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SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2009

WWW.SDNEWS.COM ■ VOLUME 24, NUMBER 49

Fatal collision mars holiday boat parade

By NICOLE SOURS LARSON | THE BEACON

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has taken over investigation of the collision between a 33-foot U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) high-speed law enforcement boat and a 26-foot Sea Ray runabout that dampened the cheer of the 38th annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights on Dec. 20, according to Ron Powell, director of communications for the Port of San Diego.

A four-person NTSB team

arrived in San Diego to coordinate the investigation into the crash which left an 8-year-old boy dead and five others seriously injured. Powell said he expects the investigation to take weeks or months. The crash occurred about 6 p.m. off the west end of Harbor Island near Tom Ham's Lighthouse restaurant shortly after the start of the parade that featured about 80 festively lit boats.

Parade watchers noted a rapid-

SEE **ACCIDENT**, Page 5



Federal crash investigators are looking into the fatal collision of a U.S. Coast Guard vessel, like the one shown above, with a runabout during the San Diego Bay Parade of Lights celebration on Dec. 20.

U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO

His is the gift of heart and community pride

By ANTHONY GENTILE | PHOTO BY JIM GRANT | THE BEACON

For the past 15 years, Gerry Boehmke has been the man behind the Ocean Beach community Christmas tree. Boehmke has spent most of that time quite literally behind the tree, deflecting recognition and praise for his efforts.

"He is just never in the limelight," said Claudia Jack, chairwoman of the Ocean Beach Town Council's (OBTC) Tree Committee. "He always is behind the scenes picking up all the pieces."

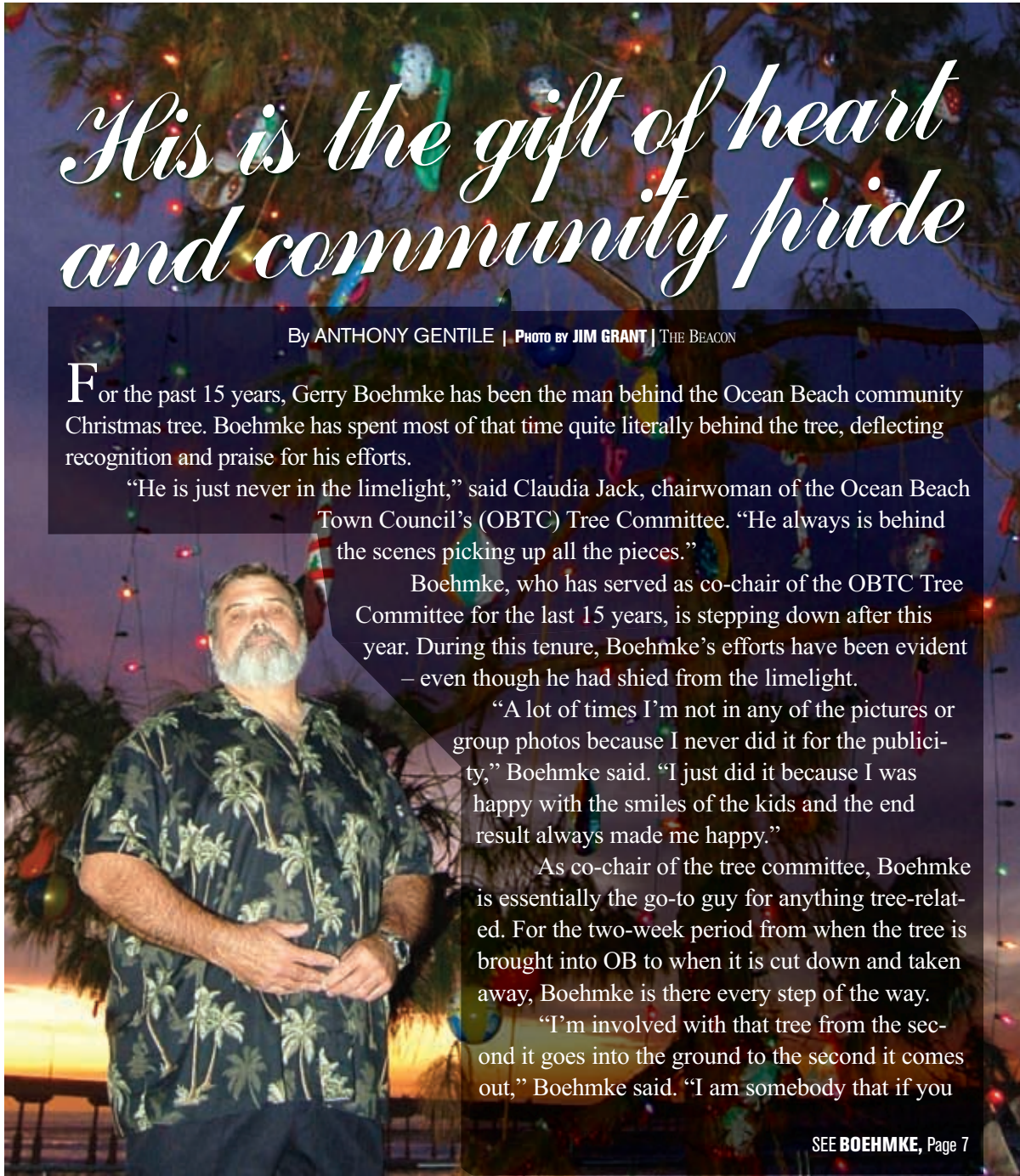
Boehmke, who has served as co-chair of the OBTC Tree Committee for the last 15 years, is stepping down after this year. During this tenure, Boehmke's efforts have been evident — even though he had shied from the limelight.

"A lot of times I'm not in any of the pictures or group photos because I never did it for the publicity," Boehmke said. "I just did it because I was happy with the smiles of the kids and the end result always made me happy."

As co-chair of the tree committee, Boehmke is essentially the go-to guy for anything tree-related. For the two-week period from when the tree is brought into OB to when it is cut down and taken away, Boehmke is there every step of the way.

"I'm involved with that tree from the second it goes into the ground to the second it comes out," Boehmke said. "I am somebody that if you

SEE **BOEHMKE**, Page 7



Airport gives all-clear on blueprint to go green

By ANTHONY GENTILE | THE BEACON

Airport officials vowed to make the skies a little friendlier for neighbors as members of the Peninsula Community Planning Board (PCPB) were introduced to the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority's newly completed air quality management plan (AQMP).

Airport planner Brett Caldwell shared details of the AQMP with PCPB officials during a Dec. 17 meeting. The plan was created in response to the state's airport emissions goals, which force airports to implement specific environmental commitments by March 2010.

"It's an agreement between the

Airport Authority and the California State Attorney General's Office," Caldwell said of the so-called memorandum of understanding. "The objective is to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions related to airport activity."

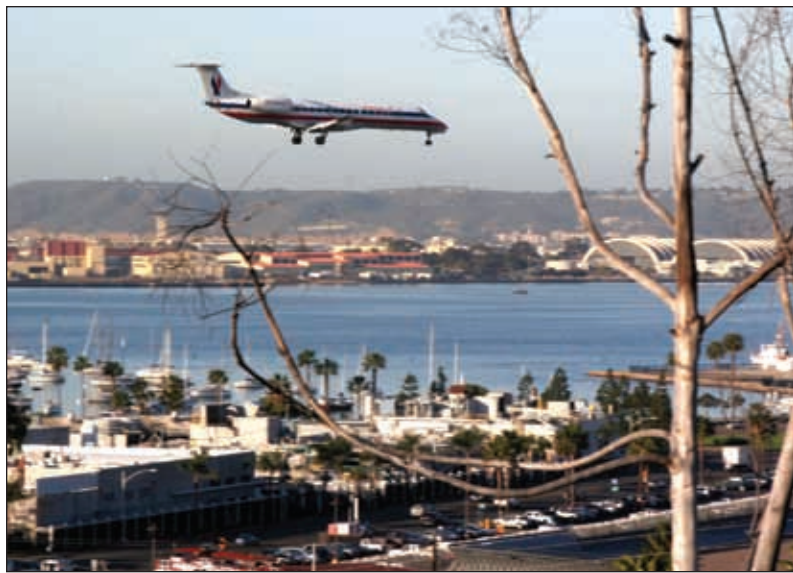
The AQMP provides 14 specific air- and land-based measures aimed to make the airport more green. Among these initiatives are forcing airlines to use single-engine taxiing and limiting taxiing time, and the use of an incentives program to convert shuttles to electric or alternative fuel. The plan encourages the airport to be more conscious about the environment.

"We're going to continue to track

and monitor greenhouse gas emissions that are produced by airport-related activity and we're going to look at funding opportunities," Caldwell said. "[These are] funds that will pay for projects to reduce emissions and clean out the air."

Local planners also got a glimpse into future Airport Authority projects. Ted Anasis, the Airport Authority's manager of airport planning, spoke about current projects set out in the airport's master plan. Of the 10 projects recently evaluated by environmental impact reports, Anasis said four are either under construction or in the imple-

SEE **AIRPORT**, Page 7



Lindbergh Field officials are planning to take environmentally friendly steps to meet state airport emissions goals by March 2010.

COURTESY PHOTO BY CHUCK HANSEN

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There are plenty of options and alternatives to drinking and driving this holiday season.

COURTESY PHOTO

New Year's revelry should be cause for caution

By ANTHONY GENTILE | THE BEACON

777222.

For those who plan to enjoy more than a single flute of bubbly this New Year's Eve, driving home should not be considered an option. Here is a brief guide for those who want to ditch driving this New Year's Eve:

Call a cab: Two of the biggest cab companies in San Diego are Orange Cab and Yellow Cab. Orange Cab can be reached at (619) 233-5555. Yellow Cab dispatchers can be contacted from any of the three local area codes by dialing 444-4444 or by texting a complete address

Board the bus: San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is offering free service after 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve. In addition, each of its three trolley lines and three of its bus routes (7, 11, 929) will continue limited service all night long. Buses will run on a half-hour to hourly schedule and trolleys will run every half hour. Sycuan Casino and Mothers Against Drunk Driving's sponsorship of MTS made the additional transit service possible.

Take a tow: The Automobile Club of Southern California (AAA) is

offering its free Topsy Tow service from 6 p.m. New Year's Eve to 6 a.m. New Year's Day. Drivers can call 1 (800)-400-4AAA and receive a free ride and tow home for up to seven miles.

"Topsy Tow provides motorists with a safe ride home for themselves and their vehicles instead of driving while intoxicated," said AAA traffic safety researcher Steve Bloch.

Roll out in style: Two local businesses that offer limo services are Premier Limousine and Top Dog

SEE HOLIDAY, Page 7

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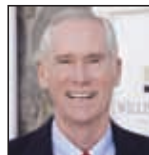
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Appeals court set to rule on fate of Soledad Cross

By ADRIANE TILLMAN | THE BEACON

The Mount Soledad Cross still stands but the battle to remove it from public property rages on.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit heard the case on Dec. 9, but no decision is imminent since the three judges are waiting for the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the Mojave cross case “Salazar vs. Buno.”

The Supreme Court will hear the case sometime between now and June.

However, neither opponents nor supporters of the Mount Soledad Cross seem to think the Mojave case will influence the Mount Soledad case, saying the Mojave case will likely be decided on a technicality.

Both opponents and supporters of the cross believe the appellate court gave them a fair hearing on Dec. 9.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) brought the case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in an appeal to a 2008 ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Larry Alan Burns that the cross is constitutional because it “communicates the primarily non-religious messages of military service, death and sacrifice.”

The ACLU represents the Jewish War Veterans, as well as plaintiffs and San Diegans Steve Trunk, Judith Copeland and La Jollans Richard A. Smith and Mina Sagheb.

The appellate court gave the ACLU a fair hearing, according to ACLU attorney Daniel Mach.

Defendants in the case include the U.S. Justice Department, City of San Diego and the Mount Soledad Memorial Association.

The Alliance Defense Fund, a coalition of Christian attorneys, submitted a friend-of-the-court brief in the hearing. Joe Infranco, a senior attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, believes the outcome for the

Mount Soledad Cross will be affected by the Supreme Court’s decision in 2005 to permit a statue of the Ten Commandments to remain on public property in Texas due to its historical significance.

“My impression is that the panel was attempting to reconcile its old views with the Supreme Court precedent, which is now very favorable to the cross,” Infranco said. “This is a panel that, based on its history, would not be friendly to our perspective. Any panel, regardless of each judge’s philosophy, is still bound by Supreme Court decisions.”

A brief history

A cross has stood on Mount Soledad since 1913. The first redwood cross was either stolen or destroyed, and the second one blew down in 1952. The Mount Soledad Memorial Association thus formed to erect the 29-foot cross (atop a 14-foot concrete base). During an Easter Sunday ceremony in 1954, the La Jolla Town Council dedicated the cross to veterans of World Wars I and II and the Korean War.

War veteran and atheist Philip Paulson first sued the city in 1989 over the constitutionality of the Mount Soledad Cross on city property. Ten years later, the Mount Soledad Memorial Association built a veterans memorial and has sold 2,600 granite plaques to the public to honor veterans.

Hear the arguments

To hear an audio recording of the hearing before the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit visit www.ca9.uscourts.gov, click on “audio recording” and scroll through the cases to Dec. 9, and click on “Jewish War Veterans of the Uni vs. City of San Diego,” case no. 08-56415.



Fallen Marines provide fuel for inspiration

Kevyn Major Howard, left, who played the role of Rafterman in the Stanley Kubrick film “Full Metal Jacket,” founded the program “Fueled By The Fallen” to raise funds and awareness to help the families of fallen military and law enforcement heroes, as well as injured servicemen and women. “Fueled By The Fallen” hosted a memorial race car with the names of more than 860 fallen Marines during a Kobey’s Swap Meet at the San Diego Sports Arena earlier this month. Howard and Gerald Digger, right, of Rancho Bernardo point to the name of Marine Cpl. Randal Kent Rosacker, who died in combat while serving in Fallujah, Iraq in March 2003. Digger served with Rosacker at that time. More information is available at www.kobeyswap.com/nonprofit.htm or www.fueledbythefallen.com.

COURTESY PHOTO

Ex-ambulance worker gets 3 years for making threats

By NEAL PUTNAM | THE BEACON

A Midway-area business employee who pleaded guilty to making criminal threats and carrying a loaded firearm in his car was sentenced Dec. 15 to three years in state prison.

Brandon James Murray, 27, worked for Alert Ambulance on Hancock Street in Point Loma. Several co-workers told police he made threatening statements to them before police pulled him over Aug. 24 after Murray and his wife left their residence.

Police found four semi-automatic handguns with ammunition in

the vehicle. Murray’s wife has since told the judge the guns belonged to her.

“It’s hard to know what he was planning [acting on the threats],” said Superior Court Judge Michael Smyth. “He was driving somewhere with firearms. I believe he’s a danger to others if not incarcerated.”

Smyth denied Murray probation and gave him credit for 108 days spent in jail. He also fined him \$1,260. Smyth also signed a restraining order that bans Murray from contacting his former co-workers.

Murray also pleaded guilty to

inflicting corporal injury to his wife, Jennifer Flores.

In court documents, Brandon Murray admitted to making a death threat to a co-worker and to battering his wife.

Deputy District Attorney Matthew Greco said he will oppose the return of the firearms to Flores.

Murray had been charged with 12 counts that mostly were criminal threat charges but Smyth dismissed the remainder after Murray pleaded guilty to three counts. Workers told police that Murray had threatened to “hurt everyone at the office.”

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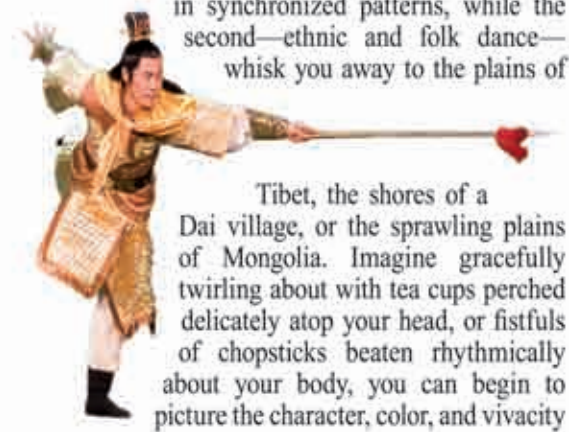
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Some shows simply come and go, while others stay etched in memory for many years to follow. Shen Yun Performing Arts easily defines the second category, offering a dazzling spectacle of classical Chinese dance and music drawing on 5,000 years of artistic tradition. This holiday season presents a wonderful opportunity to catch this astounding exhibition of cultural expression at San Diego Civic Theatre, December 26-31.

Based in New York, Shen Yun is reviving a traditional art form that thrived before decades of suppression by China's communist regime. It offers a completely new selection of dances, songs and musical scores each year.

Shen Yun's productions feature three types of dance. The first, Chinese classical dance, is a mesmerizing combination of artistic technique with athleticism with dancers leaping, pirouetting and tumbling while moving in synchronized patterns, while the second—ethnic and folk dance—whisk you away to the plains of



Tibet, the shores of a Dai village, or the sprawling plains of Mongolia. Imagine gracefully twirling about with tea cups perched delicately atop your head, or fistfuls of chopsticks beaten rhythmically about your body, you can begin to picture the character, color, and vivacity

of Shen Yun's ethnic and folk dance.

The third form is story-based dance offering dramatic retelling of legendary stories and popular tales, such as the tales of heroine Mulan and general Yue Fei.

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—San Francisco Chronicle

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dimension to Shen Yun's dramatic program.

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Seven shows will be presented on Dec. 26-31 at Civic Theatre. Call (888) 973-7469 or visit SDspectacular.com for tickets.



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—Richard Conner, Critic for Talkin' Broadway

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—Master Cellist Christine Walewska, watched Shen Yun four times in NY

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—James Zimmerman, Classical Dancer for 34-years

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—Prof. Sary Dawidar, Notable Egyptian Composer, Arranger and Conductor

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Peters' port job may preclude seat with Coastal Commission

By ADRIANE TILLMAN | THE BEACON

Questions remain as to whether former city councilman Scott Peters will be appointed to the California Coastal Commission since he currently serves on San Diego's Board of Port Commissioners. La Jolla Peters represented District 1 on City Council for eight years before terming out last year.

Port projects are brought before the Coastal Commission for consideration throughout the year, so serving on both boards could pose a conflict for Peters, who said he would recuse himself on San Diego's harbor decisions.

The Attorney General's Office is reviewing the situation and will likely decide within a week or two whether Peters can serve on both boards simultaneously. Coastal Commissioner Khatchik Achadjian of San Luis Obispo had appointed Peters as her alternate.

"If there is an inconsistency, I would have to choose between the offices, and I will decline my appointment as an alternate to the Coastal Commission so that I can continue to serve as a port commissioner," Peters said in an e-mail.

The Coastal Commission is not a new post for Peters, who served on the commission from 2002 to '05. Both the port authority and Coastal Commission are unpaid positions.

"The Coastal Commission is one of the most important and effective environmental protection agencies in the world ... Now that I have completed my service on the City Council, I am pleased that I



Former City Councilman and Port Commissioner Scott Peters has been named an alternate to the Coastal Commission. PHOTO BY PAUL HANSEN | THE BEACON

may again have the chance to serve the state as a Coastal Commissioner," Peters said. "It is an exciting and challenging role, and I believe my experience and perspective can help the coast and the San Diego region."

A lawyer with a 15-year background in environmental law, Peters is not currently practicing. Instead, he said he has spent the past year volunteering on civic boards and spending more time with his teenagers. Peters is chairing the Climate Initiative at the San Diego Foundation in addition to serving on the Port Commission, where he will be named vice-chair in 2010.

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NewsBriefs

Penninsula Planning Board to hold election

The Peninsula Community Planning Board is seeking candidates to run for several open seats. Candidates will vie for the positions during an election March 18 at the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library, 3701 Voltaire St.

Ballots will be cast from 4 to 8 p.m., with a candidates forum prior to the election.

To qualify, a person must be at least 18 years of age, be a Peninsula community property owner or resident, or be a local business person with a business address in the Peninsula community.

Applications can be obtained online at www.pcpb.net or by calling (619) 224-9897.

Mail applications to Helen Kinnaird, 3215 Tennyson St., San Diego, 92106.

Motorcycle crash leaves biker seriously injured

A man was seriously hurt when his motorcycle collided with another vehicle shortly before noon in the 1200 block of Rosecrans Street on Dec. 10, according to San Diego police reports.

The motorcycle was heading northbound on Rosecrans when it crashed into the rear of the sedan that was headed southbound on Rosecrans and making a left turn.

The motorcyclist was taken to the hospital and suffered a ruptured spleen and lacerated liver. Police reports said alcohol was not a factor in the crash. The police department's Traffic Division is currently investigating.

Suspected drunken driver injures motorcyclist

A suspected drunken driver collided with a motorcycle shortly before 5 p.m. in the 4400 block of W. Point Loma Boulevard on Dec. 10, according to police reports.

The unidentified motorist was reportedly driving a Chevy sedan and making a left turn onto W. Point Loma Boulevard from an apartment complex parking lot when he struck the eastbound motorcyclist.

The motorcyclist suffered an open fracture to his right leg and a fracture to his left wrist and was taken to the hospital, while the driver of the sedan was reportedly unhurt.

The police department's Traffic Division is currently investigating.

Plumosa Park Festival of Lights set for Thursday

The streets of Plumosa Park will once again be lit up this Christmas Eve.

Luminarias will line the streets from 6 to 9 p.m. for the 36th annual Plumosa Park Festival of Lights.

The tradition of luminarias has been in place in Plumosa Park since it was started by Carol Settles in 1956. The tradition grew in 1973 when it expanded to the surrounding areas of Point Loma.

Residents are encouraged to participate by moving their cars off the street and by making their own luminarias, which consist of a lunch sack and votive candles.

For more information, call (619) 222-3065, or e-mail mizdell@pacbell.net.

ACCIDENT

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

ly-moving vessel with flashing blue lights speeding close to the parading boats, near where numerous recreational boats were anchored or trolled to watch the parade.

The Coast Guard vessel, a machine gun-equipped Special Purpose Craft, is a hard-bottomed inflatable with three 275 horsepower outboard motors capable of travelling in excess of 60 mph, according to the USCG website.

Dubbed a "go-fast" law enforcement boat used to pursue smugglers, the vessel operates with limited forward visibility because of its planing, bow-up hull design.

An independent observer knowledgeable about the boat — who requested anonymity — said the vessel was designed only as a high-speed chase boat.

Meanwhile, Alan DeWeese of Rancho Penasquitos, operator of the Sea Ray with 13 people on board, has said publicly he was moving at about 3 1/2 knots.

DeWeese has also said publicly he believed the USCG craft was traveling at about 35 to 45 knots, although other witnesses estimated the boat's speed between 20 and 30 knots.

USCG spokesman Petty Officer 2nd Class Jetta Disco said the Coast Guard vessel was responding to a report of a grounded vessel at the time of the accident.

According to witnesses, the USCG vessel was speeding toward the Embarcadero from the direction of Shelter Island when it turned suddenly and collided with the pleasure boat's stern and flew

Crew members of the U.S. Coast Guard vessel have been relieved of sea duties and assigned to administrative tasks, according to officials.

over its top, damaging its canopy and windshield.

The 87-foot USCG cutter Had-dock, which led off the parade, and other nearby vessels provided assistance to the injured boaters and brought them to docks on Shelter and Harbor islands, where emergency crews from the San Diego Fire Department (SDFD) were waiting.

DeWeese's 8-year-old son, Anthony, and five other passengers suffered severe trauma injuries, according to SDFD Battalion Chief Chris Webber, whose crews transported the severely injured to UCSD Medical Center and Rady Children's Hospital.

Two other victims were treated for minor injuries at the scene. Anthony DeWeese later died from his injuries at UCSD.

At press time, several other victims remained hospitalized.

It's not yet clear whether the Sea Ray had its required navigation lights illuminated at the time of the accident. Both DeWeese and nearby boaters said he had no time to move out of the way of the speeding Coast Guard boat.

DeWeese has publicly said the

bow of the Coast Guard boat "was up way high," possibly obscuring the driver's view of any obstacles.

Both vessels were able to return to the dock on their own power. The Sea Ray was quickly towed to the Shelter Island Boatyard, which opened on an emergency basis to receive the vessel and haul it from the water.

"The towing service calls directly to my ways foreman, who calls in anybody he may need to assist him," said Bill Roberts, general partner of the boatyard.

San Diego Harbor Police examined the vessel out of the water Sunday night and had it trucked to a secure warehouse on Monday morning to protect the integrity of the evidence.

Early Monday morning, Harbor Island observers spotted boats using floodlights and apparent divers to examine the scene of the accident.

The names of the five USCG crew members, none of whom were injured, have not been released. However, the crew members have been relieved of their sea duties and assigned to administrative tasks, said Capt. Thomas Farris, commander of Coast Guard Sector San Diego during a Monday press conference.

While Sunday's boat parade was temporarily halted to facilitate rescue efforts, few in the parade were aware of the collision as the parade finished its route from Shelter Island to Coronado. About 80,000 people were expected to watch from shore.

San Diego Harbor Police are currently seeking any witnesses to the accident. Anyone with information is asked to call (619) 686-6272.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Keeping your pet safe
from holiday toxins

By NATALIE WIRES

The holidays are stressful enough without having to worry about a potentially poisoned pet. Below is a list of holiday-related decorations, plants and food items that the veterinarians at Pet Poison Helpline recommend keeping away from pets.

Holiday ornaments: When decorating for the season, consider your pets. Holiday decorations such as bubble lights may contain poisonous chemicals. If your pet chews on them the liquid inside could be dangerous to their health. Methylene chloride, the chemical in bubble lights, can result in depression, aspiration pneumonia and irritation to the eyes, skin and gastrointestinal tract.

Tinsel: If you own a cat, forgo the tinsel. What looks like a shiny toy to your cat can prove deadly if ingested. Tinsel does not pose a poisoning risk but can cause severe damage to a cat's intestinal tract if swallowed. Ultimately, cats run the risk of severe injury to, or rupture of their intestines and treatment involves expensive abdominal surgery.

Plants: Though they have a bad rap, poinsettia plants are only mildly toxic. Far more worrisome are holiday bouquets containing lilies, holly or mistletoe.

Other yuletide plants such as holly berries and mistletoe can also be toxic to pets and can cause gastrointestinal upset and even heart arrhythmias if ingested.

Alcohol: Because alcohol is rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream, it affects pets quickly. Ingestion of alcohol can cause dangerous drops in blood sugar, blood pressure and body temperature. Intoxicated animals can experience seizures and respiratory failure. Additionally, foods such as desserts containing alcohol and unbaked dough that contains yeast should be kept away from pets as they may result in alcohol toxicity, vomiting, disorientation and stomach bloat.

Holiday foods: With the holiday season comes a delightful variety of baked goods, chocolate confections and other rich, fattening foods. However, it is not wise (and in some cases is quite dangerous) to share these treats with your pets. Keep your pet on his or her regular diet over the holidays and do not let family and friends sneak

in treats. Foods that can present problems include:

- Foods containing grapes, raisins and currants (such as fruit cakes) can result in kidney failure in dogs.

- Chocolate and cocoa contain theobromine, a chemical highly toxic to dogs and cats. Ingestion in small amounts can cause vomiting and diarrhea but large amounts can cause seizures and heart arrhythmias.

- Many sugarless gums and candies contain xylitol, a sweetener which is toxic to dogs. It causes a life-threatening drop in blood sugar and liver failure.

- Leftover, fatty meat scraps can produce severe inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis) leading to abdominal pain, vomiting and bloody diarrhea.

Imported snow globes: Recently, imported snow globes were found to contain antifreeze (ethylene glycol). As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze when ingested by a cat or a tablespoon or two for a dog (depending on their size), can be fatal. Signs of early poisoning include acting drunk or uncoordinated, excessive thirst, and lethargy. While signs may seem to improve after eight to twelve hours, internal damage is actually worsening, and crystals develop in the kidneys resulting in acute kidney failure. Immediate treatment with an antidote is vital.

Liquid potpourri: Filling your house with the smell of nutmeg or pine for the holidays may seem inviting, but if you're partial to heating your scented oils in a simmer pot, know that they can cause serious harm to your cat; even a few licks can result in severe chemical burns in the mouth, fever, difficulty breathing, and tremors. Dogs are not as sensitive, but it is still better to be safe than sorry, so scent your home with a non-toxic candle kept safely out of kitty's reach.

When it comes to the holidays, the best thing a pet owner can do is get educated on common household toxins and pet-proof your home accordingly. If you think your pet has been poisoned, call your veterinarian or Pet Poison Helpline at (800) 213-6680, or visit www.petpoisonhelpline.com.

— A public service message from Pet Poison Helpline.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Iran's nuclear bomb
bent must be stopped

It is time to demand that Iran stop seeking a nuclear bomb and pursue a peaceful path. Allowing Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon would embolden the Islamic republic, prompting the government to increase its sponsorship of terrorism and make good on its offer to share nuclear know-how with terrorists who could strike anywhere, at any time.

The time has come for severe sanctions as a means to get Iran to stop its nuclear program. The international community must take urgent action now to peacefully stop the threat of a nuclear Iran.

Following are ways to curb the threat and avoid war:

- Until Iran halts its nuclear program, the international community should stop doing business with companies that supply refined petroleum to Iran. Due to a lack of oil refinery facilities in Iran, it must import 40 percent of its refined fuel. Halting such imports into Iran will help discourage Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapon and its support of terrorism. Iran is currently the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism.

- Governments that care about security and peace must ban banks from providing credit, insurance and loan repayment guarantees to foreign oil companies that supply fuel to Iran or help expand the country's domestic refining capacity.

- The international community should prohibit insurance companies from insuring tankers going to Iran. The majority of tankers carrying gasoline to Iran are insured by Lloyds of London, a company that should be forbidden from helping the world's largest state sponsor of terror.

- Freeze more Iranian bank assets. In 2007, Bank Melli, Iran's largest state-owned bank, cashed in its dollar assets for Euros. The Iranian banking strategy depends on the Euro. In June 2008, all of the EU's 27 member-states agreed to freeze any assets held by Bank Melli in their jurisdictions. Those EU measures, taken in 2008, signaled growing impatience with Iranian foot-dragging in negotiations over halting uranium enrichment. But as Iran continues to pursue its enrichment program, more must be done. The French and German governments must divest their large holdings in Bank Melli Iran.

- Issue travel bans. All Iranian government employees and their families should have their foreign assets frozen. They should also be subjected to travel bans until Iran is verified to have stopped its nuclear program and support of terrorism.

- Ban arms sales to Iran. In 2006, the United States called on all countries to stop arms exports to Iran, but much more must be done to verify that it has occurred.

- Increase targeted broadcasting into Iran through various communications channels including Radio Free Europe, Voice of America, the BBC and especially private broadcasting entities. Support democracy activists by broadcasting events inside of Iran so that activists can more easily learn what is occurring in the various cities and towns in Iran.

Ban Iranian commercial airlines from entering European Union countries for failure to meet international safety standards.

It's not too late. The time to act is now!

Charlie Gautier
Point Loma

PCPB chair ignoring
public safety outcry

Community residents cannot be neutral when it comes to public health and safety. Community interests should be paramount.

That is why the majority of Peninsula residents fully supported District 2 City Councilmember Kevin Faulconer and the efforts of his team of residents to stop the [methane gas] truck shipments through Point Loma's residential areas and reaching a compromise on the overall Beneficial Use of Digester Gas Project.

The Peninsula Community Planning Board (PCPB) and its chairperson have refused to endorse Councilman Faulconer's efforts, led by contentious Chairman [Chuck] Mellor, who ignores the rules under which board members are sworn to operate.

This individual seems to believe he alone can decide anything and everything. We feel he consistently operates outside the established rules. He misrepresented the board and the community when he appeared before the City Council on June 2 to promote the trucking of methane gas and stated at the last PCPB meeting on Dec. 17 that he would do it again. We feel this is a pattern of manipulation and deceit and that he certainly does not represent the community.

If this chairperson had a modicum of decency he would have admitted his "honest" mistake and thrown both his and the planning board's support behind Councilman Faulconer and the community's historical, environmental event. The only solution is for this chairperson to resign.

Jim & Val Gilhooly
Point Loma

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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.

DISTRIBUTION The Peninsula Beacon is available free every Thursday.

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BOEHMKE

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

need something done, you can count on me to get it done for you.”

Sometimes those tree-related responsibilities arise in the middle of the night. During recent rainstorms, Boehmke got a call from the Fire-Rescue Department in the wee hours asking how to turn the power off because of an issue with

the electrical box. And this is not the first time he has been woken up as a result of the tree.

“There were times when he and I would be out in the pouring rain in the wee hours of the morning trying to figure out how to stabilize the tree and the sand castle,” Jack said. “We always met and shared the work and got it done.”

Poor weather is an enemy of the tree and of Boehmke himself. Poor behavior on the part of some beach

visitors also keeps him busy.

“People love to mess with that tree — they pull the lights down or they steal the ornaments,” Boehmke said. “The thing that I enjoy the most is when the kids come down from all the elementary schools and hang all their ornaments. So I try to take care of those for them during the two weeks.”

The smiles of the children who visit the tree are why Boehmke, who works with the city’s Storm

Water Division, puts in so much time and effort into it. Of all the OB activities Boehmke has been involved with over the years, the Christmas tree tradition is his favorite.

The tree has always been my favorite because I always loved sitting down there and watching all the little kids come down and hang their ornaments and see Santa Claus,” Boehmke said.

Boehmke, 52, attended Sacred

Heart Academy, St. Charles Borromeo Academy and graduated from Point Loma High School. Although his tenure on the Tree Committee is ending after this holiday season, that doesn’t mean he will stop lending a helping hand.

“I’ve always tried to be active in this community because I was born and raised here,” Boehmke said. “I like to give back to the community.”

He just doesn’t like to take credit.

AIRPORT

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

mentation phase.

In addition to the current Taxiway C construction, Anasis said two other projects have been implemented — both of which will begin in 2010 and be completed in 2014. These projects are a new aircraft apron and aircraft parking area, along with an elevated roadway from Terminal 2.

Anasis also said the project that will add 10 gates to Terminal 2 — the centerpiece of The Green Build terminal development program — is now in the design phase. This project would expand the number of gates in Terminal 2 to 51 and is

“The objective is to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions related to airport activity.”

BRETT CALDWELL
PLANNER, AIRPORT AUTHORITY

expected to be finished in 2014.

“This project will include hold rooms, jet bridges and will also include expanded concessions areas — particularly post security — as well as an expansion of security lanes from six lanes to 12-14 lanes,” Anasis said.

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THE PREVALENCE OF DEPRESSION IN THE ELDERLY

Researchers estimate that 20 percent of elderly people living in nursing homes or assisted living experience symptoms of depression. Late in life depression can have serious repercussions. It can increase mortality and disability, may result in higher health care utilization and longer hospital stays.

An estimated 15 percent of U.S. adults are providing care for seriously ill or disabled relatives. These family caregivers are simultaneously caring for their own children and also often working outside the home. Add the problem of elder depression in perhaps one in five of all family caregiving relationships and you can see the problem is huge. Many families don’t even know what they’re dealing with or how to care for their loved one when they don’t fully understand what is happening to that family member.

Elderly people themselves will “ignore the blackness that descends on them” because it is hard for them to move away from the belief that depression is a sign of weakness and a result of flawed character. Also, they may think they should just handle things. That’s where the RN Case Managers at Innovative Healthcare Consultants can help. They can recognize the warning signs of depression and can help advocate for your family member with their family doctor. If you want advice or have questions about depression in yourself or a family member, call us at (877) 731-1442 or view our website at www.innovativehlc.com.

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HOLIDAY

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

Limo Bus.

“The great part about New Year’s Eve is that a lot of people like to get together with everybody else,” said Albert Allison, operations manager for Premier Limousine. “We like to take care of the

people that want a more private experience.”

Premier Limousine rents out vehicles for six hours on New Year’s Eve, ranging from \$360 to \$900 for the evening. They also have the only bubble gum pink Cadillac Escalade limo on the West Coast.

Top Dog in Pacific Beach offers limo buses and extended Hum-

mers that range from \$150 to \$180 per hour.

“With limo buses, half the fun is being on the bus because you can stand up, you can dance,” Van Huizum said.

Top Dog will rent out its vehicles for a minimum of seven hours for the evening and will decorate the inside of their vehicles with a New Year’s theme.

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Guide 2009

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Come celebrate the coming new year on Sunday, December 27 at 10:15 a.m. in the Family Life Center for a family-style Breakfast/Worship Service. All ages included. (No childcare provided)



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Wildcats, Huskers set to battle it out during Holiday Bowl Dec. 30

By DAVE THOMAS | THE BEACON

If you don't have a ticket for next Wednesday's Pacific Life Holiday Bowl between Arizona and Nebraska, good luck.

Pacific Life Holiday Bowl officials announced that the Dec. 30 game between the Wildcats and Cornhuskers is a sellout. More than 66,000 tickets have been sold for the bowl, which kicks off at 5 p.m. at Qualcomm Stadium. It will be nationally televised on ESPN.

The sellout is the game's ninth in the last 12 years; the 20th in its 32-year history.

Sixth-year head coach Mike Stoops brings his Wildcats to San Diego after leading his squad to

an 8-4 overall record, 6-3 in the Pac-10. Their victory over USC earlier this month in Los Angeles earned them a share of second place in the conference.

"We're thrilled to earn the Pacific Life Holiday Bowl bid the way we did in the last couple weeks, and excited to be in San Diego," Stoops said. "Our players have worked hard all season for a reward like this, and will work hard to show what Arizona and the Pac-10 Conference are all about in the game itself."

Arizona is led by a balanced offense spearheaded by sophomore quarterback Nick Foles, and a top 25 defense that can apply pass pressure, defend the run and make things happen in

the secondary. The Wildcats' return game features a pair of threats in Bug Wright and Travis Cobb. Running backs Nic Grigsby and Keola Antolin have combined for 1,100 yards and nine scores despite missed games, while receivers Terrell Turner and Juron Criner bring explosive energy on the edge.

Nebraska enters the game with a 9-4 record and has posted back-to-back nine-win seasons for the first time since 2000 and 2001. The Huskers relied on a dominant defense to win their last five regular-season games before a 1-point setback against Texas in the Big 12 Championship.

"Our players are looking for-

ward to the opportunity to play another football game, and a trip to San Diego and the Pacific Life Holiday Bowl is a nice reward for the season they have had," head coach Bo Pelini said. "Arizona has had an outstanding season, is extremely well-coached and will be a big challenge for our football team. We have a lot of players in our program from California and I know they will enjoy playing in their home state. I'm sure our Nebraska fans will also travel in full force to San Diego."

Nebraska is led by senior defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, who was a finalist for no less than six major national awards. Suh leads the team with 82 tackles, 12 sacks, 23 tackles for loss and

26 quarterback hurries, while adding 10 pass breakups and three blocked kicks. Nebraska is also strong on special teams led by junior Alex Henery, a dual threat as a punter and place-kicker, and junior return man Niles Paul, who ranks among the Big 12's best returning both punts and kickoffs.

This will be the third time Arizona and Nebraska have faced each other.

Tickets for other Pacific Life Holiday Bowl events, including grandstand seating for the nationally televised Port of San Diego Big Bay Balloon Parade, are available by visiting www.PacificLifeHolidayBowl.com.



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Storms stir up serious wave action

With several storm systems moving through the area this month, surfers have had plenty of big waves to be thankful for. Mostly sunny skies should prevail through Christmas with highs in the low to mid-60s. Forecasters say there is a chance of showers beginning again on Sunday.

COURTESY PHOTO BY JIM GRANT

Happy Holidays

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CRUISES & EVENTS



Live musical blowouts to usher in new year

By **BART MENDOZA** | THE BEACON

Without a doubt, there is no bigger night on the annual entertainment calendar than New Year's Eve.

As we approach 2010, just about any place with a dance floor will offer those in a celebratory mood the chance to take in some music as the clock winds down. With so many options at hand, we've whittled down the list to come up with five of the standout end-of-the-year parties taking place downtown this year. All events are for those over 21 only.

The Giant

Hands down the biggest event happening in the city is the appropriately named Big Night Out, taking place at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront. With 12 themed party areas, 10 bands and DJs, there will be something for just about everybody. While all the bands had not been confirmed at press time, the three listed so far are certainly among the city's top party bands and cover a wide range of styles; R&B powerhouses Lady Dottie & The Diamonds, retro dance kings the Disco Pimps and jazz favorites the Craig Stephenson Trio. DJs will include Mike Czech, Edgartronic, Scotty Boy and Happee. Big Night Out at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront: \$149-\$219. bignight-sandiego.com



R&B powerhouse Lady Dottie performs New Year's Eve during Big Night Out downtown. COURTESY PHOTO

Large Scale Happenings

Though known for its connection to live music, if a DJ only event is your thing, one of the biggest this year will be at The Hard Rock Hotel. The party encompasses the whole venue, including three floors, four venues and 12 DJs. On hand will be Paulie P., Danny Love, Sid Vicious, Kurch and Card 1. While the DJs are the draw at this party, the option of four distinct venues in one is appealing, particularly, rooftop nightspot Woodstock. New Years Eve 2010 at The Hard Rock Café: \$60. hardrockhotelsd.com

The San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina will also host a DJ party with Scooter & LaVelle as well as Hyper Crush. Spinning a mix of house, electronica and hip-hop, Scooter & LaVelle are among the most popular of San Diego's turntablists. Extras on the night include a Nintendo Lobby Lounge and live body painting, but the 3,000 capacity

dance floor is the star attraction here. New Years Eve at the San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina: \$60. newyears.evesd.com

Smaller Events

Indie rock fans' best option this year is Smith's tribute group Sweet & Tender Hooligans at the Casbah. Devoted to the music of U.K. icon Morrissey and his '80s-era band The Smiths, the group performs with enough accuracy that they've picked up a following of their own. There will be no surprises in the set list, but the chance to dance and sing along to tunes from one of the era's most iconic groups more than makes up for this. Sweet & Tender Hooligans at the Casbah: \$22. casbahmusic.com

Always a place for a boisterous night of fun, blues nightspot Patricks II is extra special on New Year's Eve. The closest downtown has to a true roadhouse, the informal atmosphere is perfect for anyone wanting to avoid wearing a suit or tux this evening. Performing will be The Dennis Jones Band, an excellent Los Angeles based blues trio, steeped in the sounds of Hendrix and Johnny Winter. While the band includes many standards in its repertoire, front-man and guitarist Jones pens excellent songs that sound cut from the same cloth as the classic tunes they were inspired by. The Dennis Jones Band at Patricks II: Cover TBD. patricksii.com

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December

A Look Ahead

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday, Dec. 26, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., the three resident dance companies at Dance Place San Diego in the NTC Promenade of Liberty Station will provide a day of free instruction. Participating are Malashock Dance, Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater and San Diego Ballet. For more information, visit www.malashock-dance.org, www.sandiegodancetheater.org or www.sandiegoballet.org.

Through Jan. 17, Quilt Visions/Visions Art Quilt Gallery hosts a new exhibit, "Interpretations 2009." An opening reception takes place Saturday, Nov. 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. The admission to the gallery, located at 2825 Dewey Road, is free. Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, call (619) 546-4872, or visit www.quiltvisions.org.

COMMUNITY/CIVIC

Today, Dec. 24, 6 to 9 p.m., 36th annual Plumosa Park Festival of Lights. The luminarias tradition was started by Carol Settles in 1956 and has grown beyond the park to surrounding streets. Plumosa Park is located on the east side of Chatsworth Boulevard. For more information, call (619) 222-3065, or e-mail mizdell@pacball.net.

Tuesday, Jan. 5, noon, monthly meeting of the Ocean Beach Woman's Club. New members are welcome. The meeting takes place at the clubhouse at the corner of Bacon and Muir streets. For more information, call (619) 501-7711.

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 10 a.m., regular monthly meeting of the Point Loma Garden Club. The featured speaker will be Kathleen Shawl Parkes of Monrovia Nurseries, who will speak on the replacement of water-hungry landscapes. The meeting takes place at the S.E.S. Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. For more information, call (619) 223-2051, or visit www.plgc.org.

Sunday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m., annual meeting of the United Portuguese S.E.S., known as "Contas." All members and prospective members are welcome. The meeting takes place at the United Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. For more information, call (619) 895-6348.

RELIGIOUS

Today, Dec. 24, various times, The Rock Church hosts Christmas Eve services at 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Childcare is not provided. For more information, call (619) 226-ROCK, or e-mail worshiparts@therocksandiego.org.

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 5083 Santa Monica Ave. 619-222-PIER	Nightly Specials: Happy Hour 4pm -Close	Nightly Specials: \$2 Tacos and \$5 Tequila Happy Hour 4pm -7pm	Nightly Specials: \$5 Whiskey Drinks Happy Hour 4pm -7pm	Nightly Specials: \$6 Burger and a Beer Happy Hour 4pm -7pm	Nightly Specials: 25% off bottles of wine	Every Saturday \$9 Coors Light Pitchers and \$2 Mimosas Happy Hour 4pm -7pm	Every Sunday \$9 Coors Light Pitchers and \$2 Mimosas Happy Hour 4pm -7pm
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ACROSS

1 Speed

6 Losing streak

11 Way between seats

16 Value

21 So as to be heard

22 Radio part

23 Kind of organ

24 Conscious

25 Great

26 Opaline quality

28 Something toxic

29 Greek letter after zeta

30 Dart

31 Easy as —

32 Horse race

34 One of the Gabor sisters

35 Vend

37 Antiquity

38 Children's caretaker

40 Part of RSVP

41 Long fish

42 Playing cards

44 Tedium

46 Bind with a cord

49 Knocked

52 Water main

53 Young goat

55 Funeral vehicle

59 Another time

60 Dry

61 Contracted a muscle

64 Place of contest

65 Jolts

66 Prod

67 Make dirty

68 Part of UCLA (abbr.)

70 Russian ruler of old

71 Mimic

72 Hit repeatedly

73 Part of speech

74 Wild fear

76 DDE's nickname

77 Poisonous plant

79 Allow

80 Black

82 Attached a label to

84 Ripped

85 Enemies

86 — and rave

87 Place of perfection

88 Silky yarn

90 Yours and mine

91 Beer relative

92 Unpaid debt

95 — Maria

96 Skull cavity

98 Wine city in Italy

100 Wings

101 Soft metal

102 Hazard

104 Gear tooth

105 Terrible

106 Wickedness

107 Dig for ore

108 Work dough

110 Fiendish ones

112 Narrow opening

113 Aquatic bird

114 Six-lined stanza

116 Cap

117 Complain

118 Long carpet

119 City in Oklahoma

121 Splinter group

124 A female relative

125 Sphere

128 — Angeles

130 Incline

131 Paved ways (abbr.)

132 Monumental

136 That girl

137 Conspiracies

139 Source of metals

140 Loafer

141 Literary collection

142 Juvenile heroine

144 Letter carrier's cousin

147 Summary, for short

149 Speeder's undoing

150 Permission

151 Stringed instrument

152 Coeur d'—

153 Put forth effort

154 Lawn tool

155 Cherub

156 Beat

DOWN

1 "The Canterbury —"

2 Gladden

3 Ethical

4 Breed of small dog

5 Work in verse

6 Calms

7 Sensational

8 Single thing

9 Sweater size (abbr.)

10 Make ready

11 Go up

12 Native of (suffix)

13 Transmit

14 Shoestrings

15 Lagasse the TV chef

16 Undulating

17 Be in debt

18 Hindu princess

19 Treasure —

20 Relating to blood

27 — qua non

30 Nosebag filler

33 Feeling not very well

36 — lazuli

38 Slangy denial

39 Bumpkin

43 One hundred years (abbr.)

44 Cage occupant

45 Combine

47 Red or Yellow

48 Male red deer

49 Hindu nobleman

50 Standing wide open

51 Marks similar to brackets

52 — moss

54 Pour out

56 Acceptance

57 Limbless creature

58 Kind of seal

60 Only

61 In favor of

62 Set free

63 Rather or Aykroyd

66 Non-brand drug

67 Starts a sea voyage (2

69 Word-for-word

72 European capital

73 Swerve

74 Corn bread

75 Personnel group

78 Big snake

79 Gehrig and Ferrigno

81 Island near Java

83 — whiz!

85 Battled

88 Grades

89 Relating to sheep

92 Dismounted

93 Wash cycle

94 Look of contempt

97 Holiday drink

99 Upperclassmen (abbr.)

100 The Bard's river

103 Smith or Hudson

105 "Three Musketeers" author

106 Ardor

107 — Carlo

109 Private room

111 LummoX

112 Chimney dirt

113 Pistol

115 Money drawer

117 Roman goddess of wisdom

118 Stratagem

120 Simple, aimless drawing

122 Pasturage plant

123 Vetch

124 Keyless, in music

125 Chicago's airport

126 Unwind

127 Wife-to-be

129 Horse

131 Layered rock

133 Harness-racing animal

134 Silly

135 Like Superman

137 Saucy

138 Dross

140 Air pollution

143 Balloon basket

145 "— Got a Secret"

146 Yang's counterpart

147 Rodent

148 Whitney or Wallach

Answers in the Classifieds

CROSSWORD PUZZLE COMPLIMENTS OF STUDIO DENTISTRY (SEE ABOVE)

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