099 Newport Ave.



Amid the season of hope, joy and peace, the Ocean Beach Christmas Parade returns Saturday for its 30th celebration of community pride. PAUL HANSEN | THE BEACON

PARADE

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

iday traditions, but nothing compares to the Christmas parade. Fun for all ages, the event is a homespun celebration of Ocean Beach, put together by a network of 60 volunteers.

The holiday hoopla draws an estimated 10,000 people to the parade route each year. The

whole celebration kicks off Saturday as Santa Claus officially lights the community's 60-foot tree.

Not much has changed for the OB Christmas parades in three decades — and organizers and participants agree that's part of its appeal.

"It's really a homegrown parade with different parts of the community taking part," said Claudia

SEE HOMEGROWN, Page 13

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From floats to marching bands and from holiday-themed costumes to surfers young and old, the 30th annual Ocean Beach Christmas Parade has plenty to offer the crowd on Saturday evening. PHOTO BY PAUL HANSEN | THE BEACON

HOMEGROWN

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

Jack, who has chaired the OB Town Council's OB Christmas Tree Festival for the last 12 years.

While the economy has curtailed entries and even scuttled the parades of other cities — including that of Pacific Beach — Jack sees Dec. 5 as on par with previous years in Ocean Beach.

"We've been fortunate there haven't been any problems," said Jack. "People really love this parade. Right now we're up to 75 entrants."

Jack said the event will include a mix of floats, marching bands, antique cars and surfers, as well as a Funzone for children. In the OB Pier parking lot next to the tree. Children can also have their picture taken with Santa.

Musician Chuck Schiele has participated in three parades and organized several floats. He said the event is the year's highlight for civic activity.

"I like the homespun nature of the whole thing," Schiele said. "It has a sort of laid-back feel — a beach attitude — like, 'It's just us guys having a good time.' But

there's a real magic inherent in this parade. It brings out community pride and makes the world feel special, if only for awhile."

Participants in the parade find sponsors or pay out of pocket for their entry.

"It can be tough getting all the different elements together," Schiele said. "The first year I did it, it was a hard road to make it to the parade. But that night, when I saw the faces of 50 little kids looking at our float in wonder, it was more than worth it. That's the best part, seeing the happy faces of parade goers. The reaction from the kids is better than anything that happens onstage."

One of charms of the parade is that it's one of the few in San Diego held at night, adding the magic of lights to the festivities. According to Jack, having a nighttime parade offers no real logistical problems and actually adds a certain charm to the night, particularly with the holiday lights in full bloom.

"This is my favorite event of the year," Jack said. "The great thing is to see the twinkle in the kids' eyes as the lights go by them. It's heart-warming."

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Ocean Beach Christmas Tree Festival Committee
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The Venetian

Try our new happy hour menu, 4-6 p.m. daily. Featuring food & drink specials. If visuals get your Italian-cuisine appetite in gear, The Venetian is your restaurant forevermore. The food has best been described as California-Italian, which simply means you can expect great fare without a lot of heavy sauce, the way some other places think Italian should be done. The pastas and chicken entrees will command your serious attention, as will the tidy bar and the family-style menu. Anything else you could ask for probably doesn't exist. And did we mention the great service?

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Quaint and comfortable with an extensive, innovative menu, that is very reasonably priced. The O'Bistro offers a full bar, interior and wind/rain proof exterior seating, serves up breakfast, lunch, dinner, and sushi, seven days a week. The critically acclaimed entrées will delight and surprise you, especially when it comes time to settle-up. Chef John Mann invites you to drop by during the holidays...Christmas brunch, lunch and dinner packages available, hurry, as there are only a few weekend dates still available. *Too busy to pack up the staff and celebrate? O'Bistro will cater an office gathering at your place of business.

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Sproles has cemented role as a key Charger

By **BOB HURST** | THE BEACON

Darren Sproles has been piling up yardage since he first picked up a football in a Pop Warner game at the age of nine. That's when he sprinted 80 yards for a touchdown.

The San Diego Chargers running back/kick returner hasn't let up since.

While at Kansas State, Sproles set 23 school records and had the sixth-most all-purpose yards in NCAA history. This season, in Week 6 against Denver, he set the Chargers' all-time record for combined yards on kickoff and punt returns with 5,262. That's the game in which Sproles returned a punt 77 yards for a touchdown.

Sproles, drafted in the fourth round by the Chargers in 2005, is a speedy, shifty runner who is dangerous out of the backfield or as a receiver.

At 5-feet 6-inches tall and 185 pounds, Sproles also is one of the NFL's smallest players.

But that doesn't stop him from making big plays.

In the season opener at Oakland, Sproles returned a kickoff 59 yards to set up a field goal and his 5-yard run with 18 seconds left gave the Chargers a 24-20 win. Against Baltimore the following week, Sproles caught seven passes for a career-high 124 yards, including an 81-yard TD reception.

He had a 58-yard scoring catch in a 37-7 victory at Kansas City in Week 7, and his 21-yard catch in Week 9 at New York set up the game-winning touchdown in a 21-20 decision over the Giants.

And there is something about playing the Indianapolis Colts that gets Sproles going. In a 2007 game against the Colts, Sproles became the ninth player to return a punt

and kickoff for touchdowns in the same game, his first two NFL TDs.

In last season's playoff game at Indianapolis, Sproles' 22-yard scoring run in overtime gave the Chargers a 23-17 win. He had 328 all-purpose yards in the contest, the third-most in postseason history.

Sproles has been LaDainian Tomlinson's backup since Michael Turner left for Atlanta after the 2007 season. And with Tomlinson's production slipping over the past couple of years, it might be time for Sproles to start.

That's probably what the Chargers were thinking when they kept Sproles from testing the free-agent waters by tagging him as their franchise player after last season.



Darren Sproles makes a cut during a run against the Eagles in last month's victory at home at Qualcomm Stadium. Sproles has been so impressive that the San Diego Chargers labeled him a franchise player following last season's performance. PHOTO BY DON BALCH | THE BEACON

Beware: Browns could be nasty surprise

By **BOB HURST** | THE BEACON

This is potentially a dangerous game for the Bolts. The Browns are at home, hungry for wins, while the Chargers might be looking ahead to upcoming games against Dallas and Cincinnati. But Cleveland has been beaten up by better teams all season, giving up nearly 29 points per game to teams with winning records. And with a decent performance on defense, the Bolts will shut down a weak Browns offense.

Week 13 Sunday, Dec. 6
Chargers at Cleveland Browns, 10

1:05 p.m., Cleveland Browns Stadium; televised on CBS

All-time Series: Chargers lead 13-7-1.

Last meeting: Chargers won 32-25 at home in 2006.

Key stats: The Chargers ranked 14th in total defense through Week 11, allowing 321.1 yards per game. Cleveland ranked 31st in total offense with 236.8 yards.

Noteworthy: San Diego has won three straight and six of the last seven games in the series with the Browns.

Prediction: Chargers 31, Browns 10

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December

A Look Ahead

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Sunday, Dec. 6, 3 p.m., the Point Loma Nazarene University Choral Union and Orchestra performs Handel's "The Messiah" at the university's Brown Chapel, 3900 Lomaland Drive. The event is free and a goodwill offering follows the performance. Visit www.pointloma.edu

Dec. 4-6 and Dec. 10-13, the New Americans Museum hosts "Body Narratives: Expression Through the Human Form," featuring artwork from mysterious wrapped figures to lyrical floating bodies and from figurative abstractions to a houdini-like escape performance. An artists'

reception is slated for Friday, Dec. 4 from 5 to 8 p.m. Exhibition times are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum is located at 2825 Dewey Road, Bldg. 202, Suite 102. For more information, visit www.ntcpromenade.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., Vanguard Ministries of Westminster Presbyterian Theatre holds auditions for the comedy production of "You Can't Take it With You." Organizers are seeking nine men, seven women and three extras. Performances are March 12-14, March 19-21 and March 26-28. Auditions take place at the church, 3598 Talbot. Call (619) 459-3336.

COMMUNITY/CIVIC

Saturday, Dec. 5, the Ocean Beach Town Council's Christmas Tree Festival Committee kicks off a

slew of holiday events along Newport Avenue and Abbott Street.

- 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Kids Fun Zone with skate and surf demonstrations, games and activities, music by the Blond Brothers;
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Santa visits with children at the Christmas site on Abbott;
- 5:05 p.m., 30th annual OB Christmas Parade followed by more musical entertainment.

For more information, call (619) 515-4400 or (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

Saturday, Dec. 5, 4 p.m., current students, staff and alumni of Ocean Beach Elementary School gather to walk in the 30th annual Ocean Beach Christmas Parade to celebrate the school's 100-year anniversary. Participants are asked to meet at the OB Elementary School campus, 4741 Santa Monica Ave. RSVP by e-mailing pta@obelementary.com. For more information, call (619) 606-2593, or visit www.obelementary.com.

Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to noon, volunteers from The Rock Church, Point Loma Association (PLA) and Youth Tennis San Diego will gather to clean up the area between Nimitz Boulevard and Barnes Tennis Center on West Point Loma Boulevard. The event will focus on trash removal, weeding and trimming of overgrown bushes. Youth Tennis San Diego will provide a trash bin, tools, plastic bags and water; The Rock Church will provide volunteers, landscape support, leather gloves, a chipper and food; the PLA will provide tools, plastic bags and food for a picnic. Call (619) 222-3055 or (619) 221-9000, ext. 314.

Monday, Dec. 7, 6:45 p.m., reg-

ular monthly meeting of the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Recreation Council at the Cabrillo Recreation Center, 3051 Cañon St. Visit www.calsnet.net/sunsetcliffs.

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Point Loma Garden Club hosts its free, annual Holiday Tea and Bazaar event featuring handmade holiday decorations, food and crafts. Items also include wreaths, swags, table decorations, potted plants, jams, jellies and baked goods. The event takes place at the S.E.S. Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. Visit www.plgc.org.

RELIGIOUS

Friday, Dec. 4, 6 to 9:30 p.m., The Rock Church hosts "Celebrate the Season" in the church sanctuary with hot cocoa, desserts, gift shopping, inspirational messages, Christmas music and worship. The event is free and childcare is provided. The event takes place at the church, 2277 Rosecrans St. For more information, call (619) 226-ROCK, or e-mail worshiparts@therocksandiego.org.

SCHOOLS

DANA

- Friday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., Winter Theater Showcase in Jackson Theater.
- Friday, Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m., Dana Instrumental Music Winter Concert in Jackson Theater.
- Tuesday, Dec. 8, ASB cookie dough distribution after school. Pick up orders in Room 103.
- Wednesday, Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m., Dana Association meeting in library.
- Friday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., Winter Theater Showcase in Jackson Theater.

- Friday, Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m., Dana Instrumental Music Winter Concert in Jackson Theater.

LOMA PORTAL

- Friday, Dec. 4, second annual Winter Family Sock Hop. Free, all-ages swing dance lessons from 5:30 to 6 p.m.; 6 to 8 p.m., Dana Middle School's Jazz Band plays '50s and '60s favorites. The event includes food and root beer sales, crafts for all ages, a photographer and classic cars on display. For more information or to volunteer, e-mail akinseth@sandi.net.
- Friday, Dec. 11, awards assembly in auditorium.

SILVER GATE

- Friday, Dec. 4, 7:45 a.m., principal's chat with parents of children in grades 2 through 4 in library.
- Dec. 7-11, 7:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., book fair.
- Thursday, Dec. 10, 4 to 8 p.m., school fundraiser at Fresh & Easy (955 Catalina Blvd.). Five percent of the sales is donated to Silver Gate. Keep receipts and turn in through the second week of January.

SUNSET VIEW

- Today, Dec. 3, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Art Corp Family Night in auditorium.

SPORTS

Saturday, Dec. 12 and Monday, Dec. 14, San Diego SOL Youth Basketball League hosts open try-outs for boys and girls in grades 3 through high school at Francis Parker Upper School, 6501 Linda Vista Road. To register, e-mail coachheckman@sandiegosol.com, or visit www.sandiegosol.com.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS 100

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE San Diego International Airport FAA Noise Exposure Maps Acceptance Pursuant to Section 107 (a) & (b) [Title 49, United States Code, Section 47506] of the Airport Safety and Noise Abatement Act of 1979, as amended, notice is hereby given that on November 3, 2009, the Federal Aviation Administration has completed its evaluation of, and has formally accepted the noise Exposure Maps for San Diego International Airport, located in San Diego, California that were prepared pursuant to Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 150 (14 CFR Part 150). These maps and supporting documentation are available for public review at the offices of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, 3225 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, California 92101

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