SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

Thursday, August 12, 2010

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Louie and Kathi Williams, who created the spectacular "Hidden Garden" on Niagara Street in Ocean Beach, have turned a labor of love into a community treasure. The garden, dotted with donated antique objects and interesting themes, is free and open to the public.

OB's 'Hidden Garden' takes visitors to another time

Story by DEBBIE HATCH, photos by JIM GRANT | THE BEACON

green sign on a white cementbrick wall in front of 4973 and ▲ 4975 Niagara St. in Ocean Beach quietly invites passers-by to view a "Hidden Garden" situated between two cottage-style blue houses.

The garden is located at the end of an unassuming cement pathway, no wider than a wheelbarrow, with narrow aisles of dirt lining either side. On the left are glass flowers spaced equidistant in black dirt, since there is no direct sunlight on this side. On the right, soil sits untouched under a lone streak of sunshine.

A wooden gate reading "Hidden Garden" can be pushed back, instantly causing a whimsical stillness as the realization hits that one has landed where Alice might have in Wonderland.

Color is all the eyes can see. Every hue imaginable tickles the mind in Louie and Kathi Williams' peaceful "Hidden Garden."

A fence with mirrored wooden windows lines the yard. Above the mirrors are items from another world and another time: insulators from old telephone lines, wooden pulleys from ships, a rusted-steel smudge and an old knife sharpener are modestly placed through out the garden.

Green baby tears, red-and purpletoned succulents, celadon and asparagus-colored cacti, fuchsia pentas and more grow around these weathered tools, which no longer serve a purpose in

Among the other items hidden in the garden is a wrought-iron bed frame, serving as a true "bed of flowers" underneath an assortment of foliage.

Light ocean breezes carry floral, lemon and fresh soil fragrances through-

SEE **GARDEN**, Page 7



An explosion of color covers every corner of the "Hidden Garden.

An antique knife sharpener is among the donated objects dotting the "Hidden Garden."

Area nonprofit looking to turn Midway postal facility into homeless community

By ANTHONY GENTILE | THE BEACON

While the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) examines potential buyers for its Midway Processing and Distribution Facility in Point Loma, a local nonprofit group known as Amikas sees a direction for the facility that could also help with local homelessness issues.

Amikas officials are submitting a proposal to turn the 436,000square-foot building into a sustainable neighborhood for the

The proposal is only one being considered by the Postal Service, which is seeking to liquidate the property and downsize services and facilities in times of declining

"We're looking at a solution

SEE **POST OFFICE**, Page 3



Amikas, a local nonprofit group, is proposing to purchase the 436,000-square-foot Midway Processing and Distribution Facility in Point Loma and turn it into a self-contained neighborhood for up to 2,000 locally homeless people.

Controversial sales-tax hike sets up ballot-box battle in November

By ANTHONY GENTILE | THE BEACON

Battle lines are already forming on both sides of a potentially explosive November city ballot measure to increase the local sales-tax by a half-cent. Proponents hail the proposal as a means of carving into the projected \$72 million deficit for 2011, while opponents deride the measure as a "bailout" placed on the backs of city voters with no real guarantees of reform.

With the deadline looming to place the increase on the Nov. 2 ballot, the City Council voted 6-2 on Aug. 4 to give voters the power of endorsement. The plan involves a five-year hike in local sales tax and is tied to various financial reform mea-

an agreement," said Darren Pudgil, a spokesman with Mayor Jerry Sanders' office. "We know that Faulconer voted against placing the reforms alone will not enable us to sales-tax hike on the ballot, along protect and restore city services, so with District 5 Councilman Carl it's essentially reforms before revenue. It's a combination package."

The reforms tied to the potential sales-tax hike include changes to retirement plans for city officials, a second-tier pension plan for fire-

fighters and kickstarting the process to privatize the city's information technology services and the Miramar Landfill. Pudgil said the ballot measure would require the city to meet those reforms before any money is collected from the salestax increase.

"It's a very comprehensive reform package that must be put in place," Pudgil said.

Not even 24 hours after the City Council's vote to place the measure on the November ballot, supporters called a press conference Aug. 5 at Fire Station 20 in Point Loma, using the setting as a means of demonstrating the need to restore critical services like fire and police protec-

The opposition camp and subse-"It's kind of a compromise and quent anti-tax-hike campaign also began immediately.

District 2 Councilman Kevin DeMaio. Faulconer said the measure as presented doesn't guarantee savings to citizens.

"The reforms in this tax proposal

SEE TAXES, Page 2





NEWS

Inaugural Free to Breathe event to raise funds for lung cancer

By JOSEPH GREENBERG | THE BEACON

The inaugural Free to Breathe 5K Run/Walk will be unleashed around the NTC Promenade's cultural district at Liberty Station on Saturday, Aug. 21 to raise funds to support the fight against lung cancer.

Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer of both women and men in the United States.

The event begins at 7 a.m. at NTC Park on Farragut Road and is sponsored by the National Lung Cancer Partnership (NLCP).

Helping to coordinate this event is Santee resident Joe Hamilton. Since 2008. Hamilton has been getting actively involved in lung cancer advocacy and organizing fundraising support.

Hamilton and other family members were the sole care providers for their mother, Margie Hamilton, who was diagnosed with the disease and fought it for five years until the final months of 2008.

"We were there for her morning, noon and night. And in my mom's final moments, I vowed to help make a difference in the fight against lung cancer," Hamilton said.

"Lung cancer claims roughly 160,000 lives in the U.S. each year, a number that surpasses the combined amount of lives taken by breast, colon and prostate cancers together," he said. "And it receives by far the least amount of funding by comparison."

In bold contrast to the large number of lives claimed by lung cancer is the amount of research funding the disease receives in comparison to the other types of cancer.

The NLCP's website cites informa-

tion from the National Cancer Institute's 2007 estimate on federal research funding which, when broken down, shows lung cancer research money equated to about \$1,415 per death that year, while breast cancer research money equated to \$13,991 per death.

Hamilton wants to help change this imbalance and said it is slowly happening with events like the Free to Breathe® 5k Run/Walk.

The funds raised from these events support the National Lung Cancer Partnership's overall mission of cutting down deaths due to lung cancer and helping those afflicted to live longer, fuller lives by contributing to research.

"We are organizing some local news anchors and political assemblymen to give some motivational speeches starting at 7 a.m.," Hamilton said. "The actual walk takes off at 8 a.m.

"People are encouraged to sign up individually or as a part of a team," he said. "Right now, I know my team is near the front of the competition for funds raised."

Participants may register online at www.freetobreathe.com at a cost of \$20. The last day to register online is Aug.18. The cost to register the day of the event is \$25

Hamilton said the entry fee includes a T-shirt and access to more materials to further strengthen fundraising support.

Visit www.freetobreathe.com and follow the registration link to the local San Diego event link.

For more information, visit www.nationallungcan cerpartner-



Liberty Station will host an inaugural Free to Breathe 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, Aug. 21 to raise funds to fight lung cancer.



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are a wish list. We need an action list," Faulconer said in a statement. "San Diegans need to know how much money the city will save before we ask them for more.

A particular item with the revised ordinance that Faulconer took exception to was the deletion of a sentence that said none of the reform conditions could be excused for any reason. Faulconer's spokesperson, Tony Manolatos, said this allows the reforms to be pushed aside when convenient.

The City Council had held three special hearings in a five-day span to discuss the increase. At the most recent meeting Aug. 4, the council approved a revised version of the ordinance presented by City Attorney Jan Goldsmith.

Pudgil said the five-year temporary tax story

would raise an estimated \$103 million per year that the city would put toward city services, including fire, police and street resurfacing.

"It will be used to eliminate the rolling fire brownouts and it will be used to restore and protect essential city services," Pudgil said.

While the half-cent sales-tax increase will now appear on the ballot, the proposal for a new City Hall was removed from it two weeks ago.

On July 30, Sanders vetoed the City Council's plans to put the project on the November ballot. Pudgil said the developers for the project asked Sanders to remove it from the ballot, citing a lack of

"It's a very complicated issue and communicating that effectively to the public would have taken a significant amount of money," Pudgil said.

— Kevin McKay contributed to this



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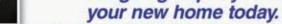
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Point Loma

POST OFFICE

that has a positive impact on the area because people will live there, work there and be earning money they can spend in the neighborhood," said Jeeni Criscenzo del Rio, founder of Amikas. "All the services that they need will be in one location."

Amikas' idea is an eventual neighborhood of 2,000 people inside the former postal facility, complete with employment and small households for those currently without homes. Criscenzo del Rio said the concept would create a sense of community and family for those who live within, with clusters of six 10-people households separating the residents.

"There's an awful lot of people that are good, working people that play by all the rules that never in a million years expected that they would end up without a place to live," Criscenzo del Rio said. "Those are the people we want to provide an opportunity to."

Even though Criscenzo del Rio said the cooperative neighborhood would be open to all local homeless residents, the focus of the effort would be to find homes for local homeless veterans. She said the proposed community would allow recent veterans a chance to decompress when they return.

"This is a military town and it is deplorable and unacceptable that we have so many of our returning troops who part with one of those golf courses. Then have served our country and they come home and there's no jobs," Criscenzo del Rio said.

The Midway location wasn't the first site Amikas looked at for the concept. Criscenzo del Rio said the original plan involved a site to build houses near downtown and they also looked at Tecolote Canyon Golf Course in Clairemont as a possible location.

"We came to have to realize that there was no way that anyone was going to



The U.S. Postal Service is attempting to liquidate the Midway postal facility and downsize services and facilities in times of declining revenues. The homeless neighborhood proposed inside by the nonprofit group Amikas is only one proposal being considered by PAUL HANSEN I THE BEACON

There's an awful lot of people that are good, working people that play by all the rules that never in a million years expected that they would end up without a place to live."

> Jeeni Criscenzo del Rio AMIKAS FOUNDER

we found out about the Midway Post Office facility," Criscenzo del Rio said. "It's not what our original idea was, but the more we looked at it we decided it could work.'

Criscenzo del Rio declined to discuss financial specifics of a potential purchase. She did say, however, that Amikas is hoping for financial support from the community, grants and local government to make the plan work.

Amikas held a community meeting

about the proposal Aug. 10 at the San Diego Community College West City Point Loma campus. At the meeting, Amikas officials discussed the project with residents and businesses.

"It's really important that people do know what's going on," Criscenzo del Rio said. "This isn't a big secret and we're not trying to shove anything down anybody's throat here."

USPS spokeswoman Eva Jackson said USPS is currently reviewing the multiplproposals put forth to purchase the facility. Earlier this year, USPS teamed with real estate company CB Richard Ellis to identify potential buyers, a process that concluded in March.

"We are still in the process of doing our due diligence on the proposals that have been received and are not prepared to offer any details at this time," Jackson

The Midway Processing and Distribution Facility is located at 2535 Midway Drive in Point Loma. For more information, visit www.amikas.org.

NEWSbriefs

Community cleanup, homeless forum planned

Following on the heels of a July 6 community forum to address the plight and impact of the local homeless population and other quality-of-life issues in Ocean Beach, a two-pronged campaign is set to be launched later this month.

The Ocean Beach Inter-faith Community, which hosted the last community forum, is planning a breakfast for the needy on Saturday, Aug. 21 at 7:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church, located at 4790 Santa Monica Ave.

Following the breakfast, a community cleanup will take place to tackle problem alleys in Ocean Beach. According to organizers, dumpsters, some bags and a few tools will be provided. Participants are urged to bring heavy gloves and cleanup tools like rakes, brooms and weed whackers.

Then, on Tuesday, Aug. 24 at 7 p.m., organizers will host a second community forum to develop action items addressing homelessness issues and form committees to work on community-specific projects. Some of the action items identified in the original July 6 forum were construction and improvement of beach bathroom facilities, a possible emergency drop-in shelter and /or community center, along with job mentoring and drug/alcohol abuse counseling and treatment programs.

The forum takes place at the Church Hall of First Baptist Church. For more information, call (619) 223-7187.

Police probe robbery of phone retail store

San Diego police are investigating the commercial robbery of an AT&T Wireless retail store on Sports Arena

Boulevard after two suspects made off with various merchandise Aug. 1.

The incident, which occurred shortly after 2 p.m., unfolded when two men entered the store in Loma Portal and claimed to be armed, according to investigators. The suspects then demanded money and grabbed several items off the shelves before escaping on foot, according to accounts.

Police said witnesses described the two robbers as African-American.

The first suspect is described as having a short afro with no facial hair. roughly in his mid-20s, about 6 feet tall with a muscular frame and weighing about 160 pounds. He was last seen wearing a white polo shirt and blue jeans and reportedly had piercings in both ears. The second suspect is believed to be in his early to mid-20s, about 5' 11", weighing about 150 pounds with a skinny build. He was reportedly last seen wearing a black football jersey with the number 19.

Anyone with information is urged to call the police department's Western Division at (619) 692-4800.

Man who pulled down jogger's shorts sought

San Diego County Crime Stoppers and investigators from the San Diego Police Department's (SDPD) Western Division are asking for assistance from

the public in identifying a suspect wanted for sexual assault.

Investigators said that on July 26, shortly before 6:30 p.m., a 21-year-old woman was jogging in the 4700 block of Adair Street in Ocean Beach. An unknown male sus-

pect ran up behind the victim and

pulled down her shorts. The suspect

SEE BRIEFS, Page 4

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Tami Fuller #I Agent in Pt. Loma Office 619.226.TAMI www.TamiFuller.com



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CONTINUED FROM Page 3

immediately fled the scene in an older gray Toyota pick-up truck. The victim was not injured.

The suspect is described as a white male, 25-35 years-old, between 5'5" and 5'7" tall, medium build, dark scraggly neck-length hair, facial hair, wearing an all-gray "beanie" style cap. He drove a gray, early-1990's Toyota pickup truck (no shell).

Investigators are asking anyone with information on the identity and or location of the person responsible for this crime to call SDPD Western Division at (619) 692-4800 or the Crime Stoppers anonymous tip line at (888) 580-8477.

Crime Stoppers is offering up to a \$1,000 reward to anyone with information that leads to an arrest in this case. Anonymous e-mail and text messages be sent www.sdcrimestoppers.com.

Sewage spill temporarily closes Dog Beach

A 3,400-gallon sewage spill led to the temporary closure of Dog Beach in Ocean Beach, according to officials with the San Diego County Department of Public Health.

The spill, which occurred Aug. 3, originated from the intersection of Via Las Combres and Cirrus Street near Fashion Valley, entering the San Diego River and ultimately reaching Dog

Health officials estimated that emergency crews captured roughly 1,900 gallons of sewage, leaving about 1,500 gallons destined for Dog Beach where the San Diego River empties into the

The spill is believed to have occurred as a result of roots blocking a sewer line, health officials said.

The beach was reopened.

For the current status on water closures or advisories in Ocean Beach or elsewhere in San Diego County, call (619) 338-2073 or visit www.sdwatersheds.org/wiki/-Beach_Monitoring. Click on "beach status" at the top left.

Deadline nears to apply for OB Town Council seat

In September, Ocean Beach Town Council will hold its annual board of directors election to fill seven seats. The

deadline for applicants to submit a letter declaring their candidacy for the twoyear term is Monday, Aug. 16.

Those interested in running for a seat must be a member in good standing of the Town Council and be at least 18 years of age. Membership to the Town Council is open to local residents and business owners who are at least 16

In addition to declaring candidacy, the letter must provide the reasons a person wishes to run and any relevant experience or skills. The letter can be e-mailed to OBTC or mailed to OBTC Election Committee, P.O. Box 7225, San Diego, CA 92167, and must be postmarked or time stamped no later than Aug. 16.

OBTC board members are required to attend two meetings per year and participate in their events during the two-year

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



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Uncooperative captain netted near OB Pier

An unidentified sailor whose boat ran aground near the Ocean Beach Pier reportedly refused to leave his vessel Monday afternoon (photo left) and defiantly kept lifeguards at bay to await high tide - at least for a little while. A trio of lifeguards eventually removed the man by force. He was arrested on suspicion of public intoxication, according to a statement from San Diego Lifequard Services





IN REMEMBRANCE OF ATOMIC HORROR

Ikunosuke "Mike" Kawamura solemnly rings the Friendship Bell on Shelter Island on Aug. 6 at exactly 8:15 a.m. - commemorating the exact time that America's first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, killing 140,000 people on Aug. 6, 1945. At the time, Kawamura was two-and-a-half years old and lived less than two miles from where the bomb fell. The Friendship Bell was given to the city of San Diego in 1958 by the city of Yokohama under a sister-city agreement signed by both municipalities in 1957.

1917-2010

The Hon. Rev. Earle Vaughan Lyons, veteran, longtime Point Loman, 92

career during World War II as chaplain at North Island Naval Air Station, His bachelor officer's quarters were the Hotel del Coronado on a dol-

lar a day.

"It didn't seem like such a bad life, so I decided to stick around awhile," he would often say. Lyons would spend many of his adult years in Coronado before retiring in Point Loma.

THE HON. REV. EARLE VAUGHAN

LYONS, JR.

Earle Vaughan Lyons, Jr. died July 25 of heart failure in

the comfort of his home. He was 92. Lyons graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1943 with a master's degree and received two more master's degrees from the University of Pennsylva-

nia and Chapman College. When World War II ended, he was sent to the Philippines with the Seventh Fleet Amphibious Forces. After the Korean War, he spent seven years in Washington, D.C. working with the Chief of Chaplains Office.

He returned to Coronado, serving as staff chaplain of the Cruiser Destroyer Force, Pacific Fleet. Then the Vietnam War broke out and he was called to serve as force chaplain for the Third Marine Amphibious Force, where he supervised 130 chaplains.

Lyons served two years in Vietnam, often in the trenches with the troops. One experience was particularly rewarding to him, helping the Marines to build Vietnamese orphanages - a welcome break from dealing with the tragedies of war.

He served three years as officer in charge of the Chaplains School in Rhode Island before heading back to San Diego, where he completed his 30-year career as the district chaplain of the Eleventh Naval District.

Capt. Lyons retired from the Navy in 1974. His last official role for the U.S. Navy, and one he was most proud of, was aiding in bringing back the prisoners of war, many of whom he knew personally.

The Rev. Lyons is predeceased by his parents, Marie and Earle Vaughan Lyons, and his first wife, Eleanor M. Lyons. He is survived by a sister, Doris Seiler of Williamsport, Pa.; sons Earle "Tuck" Lyons of San Diego, Bill Lyons (Kari) of Coronado; daughter, Jeannie Lyons-Campanella of San Diego; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by his second wife, Suzanne Lyons of San Diego, and her four children

Lyons was pastor of Mission Hills United Church of Christ for 10 years and executive director of the Ecumenical Council for 12 years. He served in Rotary Club 33 for 31 years, was a member of Balboa Park's

Vaughan Lyons began his military Committee 100 and served on both the federal and county grand juries.

> "He touched so many lives in so many ways," remembered his daughter, Jeannie. "He always had a smile on his face and twinkling blue eyes. He was a man of his word and lived his whole life living up to his word. We will all miss him greatly."

> Services were held Aug. 5 at Mission Hills United Church of Christ. Lyons will be interred with full military honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery at a later

> Instead of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in "Memory of Rev. Vaughan Lyons" to Rotary Club 33/San Diego and the Mission Hills United Church



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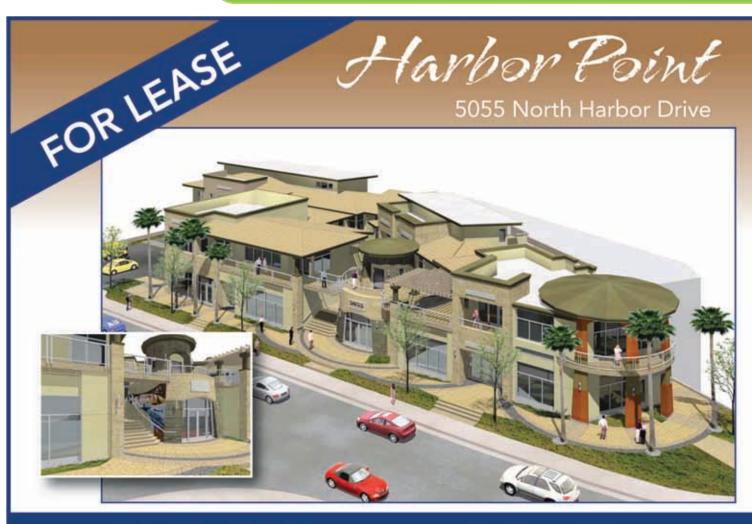
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GUEST COMMENTARY

Bill to target cleaner water by reducing copper in brake pads

By SEN. CHRISTINE KEHOE

San Diego faces a serious environmental and economic threat, and the solution lies in the brakes on your car or truck. Each time you apply your brakes, the friction on the brake pads creates dust, which settles on roads and washes into stormdrains, eventually finding its way into our urban creeks and San Diego Bay. That dust contains copper, which is



harmful to aquatic species from plankton to salmon. Scientific studies show the largest source of copper in urban watersheds is vehicle brake pads.

To comply with the federal Clean Water Act, our regional water board has ordered the amount of copper in Chollas Creek in San Diego to be drastically reduced by 2028 or face fines amounting to tens of thousands of dollars a day. Trying to remove copper once it has dissolved in water would be expensive and disruptive to the communities near the creek.

The city of San Diego endured huge fines in the 1990s when it similarly failed to comply with state wastewater standards, and the city wants to avoid that fate this time. The only feasible way to comply and avoid immense costs is to cut off copper at its source — vehicle brake pads.

I have introduced legislation that will allow San Diego and other California cities to meet their clean-water requirements and avoid cleanup costs and fines. Senate Bill 346 requires that brake pads sold in California contain no more than a trace amount (0.5 percent) of copper by 2025. This gives brake pad manufacturers 15 years to develop and distribute copper-free brake pads. The bill will ensure that any new brake pads will be as safe or safer than those currently on the market.

Some argue California should adopt a law similar to one recently enacted in the state of Washington: capping copper at 5 percent by 2021 and creating an advisory committee to study reaching the 0.5 percent limit "in later years." The problem is that California isn't Washington — we face strict copper limits on our urban waterways and they don't.

We need a firm date for reaching 0.5 percent in order to avoid the fiscal catastrophe that copper-related cleanup costs and fines could create for San Diego and other local governments. My deadline of 2025 wasn't just pulled out of a hat — it's the latest date that stormwater agencies believe they can allow to comply by 2028 (given an average brake pad turnover rate of three years).

I have created mechanisms to assist segments of the industry that can't make or won't be able to obtain a safe copperfree product in time, and I am absolutely committed to ensuring that copper-free brake pads are as safe or safer than current materials.

San Diego and California don't have the luxury that Washington has of being able to wait for a no-copper alternative to be available sometime in the future.

I believe the ingenuity and creativity of the auto industry is up to the challenge.

-Sen. Christine Kehoe represents the 39th California Senate District, including La Jolla, University City, Point Loma, Ocean Beach, Pacific Beach, Mission Beach and downtown



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Beach ads would cheapen beautiful scenery

People go to the beach to get away guard assets" like rescue trucks, surf- the La Jolla Community Planning Assofrom advertising blight. It's everywhere boards, equipment, T-shirts, trunks, ciation, who is quoted in an article by we look, ad nauseum (pun intended).

Mayor Jerry Saunders' strategic marketing and advertising plan, backed by the Teamster's Union, among others, would place advertising on our beaches to help reduce our \$75 million deficit and restore funds for lifeguards and other programs.

The plan's projected revenue is \$200,000 to \$500,000 for five years. [This is] a mere spit in the bucket for advertisers. For this, we would give up our naturally gorgeous, eye-pleasing, nerve-easing beaches with their panoramic views of nothing but sand manner of happy ad-free people?

The advertising placed on lifeguard towers, beach benches, trash cans and ads, let's stop building downtown. walkways may also be placed on "life-

Lifeguards in disguise seems like a bad

Ocean Beach has beach benches that were donated by families who have lost someone to the heavens who enjoyed sea-air breezes, soft sand between their toes and sun on their face. Now imagine a couple lazing on a beach bench plastered with advertising, watching children make sand castles, one person pointing to a lifeguard tower and saying, "Oh look, honey, a jumbo Trojan ad, isn't that nice?! And the matching trash cans' wonderful colors ... Don't and sea, swimmers, surfers, and all they make staying for the sunset worth them.

Here's a better idea. Instead of beach

I agree with Joe LaCava, president of

and bathing suits — front and back. reporter Jenna Frazier of the La Jolla Village News as saying, "Protecting the parks and beaches from commercialization has long been a worthy goal." La Jolla has a jewel of a tourist attraction in Mother's Beach. Can you picture the walls of the breakwater surrounding the beach covered in advertisements?

> Oh, but take heart, my dearies. I'm not totally against advertising on our beautiful San Diego beaches. Why, putting ads on the inside of trashcans - especially at our world-famous Dog Beach—is a wonderful idea! Everyone who throws in a poopy bag will see

> > Sage Faber Ocean Beach

Advertising on the sand could have ripple effects

Beware unintended consequences. Should the San Diego City Council approve advertising at the city's beaches, then in addition to blight, small enterprises such as ours may need to

years, has sponsored more than 200 stocked more than 3 million cleanup bags at a cost of more than \$50,000. We have never sought recognition for rethink their positions. In addition, the our community activism. However, we ous nonprofits — I Love A Clean San sor appears to take credit for our efforts rent deficits. Diego, Coastkeeper, Surfrider, San Diego and the efforts of city beach-mainte-River Foundation, etc. — may be under- nance crews and the thousands of volunteers who contribute to the cleanli-Dog Beach Dog Wash, open over 17 ness, health and safety of our beaches.

A corporate "sponsor" would need to beach cleanups. We have paid for and provide service and product (bags and trash disposal) on an ongoing basis. It is not enough to write a one-time check for \$500,000.

We hope the City Council will rethink ongoing beach cleanup efforts of vari- will not participate if a corporate spon- this short-sighted "solution" for the cur-

> Mindy Pellissier Dog Beach Dog Wash Ocean Beach

he Peninsula

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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.

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GARDEN

out. Steel chairs wait to be filled by guests inside the garden that welcomes

"It's a sad world if you can't share," said Louie, a man whose stature does not represent how large his heart is.

Born in San Diego, he and his parents moved to Maine when he was a boy. He entered the Marines after high school. which brought him back to San Diego.

Now retired, Louie and his wife, Kathi, moved into the home seven and a half years ago, about the same time they married.

Louie said the yard was a mess when they first moved in. He was out in the vard with a pick clearing the weeds. He just started planting. He said his plan was willy-nilly at first, but he loved gardening and spending time outdoors.

"I want the plants to do well," Louie

He has grown more selective over the years. One might wonder how he would fit more plants, but he insists there is

"It's a beautiful work of love," said Barbara Iacometti, owner of the Details Salon which overlooks the garden.

Iacometti has watched the garden transform from a dirt-filled yard into an door. amazing and eccentric flower garden designed by an artist.

about letting people come in and look at their garden," Iacometti added.

As news of the "Hidden Garden" the cause. Louie places a green plaque said. on each as a way to thank the donor. A Fairchild wooden washer has a green plaque reading "Bob and Cordelia of Cottage Antiques."

"You can't believe how many people I know now." Louie said.

He gleefully mentioned that he walks "Come by anytime."



A sign welcomes visitors to the "Hidden Garden" - a beautifully manicured hideaway owned by Louie and Kathi Williams.

down the street and it makes him smile as people wave to him and shout out

This was heartening when Louie was recently diagnosed with lung cancer. Businesses and neighbors organized a benefit for him at the Blue Parrot next

He was touched and surprised.

Louie is about to end his chemother-"Louie and Kathi are so generous apy and begin radiation. He takes his gardening a little slower these days, but is out in the garden nonetheless.

"As you get older, you start appreciatspread, people began donating items to ing all of the things God created," Louie

> A sign near the steps to his home reads "Bless all who gather here." It sits above some wind chimes hanging over a basket, where the guests can leave dona-

"Don't be a stranger," Louie said.

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SPORTS

With a 12-5 record through July, Padres starter Mat Latos is enjoying the best season of his young career. But with his limit of 150 to 200 innings fast approaching, Latos could see limited action down the stretch.

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Padres keeping close watch on Latos' innings

By ANTHONY GENTILE | THE BEACON

As San Diego Padres starter Mat Latos continues to rack up wins in 2010, he also continues to approach his innings limit set before the season. As a result, the 23-year-old in the midst of a breakout year could see his work limited down the stretch.

"We'll talk about this with our organization," said Padres manager Bud Black. "A lot of that will be based on what we see with our eyes and how his

record in 21 starts. His 139.1 innings pitched is already a career high and very close to the mark of 150 to 180 innings set before the season by Black and General Manager Jed Hoyer with the long-term aim of preventing injury.

Latos said he understands limiting his innings in only his fourth pro season is in his own best interest. But the six-foot-six-inch right-hander isn't thrilled about the prospect of having to shut his arm down before the end of the season.

Through Aug. 8, Latos has an 12-5 said. "I want to go out there and I want to compete. That's the No. 1 goal. I want to keep playing."

> Black described the inning count as flexible and recently said Latos could end up throwing as many as 200 innings by the end of the season including potential postseason starts. Black said he is monitoring Latos regularly to make sure he is not over-

> "Our conversation with him is just to stay in the present," Black said. "Don't fast-forward and count how many starts you have left. I know it's easier

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said than done."

Since the Padres drafted Latos in 2006, his workload has increased steadily. After throwing 56 innings in the minors in 2007 and 2008, Latos pitched 112 total innings last season. Fifty of those innings came in 10 starts with the Padres from July to September.

"Last year with Mat, we saw a little bit of his velocity come down," Black said. "More than anything I saw a little bit [of a decrease] on the concentration and the mental side."

In his second year up with the Padres, Latos is currently enjoying a career season. The righty leads the club in wins and was tops in the National League with a 0.99 WHIP (walks and hits per inning pitched) through Aug.

"[It is] me having the confidence and my teammates behind me confident that I can go every fifth day and go out and perform and give them a chance to win," Latos said.

Success on the mound in 2010 didn't come right away for Latos, who had a 6.20 ERA after four April starts. He admitted he had trouble adjusting to his big league surroundings during that first month of the season.

"I got knocked around a little bit early and I think that had to do with me not really knowing what was going on," Latos said. "Once I settled in, I got comfortable and got a lot closer to a lot of these guys on our team, and it just picked up from there."

Since May, Latos is 11-3 and has allowed more than two runs only once in 17 appearances. While his bread and butter mid-90s fastball has been great, Latos said improvement of both his curveball and slider have helped him this season.

"I have more confidence throwing it and the way that I'm throwing it," Latos said of his curveball.

Despite his key part in the Padres' success this season, Latos would need have to have his current workload reduced in order to both stay under the innings limit and be available to pitch into the later months of the season. How team management handles this situation will impact the Padres in a pennant race that looks more and more like it will come down to the wire.



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SPORTS*brief*

Bike the Bay event returns

Local bicyclists are set to pedal across the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge and then traverse along some of the county's most scenic bay shore routes during the third annual Bike the Bay ride on Sunday, Aug. 29.

The non-competitive 25-mile "fun ride" starts at 7 a.m. at Embarcadero Marina Park South on Harbor Drive in San Diego and travels over the 2.1mile bridge and along the expanded Bayshore Bikeway.

The ride is open to riders 12 years and older and recommended for cyclists of all abilities. The route winds along bayside paths and down dedicated bike lanes through Coronado, Imperial Beach, Chula Vista and National City. The family-friendly event finishes at the Embarcadero Marina Park with post-ride festivities including food, entertainment and a Karl Strauss beer garden.

For information and online registration visit www.bikethebay.net.

Barnes hosts WTT Junior Nationals, tennis legend

King advocates for team play at younger ages

BY DAVE KENSLER | THE BEACON

Ask almost anyone to choose whether tennis is a team or individual sport and the answer will almost unanimously be "individual."

That, according to tennis legend Billie Jean King, is part of the challenge in growing tennis and, particularly, getting young kids playing the sport.

"I saw a study recently where kids first identified with soccer at around age six, but for tennis it doesn't happen until age 15," said King, who was in San Diego last week for the 15th annual World Team Tennis (WTT) Junior Nationals held at the Barnes Tennis Center in Point Loma. "Why is there such a discrepancy?" King asked. "I believe it's because tennis is not offered as a team sport at a young age."

King said the concept of tennis being a team sport should begin at its most basic level and be addressed from many different angles.

"Just like a kid can sign up to play on a football or softball or baseball team, they should be able to signup to play on a tennis team," King said. "Often when I ask kids to name their top three favorite sports,

their lists are team sports."

Even terminology commonly used with regard to tennis instruction needs to be altered, according to King.

"In every sport we use the word 'coach' for the person giving the instruction," King said. "In tennis, the word 'pro' or 'professional" is used. Why? What does that mean to kids? Let's change it to 'tennis coach' to reflect what is used in other

She said she believes the competitive format for most single-elimination tournaments further complicates the challenges of keeping people interested in tennis and limits players socializing with, and getting to know, each other.

"Whether you watch a professional tournament or play in one at your club, 50 percent of the competitors are gone after just the first round," said King. "After the second round, 75 percent are out. Is that

Speaking of the professional tour, King said she would like to see kids have the same opportunities to identify with their favorite players as they do for team sports.

"Tennis should have jerseys for kids to

rarely is tennis on anyone's list. What is on buy with names of the professionals on the back of them," King said. "When you go to a professional tennis tournament, the players should have their names on the back of their clothing."

Many of these ideas or similar ones are incorporated into the WTT Junior Nationals. There are 16 coed teams with participants ages 14-18 from around the United States. They play a non-elimination draw format. Each team has three boys and three girls. A match consists of two boys' and girls' singles; one each of boy' and girls' doubles and two of mixed doubles.

"Almost every 'thank you' note or letter I receive from kids after the event mentions how much fun it was to be part of a tennis team and get to know not only their team members but the opponents as well," King said.

Among her many accomplishments in tennis, King co-founded World Team Tennis in 1974, which operates today at many different levels from juniors to the professional tour. In 2009, she was awarded the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

For more information, visit www.wtt.com.



Tennis legend Billie Jean King makes a point during the WTT Junior Nationals at Barnes Tennis Center last week. King is advocating the team aspect of tennis to a younger set of children to entice them into the sport and change the mindset for many youth that tennis is only an individual sport. PHOTO BY DAVE KENSLER I THE BEACON



Young tennis players on the San Diego Attackers team swing into action at the Barnes Tennis Center last week during the 15th annual World Team Tennis (WTT) Junior PHOTO BY DAVE KENSLER I THE BEACON

HOW THEY FARED

The Southern Smashers won the WTT Junior Nationals for the fourth time in the past six years, defeating Texas TNT 37-35 in overtime at the George E. Barnes Tennis Center in Point Loma.

Two California teams faced off in the battle for third place, with defending champion San Diego Riptide (Youth Tennis San Diego) defeating the OC Lightning 45-33.

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL: Southern Smashers def. Texas TNT 37-35 (OT)

San Diego Riptide def. OC Lightning 45-33 3rd place:

5th place: Midwest Charging Colts def. Incredible Intermountain Ice 40-33 7th place: Southwest Sweetness def. Bakersfield Heat 45-30

9th place: San Diego Attackers def. Central Coast Crushers 43-42 STB (7-5) 11th place: Beasterns def. Smooth Strokes 35-32

13th place: Northern Galaxy def. Middle States Team Work 39-30

15th place: Reckless Rebels def. The Waves 46-12 **3rd place:** SAN DIEGO RIPTIDE (YOUTH TENNIS SAN DIEGO)

Corey Smith, San Diego Sam Todd, Encinitas

Bryce Bettwy, San Diego Maika Adair, San Diego Morgan McCray, Oceanside Megan McCray, Oceanside COACH: Eric Mann

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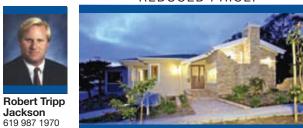


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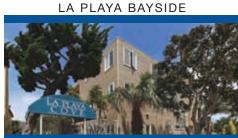
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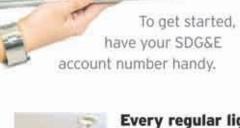
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New neighborhood bistro creates serious buzz

BY DEBBIE HATCH | THE BEACON

La Playa Bistro opened in July with a low-key event, but the response from the neighborhood has been anything but low-key.

The restaurant, located at 1005 Rosecrans St., sits right in the heart of the La Playa neighborhood and attracts boaters, yacht club members and neighbors who just like to be near the water.

Ray Broady and Cindi Hoang own the bistro and recommend making reservations if planning a visit for dinner.

La Playa bistro offers breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as happyhour specials. Hoang characterizes a bistro as a casual place that serves wine. Distressed wood flooring, floor to ceiling windows and a neighborhood ambiance add to the character of the new structure.

La Playa Bistro sells a range of wines from around the world.

"It's a casual elegance here," Hoang said.

The restaurant has been in the works for two years. Over the years, Hoang has watched the property change from a gas station to a U-Haul pick-up and drop-off location, to an abandoned lot.

"It was built from scratch," Hoang said of the new building, owned by the Oliver McMillan Development Group.

Hoang previously owned Point Coffee in the same neighborhood. She grew a reputation for sharing quotes with customers, as she would post them at the coffee shop daily. Many customers looked forward to these quotes

and some would even supply Hoang with new guips.

Some quotes were funny and others meaningful. To Hoang, this was a tradition that she wanted to continue at the new bistro. She noted that when people read the quotes it instantly lifted their spirits and put them in a relaxed mood. She wants diners at La Playa Bistro to feel the same way.

She appreciates the caliber of local residents and loves being by the water.

"I live in paradise right here," said Hoang, who lives nearby.

Hoang describes the fare at La Playa Bistro as New American, California

While the menu will change with the season, the bistro offers dishes that will serve as anchors, such as the popular lamb burgers and French toast.

"We do a really nice chicken pot pie with organic chicken breast," Hoang said.

Other menu items will be more temporary. The chefs use whatever fish is freshest that day. Most of the ingredients are organic as well.

"We celebrate the fresh food of the season," Hoang said.

In the future, the owners hope to add a marketplace. There is limited parking behind the bistro, but guests may also park on the surrounding streets.

The restaurant is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information or to see the rolling quotes, visit www.laplayabistro.com. Call (619) 546-9500 for reservations.



La Playa Bistro opened to much fanfare in July on Rosecrans Street.

Wear Community Fund

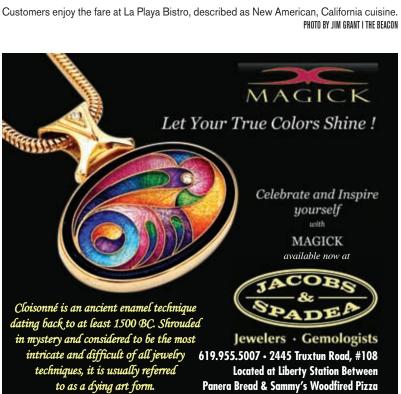
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Millenia, a 21-acre mixed-use development, will be the urban center of the Otay Ranch **McMillin Communities** scores gold at PCBC

use community in Chula Vista by McMillin Communities, won two prestigious merit awards at the 47th annual Gold Nugget Awards, the celebrated event of the Pacific Coast Builders Conference

The Corky McMillin Cos. spearheaded the redevelopment and transition of Liberty Station in Point Loma from the former Naval Training Center to a sprawling residential, businesses and cultural complex.

In the most recent nod to McMillin's goal of creating a hybrid of suburban and urban neighborhoods, the Millenia project was recognized with a merit award for "Best Community Site Plan for 20 Acres or More" and for the "Green Sustainable Community of the Year."

The Gold Nugget Awards commemorate national and international builders, developers, architects, and land planners

Millenia, a planned 210-acre mixed for innovative communities and projects. The award ceremony is an Academy Awards-style event, which includes live entertainment, music and visual presentation of winners.

> According to Mark McMillin, president of McMillin Communities, Millenia will be a smart, energy-efficient, pedestrian-oriented, well-planned community that fundamentally changes how neighborhoods are created.

> Millenia is designed to be the urban center of the award-winning 23,000-acre Otay Ranch community. It will include more than 3.4 million square feet of commercial space (office, civic and retail) and about 3,000 homes. The San Diego Association of Governments designated Millenia a smart growth urban center. For information, www.pcbc.com.

> > Editorial contribution

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Monday, Aug. 16, 6:30 p.m., the last of five installments of "Music at Dusk Concert Series" featuring the Fred Benedetti Guitar Band. The concert series takes place at Westminster Park at the corner of Talbot and Cañon streets. Participants are encouraged to bring a picnic, a friend and a lawn chair. The concert is a freewill offering event. For more information, call (619) 223-3193.



PHOTO BY PAUL HANSEN I THE BEACON

Saturday, Aug. 21 at sunset (between 7:30 and 8 p.m.), "Summer Movie Mania" returns to Liberty Station with its free blockbuster hits under the stars. The offering Aug. 21 is a viewers' choice (voting now under way) selection of "Rocky," "Back to the Future" or "Raiders of the Lost Ark." Participants are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs. For more information or to vote for your preference of movie selections for Aug. 21, visit www.libertystation.com.

Sunday, Aug. 29, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., free community concert by the Silverwood Band, featuring upbeat, danceable American and Celtic music. The event takes place on the front lawn of the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library, 3701 Voltaire St. Participants are urged to bring a picnic and lawn chairs. For more information, call (619) 531-1539.

Through August, the San Diego Watercolor Society hosts a new exhibit, "Hot 'n' Spicy," featuring original watermedia paintings by San Diego artists. The gallery is located at 2825 Dewey Road, Suite 105. Gallery hours are Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (619) 876-4550, or visit www.sdws.org.

Through Oct. 3, Quilt Visions Art Quilt Gallery opens a new exhibit "Transformations/Reflections' as part of a juried exhibition. The gallery is located at 2825 Dewey Road, Suite 100. Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (619) 546-4872, or visit www.quiltvisions.org.

COMMUNITY/CIVIC

Saturday, Aug. 14, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association hosts an Ocean Beach Christmas Craft Fair on the lawn at the foot of Newport Avenue featuring many crafts and artists. The event kicks off the Ocean Beach Christmas Tree Festival headed by a subcommittee of the Ocean Beach Town Council. Proceeds from the fundraiser go to support the community's annual holiday food and toy drive. For more information, call (619) 222-1687 or (619) 846-6269.

Wednesday, Aug. 18, 6 p.m., Naval Base Point Loma's Restoration Advisory Board meets at the Southwestern Yacht Club, 2702 Qualtrough St. The meeting is open to the public. For more information, call (619) 556-0193.

Thursday, Aug. 19, 7 p.m., the Ocean Beach Historical Society hosts famous "Hot Curl" cartoonist and artist Michael Dormer – an Ocean Beach resident – in a presentation. The event takes place at the Point Loma United Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. For more information, call (619) 222-0057, or visit www.obhistory.wordpress.com.

Saturday, Oct. 23, 9 a.m., the nonprofit group Photocharity hosts its annual 5K Walk to Save Homeless San Diego Youth with proceeds going to fund programs and services at The Storefront, a shelter for homeless teens ages 12-17 in Hillcrest. The event takes place at NTC Park at Liberty Station. Registration is \$18 and begins at 8 a.m. For more information, visit www.savehomelessyouth.org

VENUES

Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, (619) 224-1556

- Today, Aug. 12, 7:30 p.m., Creedence Clearwater Revival, \$55
- Friday, Aug. 13, 7 p.m., Dave Koz and Jonathan Butler: Together Again with special guest Sheila E. and Peabo Bryson, \$70
- Monday, Aug. 16, 7:30 p.m., Rodrigo y Gabriela, \$50
- Thursday, Aug. 19, 8 p.m., Chicago, \$96
- Friday, Aug. 20, 8 p.m., Bill Maher, \$73
- Sunday, Aug. 22, 7:30 p.m., Crowded House, \$70 • Monday, Aug. 23, 7:30 p.m., A Prairie Home Com-
- panion featuring Garrison Keillor. \$78
- Wednesday, Aug. 25, 7:30 p.m., Chris Isaak, \$85
- Sunday, Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m., Three Dog Night, \$45 • Wednesday, Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m., Doobie Brothers, \$70
- Thursday, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m., Sheryl Crow, \$87
- Friday, Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m., The Beach Boys, \$75 • Saturday, Sept. 11, 8 p.m., Air Supply, \$50
- Thursday, Sept. 16, 8 p.m., Tower of Power, \$45
- Friday, Sept. 17, 8 p.m., The Fab Four The Ultimate









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Sangria Sundays

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Happy Hour & Wine Specials

Enjoy half-priced bottles of wine from female winemakers during "Divas that Drink", Wednesdays from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, enjoy our "Five for \$5" appetizer and drink specials available in the bar from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

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PBR & Miller High Life bottles \$2 \$2.75 bloody mary's all day Shot of the Week \$3

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Born from a small neighborhood buying club that originally met on picnic benches at the foot of Saratoga Street, Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market has become known as a truly peopleoriented store, a home away from home. From a small group of dedicated volunteers, People's has grown to be Ocean Beach's largest employer, with a vision of helping people live in ways that are environmentally sustainable and that promote personal health and wellbeing. A California food co-operative, People's is collectively owned by more than 14,000 individuals and families who share common values of democracy, equality, and of course great food! Members of People's—San Diego's only community-owned grocer—are able to voice their opinions on issues that are relevant to the Co-op. And, since the market is communityowned, profits stay local.

Stop by People's this month and celebrate our birthday on August 28, from noon until 5 p.m. We'll be grilling outside where you can snack on organic veggie burgers, corn and watermelon, enjoy live music, and get your photo taken at the Co-op's birthday fruit and vegetable display!

O.B. People's Organic Food Market is located at 4765 Voltaire Street, where everyone can shop and anyone can join! We're open daily from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. (619) 224-1387 www.obpeoplesfood.coop.



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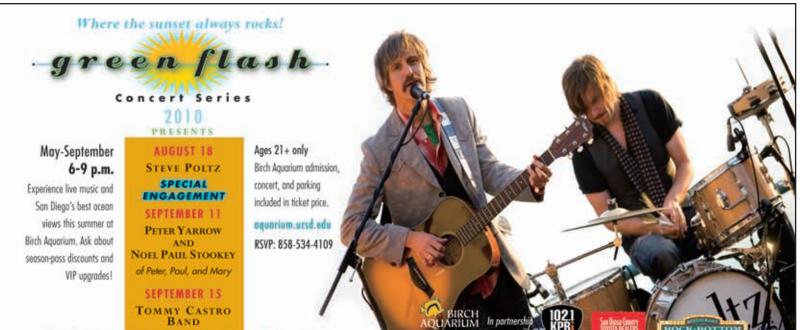
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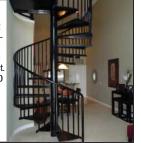


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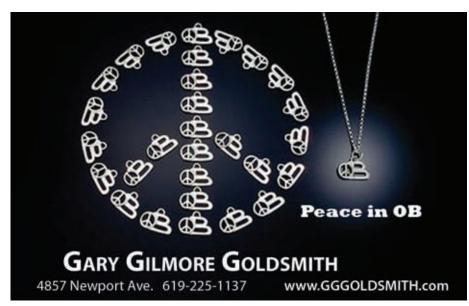


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