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SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

Thursday, January 27, 2010

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## **BATTLE LINES FORMING? Forum to explore PLHS**

charter-school option

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

A group of local parents will host an informational forum Feb. 2 that will explore a changeover of Point Loma High School (PLHS) to charter-school status.

Sponsored by the Point Loma Cluster Schools coalition, proponents believe they can exercise rarely-used "parent trigger" legislation to gain control of the 85year-old institution — a move that concerns many local educators.

The forum will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Barnes Tennis Center, 4490 West Point Loma Blvd. and feature three prominent charterschool advocates.

Point Loma cluster schools include PLHS, Correia and Dana Middle schools and Barnard, Cabrillo, Dewey, Loma Portal, Ocean Beach, Silver Gate and Sunset View elementary schools. The combined enrollment at the 10 sites is more than 6,000 students.

The "trigger" in this scenario is PLHS's status as a program improvement school for the last two years and its state academic performance index (API) test score below 800 points. Last year's API score at PLHS was 758.

The school will become triggereligible if it remains in program

SEE **CLUSTER**. Page 10



By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | THE BEACON

San Diego County Regional Airport Authority officials kicked off a campaign to solicit public input during a workshop Tuesday at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel at Liberty Station. The Airport Authority is working to complete an update to its land-use compatibility plan — the document governing types of future development around Lindbergh Field.

Over the next several months, the Airport Authority will host several workshops and steering committee meetings designed to gather public comment and concerns over noise, airspace protection, flight disturbances, environ-

Suhail Khalil, co-chairman of the Peninsula Community Planning Board Airport Committee, was among the participants at the introductory meeting. He said future changes to airport development regulations will directly affect Peninsula residents.

"Every property owner in the [airport map] zones is going to be affected," said Khalil. "And not in a good way."

The updates to the land-use plan adopted by the airport cover four general topics. Technical issues will be addressed, one topic per steering committee meeting.

SEE AIRPORT, Page 10





Beach and its pier Sunday, making for some spectacular entertainment for the crowds that gathered to soak up the beautiful weekend weather. Unfortunately for lifeguard Mike Neal (above), who was doing some big-wave surfing to stay sharp and in shape for future rescues, a 12-foot wave crashed into him, snapping his board cleanly in two. The wave action did draw plenty of spectators (left), including two youngsters (below) who found the pier padlocked because of the intense surges. The swell out of the northwest triggered a high-surf advisory through Monday.

PHOTOS BY JIM GRANT I THE BEACON



## Sunroad Boat Show to be 10 percent bigger

By LEE CORNELL | THE BEACON

The San Diego Sunroad Boat Show will begin today and run through Jan. 30 at the Sunroad Resort Marina on Harbor Island.

The event showcases the latest boats available on the market. This year's version will see includes more booths and more products than last year, as well as an expansion of in-water ger."

"It's the premier boat show in San Diego," said Jim Behun, the show's producer.

Behun said organizers have had to open up another dock for increased in-water products.

This is mainly due to the show bringing in more brokers who can display used boats this year.

For many years, the show was held at the San Diego Convention Center, Behun said, but it moved to the more intimate setting of Harbor Island last year.

"Now, it's more of a homier feel in this giant a 10 percent increase in growth, which tent," Behun said. "I think eventually as the economy improves the boat show will get big-

> He added that dealers are seeing an increase in sales recently because of the good deals being offered in today's slow economy.

> > SEE **BOAT SHOW**, Page 3



The 2011 Sunroad Boat Show will include more booths and more products than last year, as well as an expanded number of in-water boats.

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San Diego Police Department homicide investigators enter the scene of a fatal shooting on Midway Drive on Monday morning to collect evidence and photograph the scene. PHOTO BY JIM GRANT / THE BEACON

# **Autopsy slated in fatal Point Loma** shooting case; no arrests made

By KEVIN MCKAY | THE BEACON

An autopsy was scheduled to take place Tuesday on the body of a 32year-old man found shot to death in a Midway-area apartment Monday morning, according to San Diego police investigators.

Though the circumstances surrounding the shooting are "a bit suspicious," it is not yet clear whether the man — whose identity has not been released pending notification of family — was the victim of a suicide, accidental shooting or a homicide, said Lt. Kevin Rooney of the police depart- of Midway Drive, Rooney said. ment's homicide unit.

No arrests have been made.

The county Medical Examiner's Office is soon expected to send the autopsy results to investigators, who will then conduct an independent round of tests to establish the nature of the shooting, Rooney said.

Meanwhile, homicide investigators spent a majority of the day and into the night Monday collecting possible evidence and studying the scene of the ground-floor shooting at Stonewood Garden Apartments in the 3800 block



Police were called to this complex of Stonewood Garden Apartments on Monday morning, where the body of a 32-year-old man was found shot to death.

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Police were called to the scene shortly after 9 a.m. when neighbors reported hearing a disturbance and the sound of a possible gunshot. After a brief search, officers located the body inside the apartment of the dead man's girlfriend, said Rooney.

The woman had been spotted leaving the scene with a second man after the shooting, Rooney said. She was not at the apartment at the time officers arrived, but apparently drove about a mile away and called 9-1-1 about 10 minutes after the initial reports.

"The fact that she left and the fact that we developed information about a second party present essentially cast a cloud over the situation and made us wonder," Rooney said. "It just seemed a bit suspicious, so that's why I assigned out our homicide team."

Rooney declined to identify the woman or the second man because of the ongoing investigation and pending autopsy and lab results.

Anyone with information that may be helpful to the case is urged to contact the San Diego Police Department's Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293.

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sensitive to our needs and we were very pleased with her advocacy with both transactions. We appreciated her counseling throughout the process of sale and purchase. She asked the right questions at the right time, and she was great at making reality checks to keep us on track. We appreciated the fact that we could always speak directly with her and not with an assistant that so common many agents use. An example of her commitment to us is when Susan pulled into our drive just before midnight on our moving day/night to assist us with last minute packing and cleaning. We strongly, and without reservation, endorse Susan as an agent who invests herself in the needs of her clients. -Fran & Paul Gallo

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# Fuel cell to tap methane from Peninsula wastewater plant

BY KENDRA HARTMANN | THE BEACON

Construction projects are nothing new on the campus of the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), and 2011 will be no exception. But one project in the works will not be an architectural gem. There will be no visual bells and whistles. It will. in fact, be pretty boring to look at. This particular project, however, will set the campus apart from any other and secure its place in history.

The project is the campus' new fuel cell, and when completed in late 2011, the 2.8-megawatt cell will be the largest on any college campus and will provide roughly 8 percent of the campus' energy needs. The fuel cell, coupled with an energy storage system, will be used to cool campus buildings and store electricity for use during peak demand periods.

UCSD's fuel cell is the largest of three cells that will be installed in San Diego in 2011. In total, the cells will generate 4.5 megawatts of electricity. The Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant will provide the fuel cells with methane gas, a waste byproduct of the water treatment process, which will then be converted into electricity. Because methane

waste is currently burned off and its \$7.65 million in incentives from the waste is released into the atmosphere, the fuel cells will serve a dual purpose of both generating clean electricity and relieving the problem of biogas waste.

Fuel cells generate electricity using an electrochemical process that does not involve combustion. therefore eliminating pollutants such as nitrogen oxide and particulate matter. According to FuelCell Energy, Inc., the Connecticut-based company that will manufacture the cells, the citywide project will eliminate the emission of about 68,100 pounds of pollutants annually, roughly the equivalent of removing 1,136 cars from the road.

Currently, UCSD generates 85 percent of its own electricity through a 30-megawatt natural gas cogeneration plant. The plant, according to UCSD spokesman Rex Graham, operates at 66 percent efficiency, compared to about 33 percent for coal- and oil-fired power plants. That level of efficiency, Graham said, "is unheard of in the industry."

The campus' fuel cell will cost \$19 million, but will require no university funding. UCSD received California Self Generation Program, which provides rebates for energy systems such as wind turbines and fuel cells. BioFuels Energy, LLC, a company based in Encinitas, provided the remaining \$11.35 million through private investments, loans and investment tax credits.

The fuel cell was made possible by an order of the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC), which approved a measure designed to lower peak demands on the state's electrical power grid. The generation and storage of its own power will make the university eligible for \$3.4 million in financial incentives.

"The university's increasingly sophisticated microgrid will integrate all the campus' production, consumption and stored power and cooling water into one of the most sophisticated energy-management systems anywhere," said John Dilliott, UCSD's energy and utilities manager, in a recent statement. "We will soon be able to factor in the variable cost of imported electricity and optimize the production and consumption of electricity in our entire system with a high degree of cost and energy efficiency."



UCSD's 2.8-megawatt fuel cell is being manufactured by FuelCell Energy, Inc. The massive project - the largest on any college campus - takes advantage of methane gas from the Point Loma Wastewater Treat-COURTESY PHOTO BY BIOFILE S ENERGY, LLC

## **BOAT SHOW**

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Food, beer and music will be available or those who want to view the latest boat paraphernalia and have a good time. Attendees can also sign up for free rides which range from jet skis to 50foot power boats.

The Sunroad Boat Show is located at 955 Harbor Island and patrons can park at the Port of San Diego for \$10 and take a free shuttle. The show's hours are noon to 6 p.m. Jan. 27-28 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 29-30.

Entrance fees are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 12 to 16. Children under 12 get in free. Military, emergency medical technicians, police and fire personal will be admitted free of charge on Jan. 27 with ID. For more information, call (619) 497-5254 or visit www.bigbayboatshow.com.

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# **Fate of popular 'Polar Express'** float hinges on new storage space

BY KEVIN MCKAY | THE BEACON

The clock is ticking for a wildly-popular parade float from Ocean Beach/Point Loma. Builders of the crowd-pleasing "Polar Express" — a mainstay of the annual Ocean Beach Christmas Parade — said the float is in jeopardy of being derailed permanently if a storage area for its realistic-looking parts cannot be found by

The "Polar Express," a perennial entry in both the Ocean Beach and Coronado holiday parades, was built by a band of fathers on the Peninsula beginning in 2007, under the design and direction of Point Loma resident Bob Sherman.

Dismantled and stored during the rest of the year following the parades, the parts to adorn the full-size replica steam engine are about to lose their current home, Sherman said.

And unless someone is willing to step forward to donate use of a garage or part of a warehouse measuring at least 10 feet by 12 feet, the costly building materials will have to be disposed of, Sherman said

Sherman and his friends have been putting in an estimated 300 man-hours annually to create the float using a 32foot "class A" motorhome — which the builders are also in need of — as the frame on which to build the formidable parade entry. The complete float includes an engineer's cab, mock steam and a powerful light mounted in front.

Sherman said the RV that had been used previously is no longer available, and he hopes a donor may step up to fund the purchase of a mechanically



The Ocean Beach/Point Loma-based "Polar Express" parade float passes by the grandstands at the 2008 Holiday Bowl Parade. The float, a popular and impressive display at the annual Ocean Beach Christmas Parade, may be permanently derailed if a new storage area for its parts does not emerge by Feb. 5.

sound RV that could become the base for the float permanently.

"There would be ongoing costs for storage, maintenance and insurance as well, so it's a tall order to fill." Sherman said. "However, it would be a wonderful Christmas tradition that could continue for many years to come.

"I'm ready to do the work if we have the funds to make it possible," he said. "It would be a great gift for someone to give to the community."

As a 2008 entry in the televised Holiday Bowl Parade, the "Polar Express" was awarded the People's Choice Award. The float has also appeared in neighborhoods surrounding Plumosa Park and Garrison Street on Christmas

Anyone with a source of storage, funding or an RV to loan in future parades is urged to call (619) 847-1122, or to e-mail bshermancnest@yahoo.com.

## Stricter medical pot rules grow closer

BY KENDRA HARTMANN | THE BEACON

The San Diego City Planning Commission voted 3-2 on Jan. 20 to recommend to the City Council a new ordinance placing harsher restrictions on where medicinal marijuana cooperatives can operate.

The ordinance, if passed by the City Council, will limit dispensaries to five specific industrial and limited commercial zones. It also states that dispensaries must be located at least 1,000 feet away from schools, playgrounds, libraries, childcare facilities, youth facilities, churches, parks and other dispensaries.

If the ordinance is ultimately adopted, the impacts on medical marijuana dispensaries in the Peninsula area are, as yet, undetermined.

There are currently 180 dispensaries operating within the city. If the ordinance takes effect, there will be a possible 97 parcels available to dispensaries within the five legal zones. That number, however, is highly misleading, said Eugene Davidovich, a spokesman for San Diego Americans for Safe Access. Davidovich said because of the difficulty in finding sympathetic landlords - in addition to the new restrictions — there will likely be only a handful of dispensaries allowed to legally operate.

Planning Commission Chairman Eric Naslund, who cast one of the dissenting votes, agreed.

"I want to make absolutely certain that it isn't so overly restrictive that it becomes an outright ban, and I think that that's where the present ordinance is heading," he said.

Commissioner Tim Golba echoed Naslund's thoughts, though he eventually voted in favor of the recommendation.

"Even at 97 parcels, that's pretty restrictive if you assume half of those are either not available or landlords wouldn't

even consider renting to it," Golba said. "Now we're down to 50 sites in the whole city that would be applicable. That's probably overly restrictive in anybody's eyes."

One thing most advocates of medicinal marijuana agree on is that if 180 dispensaries are condensed down to a handful, the majority of sales will return to where they were prior to the 1996 decision that made medicinal marijuana

"I have patients who are very ill, who already take the bus and they're not going to be able to go halfway across the county," said Brian Wilcox, who operates a cooperative in La Jolla. "They'll just have to get it on the street.'

Dr. Igor Grant, a professor, physician and director of the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research at the University of California, San Diego, said regulation is of utmost importance, but it's equally important that the public accepts marijuana for its properties beyond what has been illustrated in "Reefer Madness."

"We need to come to a place where marijuana is treated like a medicine but also regulated like a medicine," he said. "There are many medications that have harmful side effects and may be habitforming, like sleeping pills, but we use them and regulate them and take advantage of their benefits. Yes, marijuana has some harmful properties, but it also has beneficial properties, and patients who are not benefiting from other treatments can benefit from this one."

Wilcox, who has seen dispensaries open solely for profit and not for the benefit of patients, would also like to see some regulation.

"I agree wholeheartedly that some regulation and guidelines are needed, but politically, it's still in its infancy. So that's still years out," he said. "We need more research and public support. It's happening, but it takes time."





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#### **BATTLES YET TO BE FOUGHT**

# Coastkeeper's former chief cites successes, work ahead

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | THE BEACON

San Diego Coastkeeper continues to hunt for new leadership to fill the shoes of its former executive director and longtime shepherd, Bruce Reznik. As it does, the environmental group is keeping its focus on important beach and waterrelated issues central to its namesake.

Reznik stepped down in November after an 11year run because, he said, he couldn't muster the energy to "fight the battles" any longer, especially in the economic downturn of the last few years.

"I needed to step back ... and recharge the batteries so I could move forward," Reznik said.

He added that he plans to remain active in the environmental arena.

Even as Reznik releases the reins, he leaves in his wake an environmental organization with a trail of accomplishments — and one still left with much work ahead of it.

He spoke of some of the prominent issues past and future in an interview prior to a public farewell sendoff Jan. 25 in his home community of North Park.

#### **SEWAGE SPILLS**

Early in Reznik's career, the city of San Diego faced an average of about one sewage spill a day. Through a series of policy changes enacted by the city — at the behest of groups like Coastkeeper, San Diego Surfrider Foundation, residents and other environmental groups, city officials were able to dramatically reduce sewage spills, Reznik

#### **URBAN RUNOFF**

Storm water runoff is probably the No. 1 source of pollution to local and regional waterways, Reznik said.

'That's more of a development issue that really  $requires \ outside-of-the-box\ [thinking], "Reznik\ said.$ 

Issues related to planning and development will prove crucial turning points for the future of San Diego's environmental stewardship, Reznik said. It's in these areas where environmental groups will be able take a more pivotal leadership roleinstead of a "reactive" role where "we're always fighting against trash," he said.

#### **FUTURE LEADERSHIP**

A need exists for the citizenry and for city leaders to meet head-on the host of issues threatening the health and quality of waterways in the beach communities, Reznik said. City leaders should focus on education and development of a "greencollar economy," including helping to create jobs in mass transit, rainwater recycling and energy.

"There's an opportunity to get San Diego [to develop] in a sustainable way and, in the end, it comes down to leadership and vision," Reznik said.

As San Diego Coastkeeper searches for Reznik's replacement, interim Executive Director Gabriel Solmer has stepped in to smooth the transition. Solmer acts as the group's legal director and said she has no intention of assuming the executive director role permanently.

For Solmer, some of the top issues facing San Diego Coastkeeper include sewage and storm water



Bruce Reznik, the former executive director of San Diego Coastkeeper, said he stepped down in November because he couldn't muster the energy to "fight the battles" faced by the environmental group after 11 years.

cacy and education.

'We're really focused on looking for that leader who is going to take us in that direction," Solmer said. "Now that we want to find that next leader... it's not something we want to

infrastructure, regional water supply, citizen advo- Solmer added that it could be a few months before the group's board of directors selects a new executive director and the next high-profile shepherd of San Diego Coastkeeper.

— Kevin McKay contributed to this story

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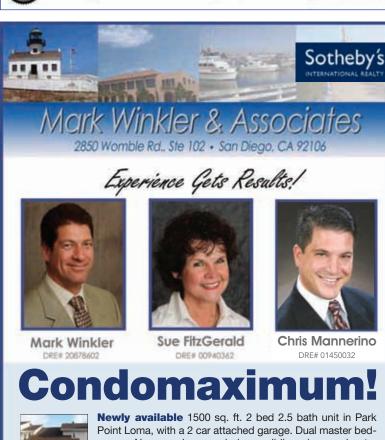
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# **O**PINION

**GUEST COMMENTARY** 

# OB: *Is* it the world's friendliest dog town?

By BIANCA KOCH

As a local dog owner looking for a new long-term rental in a quiet part of Ocean Beach, I find myself in a sudden predicament.

If you look up OB on the Web, literally "everybody and their dog" is invited to "roll on down to Doggie Town."

Cool, one might think. And it IS great: a beautiful leash-free Dog Beach, dog parks, poop-bag stations nearly at every corner, concerned lost-andfound announcements, fancy dog parades, dog surf contests, dog adoptions - the available options are endless.

It is no surprise that OB has more dog washes/groomers than gas stations, and at those gas stations, every other car sports a dog bouncing around. It is also interesting that OB seems to have a very low population

Out-of-towners bring their dogs. Locals are seldom seen without their dogs (by the way: where do local dog owners live? Do all of them own homes?) and there is at least one dog to every "outdoors resident" of OB.

Shops and eateries are super-lenient (thank you!!!), offering water bowls and tie-ups everywhere.

It's doggie paradise!! But here lays the problem: need a place to live for under \$1,900 for Waldo and you? Good luck. All of a sudden you will find yourself confronted with: "No pets," "Uh oh. Sorry. No dogs," "Dog-free liv-

Most homeowners in OB generally have dogs themselves. But, unfortunately, that does not mean they will automatically welcome a tenant with a tail-wagging companion.

Putting myself in any homeowner's shoes, I realize what makes it hard to have dogs welcomed: short-term summer renters come and go every year — many with dogs. By the time their rental period has expired, the landlord is left with a big mess and/or costly damages to their property. After a couple of times of this, I would prefer dog-less tenants myself, was I to rent out my house. So, I do see the reasoning of not renting to dog owners.

But still, landlords should at least give a responsible dog owner a chance. Meet the dog, take dog references from veterinarians and former rentals, charge a fair dog deposit that will cover possible damages!

So PLEASE, dog owners, make it easy for all of us dog lovers. Be responsible, train your dog appropriately, have current vaccines and licenses, clean up after your pet, keep your doggie on the leash and do not leave homes pet-wrecked and yards destroyed when you move.

And, PLEASE, landlords, give dogs a break. Meet the dog and owner, charge dog deposits that will cover your needs in case of damage (responsible dog owners will gladly pay such a deposit), and please do not hang up the phone when I ask you, "Do you allow dogs?"

In order to keep OB "dog friendly," I strongly urge dog owners to not let your dog off the leash anywhere except in the provided, designated areas (dog park, Dog Beach ONLY) and do not assume your dog is allowed in every store/food establishment.

Only service dogs (not therapy dogs) with proper information on the specific service the dog provides and an official "California assistance dog" license tag (yellow/gold) are allowed in otherwise-restricted areas. Vests or bandanas are not accepted as sufficient ID. Also, service dogs MUST BE LEASHED AT ALL TIMES. No exceptions.

Dog owners and their dogs who are exceeding or who have exceeded their stay over 30 days must provide current paperwork in compliance with all California dog licenses and be able to provide a current rabies certificate when asked.

Owners of female dogs in season (estrus) must prevent the attraction of male dogs by securely confining the female in a humane manner.

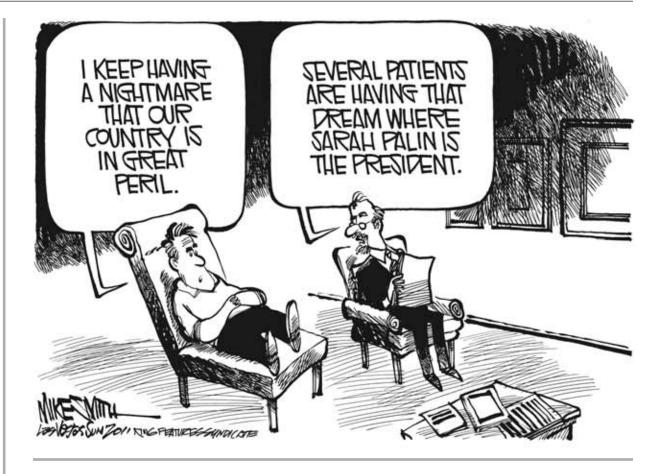
Also be aware that a dog tied to a backpack, bicycle or lamppost is considered "at large" and could be impounded by officers of the San Diego County Department of Animal Services.

In conjunction, San Diego police officers will also issue tickets and fines to those who ignore these codes.

As of January, the Ocean Beach Farmers Market will be enforcing these codes with officers of the Department of Animal Services, along with SDPD officers, who will patrol the market area on Wednesdays between 4

For more information, contact the San Diego County Department of Animal Services at (619) 767-2603.

— Bianca Koch is an Ocean Beach resident and local business owner.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## What happens at the library seems to stay at the library

What takes place at around 2 p.m. every weekday afternoon is swarms of high school kids using the lawn at the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library for wrestling, yelling, jumping, running, kissing, lying about, eating, drinking and

What stays after their parents pick them up at about 5 p.m. are bits of paper, plastic salsa cups, pizza boxes, food containers, various candy wrappers and more. There are two trash cans to be used, but they are not used.

What gives these students the right to come to their library and absolutely trash it before leaving? Why don't the parents make sure the library is left as it was found? Why has our library become a baby-sitting place for working parents? Why do these children believe it is their right to make our library look like a slum after they leave?

What happens at our lovely library after-hours also stays there. I guess it is a meeting place for the transients and homeless in the area. In the morning, you can see broken bottles, brown paper bags with king-size beer cans inside and cigarette butts ground into the sidewalk, ground into the

trees, into the ground, onto the benches — all left for someone else to pick up. Maybe the people of our community would have a little more sympathy for the transient group if they [transients] didn't leave mounds of trash in their wake, never bothering to help the community in which he/she has selected to reside in.

**Barbara Hendrix** 

## A new City Hall befitting reputation? Hmmmm. Let's see ...

In response to "To build or not to build" by Manny Lopez (Jan. 13 Peninsula Beacon, page 3):

[Downtown commercial bank] financial services representative Pete Camarda's statement that, "America's Finest City deserves a City Hall that's fitting of its reputation" brought to mind a cost-saving suggestion:

Conduct City Hall functions between the following existing establishments: Chuck E Cheese, the Point Loma Sewage Treatment Facility and King Stahlman Bail Bonds.

> Mike Loflen Clairemont



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The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity. **DEADLINES** All content must be received by 5 p.m. on the Thursday prior to publication.

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## THURSDAY · JANUARY 27, 2011

## **NEWS***briefs*

## Midway-area bank manager foils would-be robber

A would-be robber left empty-handed from the Comerica Bank near Rosecrans Street Monday morning after the bank manager denied access to the suspect before the bank opened, according to

The robber, described as a white man in his mid-40s to mid-50s, claimed to have a gun and demanded to be let in — a demand the bank manager refused.

The suspect reportedly fled the scene in a goldcolored, full-size extended cab truck. He was described as about 5-feet 7-inches-tall, weighing about 175 pounds, wearing a white cap, gray sweatshirt, jeans and large sunglasses.

Police are asking the public's help to identify the would-be robber and urge anyone with information to call the police department's robbery division at (619) 531-2299.

## Police probe shooting at Point Loma hotel

Police investigators are probing a shooting at the Quality Inn in the Roseville-Fleetridge area Sunday night following an altercation in the bar.

According to police, a 37-year-old man was shot around 10:20 p.m. after he was ejected from the hotel's bar on Nimitz Boulevard and a fight with three or four other men spilled into a hallway at the

Investigators said the man suffered a grazing wound to the head and gunshot wounds to the legs and buttocks. The injuries were not considered life threatening, according to police.

The suspects were described only as black men in their 20s or 30s.

## Suspected carjacker, **OB** robber set for hearing

A carjacker who is alleged to have shot a man and later robbed three tourists outside an Ocean Beach hostel is scheduled for a preliminary hearing

Feb. 15.

Treviyon DeShawn Rew, 18, has pleaded not guilty to charges of attempted murder, four robberies, auto theft, carjacking and carrying a concealed weapon. His case is being heard in Chula Vista Superior Court because the shooting and carjacking took place in National City.

Rew is accused of shooting Sean Simpson, 26, five times in the back on July 22 in the parking lot of his condominium. Simpson's car was then stolen and used to rob three Irish tourists in Ocean Beach two hours later.

The three victims — all women — were sitting on the front steps of the Ocean Beach International Hostel on Newport Avenue at the time. Rew and another man are accused of pulling a gun on the tourists, who are in their 20s, according to investigators. Taken were wallets, cell phones and pass-

Deputy District Attorney Dave Grapilon said authorities have not yet located the second suspect. He said Simpson, the shooting victim, is "making a good recovery."

Rew remains in custody on  $$1.55\ million$  bail. — Neal Putnam

## **PCPB** seeks candidates for five open board seats

The Peninsula Community Planning Board is seeking candidates to fill five open board seats for members whose three-year terms are up. Terms are expiring for Chuck Mellor, Shelly Kilbourn, Donna Kaup, Jim Lester and Scott Brown.

It is not yet clear whether any or all five will seek re-election in the March 17 balloting.

To qualify as a candidate, interested parties must be at least 18 years of age and be affiliated with the community as:

(1) a property owner, who is an individual identified as the sole or partial owner of record, of a real property (either developed or undeveloped), within the community planning area;

(2) a resident, who is an individual whose primary address of residence is an address in the community planning area; or

(3) a local business person, who is a local business or not-for-profit owner or operator at a non-

residential real property address in the community planning area.

A recognized community member may become an eligible candidate by:

(a) attending one meeting of the Peninsula Community Planning Board's regular meetings (including a planned candidate forum on Thursday, March 10) occurring during the 12-month period prior to the March general election, with such attendance acknowledged by the planning board chair or secretary or reflected in minutes; and

(b) submitting a completed application to the election subcommittee.

The deadline to qualify for candidacy in the March general election is on or before the March 10 candidate forum.

For additional information and/or to download an application, visit www.pcpb.net. Questions may be directed to PCPB Election Committee Chairwoman Helen Kinnaird at (619) 224-9897.

## **OBMA extends deadline** until Feb. 15 for biz directory

The Ocean Beach MainStreet Association (OBMA) has extended the deadline for local merchants to submit advertising copy, ad coupons and listing information for the 2011-12 edition of the OB Local Business Directory.

About 23,000 copies will be printed and distributed in the 92106 and 92107 ZIP codes some in the 92110 area — including

some distribution inside The Peninsula Beacon as part of an ongoing partnership. Other copies will be distributed through high-traffic businesses and the OBMA office, along with other local special events like the Ocean Beach Farmers Market.

Merchants now have until Feb.

15 to submit advertising copy, ad

coupons and listing information

for the 2011-12 edition of the

OB Local Business Directory.

OBMA officials said volunteers will also go doorto-door in March to deliver directories from Sunset Cliffs Boulevard to the ocean and from West Point Loma Boulevard to Point Loma Avenue.

The OB Local Business Directory is a project of the OBMA Promotion Committee. The cover art was designed by Ashley Lewis of Dog Beach Design.

Merchants still wishing to participate in the directory and residents wishing to volunteer may contact the OBMA office at (619) 224-4906.

## MAKUA child advocates to host informational session

The Point Loma-based child-advocacy group Makua — which serves as the local auxiliary for Voices for Children — will host an informational panel about its Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) on Monday, Jan. 31.

With heavy caseloads and a shortage of social workers, CASAs are volunteers who speak on behalf of foster children who must make mandatory appearances in juvenile court every six months to gauge their progress in the foster-family system.

The informational session will explain the roles of CASAs and how interested residents can get involved.

The event will feature light refreshments beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Family Life Center of Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church, located at 2128 Chatsworth Blvd.

For more information, e-mail ekbarry@cox.net.

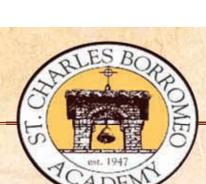
## **Public restrooms to close** temporarily at lighthouse

The public restrooms at the Historic Old Point Loma Lighthouse will be closed from Feb. 27 until March 7 to replace inoperable lift stations used to pump sewage, according to officials at Cabrillo National Monument.

The public restrooms at the visitor center will be unaffected by the work, however, and will be open for visitor use.

For more information, call (619) 557-5450, or visit http://www.nps.gov/cabr/.

SEE BRIEFS, Page 9



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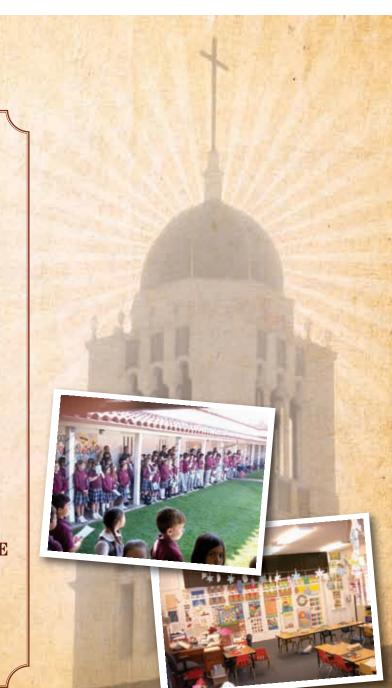
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#### **OBITUARY**

# Coast Guard Capt. Kenneth Franke, son of Ballast Point Lighthouse keeper, dies at 74

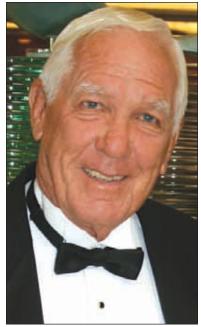
By NICOLE SOURS LARSON | THE BEACON

Kenneth Francis Franke, who died of kidney cancer at age 74 on Dec. 17, was probably the longest-working member of the United States Coast Guard (USCG), according to his son, Ken Franke, president of the Point Loma-based Sportfishing Association of California and formerly a lieutenant in the San Diego Harbor Police

Capt. Franke remained fascinated with the Coast Guard throughout his life, his son said. Although his formal Coast Guard career spanned 27 years, Capt. Franke was born into the service because his father, Radford Franke, was the last lighthouse keeper of Ballast Point Light, located at the current site of the Harbor Inn on the Point Loma submarine base. The USCG took over responsibilities from the U.S. Lighthouse Service in 1939.

The only child of Radford and Marie Franke, Capt. Franke was born March 13, 1936 and spent his first 18 years living at the lighthouse, helping his father with lighthouse-tending duties. In his teens, Franke frequently filled in as crew aboard the Coast Guard's 83-foot rescue boat based at Ballast Point, searching the ocean for distressed mariners and downed air crews from North Island Naval Air Station.

Following his graduation from St. Augustine High School, Franke enlisted in the USCG Reserve and attended the California Maritime Academy, where he earned a degree in marine engineering. He joined the USCG upon graduation and in 1958 married his high school sweetheart, LaVerne Heim, with whom



Coast Guard Capt. Kenneth Francis Franke spent the first 18 years of his life living at the Ballast Point Light in Point Loma as the son of the lighthouse's last keeper. Franke passed away Dec. 17.

he lived around the world while on assignments. They had four children, Ken, Anne-Marie, Randy and Karen, all of whom live in San Diego County.

Even after his retirement in 1984, Franke maintained his connection with the Coast Guard, ships and lighthouses. He became a marine surveyor and served as executive director of the Maritime Museum of San Diego for several years in the 1980s. During his tenure, he helped restore the steam ferry Berkeley and Star of India — both moored at

the Embarcadero — and set up a permanent exhibit commemorating the Ballast Point Lighthouse that was dismantled in 1960.

Following this service, Franke spent the next 25 years training thousands of USCG inspectors in how to carry out marine safety inspections.

Capt. Franke's illness was sudden and brief, his son said.

"Twelve weeks before his death, he was teaching Coast Guardsmen how to inspect ships," said Ken Franke. "We're all still in shock."

Capt. Franke was also a key resource for information about Ballast Point Light, said lighthouse researcher Karen Scanlon, who — with her twin sister Kim Fahlen — authored the book "The Lighthouses of San Diego." The sisters tracked Capt. Franke down through his son to get his story of life growing up in the long-demolished lighthouse.

"We called him 'Little Kenny' because of the two photos of him as a child with the life ring at the lighthouse," Scanlon said. "It was the name we gave him. We just adored him. He had a Santa Claus twinkle, a gentle spirit, the neatest man."

In their book, the sisters recount Franke's story of envying the "real foghorn signal" of Point Loma Light. "His" lighthouse (Ballast Point), he told them, "sounded like a goat entangled in a fence.'

She recalls his generosity in helping them with their lighthouse research and sharing memories and family photos.

In addition to LaVerne, his wife of 52 years, his four children and five grandchildren, Capt. Franke is survived by a legion of friends and admirers.

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# Shuttle plan linking Cabrillo monument and city convention center gains speed

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | THE BEACON

shuttle system linking Cabrillo National Monument to the San Diego Convention Center — a route that would wind up and down port tidelands — is finally taking shape for the Unified Port of San Diego, thanks to a \$625,000 federal transportation grant announced in December.

The idea of the so-called Cabrillo Circulator Shuttle has been batted about for about 10 years, according to Ronald Powell, port director of corporate communications.

Port officials plan for a five-shuttle fleet that would be capable of moving passengers about 12 miles along North Harbor Drive, stopping at Seaport Village, cruise ship terminals and other destinations, on the way to the San

> helping our attendees access Cabrillo [National Monument]."

Steven Johnson

San Diego Convention Center Corporation's vice president, public affairs

Diego Convention Center. "We have, for years, needed a downtown shuttle to bring people to "It's a great the wateraddition in front," Powell

said. "This will give us an opportunity to expose tourists [to the port tidelands] and we look forward to doing that." Port officials

are currently looking for private partnerships to sustain the shuttle after it's initial fiveyear run. The

Port District has up to three years to launch the program and will be working with port tenants to maintain the system to boost exposure for businesses in the future, according to Powell.

About \$125,000 of the grant will go toward signage along the routes, with added signage aboard the shuttles. About five natural gas, hybrid or biodiesel-fueled shuttles would cost roughly \$100,000 each, according to

The shuttle should help ease transportation snarls along the destination points up and down Harbor Drive, said Steven Johnson, the San Diego Convention Center Corporation's vice president of public affairs.

"It's a great addition in helping our attendees access Cabrillo [National Monument]," Johnson said.

The San Diego Convention Center Corporation projects more than \$20 million in tax revenue will be infused into the local economy over the next vear as a result of 120 events that could draw about 800,000 people to the convention center, according to port offi-

Although the idea of a bayfront shuttle has been in the works conceptually for a while, only recently have steps been taken to make it a reality now that grant funding has become available, according to port officials.

The Port of San Diego is charged with maintaining port tidelands and functions while providing public safety and other services.

The port is governed by a board of seven port commissioners, each appointed by neighboring cities of San Diego County.



Local performers are set to rock the house Jan. 29 for the inaugural Silver Gate benefit concert at Humphrey's Backstage Live.

# CONTINUED FROM Page 7

## **Silver Gate school** slates benefit concert

Silver Gate Elementary School will hold an inaugural benefit concert on Saturday, Jan. 29, featuring four local

The event takes place at Humphrey's Backstage Live from 2 to 8 p.m., and proceeds will benefit Silver Gate Elementary.

The event will include music, food, drinks and dancing. The cover charge at the door is \$10 for adults and free admission for children until 8 p.m. when the lounge opens for those of legal drinking age.

## **Scheduled are:**

• 2 to 3:30 p.m.: GoMango's First Friday

Club (www.firstfridaymusicclub.com) -Glen Fisher of GoMango Invasion Orchestra and Fish and The Seaweeds fame (www.gomangoinvasion.com).

- 3:30 to 5 p.m.: The Moonlighters, a jazz band that plays at Old Venice and includes guitar-playing dad Steve Power from Silver Gate Elementary, as well as Austin Bunn on
- 5 to 6:30 p.m.: The Weener Pigs (www.weenerpigs.com) is a '70s rock 'n' roll cover band that features Silver Gate dad Adam Harris on lead vocals and local dentist Dr. Jim Jones from Seaside Dentistry on drums.
- 6:30 to 8 p.m.: Super Plate, an '80's cover band featuring local firefighter and Silver Gate dad Frank Godinez.

Humphrey's Backstage Live is located at 2241 Shelter Island Drive. For more information, call (619) 224-3577, or visit www.humphreysbackstagelive.com.

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- down food, making it easier to swallow · Washes food away from teeth & gums
- Prevents decay by breaking down damaging acids
- Enhances your ability to taste food Contains minerals that help repair microscopic tooth decay
- · Maintains the balance of "good" and "bad" bacteria.

You can see that without enough saliva, tooth decay is almost inevitable. Dry mouth also causes root decay, which is harder to treat.

 $Unfortunately, dry \, mouth \, is \, a \, potential \,$ side effect of over 400 medications - common ones like blood pressure medications, antihistamines, and antidepressants.

There are also a number of diseases that cause dry mouth, such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and diabetes.

If you have dry mouth, there are some things you can do to combat tooth and gum decay:

- Increase your fluid intake by taking frequent sips of water during the day • Be meticulous about your oral hygiene
- · Try "artificial saliva," which is available at pharmacies
- Talk to your physician about alternative medications that are less likely to cause dry mouth
- · Avoid tobacco, caffeine, alcohol, and carbonated beverages

Most importantly, tell your dentist! Have a question about dry mouth or any dental health issues? Call the office.

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## Mayor lays out tough financial plan, warns of more painful cuts to come

By LORALEE OLEJNIK | THE BEACON

Mayor Jerry Sanders delivered his State of the City address Jan. 12 — part city report card and part bucket list of projects he wishes to accomplish before leaving office next year. Sanders focused on moving forward on major developments, despite the financial crisis still gripping the city and nation.

"My commitment to this city and to finishing the job we started has never been stronger," said Sanders. "My last day in office will be as busy as my first." One of Sanders' goals is to eliminate

improvement (PI) and fails to score 800

or above on tests later this school year.

been pulled only once before at McKinley

Elementary in Compton, a suburb of Los

Angeles. In that case, allegations of

improper statements by petition signa-

ture gatherers led to a request by Gov.

Arnold Schwarzenegger for an investiga-

tion by the state attorney general. The

California Board of Education also

examined complaints according to a Dec.

Schools enter PI because, for each of

two consecutive years, they did not make

adequate yearly progress (AYP) in the

same content area schoolwide or for any

statistically significant subgroup, or on

the API or high school graduation rate

schoolwide. Also, schools in the bottom

5 percent statewide qualify, which is not

Schools leave PI after demonstrating

success in meeting AYP and other

requirements for two consecutive years.

"No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) legisla-

All of these regulations are part of

One theme echoed by all parents,

teachers and school administrators

interviewed was that each wants the

best possible education for students. The

differences, however, center around how

• Paula A. Cordeiro, dean of the

· Ben Austin, executive director of

Parent Revolution (www.parentrevolu-

tion.org) and a member of the California

School of Leadership and Education Sci-

The panelists for the forum:

ences at the University of San Diego

the case at PLHS.

to provide it.

2010 article in the Los Angeles Times.

The "parent trigger" has apparently

CLUSTER

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

combination of pension reforms, departmental budget cuts and managed competition of city services.

Sanders said he and District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer plan to introduce a 401(k)-type retirement plan for future city employees, including elected officials, similar to those of the private sector. Acknowledging unsustainable pensions as a destabilizing force for municipalities and not practical in them," said Sanders. "It was a clarifythe modern economic environment, ing moment that will help us move for-Sanders called the 2002 City Council vote to underfund the pension sys-

the structural budget deficit through a tem a "a failure of character" and a Prop D, the city would still work on "robbing of the public" that was founded on a conclusion that a day of reckoning would never come.

> Sanders also acknowledged that taxpayer anger sparked from the pension issue was a major contributor to the significant rejection of Proposition D on November's ballot, a sales-tax increase to pay for city services.

"(The voters) said no, and I listened to ward."

He also said that despite the defeat of

instituting the 10 reform conditions that had been tied to the tax increase had it been passed.

Sanders acknowledged that despite consolidation of select city departments and a reduction of workforce, more cuts to city services - including public safety — will be inevitable, and that the city has the lowest level of city personnel per capita in four decades. He said more will be asked of employees and citizens.

"I'm not running for mayor and I'm not clamoring for attention. I'm thinking of the taxpayers," said Sanders.

charter," said veteran PLHS math teach-

er Ian Law, the PLHS teacher representa-

tive on the Pointer Association board.

"So there is potentially a real lack of

meaningful dialog discussing both sides.

As an educator, I have agreements and

disagreements on each side of this

Law has daughters whose attendance

Samilson also noted the pro-charter

"Since the meeting just discusses the

at PLHS covers the next five years.

nature of the forum.

"Every property owner in the [airport map] zones is going to be affected. And not in a good way."

SUHAIL KHALIL

Co-chairman, Peninsula Community Planning Group **Airport Committee** 

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

#### The subjects include:

- overflights dealing with potential disturbances and frequency of flights;
- · airspace protection and airspace safety regulations governed by the Federal Aviation Administration:
- · noise regulations and mitigation; and
- · safety regulations governing hazards to the public posed by potential accidents.

The first of the steering committee meetings takes place Wednesday, Feb. 23 from 1 to 5 p.m. in the conference room of the Courtyard Marriott Hotel, located at 2592 Laning Road.

Keith Wilschetz, director of airport planning, said all of the meetings will be held in the open to collect public comments and concerns.

"The intent of the [process] is two things: to protect people ... and to protect the airport from encroachment from incompatible land use," Wilschetz said.

He said the Airport Authority will seek policy advice from professionals and the general public during the steering committee meetings, and use the forums as an opportunity to answer questions posed by concerned residents like Herb

Stern, a 73-year-old retiree and a resident of Point Loma for the last 40 years, said he attended the meeting because he is concerned about transportation around the airport. He said he's seen different plans come and go over his four decades on the Peninsula.

"It seems like we've been through this before," Stern said. "How they'll make it work is beyond me, [but] the Quieter Home program is a big help."

The Quieter Home program is an ongoing retrofit of some homes that are most affected by noise. The homes are outfitted with noise-dampening windows and other measures designed to reduce the thundering jet noise inside

For more information about the program and to learn more about future plans for the San Diego International Airport, visit www.san.org.

## API SCORES - POINT LOMA CLUSTER SCHOOLS

#### State index minimum: 800

SCHOOL	2010	2009	CHANGE
Point Loma High School	758	757	+1
Correia Middle School	841	811	+30
Dana School	869	846	+23
Barnard Elementary	874	806	+68
Cabrillo Elementary	805	797	+8
Dewey Elementary	870	883	(-13)
Loma Portal Elementary	896	892	+4
Ocean Beach Elementary	924	908	+16
Silver Gate Elementary	903	910	(-7)
Sunset View Elementary	924	925	(-1)
San Diego Unified School Dist	785	766	+19
State of California	767	754	+13

• Larry Rosenstock, the founding using student achievement data to meaprincipal of High Tech High School.

PLHS parent Matt Spathas, a charter proponent in the Point Loma Cluster group, said two years have been spent measuring parental opinions through surveys and meetings. He listed four "parent trigger" options for PLHS:

- · Become a charter school
- Seek further autonomy within the
- Form a separate school district for the 10 PLHS Cluster schools.
- Maintain the status quo.

Spathas listed several factors he believes are preventing needed school reforms in San Diego:

- Seniority: Charter schools do not hire or pay teachers by seniority, but by measured effectiveness. He cited High Tech High, which received 1,400 applications for 50 teaching positions, to show charters can hire the best available teachers.
- Teacher evaluation: Spathas noted that great advances have been made in

sure teacher performance. In San Diego Unified School District, the Bargaining Agreement (contract) prohibits use of student progress and test data for teacher evaluation.

• Unions: Despite "lots of great reforms taking place as part of President Obama's 'Race to the Top' program," a strong union is preventing reforms in San Diego, Spathas believes.

Teacher unions have countered by insisting they, as classroom experts, have a voice in changes rather than having reforms dictated to them.

PLHS staff members said they are looking forward to attending the forum but remain wary of some charter issues.

"Many of our staff members and I plan to go and listen," said Bobbie Samilson, PLHS principal. "We are all educators and learners with a desire to do the best for our students."

Others are clearly wary.

"The speakers listed are clearly pro-

charter option from one perspective, it would be important for us to have follow-up meetings to learn all sides of any issue before making a decision. That is what we teach our students." Samilson Teachers spoke of the size of SDUSD

issue."

trict for cluster schools could streamline this process, they said. Other PLHS staff members, some with 30 years of experience, expressed serious concern about a charter's effect on their retirement, while many were uncomfortable without union safe-

and the difficulties in getting projects and

funding through a system they view as

bloated. A charter or separate school dis-

Speaking on condition of anonymity, several staff members questioned the validity of the school's API scores, saying students are weary of repeated standardized testing and some put little or no effort into the process.

"Kids have asked me, 'Does this test count on our grades?' and 'Will this test affect my graduation?," said one teacher. "When I told them 'No,' their response was, 'Then why should I try?'"

To read more about the Point Loma Cluster School's position, see links on the group's website at www.point-lomaclus-

State Board of Education

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in the Fiesta de Reyes plaza. Each night has a different themed entertainment.

#### **Poker Party Fundraiser** at Barra Barra Saloon

March 27

Come dressed in your best 1870s wear for this poker party at Barra Barra Saloon. Featuring old-fashioned games, dinner, drinks, the Old Town Poker Party is a fundraiser for the Old Town Merchants Association to put on events in the state park. The cost is \$30

per person and \$50 per couple. Call 619-297-3100 x22 for tickets.

#### April & May **Cancer Relay for Life Car Show**

April 3

Sponsored by Chula Vista Chapter of Relay for Life, this car show draws low riders and all types of classic cars from San Diego County. The show features low-rider cars, bikes, entertainment, and a day of family fun in Old Town San Diego State Historic

## **Ladies Day in Old Town**

April 9

Experience weaving, sewing, pottery making and cooking at the time California became a state. Garden tours, living history activities, people in period attire, and historic games. Try your hand at crafts of the 19th century.

## Fiesta Cinco de Mayo & Cinco de Mayo

April 30th and May 1st and May 5th Multiple stages featuring live music, entertainment and family-friendly activities.



Members of the Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church will see a \$1.8 million renovation, expected to begin in late May.

# \$1.8M remodel eyed for 'Red Brick Church'

BY JILL CURTISS | SPECIAL TO THE BEACON

Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church, commonly referred to as "The Red Brick Church," is embarking on an ambitious renovation of the iconic facility. The classic Georgian structure has been a landmark on Point Loma and home for thousands of San Diego worshipers since it was chartered in 1937.

The towering cross-topped spire and handsome sanctuary at the corner of Chatsworth Boulevard and Udall Street beckon and embrace those seeking to gather, grow and share in the Christian faith.

Church members first met in the Point Loma High School cafeteria and later, in 1938, built the Spanish colonial chapel on Udall Street. Over the years, the church added education and administrative spaces. In 1954, the red brick sanctuary was dedicated. In 1989, the congregation built the Family Life Center, which was the facility's last major modification. The congregation now numbers about 1.300 members.

The church is preparing for the celebration of its 75th anniversary with a major remodel and upgrade of its core facilities. The remodel of the interior of the iconic sanctuary is built around plans for a new pipe organ that is under construction in El Cajon.

The current organ, a 17-rank Wickes instrument installed in 1954, never did completely complement the good acoustics of the auditorium.

"The new organ will be a jewel among San Diego pipe organs," said Don Brenneman, the church's minister of music for 22 years. "It will include 52 ranks of pipes, and fill the room with sound."

Other features of the sanctuary renovation will be the raising and simplification of the chancel, the "stage" of the sanctuary, the addition of modern sound and lighting equipment, and a general face-lift for the room.

"All these changes are designed to create a welcoming, flexible and accessible worship space," said Rev. Dr. John Powell, the senior pastor at the church.

"We have found that the best way to keep our church relevant and growing is to continue to nurture and welcome the new expressions of worship that evolve with younger generations," he said.

Additional projects for the renovation include improved accessibility, a new plaza for outdoor gathering adjacent to the sanctuary, upgrades of interior court-yards, and remodels for meeting and administrative spaces. The entire project will cost \$1.8 million.

Construction is planned to start in late May. While the sanctuary is being remodeled, the congregation will meet in the Family Life Center — except for the first Sunday of the construction period on May 29. The renovation is expected to be complete in the fall of 2011, when the refreshed and retooled sanctuary will be rededicated as Point Loma's community church.

The church is located at 2128 Chatsworth Blvd. The church office can be reached at (619) 223-1633, or by visiting www.pointlomachurch.org/renovation

— Jill Curtiss is a renovation campaign coordinator for the Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church.







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Alicia Valencia, Francis Parker Class of 2010, admitted to Stanford University and Rhodes Island School of Design, pictured with Dr. Andre Tran, Harvard Class of 1994, President of John Harvard Academy.

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TRY OUR NEW MENU!



BY TERRIE LEIGH RELF | THE BEACON

The OB Centric Gallery in the heart of Ocean Beach on Santa Monica Avenue, is just a few doors up from the Cable Street corner. The unique gallery space is housed inside Saffran Packaging and Supply, which has been owned and operated by Michael and Lynette Saffran for more than five years.

About two years ago, the couple had the idea for a gallery space.

"Instead of another gift shop, Lynette and I wanted to provide a forum for local art," said Michael Saffran. "The name 'OB Centric' came out of a conversation I had with Cindy Love to describe the way we all feel about OB."

Soon after, their friend and local artist Danielle Eder volunteered her expertise. It worked out so well that the Saffrans invited her to stay, and she is now the gallery's creative director.

"We're planning to change things up a bit," Michael Saffran said. "In addition to offering arts for sale, we are focusing on outreach events. We will continue the clothing swaps — extra clothing goes to the women's shelter. Workshops will include how-tos from some of the artists. We will also provide a venue to some of the local published authors where they can share their work and views."

Eder has a synergistic approach to the art and the display space. It is not unusual for each visit to offer a unique experience because Eder shifts and rearranges interior fixtures, photographs and paintings, jewelry and other handmade objects d'art.

"found" or recycled materials, like guitar picks, old vinyl records, paper, vintage yarn and deconstructed T-shirts. There is also a shelf of gently-loved books for sale, as well as incense, can-



Michael and Lynette Saffran, owners of OB Centric Gallery on Santa Monica Avenue, put the focus on providing a forum for local art.

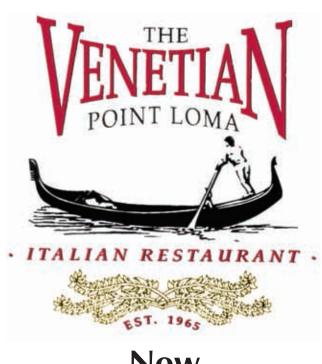
dles and hand-made cards.

Even though the OB Centric Gallery is expanding to include more local artists and events, Michael Saffran said he wants the neighborhood to "remember that we take very good care of packed and shipped items. Buy local, pack and Many of the local artists work with ship local to most anywhere in the world. We are trying to be good community neighbors, providing the goods and services our community needs, and will continue to offer an everevolving sales and outreach program

for our community."

The facility provides a one-stop experience for several related services. Baha Acar's Copy Hut Plus (since 1997) and Jean Simoneaux's Office Service (since February 2008), are also housed in Saffran Packaging and Supply. They work together to provide a central location for home and office business needs.

The OB Centric Gallery is located at 4876 Santa Monica Ave. For more information, call (619) 222-4876, or visit www.obcentricstore.com.



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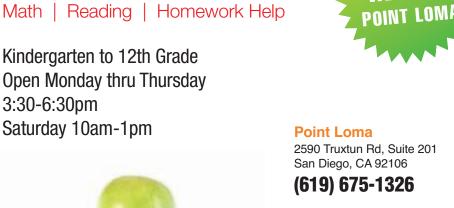
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Strikeforce welterweight challenger Evangelista "Cyborg" Santos is training at The Arena MMA gym on Sports Arena Boulevard as he prepares for his mixed martial arts world championship match against defending champion Nick Diaz on Jan. 29.

# Fighter training at Midway-area gym for world MMA championship Jan. 29

By LEE CORNELL | THE BEACON

Professional mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter Evangelista "Cyborg" Santos moved to Pacific Beach six months ago from Brazil so he could train stateside at a Sports Arena Boulevard gym for his upcoming Jan. 29 fight against defending welterweight champion Nick Diaz for the Strikeforce crown.

The showdown is expected to be a very important test for Santos, who has been fighting professionally for 15 years around the world, including in Japan and his native Brazil.

"I've been training a lot and I've asked God to help me out so the day of the fight I can use all the tools I have and show everyone [what I can do]," said Santos through his translator, Flavio Scorsato.

With a win, Santos and his wife, Cris, would become the first married couple to hold simultaneous world championships in the sport. Cris owns the Strikeforce women's middleweight title. Evangelista said he would be very proud to hold the title at the same time as his wife.

"Some media here and in Brazil discriminate the sport as aggressive and violent, so a couple competing is something that's going to help make the sport grow," he said.

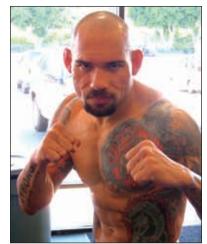
**SPORTS** brief

**PLHS** sailors take first

The Point Loma High School sailing

team dominated the 26th annual Rose

in Rose Bowl Regatta



Evangelista Santos hopes to make his mark by capturing the Strikeforce welterweight championship Jan. 29 in San Jose. LEE CORNELL | THE BEACON

Although he still needs a Portuguese translator to communicate in English, Santos feels he's learning the language a little bit more every day.

"I have a lot of people who can help me out (with speaking the language)," he said. "But my main focus is fighting. I didn't come here to give any lectures.'

Santos is an intimidating presence. His excellent physique is adorned with exten-

world, boasting up to 60 high school

teams from all over California and as

many as 30 college teams from

in the high school division behind skip-

per Jake La Dow with crew Will Herrin

and Matt Hecht, and skipper Jake

Reynolds with crew Maddy Brownsea

The Pointer varsity team placed first

across the U.S.

and Kyle Sutter.

sive tattoos. He said he got his first one when he was 12 years old and his mother was so angry she made him scrub it until it came off.

His displays of self-expression are important to him. Tattoos on his left side represent his "Cyborg" side, detailing an extensive robotic arm. He also has a tattoo of Mike Tyson on his stomach because he respects the boxer's fierceness. Santos has a tattoo of Che Guevara because he likes the revolutionary spirit he symbolizes.

"My mom thought tattoos were for thugs, but I grew up and proved that's not true," he said. "I just always liked them.'

San Diego has a growing list of fighters who come to this training hotbed to compete in a sport that's rapidly increasing in popularity. Santos is trying to become the latest local to shine on the world stage.

The Santos vs. Diaz bout will be televised on the Showtime network Jan. 29 from the HP Pavilion Center in San Jose. Santos currently trains at The Arena MMA gym, located at 3350 Sports Arena Blvd.

Santos teaches classes at The Arena as well. For more information, call (619) 222-5554 or visit www.thearena.mma.com.

La Dow, Olin Paine, Scott Sinks and

Duncan Swain. Crew included, Eric

Cibet, Max Muller, Trevor Hecht, Grant

Ricken, Storm Brown, Josh Shoemak-

The collegiate division was won by

the Boston College Eagles, with Point

Loma High School alumni Tyler Sinks

For a full version report of the Rose

er, Andrew Cates and Max Daubner.

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#### Bowl Regatta, visit http://www.uscsail Point Loma JV1 and JV2 boats placed third and sixth in the event. ing.org/Rosebowl/Rose%20Bowl%202 Team members included: skippers Will 011/rb2011d2.pdf. CHOOSE Your

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# Ciao Bella sizzles with its Old World Italian food, ambiance, entertainment

BY BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

Ocean Beach has long been a prime destination for dining and entertainment, with new venue options popping up regularly — offering something for just about every age group and price

One of the newest additions to the community is Ciao Bella Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria. Owned by the Mezzetti family, which is also behind a Pacific Beach favorite — Mama Mia — Ciao Bella was originally a La Mesa eatery. The restaurant relocated to Ocean Beach

The restaurant made an immediate splash in the area, not only for its food, but also for the premises. Designed to replicate a dining experience in Italy, Ciao Bella captured the design award for Best Themed Remodel at the 2010 Ocean Beach MainStreet Association awards in October.

Ciao Bella places emphasis on an intimate, Old World-style dining experience, featuring a range of Italian dishes, including 26 varieties of pizza to choose from. However, on Sundays the venue amps up the energy a bit with La Domenica Italiana — an evening of music, food and camaraderie.

it's also like being in Italy," said Francesco Mezzetti.

Mezzetti has been in the restaurant business for decades, he said. One can hear his pride for Ciao Bella in the enthusiasm of his voice. He said he's kept Ciao Bella as authentically-Italian as possible, even hiring Italian artists to paint the building's interior.

The same holds true for Ciao Bella's



Ciao Bella, which opened in Ocean Beach in March, is already a popular dining destination - not only for the authenticity of its Italian cuisine and exquisite Old World ambiance, but also for its festive entertainment on Sundays.

entertainment, which is provided by Italian singer and guitarist Daniele Spadavecchia, a recent transplant to the area. Spadavecchia relocated here after a stay in New Orleans, finding himself in San Diego post-Hurricane Katrina.

"It took me four months to get this guy," Mezzetti said. "He's a real talent and in demand at a lot of places like the Little Italy restaurants. He does a wonderful job with Old School Italian songs. Of course, he mixes other things in and he has a few of his own, but mostly he plays tunes that everyone knows like 'Volare.'"

Spadavecchia is adept at everything "It's very casual, very OB-style, but from Pachabel's "Canon in D" to Dick Dale's "Miserlou," his music lending Ciao Bella even more of a sense of authenticity. Mezzetti notes that patrons often join in for a sing-a-long.

"People go nuts," Mezzetti said. "(Daniele) brings the energy. Put that along with the ambience and the food, people go crazy."

While the music has a definitive start time of 6:30 p.m., the end of the night

depends on the clientele.

We continue until we close — 10, 11, whenever," Mezzetti said.

Mezzetti said business has been good. In fact, Mezzetti said he plans to add a restaurant in Bird Rock to the family's roster.

"The food speaks for itself, but the restaurant itself is such a lively place,"

Mezzetti also said he is happy with the location of Ciao Bella.

"Ocean Beach has the most eclectic community in San Diego," Mezzetti said. Over here, everybody is so different. Man, we got everybody from everywhere. Plus, we are on Newport Avenue, a block and a half from the ocean. It's incredible."

"Everyone has been so supportive," he said. "The community is beautiful. They've been so good to me."

Daniele Spadavecchia performs next at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 30 at Ciao Bella, 4953 Newport Ave. All ages. For more information, visit wwww.ciaobellasandiego.com

## **A&E**briefs

## **OB People's Market** to host gallery show

Mixing art with everyday experience, the Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market presents its Winter Art Show on Saturday, Jan. 29, featuring fine artist Irene Corey, stitchery artist Elizabeth Abbott and emerging photographer Sally Levens.

An artist reception will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m., with music performed by the Chuck Walker Trio and a food-spread prepared by the People's Market's awardwinning delicatessen.

All are welcome and there is no

People's is located at 4765 Voltaire St. and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, visit www.obpeoplesfood.coop.

## **Point Loma Actors Theatre** launches spring workshop

Point Loma Actors Theatre will host the first meeting of the spring 2011 Actors Workshop and Showcase beginning Monday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. The evening will include orientation, cold readings, registration, casting and refreshments.

The workshop and showcase is open to actors of all levels. The goal is to elevate actor skills through focus on script analysis, motivation, character development and performance. The workshop material will consist of a series of contemporary short plays and monologues.

At the conclusion of the 8-week workshop, all members of the workshop ensemble will present two evening showcase performances in front of live audiences in the historic theater in Point Loma.

Productions are led by David

Sein, who has has been a producer and director of theater for the last 25 years.

The workshop takes place Mondays from Feb. 14 through April 4. Showcase performance dates will be Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9.

Membership is \$150.

For more information, call (619) 318-6250, or e-mail info@pointlomaactors.com.

## Liu among authors to share spotlight for readings

Nine local female authors have joined

forces to launch a new group and introduce their latest releases, including Judith Liu of Point Loma.

takes place Saturday, Feb. 19 and will include readings, musings, hors d'oeuvres and live music.



Liu spent 30 years conducting personal interviews and hunting through dusty archives to research her book, Exchange." The narrative revolves around two women — one the author's mother who attended an American Episcopalian missionary school in central China — and the other, an American woman who went there as a short-term teacher in the 1930s.

Their lives intersected at the school during the brief time of peace in China. Set within the context of the school's history, their tales provide a snapshot of China and its educational system before the founding of the People's Republic.

The launch party takes place from 6 to 9 p.m. at Hair Drezzers on Fire, located at 3463 Adams Ave.

For more information, visit www.sandiegowritingwomen.blogspot.-



"Fantastic, Fabulous Creatures and Beasts Vol. 1," authored by Melanie Dellas of Point Loma, is featured at the Central Branch Library downtown through the month of February.

## **Dellas' new book featured** at downtown library

A new children's book by Point Loma author Melanie Dellas will be featured at the Central Branch Library downtown

during the month of February as part of the 45th annual Local Authors exhibit. Dellas' work, "Fantastic, Fabulous Creatures and Beasts Vol. 1," is based on mythological creatures and beasts from various countries and on folklore from around the world.



**DELLAS** 

The book, currently available for \$15.95 through Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble, is illustrated by Christopher Bennett, whose contributions are described as very "Tim Burton meets Where the Wild Things Are."

Dellas, a magazine and book editor since 1995, is a native of Michigan, a graduate of Purdue University with a degree in professional writing. After working in Seattle and New York, Dellas

SEE A&E, Page 16

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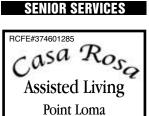
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#### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m., Dana Middle School Variety Show takes place at the Ann Tripp Jackson Auditorium at the school, 1775 Chatsworth Blvd. The show is free. For more information, call (619) 225-3897

Through Jan. 30, the San Diego Watercolor Society presents "The More Things Change" exhibit, featuring about 95 paintings by national and international artists for display and sale. Gallery hours are Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The gallery is located at 2825 Dewey Road. For more information, call (619) 876-4550, or visit

Sunday, Jan. 30, 1 to 3 p.m., Capoeira Brasil Winter Festival, featuring a blend of martial arts, dance and acrobatics set to music. There is a \$5 suggested donation. The event takes place at Capoeira Brasil San Diego, 2590 Truxtun Road at Liberty Station. For more information, call (619) 928-2276, or visit www.capoeirabrasil.org.

Through Jan. 30, Sophie's Gallery & Gift Shop NTC premieres "Ladies First," celebrating the career of artist John Agostini in his first one-man show of acrylics on paper, featuring fashionable women and Hollywood stars. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays at 2960 Historic Decatur Road. For more information, call (619) 578-2207.

Tuesday, Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m., The Chariot performs at Soma Sidestage, 3350 Sports Arena Blvd. Tickets are \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door. For more information, call (619) 226-7662.

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m., Yoso (formed by founding members of Yes and Toto) performs at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. For more information, visit www.brickbybrick.com/calendar.php.

Wednesday, Feb. 23, Lazarus A.D. performs as part of the North American Retribution Tour 2011 with Death Angel, Early Man, Bonded by Blood and Hexen. The concert takes place at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave. Tickets are \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/lazarus1.

Saturday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m., the Emmy Award-winning "Smucker's Stars on Ice" show celebrates its 25th anniversary at the newlyrenamed Valley View Casino Center (formerly the San Diego Sports Arena). The show is headlined by 2010 Olympic gold medalist Evan Lysacek and Olympic silver medalist Sasha Cohen. The premier figure-skating production brings an all-star cast of figure-skating legends as part of a 25-city national tour. Tickets went on sale Dec. 4 and range from \$25 and up, with special on-ice seating and group discounts for parties of 10 or more. For tickets and information, visit ticketmaster.com or the Valley View Casino Center's box office, 3500 Sports Arena Blvd.

Sunday, Feb. 20, the Music on the Point concert series features Kenneth Herman, music director and organist for the Unitarian-Universalist Church in San Diego. There is a \$5 donation requested; students are admitted free. The event takes place at All Souls' Episcopal Church, located at 1475 Catalina Blvd. For more information. call (619) 223-6394, or visit www.allsouls.com.

#### **COMMUNITY/CIVIC**

Saturday, Jan. 29, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the nonprofit group My Girlfriend's Closet will host an informational meeting for mothers and daughters interested in making a community impact, developing leadership skills and becoming part of a grassroots professional organization. The meeting is geared toward girls grades 7-12 and their mothers. The session takes place at the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library, 3701 Voltaire St. For more information, call (619) 925-0080 or (619) 884-4445, or e-mail www.mygirlfriendscloset.info/.

Sunday, Jan. 30, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Academy hosts an open house for parents and teachers. The event includes coffee, juice and treats, and takes place at the school, 4895 Saratoga Ave. For more information, call (619) 222-7252, or visit www.s-h-a.org.

Sunday, Jan. 30, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.,  $\operatorname{St}$ . Charles Borromeo Academy hosts an open house for enrolled families and prospective families. The event takes place at the campus, 2808 Cadiz St. For more information, call (619) 223-8271, or visit www.saintcharlesacademy.com.

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 6 to 8 p.m., the Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation hosts a dialogue for parents, teachers, staff and community stakeholders on "Rethinking Our Schools ... Is Charter a Better Way?" The foundation has been holding outreach forums and sending out surveys to get input from stakeholders and encourages participation in the event. To RSVP and learn more, visit www.pointlomacluster.com.

Monday, Feb. 7, 9:30 a.m., Loma Portal Elementary School hosts a tour for prospective kindergartners and their parents during registration for the 2011-12 school year. Visitors may tour classrooms, playgrounds and facilities, and meet the school's librarian, computer lab teacher, music teacher and learn about programs. Registration information packets are available at tours. For more information, call (619) 223-1683.

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 10 a.m. to noon, the Point Loma Garden Club's monthly meeting will be solely dedicated to celebrating the group's 50th birthday. Past presidents will be honored and long-serving members will be recognized. A special program is planned by Kay Harry and her committee. The event takes place at the United Portuguese S.E.S. Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. For more information, visit www.plgc.org.

Saturday, Feb. 12, 6 p.m., The Parent Association of Sacred Heart Academy hosts the inaugural St. Valentine's Starlight Gala, a fundraiser to raise money for new books, the school's hot lunch program, a new Spanish program, music program and scholarships. The evening includes a

complimentary champagne and appetizer reception, dinner, dessert, a live auction and dancing to the Lomatones. The event takes place at the Bristol Hotel, located at 1055 First Ave. For more information, call (619) 222-7252, or visit www.s-

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m., Friends of the Library at the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library hosts "Dear Guests, Beware of Wild Monkeys," a free program by journalist Joe Tash. The program will include readings and a photo slide presentation featuring Tash and his family on their nine-month, three-continent world tour. The event takes place at the library, 3701 Voltaire St. For more information, call (619) 531-1539.

Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 a.m., Adventurers Toastmasters meets and welcomes new members for networking and mastery of communication skills in a comfortable environment. Meetings take place at Country Waffles, located at 2323 Midway Drive next to the U.S. Postal Service mail-processing facility. For more information, call Dot Dodds at (832) 526-2323 or Hettie Allsup at (619) 787-7198, or e-mail dotd31@sbcglobal.net.

Today, Jan. 27, 10 to 11 a.m., Sharp Senior Resource Center hosts a practical information session with a licensed occupational therapist who specializes in hand therapy and injury-prevention training. The event takes place at All Soul's Episcopal Church, 1475 Catalina Blvd. Reservations are required by calling (800) 827-4277, or visiting www.sharp.com.

Tuesday, Feb. 1, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Sharp Senior Resource Center hosts a free blood pressure screening at the Peninsula Family YMCA, 4390 Valeta St. The public is welcome and no appointments are necessary. For more information, call (800) 827-4277, or visit www.sharp.com.

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 9 to 10:30 a.m., Sharp Senior Resource Center hosts a free blood pressure screening at St. Agnes Catholic Church, 1145 Evergreen St. The public is welcome and no appointments are necessary. For more information, call (800) 827-4277, or visit www.sharp.com.

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Sharp Senior Resource Center hosts a free seminar, "Enhance Your Financial Security," at the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library, 3701 Voltaire St. A free consultation is available. Registration is required by calling (800) 827-4277, or visit www.sharp.com.

## **SPORTS**

Monday, March 21, 1 p.m. the Point Loma Sports Association hosts the 28th annual W. Shelburne Brown Memorial Golf Classic - the primary fundraising source of Point Loma Nazarene University athletics. The 18-hole fourperson scramble takes place at Sycuan Resort. The cost is \$195 per golfer. For more information, call (610) 849-2265, or visit plnusealions.com and click on the link at the top of the

## A&E

CONTINUED FROM Page 14

moved to San Diego and ran her own magazine for 10 years.

She now is a grant writer and editor for the nonprofit Mainly Mozart.

"This was inspired by my love of history," Dellas said in a recent statement. "As a child, there was a certain thrill in discovering mythology from around the last two years as part of the Promenade world and seeing how closely related it all was. After having my children, I decided it was time to put my favorite myths into a book that would not only entertain them, but teach them about the various cultures and their folklore."

The Central Branch Library is located at 820 E. St. For more information on the local authors exhibit, visit www.sandiegolibrary.org. Dellas said book signings are forthcoming.

## **Museum slates move** to Liberty Station

The Women's History Museum and Educational Center has been renamed The Women's Museum of California. In addition, museum officials are planning to move the facility from its current home in Golden Hill to a new location at the NTC Promenade at Liberty Station in Point Loma in early 2012.

The Women's Museum of California is only one of five women's history museums in the country, according to its director, Ashley Gardner.

The organization began in 1983, and because of increased activity, interest and donations, the collection is being moved to a larger, more accessible space at Liberty Station, Gardner said.

NTC Foundation officials have apparently been courting the museum for the project's phase II.

Gardner said the museum produced 40 events for nearly 1,000 people in

For more information, call (619) 233-7963, or visit www.whmec.org.

## Friday Night Liberty offers wealth of activities

Peninsula residents and neighbors can explore the NTC Promenade Arts and Cultural District in a special series of events called "Friday Night Liberty," held the first Friday of every month.

The series allows visitors to explore Liberty Station's arts and cultural hub in an evening of art, receptions, music, food, drink and exhibits - at the same time supporting local artists and

The next event takes place Feb. 4.

## Among the activities:

- The Mandell Weiss Gallery at Dance Place San Diego features a new gallery exhibit at Dance Place capturing "Auditions and Art of the
- Jean Isaacs, artistic director of San Diego Dance Theater - renown for her innovative 'Trolley Dances" series around San Diego has collaborated with photographer Chris Pantaleoni and painter Peggy Fischbeck from Barracks 19 at NTC Promenade to create an exhibition featuring dancers from her company and San Diego.
- Sophie's Gallery and Gift Shop presents "Gotta'Have Heart: Asian Fusion," a Valentine celebration featuring Asian-inspired art, jewelry and scrolls.
- Visions Art Museum will feature an opportunity to view extraordinary quilt and textiles.
- The San Diego Watercolor Society Gallery's "Passion for Paint" is representative of some of the best watermedia artists working today.

Friday Night Liberty is open to the public and musicians have the opportunity to perform with their bands, as a soloist or as part of an instructor-led ensemble.

Friday Night Liberty happens at 2640 Historic Decatur Road. For more information, call (619) 573-9260, or visit www.NTCPromenade.com



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